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*Antique, Collectible & Craft Show*  
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**The Wonderful World of Marbles**

*Introduction by Rich Shelby  
Orange County Marble Show*



*I am a lampworker and I make my own marbles but at the 2010 Orange County marble show the vintage marbles collecting bug bit me. There were several vendors there that helped me by showing me their best marbles. I saw the color and the designs of these beauties and was so inspired by them that I bought several to use as inspirations for my own work with the soft Italian glass from the island of Murano, Italy called Moretti/Effretti glass. When I was in sixth grade, I was the marble champion. I won marbles from the*

*principal, all the teachers that played and even Sally, my biggest competitor (I even won her shooter!). I have them displayed in a 15-inch tall by 10 inches wide, apothecary shaped, clear glass table lamp.*

Marbles collecting & appraising may be deciphered by many factors including condition, size, type, manufacturer/artist, age, style, materials, scarcity, and the existence of original packaging (which is further rated in terms of condition).



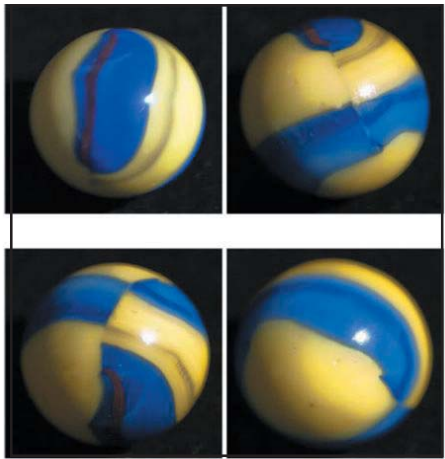
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Old antique Victorian era clay marbles.



Marble King Company marble named Cub Scout. Photo courtesy Rich Shelby.



Agate Marble called "Birdseye" just one look and you know why it is called that.

A marble's worth is primarily determined by type, size, condition and eye-appeal, coupled with the law of supply and demand. Unattractive, but rare marbles may be valued as much as those of very fine quality. Condition means everything when it comes to marbles. Any surface damage (characterized by missing glass, such as chips or pits) typically cut book value by 50% or more.

Being knowledgeable in the subject of marbles will help you from making costly mistakes and save you a lot of frustration in collecting adventures. Here is a small list of different type's marbles. If you have ever played marbles as a child, you may remember a few of these:

- Cleary- Clear glass marbles in a solid colors.
- Indian- A dark blue glass marble with numerous bands or stripes.
- Milkies- A translucent white marble.
- Peewee- A small marble usually less than a half-inch diameter.
- Shooter- 1/2 to 3/4 inch in diameter. Used for shooting at other marbles.
- Steele- A steel marble.
- Lutz- Glass marble with bits of goldstone in them. These were made by hand.
- Chalkies- Usually made from clay. Unglazed



This is a group of Peltier marbles featuring old cartoon characters such as Felix the Cat, Betty Boop, Sandy (little orphan Annie's dog), and other characters of the early 40's era.

In summary, one may go through all kinds of emotions when they collect marbles. One might experience affection, aggression, confusion, ecstasy, envy, embarrassment, euphoria, excitement, frustration, gratitude, grief, guilt, hope, love, pleasure, pride, and many more. Collecting old marbles may provide a study in history including finding out how the marble was made, where the marble was made and the materials used in making it. The hobby might be a way to have others become involved in collecting them as well. Friendships



**Southern California Marble Show**  
**Sat. March 17, 2012 • 9 am - 4 pm**

**Howard Johnson Hotel • 222 W. Houston Ave. • Fullerton, CA**

Come see a vast display of antique and vintage marbles for sale and trade. Lots of marble related items as well. There will also be contemporary glass marble artists selling their art. These are fantastic art glass marbles and spheres with incredible designs and colors. Have old marbles and want to know more about them and their value? Bring them to the show! Our collectors and dealers will be happy to talk to you about your marbles.

For more info. contact  
 Rich Shelby at [santarich1947@gmail.com](mailto:santarich1947@gmail.com) • (951) 212-4435

