

M.I. HUMMEL FIGURINES
HISTORY · COLLECTING · VALUES

DEAN A. GENTH, AUTHOR

Sister M.I. Hummel

- ◆ Born 21 May 1909 in Massing, Germany
 - A. *Birth name – Berta Hummel*
 - B. *Religious name – Maria Innocentia
Hummel*

Biography – “Sketch Me, Berta Hummel” by M. Gonzalva Wiegand

- ◆ Father Adolph, was an artist, served in W.W. I—not able to pursue his talent
- ◆ Vowed to help any of his children with artistic ability so they could flourish
- ◆ Sent Berta to the finest Art Institute in Munich – 1927 entered The Academy of Fine and Applied Arts

“BERTA” –Early Success

- ◆ Became one of the Academy’s Outstanding Students
 - Favorite Student of Professors
 - Successful “one woman” shows in Germany
 - Became friends with two Franciscan Nuns and opts to join the religious order just as she was gaining national recognition as an “up-and-coming” artist of note.

Life at the Siessan Convent

- ◆ Entered convent as novice in 1933
 - After novice year—took vows on 30 August 1934
 - Mother Superior gives her a studio to keep painting
 - M.I. Hummel loved children and the wonders of nature around her.

Discovered By Franz Goebel

- ◆ Notecards are discovered in a shop by Franz Goebel in December 1933—Notecards were published by Ars Sacra of Munich
 - Goebel Factory on the verge of financial crisis
 - Goebel contracts with the Siessen Convent to Produce M.I. Hummel Figurines Based On the Artwork of Sister M.I. Hummel
 - Figurine production begins in 1935

Figurine Production

- ◆ W. Goebel Porzellanfabrik
 - Founded in 1871 in the village of Rodental, Germany
 - Ceramic firm once made slate boards and marbles
 - Figurine production took the company into a new era of success

How Hummels Are Made

◆ Ceramic Process

- Moldmaking-Labor Intensive
 - Original Sculpted Models
 - Mother Molds
 - Working Molds
- Hand Painting
 - Eyes are first thing painted – and the most difficult

ADVENTURE BOUND



TRADEMARKS

- ◆ Crown Trademark first used in 1935
- ◆ Trademark Style Identifies the Approximate Date a Figurine Was Produced
- ◆ Since 1980 the Goebel Factory has the finishing artist apply the date of completion
- ◆ Eight different trademark variations used from 1935 until present

