

# A COLLECTOR'S *Passion*

**T**ennis is Greg High's passion. Not only does he work full-time as the Director of Tennis at Palm Aire, but he also comes home to an office that could be a museum for tennis racquet collectors.

**How did you get started collecting antique racquets?** I realized that I had accumulated a variety of old racquets without really thinking about it. Then I met Ken Benner, a major tennis collector and dealer. His influence really got me hooked!

**How many do you have?** Over 200 racquets.

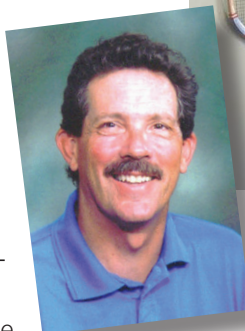
**What would you guess is the value?** Approximately \$15,000 or more.

**Are any of them for sale?** I have already sold quite a few models, especially duplicates. Of course I could get an 'offer I couldn't refuse.'

**What is the oldest one?** I own what is called a 'Tilt-Top' style racquet from the 1870's which is very rare and sought after.

**Do you have a favorite?** My favorite racquet is a 1940's DUNLOP W.T. TILDEN II AUTOGRAPH MODEL. Bill Tilden personally played with this racquet!

**It's amazing how small the heads were, even as recently as the 1980s.** Yes, they were a small head size and usually heavier



Greg High and some of his antique racquets



as well. These old models really determined the style of the game. More important than other factors was playing rhythmically and hitting the sweet spot. There actually were some oversized racquets produced in the 1920's and 30's, however; they were quite heavy and unwieldy so they never became popular.

**Do you think today's racquets will ever be collector's items?**

Yes, especially any ones with unusual designs. Good possibilities would be: LaCoste Equijet, a variety of two-handed racquets, any multiple piece models, and those with unique string patterns.

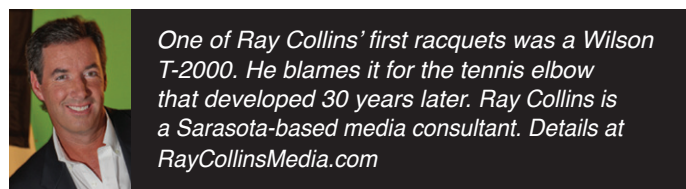
**What do you think racquets will be like 20 years from now?**

Hopefully ones that are safer to use; easier on the arm. There could be some further development in what materials to use, and although an amazing variety of head shapes have already been tried, new technology may allow for more experimentation in this area.

**Any closing thoughts?** Racquet designs record much of the game's history and development. This is certainly true when observing PICTURE RACQUETS which display a photo decal—or artist's rendition—of a famous player right on the frame.

Many old racquets were beautifully made with great craftsmanship. When I see an antique racquet, I appreciate the history and art behind it.

I guess it's safe to say tennis is Greg's racquet.



One of Ray Collins' first racquets was a Wilson T-2000. He blames it for the tennis elbow that developed 30 years later. Ray Collins is a Sarasota-based media consultant. Details at [RayCollinsMedia.com](http://RayCollinsMedia.com)

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