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# March 10 & 11, 2012

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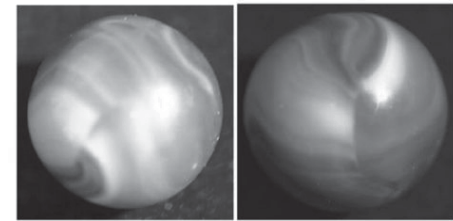
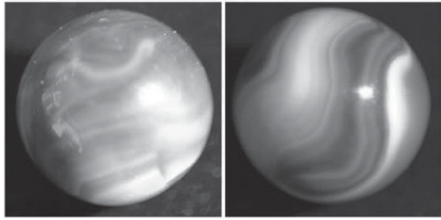
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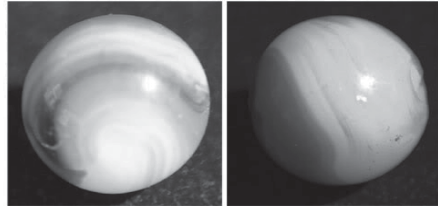
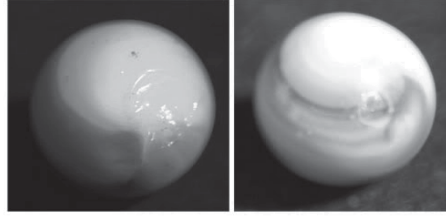
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develop and there is a great possibility that good times will happen by going together to search antique stores, thrift stores, estate sales and other places where one might find these treasures. I have totally enjoyed doing the research, reading what my friends have sent me and I want to thank you for taking the time to read my article.



This marble is called a Parrot and is by Vitro Marble Company.



This is a marble by Akro called Corkscrew. Due to some aggressive marble games this fine marble shows the battle scars.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Marbles was a favorite pastime of mine as a child and I so enjoyed playing and of course winning. Some like to draw a circle and shoot the marbles out of the center, myself I enjoyed it when we dug a hole and put the marbles in the hole and tried to shoot them out. Rich Shelby produces the Orange County Marble Show at the Howard Johnson's in Fullerton, CA it is filled with antique, vintage and new marble dealers all with a great enthusiasm for marble collecting.

I want to thank Rich for contributing to this article. The pictures of the single marbles come from a story on Rich's website ([www.santasbling.com](http://www.santasbling.com)) called Marbles to Die For. It is the story of various collectors and the marbles that mean so much to them. Check it out.

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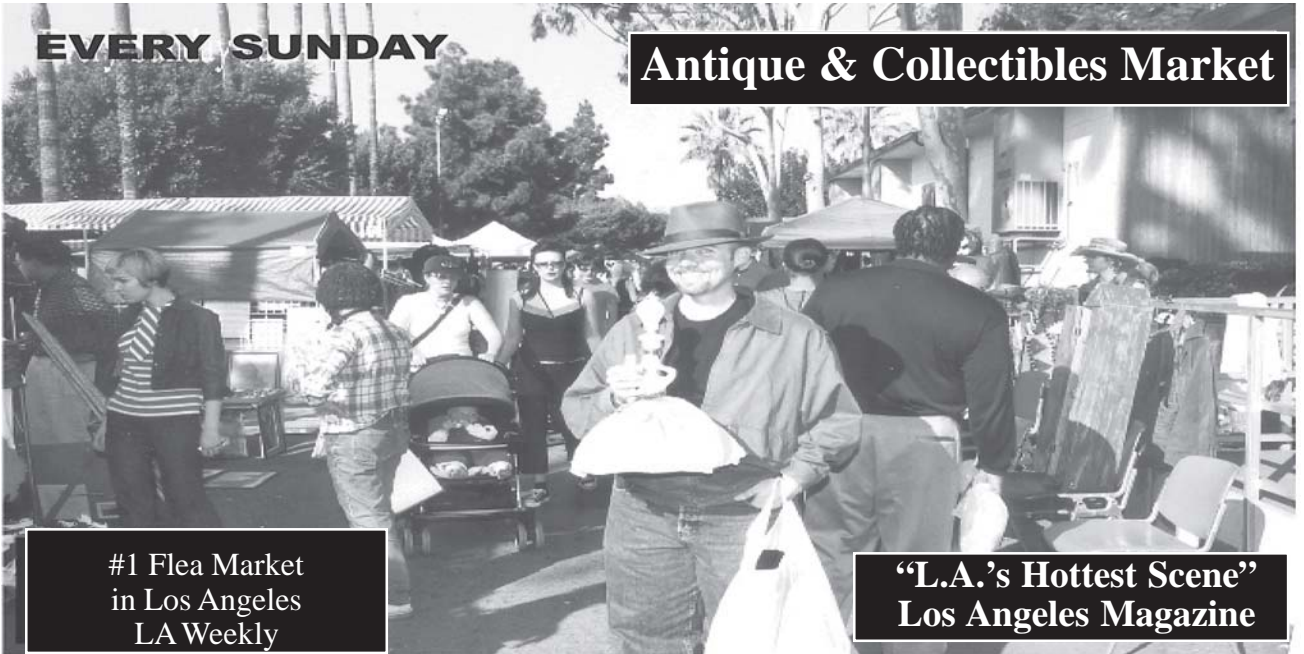


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