

Small Categories Series

Keys

I'm not sure why people collect keys....the variety is interesting...but...? Perhaps it's due to some special interest in or attachment to keys in some way. Keys *do* have an interesting history.

Locks go way back (Polyphemus 'locked' his cave by rolling a stone over the entrance), and Homer (also in the Odyssey) says that Penelope wishing to open a storeroom picked up a well made copper key which had an ivory handle. Locks and keys are mentioned in the Old Testament, and the Ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans all had their own versions. It's interesting to note that over the thousands of years of their development, keys have still kept the basic concept of having a hole in the head end so the owner can attach it to something....otherwise, they're difficult to keep track of and correspondingly easy to lose.

And keys are important. Think of what they do...they keep valuables safe...they keep dangerous people away from the rest of us (when they're allowed to function)...they prevent children and others from entering areas where injuries could occur. Keys appear on the heraldic designs of nobles, on flags...there are even certain groups which recognize keys as status symbols—the more keys you have, the higher your status...because you've been entrusted with the safekeeping of all those valuables!

I don't have any stats on Key collections, but I have had traders in the past who have had this category on their list of wants, and I do put them aside...just in case. So, if you want to make this category the *keystone* of your collection, just let me know...I have traders!

