

## BO

### The Ultimate Teddy Bear



Circular black boot-button eyes set close together.

Soft muzzle, as wood-wool stuffing has disintegrated into sawdust.

Cinnamon-colored mohair plush.

Center seam characteristic of some early Steiffs.

Antique white cotton collar with metal stud.

Four black claws on each paw and foot stitched across mohair plush.

Beige felt footpads in near-mint condition.

**I**n the teddy bear world, Bo (a 1905 Steiff) is generally regarded as the consummate teddy. Indeed, his endearing expression has driven many teddy manufacturers to strive to capture the Bo "look." He now resides in Southern California with Happy (see page 11) and has made many appearances on television with his owners, Paul and Rosemary Volpp.

HEIGHT: 24IN (61CM)

## CORONATION BEAR

### 1953 Commemorative Bear



Red, white, and blue mohair plush.

Transparent glass eyes with black pupils.

Head and body filled with kapok.

Muzzle filled with wood-wool stuffing.

Cardboard swivel joints at limbs and head.

Distinctive Merrythought blanket-stitched claws.

Felt pads on base of feet.

**T**he coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 resulted in the production of a wealth of coronation memorabilia. Like many other manufacturers of luxury goods, the toy companies were quick to pick up on this trend. In the year of the coronation, the British firm Merrythought Ltd. created this patriotic red, white, and blue bear for the occasion.

HEIGHT: 15IN (38CM)

## PIERRE

### Prize-winning French Teddy Bear



Original orange glass eyes with black pupils fused to opaque glass beneath.

Long muzzle with sealing wax nose.

Original beige felt ruffs around neck, cuffs, and ankles.

Very worn brown mohair plush on woven beige backing.

Five brown stitched claws.

Whistle added by previous owners to look like a jester's rattle.

Upturned mouth stitched with black thread.

Unusual jester's outfit of red and yellow mohair plush tipped with black.

Large flat feet reinforced with cardboard.

HEIGHT: 14 IN (36 CM)

**P**ierre won "Best of Show" at the first International League of Teddy Bear Clubs held in Los Angeles, in 1985. The origins of this teddy bear, with its very unusual shape and coloring, are unknown, but his present owners suspect that Pierre was made in France in the early 1900s. Clown teddy bears became extremely popular c. 1907–1920.

## GATTI

### Survivor of the Titanic



Ears, set wide apart, show signs of wear.

Mouth embroidered with black stitching.

Mohair plush in good condition.

Fully jointed head and limbs with internal metal frame.

Original metal eyes painted black.

Nose hand-embroidered with horizontal stitches.

Short-pile golden mohair plush.

Short and extremely straight arms and legs.

HEIGHT: 6 IN (15 CM)

**G**atti was one of the victims of the Titanic disaster of 1912 was Gaspare Gatti, the liner's catering manager. Among his few possessions recovered from the ship was this tiny bear which, amazingly, came out of the disaster unscathed. A born survivor, he later narrowly escaped damage during the bombing raids over London in World War II.

## • VIRGINIA •

Forerunner of the Glass Eye Trend



HEIGHT: 16IN (41CM).

**T**his pretty little bear has no trademark (few of the early American teddy bears do), but her present owners, expert arctophiles, are convinced that she was manufactured by The Ideal Novelty & Toy Co., c.1914. As such, she is one of the first American bears to have glass eyes. Prior to 1914, the company used boot buttons, as did most manufacturers.

