



"How I Started"

How numismatists "got started"

By Samuel Ernst YN

A couple months ago, I got a letter from Central States asking YN's to write a short essay about "How I Started Collecting Coins". That gave me an idea. Wouldn't it be cool to find out what got other people started in the hobby. So, my Dad said I should write a column about how people in the hobby got started. I wrote some emails and have gotten

some really great replies. I hope you like this column as much as I do.

This month we find out how Q. David Bowers "got started".

"Dear Samuel,

Thank you so much for your inquiry. Good luck with your project. My brother, William Bowers, was a minister at the Dundee Presbyterian Church in Omaha for quite a few years, until he retired late last year. Perhaps you have seen the building?

I discovered rare coins in 1952. I was a young teenager at the time and collected rocks and minerals. On the recommendation of a friend I visited Robert Russbar, the town tax collector for forty Fort, Pennsylvania, where I lived. I viewed his mineral specimens, after which he showed me his coins. I was amazed that a 1909-S V.D.B. cent could be worth \$10, as he said, and thought I could find one that very afternoon! He gave me an album, and I set about trying to fill it. I never did find a 1909-S V.D.B., but I found most of the others, and became interested in numismatics.

Some biographical notes of what I have done since then can be found in the front part of almost any book I have done for Whitman Publishing company. Perhaps your Dad has one or two? If not, let me know, and I could find some of the text and e-mail it to you.

Samuel, all the best of success to you with your collecting endeavors. It was nice to hear from you.

Sincerely,

—Dave Bowers"

Mr. Bowers has written more than 40 books, and his column, "The Joys of Collecting", has been in *Coin World* for more than 40 years. That's a record.

