

# In collecting, it's the journey that counts

If you think you are a collector, or if you would like to be one, then read on.

Some people collect a particular type of item because of familiarity. For example, I know someone whose father had several Bibles around the house, some of which were quite ornate. My friend was attracted to the Bibles, and started collecting them herself.

A few years later, she now has in excess of 100 Bibles, in many different languages. Some are very small, while others are the size of coffee-table books.

Another example is a lady who collected postcards. She would always buy a few postcards as souvenirs whenever she traveled, and before too long she had quite a collection. Collecting postcards, which will be described in a later column, is an example of a collection with minimal costs. In addition, such collections can be divided into subcategories, such as



geographic areas, travel and people.

Sports enthusiasts may build a collection based on a favorite team or player. The Green Bay Packers are one of the original football franchises from the 1920s. The team's history is well-known, and some people love Packers jerseys, footballs, cards and figurines. Likewise, an individual player may be the subject of a collection. Brett Favre of the Packers is a fan favorite, and because Favre is such a willing autograph signer, his memorabilia is popu-

lar and relatively easy to obtain.

Fad items like Beanie Babies and Pokemon cards often become collectible. Of course, the scarcity of the items will help dictate their value. Pokemon cards manufactured and distributed in mass are typically not as valuable as cards that had minimal distribution.

Quite often, collections start and flourish by accident. They just happen. Take the case of a person who collected comic books when he was young. He refused to throw any of them away, and after a number of years he realized how valuable some of the comics were, especially some of the early Action, Detective or Marvel comics.

The "Golden Age" of comics, from about 1935 to 1955, produced some issues that are worth a great deal of money nowadays. An unrestored copy of Action Comics No. 1 from 1938, which included the first appearance of Superman, can be sold for \$75,000.

Various baseball cards that kids would regularly buy and trade can also generate thousands of dollars.

On the other hand, some people buy other people's collections. This can happen for a couple of reasons. First, certain types of collections, such as a collection of original Beatles memorabilia, are worth a lot of money. People invest in these collections thinking that the value will only increase. Second, people's interests change, and they sometimes become interested in items that did not previously excite them.

But keep in mind that whenever and whatever you collect, and no matter how your collection came about, it should bring you enjoyment and happiness. Reasons for having collections vary, but whatever your reasons may be, have fun along the way! It's the journey that counts.

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