

# Devout collectors tell their stories

**United Press International**  
 DUBLIN, N.H. — Charles Jordan has two homes — one for his family and the other for his collections.  
 It's only logical. Jordan is editor of Collectibles Illustrated, a Dublin-based national magazine devoted to the mania of collecting.  
 Ever since they launched the magazine three years ago, he

and associate publisher Peter Sykas have been asking people, "What do you collect?"  
 Many who answer the question then go into a fascinating tale of their childhood or the far-flung journeys they have taken in search of the perfect addition to their collection.  
 There was the man in West Hartford, Conn., who collects television sets. He spent years looking for the first commercial

TV, the one displayed at the 1939 World's Fair.  
 "He's always been one step behind it. Finally it wound up in Saudi Arabia. He had it shipped to Kennedy Airport. When it came off the plane, they smashed it. This guy, it was like the end of his life," Jordan said in an interview.  
 Then, there was the circus enthusiast from the Hartford, Conn., area, who had one of the best collections in his field.  
 Jordan wondered if the man had anything connected with a famed Ringling Brothers bear.

people who collect almost everything, including bathroom fixtures, sugar packets, laundry soap boxes — even vacuum cleaners.  
 Sykas believes people collect for two reasons: Nostalgia and greed.  
 "Greed being you buy it for a nickel and sell it for a quarter. Or you buy something for \$1 and sell it for \$25,000," Sykas said.  
 One doll brought \$39,000, they said. A Franklin Roosevelt

"Who in 1902 would have thought of saving that card, or the first Superman comic book for that matter?" Jordan said. "Everything that has ever been produced, someone has collected it."  
 People usually start collecting as children, he said.  
 "They collect Maxfield Parrish prints because their family had them or they like Moxie bottles because they drank Moxie as a kid. A very large number get into collecting because they're trying to recapture their youth," Jordan said.  
 He himself started seriously collecting at age 12 when he acquired a box of old post cards.  
 "There was a card dated 1902 with a note on the back that just said, 'Your girdle is here,'" he said.  
 He was hooked.  
 Jordan thought he was the only one who collected Hardy Boys books — until he discovered a club with more than 500 members who collect children's books.  
 At least 300 clubs in the United States are devoted to various types of collecting, he said.  
 Even President Reagan collects. The former Western movie actor is partial to spurs, saddles, blankets and old Western prints.  
 Sykas said 20 percent of the people he meets claim they don't collect anything. He described a fisherman he met in the Northwest who swore he didn't have a collection.  
 "Then he said, 'Well, I've got a locker up in Alaska.' About 25 years earlier he had started collecting glass balls on the beach, floats that Japanese people use (in fishing). Then he found some in cork and pine.  
 "Every time he would find them he would throw them in this locker. He has a collection of floats that just won't quit," Sykas said.

## Baseball cards hit with collectors

**United Press International**  
 IOLA, Wis. — Bob Lemke is 35 and still collecting the baseball cards he first treasured as a child.

"I'm getting paid to play in my hobby," said Lemke, who is editor of Baseball Cards magazine, a publication devoted to the collecting, selling and trading of the small cardboard picture cards. He also is publisher of Sports Collectors Digest which deals with all kinds of sports memorabilia.

"Collecting follows major league baseball," he said. "Wherever there is now or has been major league baseball, the more collecting there is. Wisconsin has a great baseball history and for some reason the Milwaukee Braves have a huge national following."

How big is baseball card collecting?

"I would say there are 50,000 serious collectors," Lemke said. "By that I mean someone who is serious enough to subscribe to a publication or buy a price guide. In terms of those with a relative interest, I'd say we're talking 250,000 people."

A lifelong resident of Wisconsin, he grew up as an avid Milwaukee Braves fan who loved collecting cards.  
 "Some of my earliest mem-

ories have to do with baseball cards," he said. "I have the older brothers and we collected cards and Braves memorabilia through the 1950s. I've maintained that interest all along and fairly serious since 1974."

Lemke estimates he has 10,000 cards in his collection which he says really amounts to much considering some collectors have 50,000 cards. Much of his collection is centered on the 1950s, when Braves enjoyed much success.

"I collect cards from the 1880s to the 1980s, but don't collect something as valuable as it's cardboard," he said. "I collect what appeals to me in my own memories of the game."

In a clear plastic frame on his desk Lemke has the cards of George Crowe and Danny O'Connell. Neither has ever been confused with Hall-of-Famer, but they are two of Lemke's favorites.

"When I was six years old I got my first pair of cards and that was about the time Crowe became one of the big-leaguers to wear the Milwaukee card," O'Connell said. "I got my first card in 1957. My sister got one but she wouldn't trade with me."

"I finally got one, so I keep it where I can see it."

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**Jordan and Sykas have found people who collect almost everything, including bathroom fixtures, sugar packets, laundry soap boxes — even vacuum cleaners.**

Jordan and Sykas have found

button from 1920, when he was still young and healthy, sold for \$30,000. An old turn-of-the-century Honus Wagner baseball card sold for \$27,000.  
 Baseball cards used to be sold in cigarette packs, Jordan said. The Pittsburgh baseball player was anti-smoking and threatened to sue if the cigarette company didn't remove the cards. Those that remained became collectors' items.

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MacLaine modeled role after Mitchell's late wife

**United Press International**  
 DALLAS — Shirley MacLaine, a certain contender for best actress when the Academy Award nominations come out today, says she based her acclaimed

performance in "Terms of Endearment" on the eccentricities of the late Martha Mitchell.

The actress, who will be 50 years old this April 24, is riding a huge new wave of popularity

since she co-starred last year in the popular comedy-drama with Debra Winger and Jack Nicholson.

She said when she first read the script James Brooks wrote from Texan Larry McMurtry's novel, the character of Annie Greenway brought to her mind three days she had spent in New York with Mitchell, the wife of Nixon administration attorney general John Mitchell.

"She (Mitchell) was very demanding, self-involved, but hospitable, warm and ultimately fragile," MacLaine said. "I thoroughly enjoyed her and she enjoyed me, too. So when I got the script somehow Martha Mitchell flashed in my mind."  
 "The Mitchell character," she said, "is also direct the movie, 'Terms of Endearment' in my mind when you write it."  
 With Brooks' enthusiastic consent, MacLaine said she began to manifest those aspects of Martha Mitchell that she thought Aurora would really like.

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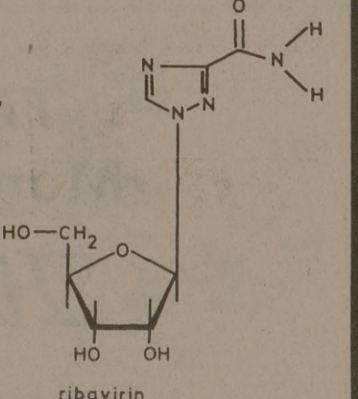
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