

Head Hunters Merchandise

Ray and Martha Adams



Meet Ray and Martha Adams, the owners behind the Head Hunters Merchandise store.

As convention attendees, you may have purchased a T-Shirt, mouse pad or even a tote with a photo of the Convention Head Vase from their table.

Head Hunters Merchandise isn't limited to the Convention Head Vase. You can also have the head vase of your choice printed on just about anything!

Ray and Martha are avid head hunters and collectors where they reside in Mobile, Alabama.

For twenty-five years, they have been managing the Sundoctor's Screen Printing Company that serves the Southern Alabama region. The name "Sundoctor" comes from their previously owned suntan lotion business, thus Ray is often known fondly around town as the Sundoctor.

Many years ago, it was during a weekend shopping trip with girlfriends when Martha was drawn to a particular handcrafted likeness of a 60's styled lady head vase. The details included lavish eyelashes, bright lipstick and fingernail polish, pearl earrings and an umbrella. Impressed with the craftsmanship, the merchant gave her an offer she couldn't resist. He said, "I will discount this one if you are interested. Then I will be able to leave early to be with family." This purchase became one of several in the love of collecting antique head vases. And as they say, the love affair began.

Tickled by these ladies, Martha spread her enthusiasm with family and friends to the point that her daughter Julie decided to rifle through the latest Head Hunters Newsletter. Julie was at a loss what to give her mother for Christmas until she read about the annual Head Vase Convention held in January. She phoned Maddy on Christmas Eve and purchased a Head Vase Convention ticket .



It was on a whim, but Ray and Martha drove to Florida the following month to attend the annual Head Vase Convention. Attending the annual Head Vase Convention has now become part of their vacation every year. First spectators, now vendors, the community of collectors has brought so much joy to their lives.

Even the Sundoctor, with his business and background as a graphic artist, appreciates this artwork and caught the collecting bug.

Ray began collecting head vases as presents for Martha, then he moved towards collecting the colorful head vase clowns. He now enjoys the classic cars while Martha's head vase collection continues to expand.

In addition to their collections, Ray and Martha also have an extended family which includes five wonderful daughters.

Tammy and her husband Ralph live in Alpharetta, Georgia with their two children. They export lumber to the Carribean islands.

Julie graduated in music from the University of Alabama and lives in Hendersonville, NC. She works for Highland Brewing Company.

Darlene and August live in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. They met while attending LSU together. Darlene is the Director of Development for the Red Stick Farmer's Market.

Mollie is currently attending the Conservatory of Music working on her Master's degree in Vocal Performance. Mollie also has the lead role in the Spring Opera for NEC. They are doing the Opera Ariadne Auf Naxos by Strauss.

Kate is a senior in Broadcast Communications in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and was also in the Miss LSU pageant.



As for the colorful photos in costume, Ray and Martha attended their first Mardi Gras celebration in New Orleans this past month. In the years prior, they attended the annual Mardi Gras held in their own town in Mobile, Alabama.

Although most people believe the Mardi Gras originated in New Orleans, CNN reports Mobile is the actual birth place of the Mardi Gras. *"The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce says the city's first Mardi Gras celebration was in 1703, just a year after the city was founded. The first recorded Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans was in 1837. The city's first parade with floats was in 1857, apparently after assistance from Mobile."*

Ray and Martha's spirits were not dampened when the parade was rained out on Saturday night (the night of the ball). Instead, the entire parade was rolled into the convention center for the guests to join the Grand Marshals – Kelly Ripa, Mark Conseulo and Anderson Cooper. The entertainment included a ten-piece New Orleans band with a 350 lb lead singer and it was spectacular. Ray and Martha took fond their memories of their first trip to the New Orleans Mardi Gras back home to Mobile, Alabama.

Ray and Martha Adams are regular vendors at the annual convention and offer "one of a kind" screen printed designed T-Shirts, bags, hats and so much more!

Please be sure to stop by their table and introduce yourself to them in Springfield, Missouri at the 19th Annual Head Vase & Collectibles Convention. For photographs of their merchandise, visit www.headvasecollector.com.

They welcome all inquiries, even requests to help promote your personal business. They can be reached at (800) 467-1344 or email sundocor1@yahoo.com