

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

READERS TAKE US THROUGH THE RETRO KEYHOLE



DONKEY KONG 3: THE GREAT COUNTERATTACK

"A lesser-known *Donkey Kong* shoot-'em-up from the Eighties, developed by Hudsonsoft. I feel very fortunate to have found a copy for the NEC PC-6601."

PAID: £300



SUPER MARIO NO SWEATER

"A mega-rare title, a sewing simulator game for the Famicom disk system."

PAID: £250



YOSHI NO COOKIE: KURUPPON OVEN DE COOKIE

"One of the rarest Super Famicom games. Only 500 copies were made as a promotional item for a Panasonic oven in Japan."

PAID: £2000



A MUSEUM OF MARIO LOVE

The gaming shrine dedicated to Nintendo's mascot

BIO

NAME:
Steven Bagley

LOCATION:
Midlands, UK

ESTIMATED VALUE OF COLLECTION:
"Priceless to me"

FAVOURITE SYSTEM:
Super Nintendo

FAVOURITE GAME:
Super Mario World

TWITTER/INSTAGRAM:
@Mario_Museum

We think it's fair to say this month's collector, Steven Bagley from the Midlands, UK, likes a certain Italian plumber.

"Throughout the Eighties and Nineties, Nintendo continued to innovate and deliver high-quality games design," he explains. "I have fond memories of discovering *Super Mario Bros 3*, *Super Mario Land* and *Super Mario World* for the first time, and I guess most retro gamers will agree that nostalgia is a powerful thing." Steven's favourite Mario game is *Super Mario World* as he feels it "perfectly bridges the gap between *Super Mario Bros* and *Super Mario 64*"; yet his first love was an altogether different type of cartoon videogame star. "I grew up with a Sinclair Spectrum and loved the *Dizzy* games," he says. "They were my first experience of the platform genre and were a huge influence on my gaming tastes."

ALL NIGHT NIPPON SUPER MARIO BROS

"This is a version of *Super Mario Bros: The Lost Levels*, based on the Japanese radio program *All Night Nippon*. It was given away as a prize in 1986."

PAID: £500

Nevertheless, the young man never looked back after acquiring his first NES and a copy of *Super Mario Bros*.

For several years, Steven has focussed his collecting on his favourite videogame character, amassing a hugely impressive range of *Mario* games, ephemera and more. "I adore lots of Nintendo franchises, but the joy of *Mario* is that there will always be something to collect," he notes. Nevertheless, Steven is a picky collector, not content with acquiring the more common merchandising, as he clarifies. "I always say I'm more than a collector just for the sake of amassing stuff. I've learned a lot about the history of Nintendo and feel in many ways I'm preserving a piece of cultural history and bringing titles from across the world into one single, unique collection." Steven's fascination for the odder elements of Mario merch has led him to some strange items. "I used to own two Game Boy-powered sewing machines," he laughs. "But the oddest *Mario* software I have is a memory card made by Brother called

Super Mario Embroidery World, along with *Super Mario World* for the Barcode Battler."

Steven's passion for the *Mario* series has engendered an interest in Japanese culture and even a trip to the home of Nintendo back in 2006. What does he think makes the character so enduring? "What I think sets Mario apart is the universal appeal with a history that spans generations. The games also have a much-loved cast of supporting characters, but perhaps most importantly, it's the quality and innovative gameplay which is the hallmark of Nintendo. The *Mario* series has managed to maintain those high standards for almost 40 years."

So, Steven likes a bit of Mario. But can he pass the ultimate Mario test: has he seen the 1994 movie, and if so, what does he think of it? "I remember going to the cinema to see it, and I still have an original cardboard stand from the cinema in my collection! It wasn't great, but I don't think fans cared; it was riding on a wave of huge popularity and, yes, I have *Super Mario Land* by Ambassadors Of Funk on CD single." Well done, Steven – you passed. ★

Got an impressive collection of your own? Contact us at:

f RetroGamerUK @RetroGamer_Mag ✉ retrogamer@futurenet.com



HANAFUDA PLAYING CARDS

"I have several Nintendo card decks dating from pre-WWII onwards."

PAID: £100-£300 EACH



JEWEL IN THE CROWN

NINTENDO COMPUTER TV GAME CTG-HC10

■ "The rarest of all the Nintendo TV Game systems. Mine is new and in unused condition. It was a lot of money at the time, but I couldn't let it escape."

PAID: £1,600

BARGAIN HUNT

Your guide to the rising world of retro prices

THE COVER STAR EVERCADE EXP

The latest handheld from the Evercade stable is available for preordering at various places, including Funstock, for **£129.99**. With its improved features and 18 built-in games from arcade legend Capcom, it looks like a solid upgrade over the original handheld.



REBELSTAR

The Spectrum original of *Rebelstar* has increased in value over the years and now sells for between **£8** and **£10**. Expect to pay a couple of quid more for the Amstrad CPC version.

THE LAST NINJA

The Last Ninja is undoubtedly System 3's most famous IP, and while cassette versions tend to stealthily slip away for **£15-£25**, the disk versions are much more expensive.



WIZ 'N' LIZ

You can wescue wabbits for a measly **£10-£25** on the Sega Mega Drive with other versions wetailing for a vewy weasonable **£10**. Bwiliant. [Please stop - Ed]

ARKANOID

While not exactly common, the original full-price release of *Arkanoid* published by Ocean Software under its Imagine label sells for **£5-£10** on the ZX Spectrum, while its *Hit Squad* re-release bounces for a similar price.



ELECTRO COP

Loose carts of this high-voltage Lynx game sell for a decent **£10**. However, if you're after boxed copies, be prepared to get charged a lot more.

ICE HOCKEY

Like many Atari 2600 games, prices of this sports sim are relatively low, with boxed copies selling for **£9-£12**. With most sales emanating from the US, however, watch out for that postage.

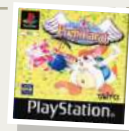


PRINCE OF PERSIA

This Master System game is one of the more common on the system and rarely sells for more than a tenner, even boxed and in mint condition.

PUCHI CARAT

If you are hankering after some cute puzzle action, then this PlayStation version of *Puchi Carat* is a bargain, with the European game rarely selling for more than **£6** posted.



HEROES OF MIGHT & MAGIC II

A boxed copy of this RPG sequel will likely set you back 100 gold pieces with another 50 for its expansion. Just want to play? You can currently get both on GOG.com for a heroic price of just **£2.19**.

HOW MUCH?! ULTIMA

On the theme of classic RPGs, an eBay auction of the very first *Ultima* just wrapped as **Retro Gamer** went to print. A cool **£1,750** got the happy bidder an Apple II game disk, cover and reference card. Rumours of Lord British going to see his bank manager remain unconfirmed.



Prices correct at time of print