World Distribution of Owlaholics

Heimo Mikkola [1]

Owlaholics are people who collect anything with an owl on it. This paper gives the most common reasons how and why people become addicted to owls and shows their known distribution. Although thousands of owl collectors and enthusiasts reside all over the world, the majority live in Europe and the United States. While no evidence exists of owl collecting clubs in Latin and South America or Africa and Asia, loads of owlaholics live in Australia. Even such far-flung places as Japan and Fiji can claim a few. Since owlaholics are social, active people, this addiction will probably spread even further.

WORLD DISTRIBUTION OF OWLAHOLICS

The International Owl Collectors Club, based in the United Kingdom, has approximately 220 members from 16 countries.

AUSTRALIA	52
BELGIUM	3
CANADA	1
DENMARK	1
FIJI	1
FINLAND	1
GERMANY	7*
HOLLAND	2
JAPAN	1
MALAWI	1
NEW ZEALAND	2
SOUTH AFRICA	1
SPAIN	1
UKRAINE	1
UNITED KINGDOM	34
UNITED STATES	109**
Total	218

** More than 100 owl collectors and enthusiasts are members of the German organization "Arbeitgemeinschaft EULENSCHUTZ".*
*** In the United States, thousands subscribe to OWLS Magazine, the publication for owl collectors and enthusiasts.*

SEXUAL DISTRIBUTION OF OWLAHOLICS

According to Elise Mann, founder of the International Owl Collectors Club, only 20 per cent of the members listed above are males, but they seem to own the big collections (5,000 or more items). She concludes that while women are more likely to collect things, men, once hooked, are more likely to become obsessed.

WHY AND HOW PEOPLE BECAME ADDICTED TO OWLS

Below are some common reasons how and why people started collecting every form of owl. Figurines, carvings, statues, and paintings are just a few popular items. Owlaholics admit to sleeping on owl sheets, cooking with owl hot pads, and wearing owl jewelry.

1. *Preferring to work the graveyard shift or stay up at night: People whose biological clocks are set "wrong" and are at their mental best between midnight and 06:00 am are called night owls. This connection often gets them interested in collecting owls. For example, a group of nurses used to call themselves the Owl Team and two became collectors.*

2. *Inheriting an owl collection: Once you have been given a collection, particularly by someone of whom you were fond, not adding to it is hard. This also covers people who started collecting when a family member or a friend passed onto someone duplicates in his or her collection.*

3. *Being involved with real owls: Like myself and many of you reading this, so we all know how that goes!*

4. *By accident: Some people suddenly realize they are collecting when they put several owl items together, then start thinking things like, "Humm, I'll buy that. It will go well on my owl shelf or owl wall."*

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[1] *FAO Representative, Private Mail Bag Nr. 10, Banjul, The Gambia, West Africa.*