

Decoys

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- America's earliest folk art.
- Native Americans were first decoy makers in North America- 1000 AD.
- Historic developments:
 - Not much is known before 1850.
 - Rapid growth from 1850-1918 due to development of railroad system and rise in the "Market Hunters".
 - 1918- Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
 - 1930s- Depression caused resurgence of shooting for game.
 - 1940s- Start of sport hunting
- Individual carver and factory decoys.
- "Antique decoys"- 1940s and earlier.
- Major North American migration routes:
 - Atlantic Flyaway
 - Central Flyaway
 - Pacific Flyaway
- Regional Difference.
- Collecting advice from the Shelburne Museum:
 - Set clear objectives.
 - Aim high. Set your sights beyond your means.
 - Be patient. Wait for what you want.
 - Don't look for bargains.
 - You decide. Don't collect someone else's taste or opinions.
- Cost of decoys- \$150- \$800,000.
- Factors influencing value:
 - Original paint and condition.
 - Reputation and collectability of carver.
 - Rarity of decoy/ carver.
- Caring for your decoys: Do as little as possible.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Engers, Joe (Editor). THE GREAT BOOK OF WILDFOWL DECOYS. Thunder Bay Press. San Diego, California. 1990

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