## • HAPPY •

The World's Most Expensive Bear

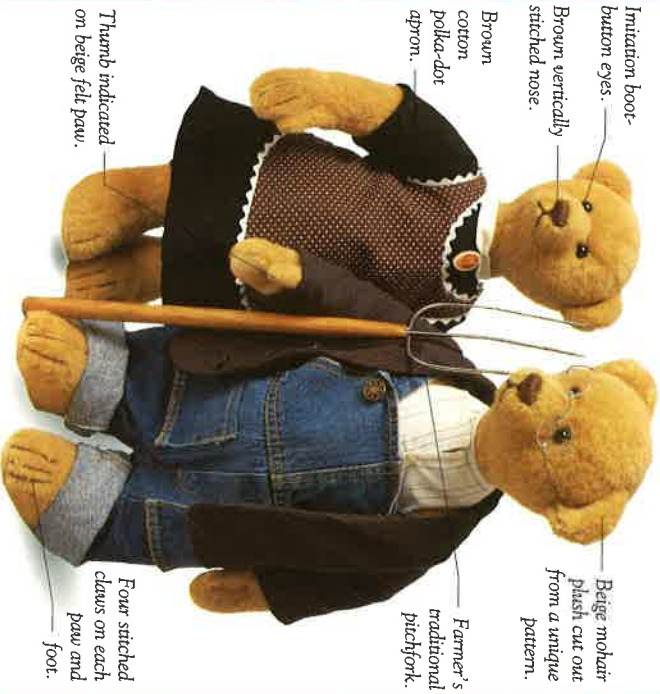


HEIGHT: 24IN (61CM).

**I**n 1989, bear collector Paul Volpp gave Happy, a 1926 Steiff, to his wife, Rosemary, as a present for their wedding anniversary. He paid an astounding US \$86,350 for Happy at Sotheby's in London – a record that still stands. Her origins, rarity, size, and condition, but most of all her endearing expression, account for the very high price paid.

## AMERICAN GOTHIC

Farmer Bears Adapted from a Painting



Imitation boot-  
button eyes.

Brown vertically  
stitched nose.

Brown  
cotton  
polka-dot  
apron.

Farmer's  
traditional  
pitchfork.

Beige mohair  
plush cut out  
from a unique  
pattern.

Thumb indicated  
on beige felt paw.

Four stitched  
claws on each  
paw and  
foot.

HEIGHT: 19IN (48CM)

HEIGHT: 20IN (51CM)

At a teddy bear convention in 1990 in Clarion, Iowa, teddy bear artists were asked for their interpretation of Grant Wood's famous painting *American Gothic*, which depicts rural, Mid-western life in the 1930s. The winner was Barbara Conley from San Jose, California, who won first prize for this charming teddy bear couple.

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## SIR MORTIMER

Celebration of a Roman Town



Large, rounded  
ears set wide apart  
on head.

Safe, plastic,  
lock-in eyes.

Bow tie gives  
him the look of  
a British  
academic.

Black vertically  
stitched nose at tip  
of long, pointed  
muzzle.

A speckled  
mixture of brown,  
black, and beige  
synthetic plush.

Pads made  
with an  
orange  
velvet-like  
fabric.

HEIGHT: 18IN (46CM)

Susan Rixon, of Nonsuch Soft Toys, produced this limited-edition teddy bear in 1990 to celebrate the centenary of the excavation of Silchester, a Roman town close to her home in Berkshire, England. Sir Mortimer is named after both the eminent British archaeologist, Sir Mortimer Wheeler, and the nearby village of Mortimer, in Berkshire.

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## ❧ RUPPERT BEAR ❧

World-Famous Cartoon Bear



White synthetic fur fabric with synthetic stuffing.

Safe plastic lock-in eyes.

Black vertical stitching on nose.

Embroidered black inverted-Y-shaped mouth.

Traditional red knitted sweater.

Red winter coat unique to this 1986 Special Edition bear.

Yellow and black checked scarf and trousers usually worn by Rupert.

Soft imitation-leather shoes tied with real laces.

HEIGHT: 16in (41cm)

**R**upert Bear was originally a cartoon character, created by Mary Tourtel in 1920 for the London Daily Express. He soon became a national institution in Britain and later captured the hearts of many other nations around the world. It was not long before Rupert Bear memorabilia was produced, and from the 1960s, he was widely available as a stuffed toy.

## ❧ CHRISTIAN GABRIEL ❧

Rare Early Steiff Bear



Distinctive seam across top of head.

Shiny black boot buttons eyes.

Wood-wool stuffed torso, head, and limbs.

Beige mohair plush worn in places.

Elephant "button in ear" (early trademark of a raised elephant).

Large sealing wax nose.

Long limbs typical of early Steiff bears.

