



WHY KEEP  
TRACK OF  
YOUR  
COLLECTION

THREE  
EASY STEPS  
TO MANAGE  
YOUR  
COLLECTION

FREE TOOLS  
TO HELP  
YOU STAY  
ON TOP OF  
YOUR  
COLLECTION



Kokeshi by Kato Tatsuo

**EXCLUSIVE: Kokeshi Tracker by Kokeshi Village**



February 14, 2016 8:30 PM EST

Documenting Your Collection by Madelyn Molina

In last month's Kokeshi Trends (V1 Issue 1) Journal we reviewed four tips for new Kokeshi collectors. This month we will look at how to document your collection with simple tools and just a few minutes of your time.

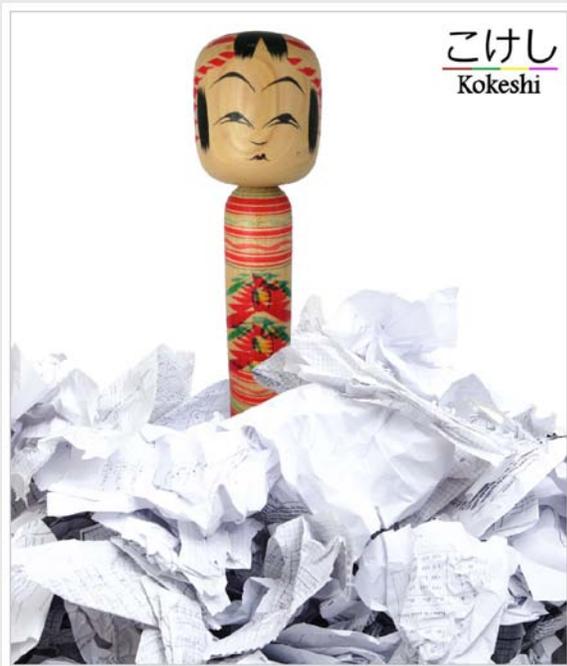
First, why is it important to document your collection? Let's think about the current Kokeshi in your collection. Why did you buy the ones you already have? Some, because they were just plain cute, others because you knew a little something about them. For example, I started buying additional Kokeshi by Shido Shouzan once I learned more about the artisan. The types of woods he used, and his design techniques which leaned more towards the sculpturally eclectic style, yet maintained a sense of culturally traditional sensibilities. Shouzan-san is a self published Kokeshi book author and has been featured in multiple Kokeshi books not to mention he has won several awards including the coveted Prime Ministers Award. I also discovered that, not only are his Kokeshi beautiful, they are highly sought after by collectors and valuable. Particularly because there are very few available in the market since the artisans passing. I understood that buying them would add value to my collection. Should I decide to sell them later, I could potentially make a profit and not

lose money. The moral of this example is that, you are more inclined to buy what you know a little something about, than to buy something you know very little about. So having read that Shido Shouzan Kokeshi is valuable if I offered to sell you a Shido Shouzan Kokeshi and another creative Kokeshi by an artisan that is unknown to you for the same price which would you be most likely to chose? This is the reason why documenting your collection is important, it adds value, and is a testament to others about the history behind your collection. Not to mention it makes your collection more meaningful to you since you understand the background behind the maker of each piece.



[Shido Shouzan, Kokeshi dolls titled Kitakaze meaning north wind (L), Yuji Watanabe, flash light Kokeshi design (R)].

Second, what information should be documented? Alright, so you are onboard you understand the value of documenting your collection. So what exactly do you need to document and how. There are multiple methods of documenting collections, this is not a new idea. I have some suggestions that have worked for me and may work for you. If they do not work for you, feel free to research more methods of documenting and chose something that is a better fit for your collection and style.



[Hijiori Traditional Kokeshi by Sato Hidehiro DOB 1951, Master Grandfather Ushizo, Sato]

The Hijiori Kokeshi picture above is how most of us look when we think of having to "document". But, I promise this will be painless! I use an excel sheet which I customized to have the essential information needed for each Kokeshi in my collection. It includes the purchase price, date of purchase, artisan's name, seller's

name and a few other useful tidbits. Most importantly I keep an image and invoice for each Kokeshi which is useful when tracing back historical data (for example my first Kokeshi is now 10 years old, but it was already approximately 40-50 years old when I bought it).

