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COLLECTORS IN THE US CLAMORING FOR CATHERINE THE ROYAL BRIDE

**Small Works of Great Art,
Figurines Boast Historic Appeal**



NEW YORK, August 15, 2011 – She’s much prettier, of course, but Catherine, the new Duchess of Cambridge, shares a tradition with one of her husband’s predecessors, King Charles II, who ruled England in the mid-1600s.

They’ve both inspired effigy-figurines, small works of great art that appeal to collectors of royal memorabilia – of which, there seem to be zillions, and not just in the UK.

It was Charles II who launched both a tradition and a now-venerable industry: he was the subject of the first “Royal Memorabilia” figurines on record, made back in 1660 to commemorate the Restoration of the English Monarchy.

Now comes Catherine The Royal Bride figurine, offered by Compton and Woodhouse Ltd., www.comptonandwoodhouse-us.com, the UK’s leading retailer of prestige collectibles, inspiring a new generation of collectors nearly 400 years later.

Standing an elegant 10-inches tall, Catherine has been captured in Royal Staffordshire bone china by top English sculptor Carolyn Morton, who spent some 18 years creating figurines and other art works at Compton and Woodhouse before moving to Dubai. A month in the sculpting – the artist worked from photos and videos of the Royal Wedding -- the Catherine figurine is the crown jewel in the extensive collection of Royal Memorabilia offered by Compton and Woodhouse for the past 25 years. There are other collectibles in bone china and crystal, and jewelry literally fit for a queen, including a reproduction of the sapphire engagement ring first given by Prince Charles to Lady Diana, and then by William to Kate Middleton.



The Royal Bride collection of bone china miniatures, including Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth II and Diana, the Princess of Wales, carries on a tradition historians trace to the “Venus” figurines of prehistoric Europe. Centuries later, the Chinese began sculpting decorative figurines in porcelain, and by the early 18th-century, artists were making porcelain figurines in the West, first in Meissen, then at England’s famous “Potteries” in Stoke-on-Trent – where Catherine the Royal Bride, is now being hand-created by skilled British craftsmen in an edition that will be limited to about 5,000 (selling for \$295).

Many collectors just couldn't wait: several hundred Catherine figurines are already on- reserve, reports Compton and Woodhouse executive Simon Windsor (no relation to the House of Windsor).

Collectors include Anglophiles in the US – Compton and Woodhouse launched its North American Website this summer to coincide with the Royal Couple's first visit to North America.

“Everyone has ‘wedding’ fever,” Simon Windsor believes. “Americans have always been intrigued by the British Royal Family, but this new couple is royalty for the 21st century – young, beautiful, and exciting.”

Catherine the Royal Bride figurine is a “beautiful souvenir of a wonderful moment in time,” Windsor said. “How else could one fit so much history onto a shelf at home?”

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**For additional information on Royal Wedding memorabilia from Compton and Woodhouse, Ltd.,
click on www.comptonandwoodhouse-us.com**