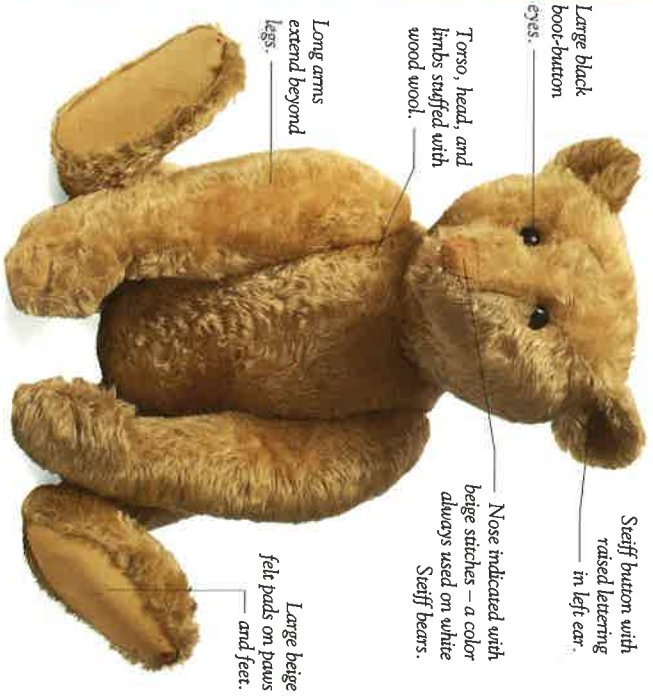
Five black claws stitched across each beige felt paw and footpad.

HEIGHT: 15in (38cm)

**M**ade by Steiff in 1903, this bear is very rare. Christian was made when Steiff was experimenting with teddy bear design, in particular the jointing system of their bears. Whereas earlier bears were made with a thread jointing system, Christian Gabriel has a rod that links his head and limbs. He also has a well-preserved sealing wax nose.

# • KING ARTHUR •

Former Record Breaker at Sotheby's



Large black boot-button eyes.

Torso, head, and limbs stuffed with wood wool.

Long arms extend beyond legs.

Nose indicated with beige stitches – a color always used on white Steiff bears.

Steiff button with raised lettering in left ear.

Large beige felt pads on paws and feet.

HEIGHT: 30IN (76CM).

**A** King Arthur, a c.1905 Steiff bear, is prized because of his excellent condition and stature – few early Steiff bears of such a large size survive. He broke all previous auction records for teddy bears when he was sold at Sotheby's, London, in October 1985 for US \$5,872. Arthur is actually a white Steiff, but his fur has discolored over the years.

# • FRITZ •

German Prisoner of War's Bear



Original brown boot-button eyes.

Worn and discolored golden mohair plush.

Black vertical stitching indicates nose.

Grey and pink hand-knitted jacket added by P.O.W.

Cap badge from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Embroidered insignia taken from soldier's uniform.

1939 bronze German medal (War Merit Cross, Second Class).

Fully jointed body, head, and limbs.

Woven foot-pads.

HEIGHT: 11IN (28CM).

**A**t the end of World War II, this dusty bear was found under the floor of a Quonset hut that a German prisoner of war had occupied. On cleaning, Fritz was revealed to be a 1906 golden mohair-plush Steiff. Though his fur was discolored and worn, he was found in a dignified state, decorated with impressive German and British badges.

## ALFONZO

Russian Princess's 1908 Steiff



Ears set wide apart, in tradition of early bears.

Horizontal stitching on nose slightly worn.

Original orange Russian-style tunic.

Four claws, each indicated with a single stitch.

Steiff "button in ear" with raised lettering.

Small black boot-button eyes positioned close together.

Short rust-red mohair plush.

Beige felt pads worn to reveal wood-wool stuffing.

