



# Collect Flowers

by  
Mike Prero

Flowers! They're colorful, attractive, a favorite with most people, and it's certainly an uplifting topic (which you could hardly say about my Funeral Homes collection!). Now, there are probably some males out there who are mumbling to themselves, "Bah! That's a girlie topic!" Not so! There are entire countries who hold flowers so exalted high that they have incorporated them as their national emblem. France, for example, has the fleur de lis. Most countries also have adopted a particular flower as a national flower. India has the lotus, England has the Tudor Rose, Spain has the carnation, and the list goes on. In 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed legislation making the rose the floral emblem of the United States.

Flowers are so universally appreciated, in fact, that they are one of the very few items from the *outside* that we bring *inside*. Throughout history, they have been used as religious and family symbols, decoration, medicine, and have even played a part in more than one battle.. They continue today to grace palaces and shanties, boulevards and alleys, staterooms and offices.

Their attraction, then, not surprisingly led to flower arrangements, which began in Ancient Egypt. Chinese, Roman, Greek, Byzantine and eventually European cultures also were flower enthusiasts.

Flowers have been used to barter, as tribute, as ransom, and even occasionally as coin. And, in 17th century Amsterdam, tulips became more valuable than gold!

There are lots of things you could do with a Flower collection. You could go for colors, or groups, divide them into seasons... Or, if you're really into challenges, you could set out to get one of every type of flower! The well-known types would be easy, since there are a number of sets that feature such. It's the *other ones* that would be the challenge! When's the last time you saw a Corpse Flower (the world's rarest flower) or a Gibraltar Campion (only found on the cliffs of Gibraltar) on a cover?

Think about collecting Flowers...and watch your collection bloom!







