

Daffodil Collectibles, Down Under Catalogues, and Warm Fires January, 2001

January is not prime daffodil time for me in my Zone 5-6 USDA climate zone. Well, I do have some paper whites in bloom. Some friends who have cold greenhouses have told me about the abundance of winter-flowering bulbocodium and cantabricus hybrids which are in flower, and I did have one cantabricus seedling of my own in bloom before Christmas. It was a lovely little white hoop-petticoat style blossom. When I put the pot back in the coldframe, I noticed that buds were coming on 'Muslin', a creamy white flower of the same type. We have had temperatures between 4 and 20 degrees F here, and I was surprised to see the buds on 'Muslin'. Growth obviously continues in the coldframe, even with the very cold temperatures.

This is the time when catalogues begin to arrive from the Southern Hemisphere. I've received two so far: from Glenbrook Bulb Farm and from G & F Miller Daffodils. If you're interested in ordering bulbs from the Southern Hemisphere, check the American Daffodil Society website at www.daffodilsusa.org for a list of suppliers. Now is the time to send your order; bulbs will begin arriving in March and should be planted as soon as weather permits.

With about six inches of snow on the ground here, this is a good time to sit beside a nice fire to peruse those catalogs. And those ashes are perfect fertilizer for spreading on your daffodil patch. So, both you and your daffodils will get the benefits of a nice warm fire.

I guess "collectibles" aren't really a part of gardening, but most people I know who grow lots of daffodils also collect "daffodilia." Anything with a daffodil motif on it is fair game. I suspect people with other gardening interests do the same thing. My local daffodil group even had an "Oooh and Ahhh" show last year. We brought our prized daffodilia to display and had a grand time doing it.



My kids are good at finding daffodil items for me, and usually there is at least one daffodil item under the Christmas tree for me. This year was no exception, as I received a lovely vase with daffodils on it (pictured) from my daughter who now lives in England; and a runner for the dining room table with daffodils dancing along the length of the runner from my older daughter. Other holidays have produced a Swarovski crystal daffodil pin, a music box with a "snow globe" filled with daffodils, and a small water pitcher and bowl in the style of the old ironstone pitchers. My son found it at the Welsh pavilion at DisneyWorld, so there's no telling where you'll find your treasures! The rest of my family gets involved in the search as well; my sister-in-law and my niece have found lovely daffodil pieces for me. They collect teddy bears, so I look for unusual bear items for them.

Daffodils on British china are relatively easy to find. You can find daffodils on “cup of the month” china or small china pots of daffodils. A friend also gave me a little statuette from Avon of a child selling cut daffodils that is quite nice. I’ve a friend who likes to go antiquing, and so I always check to see if I can find daffodil items in antique shops. They’re not easy to find, but I did find this plate with daffodils around the edges (pictured) in Maine. Lennox china had a series of bird plates at one time, and the one with the robin also included daffodils. And I’ve a friend who is a basket-maker, and she made a basket for me and painted some of my favorite daffodils on it. It won first prize at our “Oooh and Ahhh” show. You can find lots of mugs—in fine china as well as pottery.



I always check shops for note paper or paper napkins, and was surprised to find notecards in the Cayman Islands, and paper napkins in a shop on Sanibel. I wasn’t expecting to find daffodil items in warm climates. The daffodil convention is a great place to see daffodils on various items of clothing. One friend has a shirt he always wears to daffodil meetings, and of course there are ties for the gentlemen as well. The ladies have daffodils on vests and skirts, pins and earrings and all manner of jewelry. If you have a friend who loves daffodils, you can’t go wrong by giving them something with daffodils on it.