



Collector's Corner



Your Collectibles May Be Worth More Than You Know

(NAPSA)—If you are one of the more than 42 million households with collectible objects, now may be the time to collect some facts about insuring your collection properly.

Here are some tips from Grace Thomas, assistant vice president, Atlantic Mutual Marine Insurance Division:

- Have collectibles appraised. Homeowners insurance may not cover the full value of a collection. Contact the Appraisers Association of America at 212-889-5404 or at www.appraisersassoc.org.

- Decide how you want your collection to be valued if a loss should occur. One method is agreed value, which means that the owner and the insurance company decide on a set or "agreed" amount to be paid in the event of a total loss. A second method is "market value." The market value of the item is the value that could have been received had the object been sold on the date of the loss.

- Protect and store your collectibles and fine art appropriately. Consult an expert to determine the best temperature, humidity and light conditions for your wine cellar, rare books and manuscripts, photographs, works of art and other items that can be affected by the environment. Secure items, like jewelry, in a home safe or safe deposit box at a bank.

- Catalog your collection. Keep up-to-date photographic and written records of all items in your col-



Collecting objets d'art and other items is a \$7.1 billion industry in the U.S. today.

lection. Include appraisal information, and keep a copy of the records in a secure, off-site location such as a safe deposit box.

- Insure collectibles properly. Consult your insurance agent regarding the correct type and amount of insurance.

- Stay current. Auction house results, museum exhibitions, and collectors clubs and societies can offer a wealth of information about the items in your collection. They can also provide information about the market value of your collection. This can affect the insurance limits you carry.

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