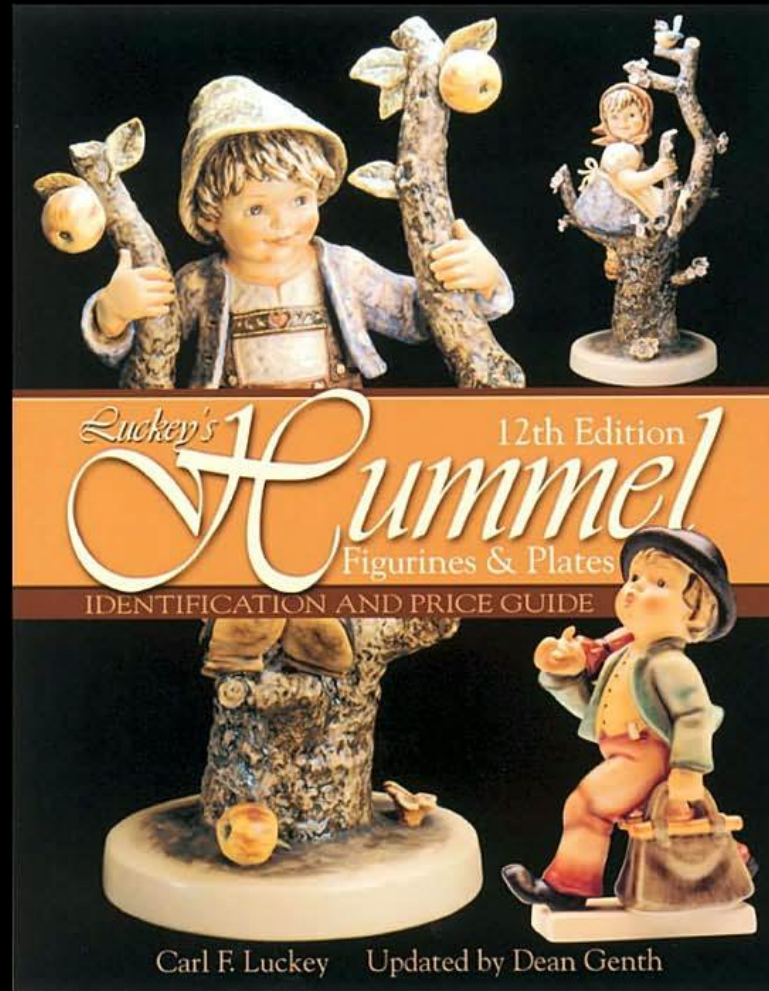
Painting and Decorating

- ◆ 700 separate operations in the making of a Hummel Figurine.
- ◆ 25 different quality control inspection points.
- ◆ Each figurine is uniquely hand painted
 1. Brushes made of squirrel's hair
 2. Eyes and lips are painted first

Bisque and Glaze Firings

- ◆ Bisque Firing for 18 hours at 2,100 degrees
- ◆ Glaze Firing at 1,872 degrees
- ◆ Paint Firings
 - Sometimes up to 10 separate firings to ensure colors from not negatively reacting to one another

COLLECTING OF HUMMELS



Warman's
Hummel[®]

FIELD GUIDE



Carl F. Luckey & Dean A. Genth

Values and Identification

WW II Introduces Hummels to the U.S. Public

- ◆ Servicemen sent figurines home to friends and family.
- ◆ Traded cigarettes for figurines.

Sister M.I. Hummel Dies at young age of 37

- Dies of Tubercular Pneumonia on 6 November 1946,
- Siessan Convent still owns the rights to the three dimensional production of Sister M.I. Hummel's artwork.
- ARS-AG to this day owns the two-dimensional rights to any lithographic reproductions of Sister M.I. Hummel's artwork



Collecting Hummels Reaches Apex
in 1970's and 1980's

International M.I. Hummel Festival

- ◆ Established in Eaton, Ohio in 1978
- ◆ Thousands of collectors gather from all over the world
 - Look Alike Contests
 - Hummel Auction
 - Entertainment
 - Seminars
 - Free Appraisals
 - Dealers (worldwide) assembled to sell to the public



BOOK PUBLISHING HISTORY

HUNGARIAN HUMMELS

- ◆ Robert L. Miller Purchases 8 rare Figurines from Budapest Flea Market Dealer
 - Turns down \$250,000.00 for the eight pieces
 - Figurines go into bank vault
 - Eight Figurines and Mr. Miller tour the USA
 - Later more samples are discovered

COLLECTOR FRENZY

1970's STYLE

- ◆ Hummels sold in excess of suggested retail.
- ◆ Collectors would wait in line for stores to open on the days Hummels would arrive.
- ◆ Number of dealers and retail locations grew—purchase requirements by Goebel.
- ◆ In 1980's production finally caught up with demand.



VALUATION OF
M.I. HUMMEL
FIGURINES AND ART

INSURING AND PROTECTING YOUR COLLECTION

- ◆ Inventory
- ◆ Current replacement values for insurance company
- ◆ Duplicate records
- ◆ Digital photos
- ◆ Check display shelves

ORIGINAL M.I. HUMMEL ART

◆ Ars AG firm in Munich

- Printing of notecards, postcards, and lithographic prints
- Owner of two-dimensional rights
- Owners (Nauer family) hold 436 originals

DEAN A. GENTH VALUES ORIGINAL ARTWORK IN SWITZERLAND

- ◆ Originals crated for 25 years
- ◆ Dean A. Genth as appraiser values entire body of M.I. Hummel artwork
 - Two “lost” originals discovered during appraisal process
- ◆ Some originals sent to U.S. for touring display

PUBLISHED WORKS by DEAN A. GENTH

- ◆ “Figurine Finesse” for *Collector’s Mart*
- ◆ *The Crystal Report*
- ◆ *Hummel Identification and Price Guide*
- ◆ *Warman’s Field Guide*
- ◆ *Collecting Swarovski*
- ◆ Contributor to *Price Guide to Contemporary Collectibles*



Q's and A's