

COLLECT IT

Thrill of the hunt.
With \$500 burning a hole in her pocket, Arizona shop owner Kristin Alber finds antiques and fun at the Phoenix Antique Market.



10:00 A.M.

"This is a great show to go to with a limited budget," Kristin says. "Everyone can afford to get something." Her first finds: toy soldier bowling pins (\$40), a child's caddy she'll use for art supplies (\$25), a small globe bank for her son (\$6), vintage rhinestone hair combs for her daughter (\$30), and a pretty turquoise box (\$90).



10:30 A.M.

While sifting through a small booth, Kristin snags a late-1800s print (\$35) of a girl with a bright red jacket that she'll hang in her bedroom.

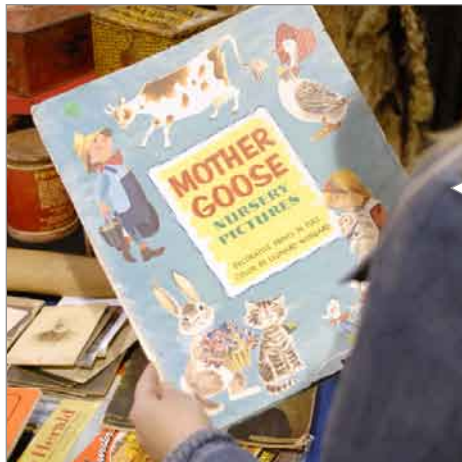
11:15 A.M.

Tiny wooden shoe forms grab Kristin's attention (\$15), and a mini chair is an exact replica of full-size chairs her husband bought in France (\$75).



12:00 P.M.

Although Kristin passes on buying any colorful Bakelite bracelets, she loved looking through the show's many jewelry booths.



12:45 P.M.

A 1950s-era Mother Goose book full of full-size nursery rhyme illustrations is a steal at \$5. Kristin will frame the pages for a kid's room.

1:00 P.M.

An antique cuff and collar box from the 1890s will give a little bit of age to Kristin's bookshelves. "This is really unique, and I love the bow on top."



1:30 P.M.

After spending about four hours at the show, Kristin rides away with a cartful of pieces, from nice garage-sale type items to expensive collectibles. "The vendors are always changing," she says, "but they're always fun, personable, and full of information." Her favorite finds: toys and children's items. "They're so fun to design with," she says.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JACK COVER

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THRILL OF THE HUNT

KRISTIN'S FINDS

SMALL GLOBE	\$6
TURQUOISE BOX	\$90
RED CHILD'S CADDY	\$25
YELLOW STONE COMB	\$6
ANTIQUE COLLAR BOX	\$90
TOY SOLDIERS	\$40
19TH-CENTURY PRINT	\$35
MIRRORED TRAY	\$75
MINI CHILDREN'S BOOKS	\$10
TURQUOISE FILE FOLDER	\$1
PAIR OF WOOD SHOES	\$15
FRENCH CHAIR MODEL	\$75
MOTHER GOOSE BOOK	\$5
TOTAL	\$473

THE SCOOP: Kristin Alber sets up shop in downtown Mesa, Arizona, at one of our favorite stores, Domestic Bliss (www.domesticblissdesign.com). She hunts year-round to stock her store and home. "I can shop anywhere," Kristin says, "but this show is really fun."

The 21-year-old Phoenix Antique Market runs in January, February, March, May, November, and December indoors at the Arizona State Fairgrounds. The diverse 100-plus dealers come from around the United States, and even Canada and England. The May show celebrates the Armed Forces, and along with other dealers, you'll find military memorabilia dating from the Civil War through today.

"A lot of the dealers are not typical," Kristin says. "It seems like they are sharing their personal collections." She loves the jewelry, accessories, books, vintage clothing, and toys that are mixed in with higher-end furniture and fine collectibles at this market.

Phoenix Antique Market, May 19–20, November 17–18, December 8–9; Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The market is held at the Arizona State Fairgrounds, 19th Avenue and McDowell. Admission is free. For more information, call 602/717-7337 or visit the Web site at www.azantiqueshow.com.

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