

Why Collect Masons?

For those who may shy away from a factory connotation, here are five good reasons to collect Masons:

Quality — Most collectors believe that Mason decoys are every bit as collectible as handmade decoys. In fact, the factory connotation is unfair. Though more people were involved in their production, Masons were largely made by hand. Their hand-painted detail can rival that of the best decoys by individual makers (Fig. 7).

Availability — More Masons were made than any other decoy. Therefore, collectors have a much better chance of finding a really good example.

Affordability — Greater availability reduces rarity

and in turn helps to hold down prices. Masons are still one of the best buys in decoys. Today, \$500 or so will buy an excellent original condition Standard Grade example, while \$1,000 to \$2,000 will buy a superb Challenge or Premier Grade. Very few decoys by other classic makers can be purchased for comparable amounts.

Saleability — There are more Mason collectors than any other kind of decoy collector. Therefore there will always be collectors buying and selling to upgrade, resulting in a fluid market.

Value — Because of their wide appeal, Masons have steadily increased in value, whereas prices for many other makers, while growing, have continually fluctuated.