



COLLECTOR SPOTLIGHT: WAYNE & SALLY PERKINS

In the realm of ceramic collectibles, the names of Wayne and Sally Perkins are among the foremost in the area of golf-themed items, indeed, for ceramics in general, especially pieces related to John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. Their displays at large trade shows are centerpieces of color, beauty, and rarity in this collecting niche.

The passion for ceramic collectibles was already in their blood when, in 1977, the two found themselves in England where Wayne had a position as a Fulbright Professor in philosophy and religion at the University of Leicester in Leicester, England.

“Virtually every weekend, Sally and I went to antique fairs throughout England, looking for Staffordshire ceramic commemoratives of John Wesley, because we are Methodists,” Wayne says.

Wayne also loved to golf and with his single-digit handicap, he played at all the courses where the British Open has been played. “I shot 72 at St. Andrews and in the 70s on all other courses,” he says, with a note of pride. (And why not?)

With golf on their minds, or at least Wayne’s, the two of them began to pick up all kinds of ceramic golf collectibles and antiques at the antique fairs. He was entranced with the sheer variety of the items from vases to match holders, jugs and plates.

Wayne, who has taught at the University of Evansville for 38 years, has also taught at its satellite campus, Harlaxton, in Grantham, England. During his three years there, he and Sally continued searching and collecting Wesley as well as golf antiques and collectibles. “We sought to collect the golf ceramics featured in *Decorative Golf Collectibles* by the Sprungs,” he says.

After more than 30 years of such activity, the Perkins amassed what they believe was the second largest private



WAYNE AND SALLY PERKINS at the GCS annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nov. 2014. The Indiana couple are known for their expertise in ceramic collectibles.

collection of Wesley ceramic antiques.

“Three years ago we gave our entire collection to the University of Evansville, since 1854, a Methodist-related University,” Wayne says. “After more than 20 years in the Golf Collectors Society we think we have one of the largest collections of golf ceramics in the Society. Sally and I have enjoyed our searching, collecting, and trading ceramic golf antiques and collectibles. We’ve been at it for more than 38 years. We especially enjoyed sharing our passion with many members of the GCS.”

Highlights of the Perkins’ collection may be seen in the book *Great Golf Collections of the World*, which offers beautiful high resolution images of rare items not seen here.

Wayne, as noted earlier, is an avid golfer who plays quite well. Here, he wished to share a few humorous stories from his time playing the Open Championship courses.

“I played St. Andrews in October and it was perfectly calm. When I came in, I

went to the Old Tom Morris golf shop by the course, and the attendant asked: ‘What did ye shoot my boy?’ I said that I shot 72. I was one under through 16, but I bogeyed 17. He said, ‘But ye deenot play it the way it is. Normally the wind’s a blowin’ a gale’.”

At Carnoustie the starter told me to join a threesome that had just teed off. As I picked up my bag and headed to the tee the starter said over the loudspeaker, “Laddie, there are no preferred lies!”

At Turnberry I was given a tee-time of 6:45 a.m. I arrived at 6:15 a.m. and there were about a dozen players from Japan who were buying clubs, shoes, bags, etc. The starter said, ‘You don’t want to play with these guys. They are not good golfers. They just came to buy and to take their purchases back to Japan. I’m going to put you with three of our members who are good players, if you’re a low handicapper.’ That’s fine, I said.

When I got to the tee, there were, as I found out, a doctor, a pharmacist, and a dentist. I told them that the starter sent me. It was obvious they were not pleased to have an outsider join their threesome. They all proceeded to hit good drives. Then it was my turn and they looked on, keen to see what kind of golfer they had been saddled with. Fortunately, I hit a very good and long drive. All was well and good then. The ice broken, all three approved, adding that they were “glad to have an American to play with us.” We had a very nice round of golf.





STONEWARE BY DOULTON-LAMBETH, c. 1900

Doulton Lambeth became Royal Doulton around 1910. All these pieces are rare, valuable, and expensive.

Top row, l-to-r: Golf tankard or pitcher, 8 inches, silver rim, \$2,500; Golf mug, 6 inches, silver rim, \$2,400; Golf mug, 4 1/2 inches, \$2,000; Golf beaker/cup, 4 inches, silver rim, \$2,000.

Bottom row, l-to-r: Golf pitcher, 8 1/2 inches, \$3,000; Golf beaker/cup, 4 inches, silver rim, \$1,000; Golf beaker/cup, 4 inches, silver rim, \$2,000.



ROYAL DOULTON, c. 1900

Morrisian Golf Vase, 9 inches, extremely rare, \$2,000



COPELAND SPODE, c. 1900

Golf Tyg, three handles, large 5 1/2-by-7 1/2 handle-to-handle, \$2,300



WELLER GOLF VASES, c. 1900

From left: Female golfer, Dickensware II, No. 356, triangular shape, 8 inches, \$1,700; Male golfer, Dickensware II, No. X221, 11 inches, very rare, \$2,000; Male golfer, Dickensware II, unusual coloration, 9 1/4 inches, \$1,800; Male golfer, Dickensware II, 11 inches, signed D=Anthony Dunlevy, extremely rare, c. 1896-1909, \$2,500.



ROYAL DOULTON TEAPOT

*Royal Doulton, Series Ware,
6-by-8 inches, date 1915,
\$1,000*

**STAFFORDSHIRE FIGURINES –
OLD AND YOUNG TOM MORRIS, c. LATE 1800s**

Old Tom Morris and his son, Young Tom Morris, were two of the most famous Scottish winners of the British Open and two of the most famous golfers in the history of St. Andrews. The clubs in their hands are basically inexpensive wire-like metal. As with all Staffordshire figures they were not at all expensive when new, but they are valuable now because of age and scarcity. I had over 200 Staffordshire pieces in my Wesley collection, and some of them sold for two pence when they were new, but I paid as much as 200 pounds (\$300) for them. For one bust I paid 3,000 pounds (\$6,000). I have a value of \$500 on this Staffordshire pair of the Morrises. Old Tom is about 7 inches high and Young Tom is about 6 inches. Their names are incised on the bases.

