

By Jo McDonald - Vectis Auctions

# Teddy Edward and Me...



When I think of the perfect teddy bear I conjure up a blond, rotund bruin, rather short in leg with a large head, twinkling amber eyes and a black nose.



I blame my childhood as first there was Big Ted and Little Ted from Play School and then, love at first sight, Teddy Edward. Released as a series of books in the 1960's by studio boss Patrick Mathews with narrative by his wife Mollie Mathews, the global travelling adventures of the little bear and his companions Jasmine the rabbit, Snowytoes the Panda and Bushy the Bush baby were made into a TV series in 1973. Only 13 episodes were produced and narrated by Richard Baker. Repeated all through the 1970's, they left an indelible impression on my childhood that is still with me today. My seventh birthday brought with it a magical gift in the form of a Burbank Toys plush Teddy Edward complete with skiing medal, woven coat lined with white fur and a red suitcase for his travels, needless to say he is still with me today. When the original bear came up for auction at Christies in December 1996, I put an extra couple of lottery tickets on in the hope by some miracle I could afford Edward and his merry band. As the lottery plan did not come to fruition, the hammer price of £34,500 remained slightly out of my price range! I did however acquire the lot in the same auction of books, posters, magazine and ephemera from Patrick and Mollie!! My passion for Chiltern teds today was ignited by these childhood tales as Edward has a look and Snowytoes is definitely of Chiltern origin.

**LEFT:**

**Teddy Edward and his ski-ing medal**