

the greenbook guide to department 56 villages 1996-1997

The Greenbook Guide to Department 56 Villages 1996-1997 is an essential resource for collectors and enthusiasts of the iconic Department 56 holiday village series. This guide not only showcases the enchanting charm of the villages but also delves into the extensive collection released during this particular period. Department 56, known for its exquisite craftsmanship and intricate designs, has continued to capture the hearts of collectors for decades. In this article, we will explore the features, highlights, and collectible aspects of the 1996-1997 village offerings, along with tips for collectors on how to appreciate and care for their beloved village displays.

Overview of Department 56

Department 56 began its journey in 1976, originally producing Christmas ornaments. The brand gained prominence with the introduction of its village series in 1984, which featured intricately designed buildings and accessories. Over the years, Department 56 has expanded its offerings to include various themed villages, including:

- The Original Snow Village
- Dickens' Village
- Christmas in the City
- New England Village
- Snowbabies

Each collection is characterized by its unique style, history, and thematic elements, allowing collectors to curate their displays according to personal preferences.

Highlights of the 1996-1997 Collection

The Greenbook Guide to Department 56 Villages 1996-1997 provides a comprehensive overview of the new additions and beloved classics released during this period. The collection featured several key pieces that became staples in many holiday displays.

New Additions

During the 1996-1997 season, several new buildings were introduced, expanding the charm of the villages. Notable additions included:

1. The Old Curiosity Shop: This quaint shop became a favorite due to its intricate details, including a variety of curiosities displayed in the windows.
2. The Post Office: A charming representation of a small-town post office, complete with a red mailbox and snow-laden roof.
3. The Candy Store: A sweet addition that brought a sense of nostalgia with its vibrant colors and treat-filled windows.

Retired Pieces and Rarities

The guide also highlights pieces that were retired during this period, making them particularly valuable to collectors. Some of the notable retired items from the 1996-1997 collection include:

- The Carriage House: A beautiful structure that showcased the elegance of yesteryears.
- The Christmas Tree Farm: A delightful scene featuring trees ready to be taken home for the holidays.

Collecting Department 56 Villages

Collecting Department 56 villages can be a rewarding experience, both emotionally and financially. Here are some essential tips for collectors looking to enhance their collections.

Understanding Value

The value of Department 56 pieces can vary significantly based on several factors:

- Condition: Items in their original packaging and in excellent condition tend to fetch higher prices.
- Rarity: Limited edition or retired pieces are often more desirable among collectors.
- Market Trends: Keeping an eye on market trends can help collectors identify which pieces are gaining popularity.

Networking with Other Collectors

Joining collector groups or online forums dedicated to Department 56 can provide valuable insights and opportunities. Consider the following:

- Social Media Groups: Platforms like Facebook have groups dedicated to collectors where members share their displays, trade items, and discuss trends.
- Local Collector Shows: Attending shows can be a great way to meet fellow enthusiasts and discover unique pieces.

Displaying Your Department 56 Villages

Creating a stunning display of your Department 56 villages can bring the magic of the holidays to life. Here are some tips for setting up your village:

Choosing the Right Space

When selecting a location for your village, consider the following:

- **Visibility:** Choose an area where your village can be appreciated by family and friends.
- **Lighting:** Good lighting can enhance the beauty of the village; consider using string lights to create a warm ambiance.
- **Accessibility:** Ensure that the display is easy to access for setup and maintenance.

Arranging the Village

The arrangement of your village can greatly impact its visual appeal. Consider these tips:

- **Layering:** Use platforms or risers to create different levels, adding depth to your display.
- **Thematic Grouping:** Group buildings from similar collections together to create a cohesive theme.
- **Incorporating Accessories:** Use figurines, trees, and other accessories to bring the scene to life.

Maintenance and Care for Your Collection

Caring for your Department 56 villages is crucial to preserve their beauty and longevity. Follow these guidelines to keep your collection in top condition:

Cleaning Your Pieces

Regular cleaning is essential to prevent dust buildup. Here are some cleaning tips:

- **Use a Soft Cloth:** A microfiber cloth is ideal for gently wiping down surfaces.
- **Avoid Harsh Chemicals:** Stick to mild soap and water for cleaning; avoid abrasive materials.

Storing Your Collection

When not in use, proper storage is key:

- **Original Packaging:** If possible, store items in their original boxes to prevent damage.
- **Climate Control:** Keep your collection in a climate-controlled environment to avoid temperature extremes.

The Legacy of Department 56 Villages

The Greenbook Guide to Department 56 Villages 1996-1997 captures a moment in time that reflects the enduring charm of holiday traditions. Collectors cherish these villages not just for their aesthetic beauty but for the memories they evoke. As families gather around these enchanting displays, they create a sense of nostalgia and warmth that resonates during the holiday season.

In conclusion, whether you are a seasoned collector or just beginning your journey with Department 56 villages, the 1996-1997 collection offers a wealth of charm and nostalgia. The Greenbook Guide to Department 56 Villages 1996-1997 serves as a valuable companion for anyone looking to deepen their appreciation for these timeless holiday treasures. Happy collecting!

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Greenbook Guide to Department 56 Villages 1996-1997?

The Greenbook Guide to Department 56 Villages 1996-1997 is a comprehensive reference book that catalogs and provides detailed information about the Department 56 collectible villages produced during that specific time period, including descriptions, values, and illustrations.

Why is the 1996-1997 edition of the Greenbook Guide significant?

This edition is significant because it covers a pivotal time in the development of Department 56 villages, highlighting new releases and popular themes that collectors sought after, which shaped the market for these collectibles.

How can collectors use the Greenbook Guide to value their Department 56 villages?

Collectors can use the Greenbook Guide to determine the market value of their Department 56 villages by comparing their pieces against the listings in the guide, which provide estimated values based on rarity and demand.

Does the Greenbook Guide include information on discontinued pieces?

Yes, the Greenbook Guide includes information on discontinued pieces, often providing insights into their historical significance and how their value has appreciated or depreciated over time.

Where can collectors find the Greenbook Guide to Department 56 Villages 1996-1997?

Collectors can find the Greenbook Guide through various outlets such as

online bookstores, auction sites, and specialty shops that focus on collectibles and memorabilia.

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