

Making Memories with *Royal Doulton*

AN INSIDE LOOK AT AMY WITHROW'S WINTER WONDERLAND

Amy Withrow hails from a Cleveland, Ohio suburb and has been collecting Royal Doulton figures for decades. She would not be a collector today had it not been for her parents who took the time to educate her about the rich history behind the Royal Doulton Company dating back to the late 1800's. It all started in the 1950's when Amy's grandmother gave her parents the Cobbler HN1706 as a gift. Twenty years later, Amy's father who worked as an executive for a tool manufacturing company found himself traveling back and forth to Scotland on business. During his trips to Europe he would visit London and return with a new Royal Doulton figure. With each trip the collection of figures continued to grow.

One of Amy's fondest memories is when her father gave her mother a Royal Doulton figure all wrapped up to open Christmas morning. "My Dad was practically jumping up and down with excitement as she opened her gift," Amy recalls, "His behavior made my Mom very excited to see what was inside the box. Of course being a family of sentimentalists, several of us had tears streaming down our faces from the joy and love of giving something so special to another person."

Growing up, Amy's family home was always decorated by Thanksgiving—a tradition that continues today. "Having the house decorated by Thanksgiving is a true stress reliever and gives all of us the opportunity to enjoy the meaning and season of Christmas even more," she explains. "For me, it's also the



Collector Amy Withrow from Ohio proudly poses with her Royal Doulton inspired Christmas tree.

time I put all of my character figures in china cabinets and bring out my Christmas figures. Just opening each Royal Doulton box helps elevate the spirit of the Christmas season for me!"

With Christmas music playing in the background, Amy and her dear friend, Sandy Mealy—an artist and decorator—spend days decorating the entire first floor of Amy's home. The den and living room are designated as the "Santa Claus" rooms. The family room and dining room have been reserved for Amy's extensive collection of Christmas figures. Antique pieces of furniture, fireplace mantels and end tables are all utilized for festive displays. Garlands, pine sprays, poinsettias, amaryllis and magnolias are woven among each and every holiday figure.

No matter what your traditions are, Royal Doulton figures and character jugs bring out the best in your holiday décor. Whether you're featuring pretty ladies in vibrant reds or Santa Claus himself, the memories you create for your family and loved ones will be the greatest gift of all.



Royal Doulton figure **Christmas Rose HN5229** is beautifully nestled among pine branches, ornaments and bright lights.



Royal Doulton holiday pretty ladies are combined with garlands, bows, sprigs and white lights turning an ordinary mantel into a stunning work of art.



Amy uses figures, flowers and even feathers when trimming her tree for the holidays.



Pretty ladies are grouped together to make a lasting impression.



Royal Doulton Santa figures bring back childhood memories of Christmas past.

Deck the Halls

AMY'S HOLIDAY DECORATING TIPS

- Arrange your figures at different heights. Each piece is a work of art and deserves to be highlighted.
- Incorporate Christmas greenery from a craft store to highlight the colors in your figurines.
- Cluster figures together in groups of 3, 5 or 7. Remember to always decorate in odd numbers.
- Use wooden or brass pedestals, coasters and candle stick holders to create a display with impact.
- Place figurines in the center of a plate or small bowl. Lay evergreen sprigs or specialty garland around the figurine to create a centerpiece.
- An artificial tree is perfect for displaying figurines. Set the Pretty Lady on a firm branch inserting a long stem from the tree into the hole at the base. Wrap another stem from the branch around the bent arm further securing the figure.



A variety of Royal Doulton figures makes your holiday display fun and unique.