

Become

A Coin Collecting

EXPERT

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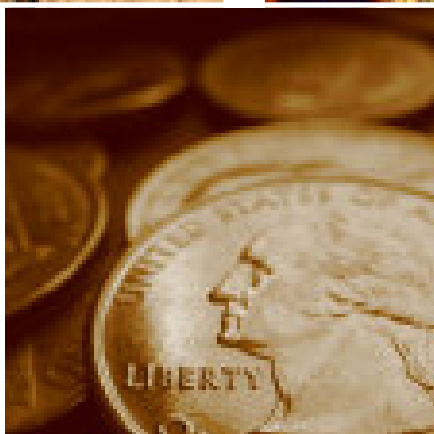


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Forward

Evening light tumbles in through the windows and bathes the whole room in a kaleidoscope of colors, treating me to a grand show. Dust motes dance upon the air, and most mundanely I am seized with the urge to sneeze, which I promptly do, and end up scattering the serenely dancing motes into a frenzy of wildly dancing dust motes instead.

It's been some time since I've gotten around to handling a vacuum and unfortunately with west-facing windows, it shows now. Being cursed as I am at the moment with an absence of time on my hands the last thing I want to do when I come home is to duel with dust motes-and-mites.

Luckily, my poetical tendencies have waned and I'm now left with a red nose, a cursor winking at me from my computer screen, and a pile of coins in front of me, to the left and also to the right of me. Contrary to how it might appear I'm no modern day Scrooge obsessively lingering over my money.

I am instead what is known as a coin collector and have been for quite some time now. In fact ever since I was three years old and could get my hands on whatever loose change had dared to fall out of anyone's pockets.

The whole point of this book though is not to introduce you to my own personal coin collecting history – although that's just a fun side note – but to get you interested in coin collecting and to help you swim the decidedly murky waters of beginning coin collecting.

As with any new hobby the waters will start to clear up as you go along and as you gain more experience. But I thought I'd just lend a helping hand for you to start with!

That's not to say that anything and everything you'll want to know as a beginning coin collector can be found within these pages. There's simply no way that I could have anticipated each and every question you might think of!

What I have done though, is to collect bits and pieces of information which I hope will be of interest and as helpful to you as they have been to me through the years. I'm not exaggerating, when I say I've run the gamut of everything to do with coin collecting.

Through the years I've managed to touch upon just about every aspect of coin collecting no matter how briefly. Naturally enough this doesn't make

me a master of any of them, although I do know my way around most of them.

However, it is indisputable that I've come full circle in my coin collecting ways and have now gone back to pawing – or rather sorting – through my day's cache of coins. Which, is why, I've got three stacks of coins piled around me even though I'm currently being attacked by dust motes.

Collecting coins isn't for everyone though. Especially in the beginning when there's still a lot for you to learn, and you need to do the mundane instead of going for the spectacular starburst of finding a particularly rare coin.

You might have something better you can do with your life, but that doesn't mean that coin collecting is a worthless hobby. Coin collecting spans the generational gap and spans the millennia as well.

It doesn't only need to be for monetary value, coin collecting can be something infinitely more rewarding than that for the person who perseveres

The collection of coins as an art form and as a hobby is a well established one. It is the Hobby of Kings as many a coin collector will tell you, and is pursued by many people all over the world.

A little side note

I was three years old when I got my chubby little hands on my first coin and I haven't looked back since. It's now longer than I care to admit since the day when Fate threw the round and the shiny across my path, and waited with bated breath to see if I would pick up her lure.

As is evidenced from this book, pick it up I did, and the rest, as they say, is history. Well, not quite. There's a little more to this story that needs telling.

The fact of the matter was that since I was only three, and wouldn't part with my shiny new friend for all the tea in China, I was given my first piggy bank in the form of a plastic jar and allowed to place my precious coin inside it.

On my part, I allowed the coin to be parted from me only on the understanding that the jar be placed next to my bed. A standoff, but a good one, and one that worked through the succeeding years when I collected as many of my shiny round friends as I could.

And then came that one day that every piggy bank must face: eventual annihilation by a hammer, a large rock, or just by dropping on the floor