



Western Cape Numismatic Society

Seven short questions to a Fellow Collector

Question 1: Tell us about yourself.

My name is Gary Willicott, I'm from the United Kingdom originally. I moved to South Africa in 2006 where I met my wife, who is Afrikaans. Married in 2007, we now have 3 kids, a daughter that we adopted (22) and 2 boys (14 and 16). We stay in Cape Town. I am currently serving as the acting Vice-President of the Western Cape Numismatic Society.



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

Around 4 years ago we inherited a jar of second decimal 1 cent coins. At that stage I knew nothing about old coins or their values. I jumped on Google and found out about the 1965 Afrikaans 1 cent and its potential value. After hunting through that jar and thinking I had found it several times, only to realize I had mistaken worn 196 (6) for a 196(5), the treasure hunt was on!

Question 3: What did you collect in the beginning?

Whilst hunting for that 1965 date, I started to learn about proof and uncirculated sets, so I went on a mission to collect as many of them as I could. Starting from 1923 to date. Proof ZAR coins seemed a little unobtainable.

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

Collecting, hunting, and buying everywhere I could became a little obsessive. Anything and everything South African (coins from one country was more than enough to learn about). I particularly like trying to find the more scarce and unique coins.

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

My admin was not so great, I just kept buying and hoarding, so remembering what I had bought when and how much I had paid became quite a challenge. Although it is a nice feeling when I find some amazing coins that I don't even remember buying.

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

Firstly, keep good records from day one. Secondly, one of the best pieces of advice I got was from Thomas van der Spuy who said, don't chase the coin, you'll end up overpaying. The right coin will find you at the right time.

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

I think the best hobbies are the ones you stumble upon. Five years ago if you told me I would be as passionately involved as I am in this hobby I would have laughed at you. I'm enjoying this one far too much to even consider thinking about another one

I just like to add: - Even more than the coins, the thing I have enjoyed the most is the people that I have met in the hobby, the relationships and friendships that I have built. When I travel to a show, be it in SA or internationally, the best part of it is spending time and making memories with such friends.
