



"HOW I STARTED"

How numismatists "got started"

By Samuel Ernst YN

how different people had different reasons for starting in numismatics. I hope you enjoy her story.

This month we are going to learn how Patti Finner, ANA V.P., CSNS Pres., Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor, and my friend got started. Her story is a little different. All of the people I have interviewed so far started collecting when they were kids but Mrs. Finner didn't. It's interesting to see

In 1981, I took a job as a bookkeeper at a southern California coin shop and within 2 years owned half of the business and was married to the other half. We also went to about 25 coin shows each year helped by our two sons Harold and Scott. I left the business in 1993 and started working as a coin show supervisor at Long Beach. My daughter Marlene is married to John Highfill, author of the Silver Dollar Encyclopedia, joined the staff a few years later. They own Oklahoma Coin Exchange, a large wholesale coin operation in Broken Arrow, OK.

In 1994 I moved to San Diego and helped Harlan White, noted currency, coin and gold nugget expert for 5 years at coin shows. I even wrote several articles about gold and challenge coins, winning a national award for one.

I was founding member of Women in Numismatics in 1992 and served two terms as President. I am currently the A.N.A. Vice President, Central States Numismatic society President, Friends of the buffalo President, Director of the International Association of silver Art Collectors and a Boy Scout merit badge counselor.

I married Rollie Finner, a collector for over 60 years, and a noted exhibitor and A.N.A. judge in 2000 and live in Iola, WI.

I believe in promoting our wonderful hobby and hope you enjoy yours.

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