



# Western Cape Numismatic Society

## Seven short questions to a Fellow Collector

### **Question 1: Tell us about yourself**

My name is Jonathan Odes. I am single. I grew up in Milnerton in Cape Town and moved to Sea Point in standard 9 (grade 11) where I have lived ever since, except for an 8 year period in the mid/late 2000's when I moved to Johannesburg for work.

### **Question 2: How and when did you become interested in collecting?**

Collecting is in my genes as my mother was always collecting things, and I have definitely inherited it from her. My numismatic collecting started while I was in Jhb. I was walking past a coin shop and noticed some banknotes and coins in the window, so I walked in. I was fascinated that a purple R5 note could be selling for R5000. The guy in the shop explained Unc and replacement notes and no security thread etc. After that, I was hooked. I went home and searched for SA banknotes on the web and bought some that day.



### **Question 3: What did you collect in the beginning?**

I started with SA banknotes from Clegg onwards, and that eventually led me to South African coins. Just ungraded ZAR, union and decimal initially. Eventually, I realized that that was just too broad a field, and I decided to concentrate on a few areas.

### **Question 4: What do you collect now, and why?**

I have always been fascinated with the American Dollar, I have no idea why. It could be that I have a very good school friend who moved there in the early 90's, and as a result I have been to the USA many times to visit him and his family. I was given a Morgan dollar by an overseas tour operator my previous company dealt with, and that could also be why I started a collection of Morgan Dollars, Peace Dollars and Eisenhower Dollars.

### **Question 5: What is the biggest challenge you currently face with your collection?**

As with all numismatic collections, the hard part is improving your collection. The better the grade, the exponentially more expensive the coin etc becomes. I am at a point that the amount it would cost to improve my collection makes very little financial sense, and although it is a hobby and the fun is in the search, you must try and be practical. I'm also not getting any younger.

### **Question 6: What advice would you give to new collectors?**

The advice depends on what you want out of your collection.

- If you are just collecting for fun and to have a wide range of numismatic items in your collection but you are not worried about the grade of the coin, then decide on what you want to collect and enjoy the search. i.e. coins/banknotes from different countries, or even a speciality area that interests you.
- If you want a quality collection, then decide what interests you and specialize in that field. Try and collect the best quality you can find that meets your budget.

### **Question 7: If you were to take up a new hobby, what would it be?**

I thought long and hard about this as nothing immediately sprung to mind, but then I realized that I have been collecting my new hobby for many years already. Definitely something totally different to numismatics. There is an Argentinian/French artist called Guillermo Forchino who makes Vehicles and statues out of poly resin with a comic effect to them. I collect the vehicles. There are 50 in total. I still need 5 to complete the collection, but they are not easy to get, as his early works are "retired" and not available in South Africa. Just like numismatics, the fun is in the chase. I'll get there eventually. Luckily he has now retired, so its only 5 and that's it.