

JULIE ANN GILLETTE COLLECTS NAPKIN RINGS



Julie Ann Gillette at 12 years of age is enjoying her collection of napkin rings. She comes from Portland, Oregon.

Her mother writes, "**Julie Ann Gillette** started her napkin ring collection at the age of 8. She was on vacation with her family, and she had saved \$2.00 to buy 'her very own antique.' We had gone into a very large, diverse and promising antique shop in the Redwoods in Northern California. It didn't take Julie long to spot a small group of silver napkin rings in the case and to decide 'this is it.' We looked at all of them very carefully and decided to start with one that was not monogrammed (not easy to find). One quite lovely one was exactly \$2.00 (plus tax which Mom gladly paid). Of course, before we got to the car it had to come out of the package to be admired, and guess what? It had a sterling mark on the inside! Surely, even four years ago a sterling mark on a lovely napkin ring would fetch more than \$2.00. What a marvelous beginning—starting a collection with a bargain!

Four years later she has eleven silver napkin rings and two ivory ones. One of the ivory ones was found among the family treasures, having been brought from the Holy Land in 1900 by Julie's great grandmother. Another silver one was her Daddy's as a child. One small silver one was a gift from an 'antique friend of Mom's' when she heard about Julie's collection. She has both silver plate and sterling rings, none figural in type, and only one with a monogram. Two have quite ferocious dragons on them and one is a Sun-bonnet Babies, quite an unusual subject for silver pieces.

"We enjoy using the napkin rings for Sunday dinner and, of course, whenever company comes for an evening meal. They never fail to be a real conversation piece and to make the table more festive."