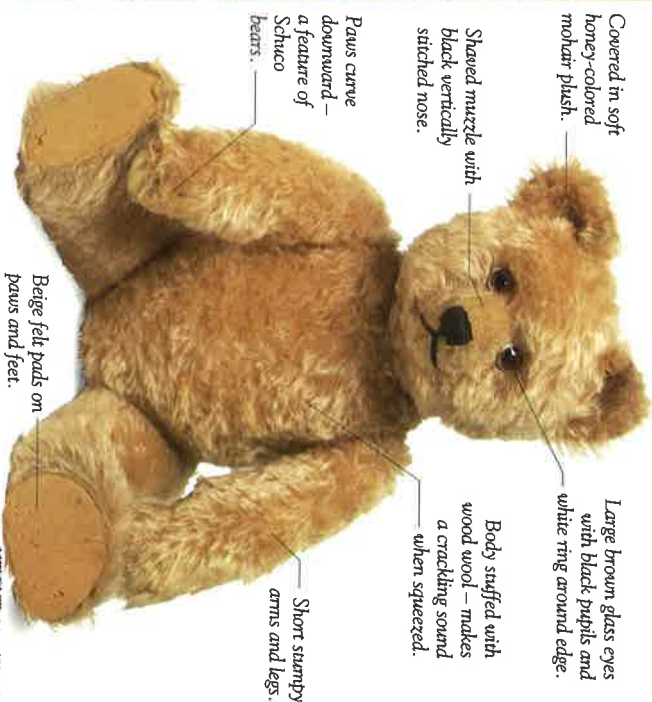
HEIGHT: 13IN (33CM)

In 1908, the Grand Duke of Russia commissioned Steiff to make this unusual red bear for his daughter Princess Xenia Georgievna. In 1914, the Princess took her bear to England, where she stayed with relatives at Buckingham Palace. She never returned to Russia. Alfonzo, the gift from the father she was never to see again, became very dear to the princess.

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## REBECCA

Famed as a Porcelain Plate Decoration



Covered in soft honey-colored mohair plush.

Shaved muzzle with black vertically stitched nose.

Large brown glass eyes with black pupils and white ring around edge.

Body stuffed with wood wool - makes a cracking sound when squeezed.

Short stumpy arms and legs.

Paws curve downward - a feature of Schuco bears.

Beige felt pads on paws and feet.

HEIGHT: 21IN (53CM)

In 1930s Schuco Yes/No bear, Rebecca won her fame by appearing on a series of porcelain plates sold across the United States. All Yes/No bears have a head that nods or rotates when the bear's tail is moved up and down or from side to side. Schuco stands for Schreyer & Co., a German toy manufacturer that was established in 1912.

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## • RICHARD • Richard Steiff's Replica of an Early Prototype



Ears set wide apart.

Replica black boot-button eyes.

White label indicates the model is a replica.

Design of this bear unchanged from 1905-1951.

Long joined arms—a distinguishing feature of early Steiff bears.

Short-pile grey mohair plush used on only a few early prototypes.

Felt footpads with signature and date.

HEIGHT: 13in (33cm).

**T**his 1983 bear is a replica of a prototype developed by Richard Steiff in 1905. (The original bear was placed in the Steiff factory archives in Germany in the 1940s.) The bear's beige felt footpads carry the signature of Hans Otto Steiff, great-grand-nephew of Margarete Steiff, the original inspiration behind this highly successful family company.

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## • ALOYSIUS • Sebastian's Bear in "Brideshead Revisited"



Triangular face, a distinctive feature of early Ideal bears, has lost its shape.

New black stitching on nose.

Red stitching on tongue added at a later date.

Large black boot-button eyes.

Scarf given by the wife of Anthony Andrews, a star in "Brideshead Revisited."

Worn beige mohair plush patched with suede.

Only surviving original paw pad; others were replaced by Peter Bull.

HEIGHT: 24in (61cm).

**F**or many years, Aloysius (a 1904-1905 Ideal) sat on a shelf in a New England grocery store. When his elderly owner saw Peter Bull (see page 35) talking about redies on television, she decided he should inherit Aloysius. This bear won fame when he was featured in the television adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's classic *Brideshead Revisited*.

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## ⌘ PADDINGTON BEAR ⌘

### Well-Loved Storybook Bear



Safety pin in sock wester (prohibited in 1989 for safety reasons)

Safe amber and black plastic eyes

Golden mod-acrylic blush

Safe plastic nose. (U.S. Paddington has an embroidered nose.)

Polyester and acrylic fiber stuffing

Unjointed body

Plastic Wellington boots added by designer Shirley Clarkson. These were later written into the stories.

HEIGHT: 20IN (51CM)

**P**addington first appeared in 1958 as an illustration in the children's book *A Bear Called Paddington*, by Michael Bond. More Paddington Bear stories followed, as well as a television series, and this lovable bear shot to fame worldwide. Shirley Clarkson, of the British company Gabrielle Designs, created this interpretation of Paddington in 1972.

