

**About the Author**

Spencer W. Stuart provides collection advisory services to private collectors as well as institutions where he aids in the design and execution of collection development, inventory, cataloguing, collection appraisals and de-accession strategies. Spencer's current client focus is the development and eventual placement of fine collections. To book a one-on-one consultation to discuss your collecting future, send him a message: <http://spencerwstuart.ca/services/>

In concert with his advising, Spencer is an active researcher and writer, publishing articles on collecting and collection management in North America and Europe. In 2021, in addition to his radio work for the CBC,

Spencer provided briefings and presentations to hundreds of collectors for more than 20 book clubs and bibliophilic organizations across North America and Abroad. To read or listen to more of Spencer's work go to: <http://spencerwstuart.ca/media/>

Conclusion

The rare bookseller Lorne Bair once said, "a hundred of anything is interesting."

Like your rocks and marbles of childhood or broadsides and photographs of adulthood, if there is enough assembled, associations will start firing. He also admits, however, that, "Sometimes a garage full of *Miatas*, is a garage full of *Miatas*."

Collecting is an action and a process. A collection is the result of real effort. Like a performance, it is founded on principles and routines, but it is also of the instance, of happenstance. As a result, no two collections are alike and there are as many collections as there are collectors. Our society often heralds the most expensive collections because it is easy to measure a dollar figure. The irony is that, oftentimes, these collections are the most conventional telling us nothing of the collector that we didn't already know, nor about the field of collecting that the objects relate to. The collection's only contribution is, hopefully, to enter into orbit with other objects, generating new associations.

Objects endure; their position within your collection will be brief. As a custodian of them, it is your obligation to document their place within the unique constellation your collection provides, preparing them to enter back into the outside world. Interesting collections tell us something about the collector as much as they do about the objects. Such transference can only be achieved by spending time with your collection and seriously considering the objects within it. Few things in life allow one to connect with objects on a personal and intellectual level quite like collecting.

Questions for contemplation

As you read this article it may be of value to you if you consider a number of questions about your collection:

1. Have you ever wanted to talk to a collection advisor?

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