



"HOW I STARTED"

How numismatists "got started"

By Samuel Ernst YN

Happy New Year! This month we are going to learn about how David Hall, President of Collectors Universe got started in the hobby. Mr. Hall is a busy man and I appreciate him taking the time to write back to me about how he got started. Here's his story.

Hi Samuel,

I started collecting coins in 1959. My grandmother was a coin collector. She, like thousands of others at the time, searched thru change and picked out coins she needed for her collection. She filled the blue Whitman coin albums with the coins she found. On my 12th birthday she gave me a Lincoln cent and Jefferson nickel Whitman coin albums. I quickly became "hooked" on coin collecting and expanded to dimes, quarters and halves.

I met other coin collectors and learned how to go to the bank and get rolls of pennies, nickels, dimes, etc. and look thru them for coins. And then I found out about coin shops and bid boards and was soon selling coins.

After World War Two, there was a coin collecting boom in the country due in part to the tremendous increase in leisure time and discretionary income. People scoured change to pull out "better dates". That all changed in 1964/65 when rising silver prices caused 90% silver dimes, quarters and halves to disappear from circulation and the government responded by debasing the currency of the realm by minting "clad" coins. In the late 1950's/early 1960's there were three coins shops in downtown Santa Ana, California. Today, there are only three coin shops in all of Orange county.

Good luck and have fun with your coins!

David Hall



David Hall
President, Collectors Universe

Expertise: All U.S. coins.

Specialties: Top quality U.S. type coins, gold, silver dollars, commemoratives, and early 20th century coins.

David Hall arguably understands collectibles markets and how they work better than anyone in the world. He became a full-time rare coin dealer in 1972 and was quickly one of the major players. In the 1980's he was the man behind the major market innovations of the decade; guaranteed buy/sell markets, electronic trading, and his piece de resistance, the Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS). In 1990 David Hall was named Orange County "Entrepreneur Of The Year" by *Inc. Magazine*. The February 20, 1996 issue of *Numismatic News* called him "the man who changed the rare coin market forever." The July, 1999 issue of *Coinage Magazine* named David Hall one of the top "Numismatists of the Century." Contact David at dh@collectors.com.