## ⌘ AUNT LUCY ⌘

### Paddington Bear's Aunt on a Visit from Peru



Plastic spectacles on a chain

Safe plastic nose

Traditional Peruvian black bowler hat

Woolens shawl around shoulders

Polyester and acrylic fiber stuffing

Tag pinned to shawl stating Lucy's address

Traditional peasant-style gingham skirt

Long-pile gray mod-acrylic plush

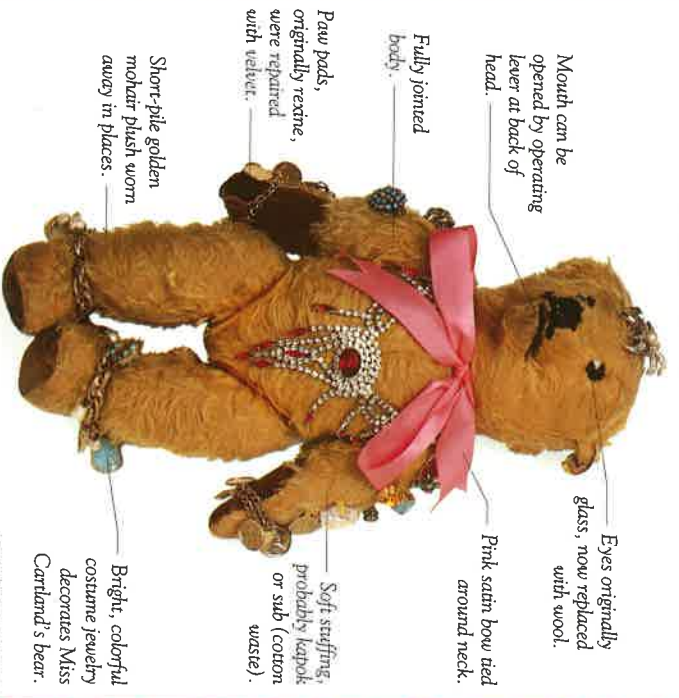
White cotton bloomers cover legs

HEIGHT: 20IN (51CM)

**H**is eccentric-looking bear is Aunt Lucy, who, in Michael Bond's *Paddington Bear* stories, looked after Paddington in darkest Peru before his departure for England. Aunt Lucy is produced from the same materials as Paddington, but her fur is darker and she is wearing a traditional Peruvian costume. She was designed by Shirley Clarkson in 1976.

## PRINCE OF LOVE

Romantic Novelist's Bear



Mouth can be opened by operating lever at back of head.

Eyes originally glass, now replaced with wool.

Pink satin bow tied around neck.

Fully joined body.

Paw pads, originally rexine, were repaired with velvet.

Soft stuffing, probably kapok or sub (cotton waste).

Short-pile golden mohair plush worn away in places.

Bright, colorful costume jewelry decorates Miss Cartland's bear.

HEIGHT: 16IN (41CM)

**T**his bejeweled bear once belonged to the English novelist Barbara Cartland. In 1988, he was loaned to the Teddy Bear Museum at Stratford-upon-Avon, England, where he is displayed with Barbara Cartland's poem: "I am a special teddy bear / I am very particular what I wear / My diamonds gleam like the stars above / As really I am the Prince of Love."

## HORATIO

The Haunted Bear



Rounded ears set wide apart on either side of head.

Black boot-button eyes.

Brown inverted V-shaped mouth.

Rectangular nose with brown vertical stitching.

Golden mohair plush worn in places.

Long narrow arms typical of German bears of the period.

Large oval feet typical of early German bears.

Felt footpads with replacement stitching.

HEIGHT: 20IN (51CM)

**M**ysterious tales of supernatural happenings surround this bear. Made in Germany c.1910, he was owned by sea captain Thomas Milligan. Since Milligan's death in 1951, strange sightings have been reported: his ghost has frequently been seen with Horatio, and it's said the aroma of the captain's tobacco fills the air when Horatio is near.

# Winnie the Pooh

Well-Loved Fictional Bear



Amber and black glass eyes. \_\_\_\_\_

Head filled with kapok stuffing, hence he is referred to as "bear of little brain."

Mohair plush on muzzle clipped.

