

End of the Rainbow Hilary Pauley

When I first started collecting teddy bears 7 years ago, I didn't know what I was looking for.

It was a huge learning curve. My tastes developed and changed very quickly I liked the reassurance of a button or label until I learned what shapes of heads, eyes noses and bodies told me I had heard of Steiff of course and I had a Chad Valley as a child.

My first sight of a pot of gold was in the face of a Farnell.

So expressive.

I collected quite a few until the rainbow led me to Albert 27 inches of pure heaven with a bit of history to boot. He was sold at Christies in 1999 as Albert and appears in Sue Pearson's book "Bear" He then lived his next 20 years as Christopher.

Albert was a treasured pot of gold.

One can't help but like German bears. I have recently had a penchant for Eduard Cramer smaller

than the bears I usually collect, but perfectly formed, and I have found a number in remarkable condition. Then there they were, a family of Bearkins I've never seen one before or since pot of gold two.

I then found two in quick succession. Incredible! Pot of gold 3 was not only a Master Teddy but also a Sussenguth Peter Bear.

Quite extraordinary!

The search is still on.

I love a Bing,
I have some beauties.

I have the initials
on winders from
1910 or so.



The red tag on a number from 1919-1927

The blue tag on a couple from 1927-32

But I haven't got the arrow in the ear of pre 1910 Bing.

The one Steiff objected to and took Bing to court over. Has anyone got one? Do they still exist? Is there one somewhere? That would be my dream come true, my Bing at the end of the rainbow, my ultimate pot of gold.

