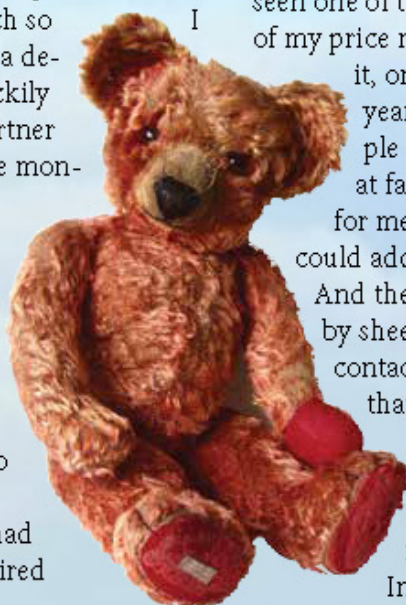


End of the Rainbow Dot Bird

My friends in the bear world know that I absolutely love early Chad Valley bears and that I have quite a few! Over many years of collecting antique and vintage bears I think my taste has sort of honed in on Chads and also Harwins, a lovely early British company. However, Chad Valley bears seemed to talk to me right from the early days of collecting, I love the diverse ranges they did in the early years as they experimented with designs and also the coloured bears that they produced. One of my 'pots of gold' was to own a red or pink Chad, from the 1930s. I have never had a great deal of spare cash to spend on bears so I watched with dismay as these delightful coloured bears would come on the market then sell for high prices that I just couldn't afford – until the day when I found a very worn pink one in an auction house. I couldn't believe my luck when I managed to buy her at a reasonable price and so the hunt for a red one began in earnest!

A few months later, browsing through websites I saw this amazing red mohair Chad, in good condition too! I asked how much it was and to my surprise it wasn't too far out of reach so I managed to send a deposit and then luckily my wonderful partner Clive, gave me the money for the balance and the gorgeous bear was mine! (it was my birthday though!) I couldn't believe it, such a dream come true, and no work needed on him either as he had had his pads repaired



already! So 'Captain Scarlet' came to live with me and I was more than happy with 'Rosie' the pink one and my beautiful red boy.

Until, one day at a bear fair, I saw for sale the most unusual early Chad, he was striped mohair! With a pale blond head and paw backs, but the rest of him was pale blond with red stripes! Amazing bear! Apparently they also made one with blue stripes, but I've never seen one of those. He was way out of my price range and so that was it, or so I thought. Over the years I think I saw a couple more either on-line or at fairs, far too expensive for me but how I wished I could add one to my collection! And then, a few years later just by sheer chance, a gentleman contacted me about a bear that needed restoring, I couldn't believe it when the pictures were emailed to me, it was a striped Chad! In a very worn state and

needed help but how lovely that I could get to work on one for a while. When his turn came up in the hospital bears queue I was so excited to receive him and be able to have him sitting on my workbench. He needed quite a bit of work so when I sent a quote through to the owner I think maybe he didn't really want to spend that much on the bear – and then he said that he was going to sell him anyway. So, holding my breath, I counted up my pennies, emptied piggy banks etc and came up with an amount that I could afford to pay and made him an offer.and he said yes! I seriously couldn't believe it! The gentleman was more than happy with the amount I could afford to pay, he just wanted the bear to go to a good home and not be sold all around the internet or in auctions etc. My offer was a very fair one, and he was happy with it, so the



lovely worn, striped Chad stayed at my house and joined my hug – and still needs some more repairs if I ever get time to do it! So, there we are, my two pots of gold. And the one I am still looking for? I'd love an early bellows musical Chad, or a green mohair one.!!