

My Cribbage Board Collection

Dan Betz, March 2004

I became aware of the ACC and Grass Roots cribbage in 1994, while searching for books on cribbage (I wanted to become a better player). I started a Grass Roots club that summer.

In 1995, when asked what I wanted for my 25th anniversary gift, I requested a Vandercraft Lighthouse from Bette's Crib. Prior to this time, I only owned 2 boards, a Drueke # 6 for travel and a Milton Bradley # 4626. In 2000 I requested a Vandercraft Mill Pond, for my 30th anniversary gift.

In 1999 I bought a cribbage board at a yard sale, In 2000 - 5, in 2001 - 6, and in 2002 - 1.

Well then in December 2002, I retired. Since I found it fun and interesting, I began going to lots of public sales and flea markets. In 2003 I bought 85 cribbage boards and a lot of toy marbles, my other passion.

I have found the variety of boards very interesting, many of them hand made by students in woodshop classes, many years ago. Some of these are very elaborate, some with inlays and some laminated. Another factor in the types of boards is that the Drueke factory was only about 30 miles away. Now the Carrom factory which bought Drueke is only about 60 miles away.

My prize boards are the two Vandercraft boards which hang on the wall in my living room, a solid brass board with legs (a reproduction of an English MECO), a pineapple shaped board made of Koa wood, and an inlaid tournament long board (made by a player in my Grass Roots Club) which was presented to me as a gift when I received a 29 hand last year.

I just finished photographing and cataloging my collection. I don't know where this is going to lead but I now have 108 boards. I am trying to identify the manufactured boards and have been using Bette's book to that end.

I think that I will soon be forced to begin selling my duplicates as storage and display is becoming somewhat of a problem. Also, a new sale season is coming up. I may even have to specialize.