CREATIVE KOKESHI COLLECTION

IMG	File Name	Amount	S&H	TTL	Running TTL
	Oki Izumi New Year	\$30.00	\$2.00	\$32.00	\$32.00
	Oki Izumi Rainy Day	\$30.00	\$2.00	\$32.00	\$64.00
	Oki Izumi Sakura	\$30.00	\$2.00	\$70.00	\$134.00
	Sekiguchi Sansaku Bells	\$120.00	\$12.50	\$132.50	\$266.50

Seller	Artist	DOP	Title
Kokeshi Village	Oki, Izumi	01/16/16	New Year
Kokeshi Village	Oki, Izumi	01/16/16	Rainy Day
Kokeshi Village	Oki, Izumi	01/16/16	Sakura
Kokeshi Village	Sekiguchi, Sansaku	1/16/2016	Bells

Estimated Value	Profit / Loss	Comments	INVOICE
\$60.00	\$28.00	Made of Mizuki wood, the artisan is a multi-award winner born in 1956 in Gunma, prefecture, Shibukawa and is currently making Kokeshi.	
\$60.00	\$28.00	Made of Mizuki wood, the artisan is a multi-award winner born in 1956 in Gunma, prefecture, Shibukawa and is currently making Kokeshi.	
\$60.00	(\$10.00)	Made of Mizuki wood, the artisan is a multi-award winner born in 1956 in Gunma, prefecture, Shibukawa and is currently making Kokeshi.	
\$250.00	\$117.50	Sekiguchi, Sansaku was born in 1925 and in 1958 dedicated himself to making Kokeshi. He is a master maker and has received well over 30 awards including the Prime Ministers Award. He also started his own Museum, and his Kokeshi are published in many Kokeshi books. He has now passed on.	

These pictures (above) are samples of an excel template I created from my current tracker for this issue of Kokeshi Trends. With this same excel file I can get information on the number of Kokeshi I

have. The total amount I have spent on my collection. How many Kokeshi I have by artist and much more. All through the magic of Excel pivot tables. It is a very simple to use spread sheet and a useful tool for me. Plus it only takes a few minutes to complete, which I do religiously after each purchase.

Some of you may be thinking, simple for whom? I did promise it would be painless! I wish someone would have shared with me these tips when I first started, the good news is that I am willing to share! I have this template available for download (yes for free) and all the pivot tables, and documentation fields have already been created for you. All you have to do is add the information, see... simple, as promised.

**L**astly, where can I find the Kokeshi tracking template?

If you are a member of the Kokeshi Village Facebook [Group](#) you can download the Kokeshi Tracker under the "Files" tab. If you are not a member (you should join us, it's free!) you can download it via the website [HERE](#)<sup>i</sup>

## Q&As

Q. How did you manage to resize your picture so small without it looking distorted?

A. I use Easy Thumbnails a free program provided by Fookes Software. You can download it [HERE](#)<sup>ii</sup>.

Q. How did you get your invoice into the excel file?

A. I used the insert object feature in Excel. See this tutorial [HERE](#) or [HERE](#).<sup>iii</sup>

Q. How do you get all your images to align in the cells?

A. See a [YouTube](#) video for some guidance.

That is a wrap for this issue hope you have enjoyed this segment. A special shout out to Jill Holmgren who suggested the subject matter, thank you.



[Souvenir Kokeshi; Kokeshi come in many shapes, sizes & fun materials even sea shells].

HAPPY COLLECTING!

To contact the author of this story or if you would like to see a segment in Kokeshi Trends on a specific subject matter, related to Kokeshi, please send me an e-mail and I will see what I can do. [Brossia@soulportals.com](mailto:Brossia@soulportals.com)

<sup>i</sup> Please give credit where credit is due, if you decide to share always link back to the group or website. Additionally, I did this in my free time which I don't always have much of, unfortunately I cannot provide support on how to use and or edit the template.

<sup>ii</sup> Kokeshi Trends Journal, SoulPortals.com and or KokeshiVillage.com have no affiliation with Fookes Software.

<sup>iii</sup> Kokeshi Trends Journal, SoulPortals.com and or KokeshiVillage.com have no affiliation with any of the external tertiary sites referenced within this Journal.