

COLLECTABLES

Board games have existed in one form or another for thousands of years, and many such as *Ludo* and *Snakes and Ladders* became popular in the Victorian period.

But the big collecting craze these days is for board games related to TV shows, mostly those made in the last 50 years.

Obviously, those that have survived in really nice order – and complete – will command premium prices.

One of the first board games related to television appeared in the 1940s, featuring Mickey Mouse. Strictly speaking, he was more a film than a TV star at that time, but he was a pioneer for a whole host of TV-related board games.

value of about £30-£40 and examples crop up at car boot sales and junk shops.

In the early 1960s, one of Bruce's rivals, Michael Miles, was hosting a popular TV show called *Take Your Pick*, and there was a board game relating to that too, now worth about £25. Another popular 1960s TV celebrity was the magician David Nixon and he produced his own box of magic-themed games. Value is around £40.

By the 1970s popular TV shows such as *Thunderbirds* were producing merchandising spin-offs including board games, and in the 1980s there were some unlikely board game subjects, including Uri Geller, the noted spoon-bender, who had a game called *Strike!* which was nothing to do with spoons, as I



Thunderbirds board game, 1960s

recall. Surviving examples are worth about £35. Morecambe and Wise also had a board game marketed in the 1980s and that is worth £30 or so.

These TV-related games are an interesting snapshot of changing TV tastes over the decades, and they always spark off memories and are a good talking point. You will see examples around the antiques trade and at car boot sales, but make sure that the contents seem complete, and all the items, including the box itself, are in reasonable condition.

Board games are go

Thunderbirds leads TV-themed home fun

Most people have their own childhood favourite TV shows, and collectors often wallow in nostalgia and seek out games from this period.

It's not quite as easy as you may think, for children were notoriously careless and destructive with all forms of games, so getting a complete boxed board game with all the bits and pieces still there and in good condition is not that simple.

By the 1950s, when TV was becoming more widespread, there were board games related to programmes such as *The Lone Ranger*, and a surviving example now is worth about £50.

In the late 1950s there was even a board game related to Bruce Forsyth's popular TV show *I'm In Charge*, described as 'witty, exciting and full of fun.' The game now has a

Pew Boot Sale in St Andrew's Church, Earls Colne on Saturday October 27th, 10am to noon. Pews £5 each, details from 07908138853. Refreshments available.

Village Hall, Sible Hedingham. Monthly Tea Dance, first Sunday of each month. Ballroom, Latin and modern sequence, 2.30 -5pm - £4. For further information phone Tony 07790 516580

Henny Fete and Duck Race on Saturday 28th July 2018, 12:00-4:00pm at the Henny Swan. All the usual games and stalls: Children's games and for the Adults-Coconut Shy, Bowling for the Pig etc on the banks of the River Stour. As well as the annual Duck Race we have Shire Horses on display and a fun Dog Show. Entrance Free.

JAZZ CONCERT with "New Orleans Heat" on Saturday July 21st 7.30pm at St Margarets Church, Toppesfield. For information; 01787237190

The Four Colnes Show takes place at the Recreation Club in Earls Colne on Saturday 11th August. Plenty to see and do: indoors the competition classes including vegetable, flowers, art and cookery; outdoors a range of stalls, entertainment, activities and demonstrations. Plus fun dog show and classic cars. Come and join the fun: gates open 1pm, entry £2.50 adults, 50p children.

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