Inverted V-shaped mouth embroidered with brown stitching.

Replacement patches and stitching on paw and footpads.

Long-pile golden mohair plush.

Nose embroidered with brown stitching.

Fully joined body filled with kapok.

HEIGHT: 18in (46cm)

One of the most famous of fictional bears, Winnie the Pooh was based on a real teddy bear belonging to author A.A. Milne's son, Christopher Robin. Pooh was sent to his American publisher, E.P. Dutton, when Milne died. Since 1987, Pooh has been on public display at the Donnell Library Center of The New York Public Library.

# Paw Tucket

Award-Winning Collector's Bear



Dark-colored dark brown and grey synthetic plush.

Shaved synthetic plush on muzzle.

Director's signature indicates limited edition.

Hard oval nose in black leather.

Beige suede tongue matches insides of ears.

Black leather pads on paws and feet.

HEIGHT: 17in (43cm)

Founded in Connecticut in 1898, was among the first of the stuffed-toy manufacturers to capitalize on the growing demand for teddies. Still in business, and now based in New Jersey, Gund creates some bears especially for the collector's market. In 1991 the company won the Toby Award, organized by *Teddy Bear and Friends* magazine, for this bear.

# AMELIA BEARHEART

The Bear that Inspired a Collection



Plastic flying goggles.

Black plastic eyes.

Body stuffed with shredded synthetic foam.

Aviator's scarf. (This bear is named after Amelia Earhart, who, in 1932, became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.)

Brown imitation leather hat.

Unjointed arms and legs.

Cotton flying suit.

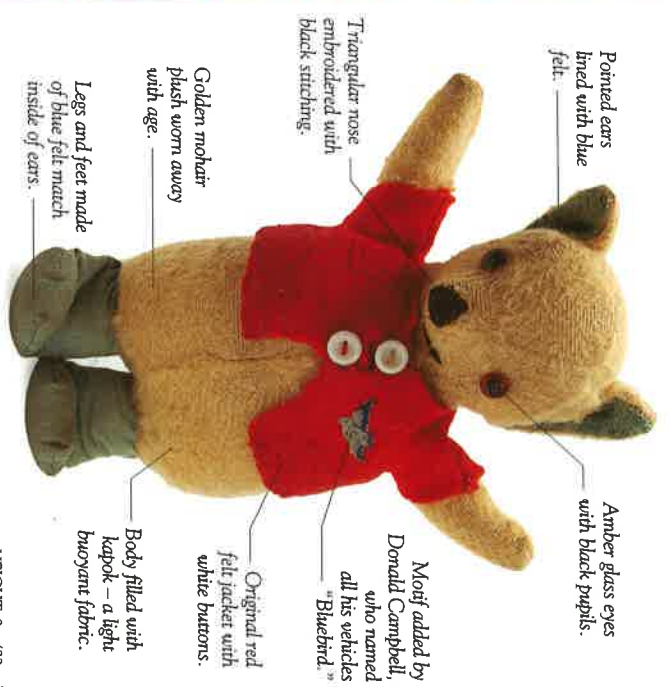
Pale blue nylon plush.

HEIGHT: 20IN. (51CM).

This is the first teddy bought by Rosemary Volpp. With some time to spare, Mrs. Volpp wandered into a store where Amelia, a 1979 North American Bear Co. teddy, caught her eye. When it was suggested that she buy Amelia, the last of her kind in California, she said, "I don't collect bears." Today she and her husband, Paul, own over 5,000!

# MR. WHOPPIT

The World's Speediest Bear



Pointed ears lined with blue felt.

Amber glass eyes with black pupils.

Triangular nose embroidered with black stitching.

Golden mohair plush worn away with age.

Legs and feet made of blue felt match inside of ears.

Motif added by Donald Campbell, who named all his vehicles "Bluebird."

Original red felt jacket with white buttons.

Body filled with kapok - a light buoyant fabric.

HEIGHT: 9IN. (23CM).

From 1956-1957, the stuffed-toy maker Merrythought made many Mr. Whoppits, but none led the life of this bear! He was owned by Donald Campbell, who broke many world speed records on both land and water. In 1967, he was killed on Coniston Water, England. His body was never discovered, but Mr. Whoppit was found floating on the water's surface.