

## COLLECTOR PROFILE

# MEET STAN PANENKA, PROUD OWNER OF THE 'ULTIMATE' BEATLES COLLECTION

Stan Panenka wears a lot of hats these days. He's an author, a caregiver for his mom and an entrepreneur who just opened an auction house. And, oh yeah, there's that little thing about his one-of-a-kind Beatles collection — and a title he proclaims with pride on his web site, [www.ultimatebeatlescollection.com](http://www.ultimatebeatlescollection.com). Goldmine caught up with Stan to get the scoop on his collection.

### What do you do for a living?

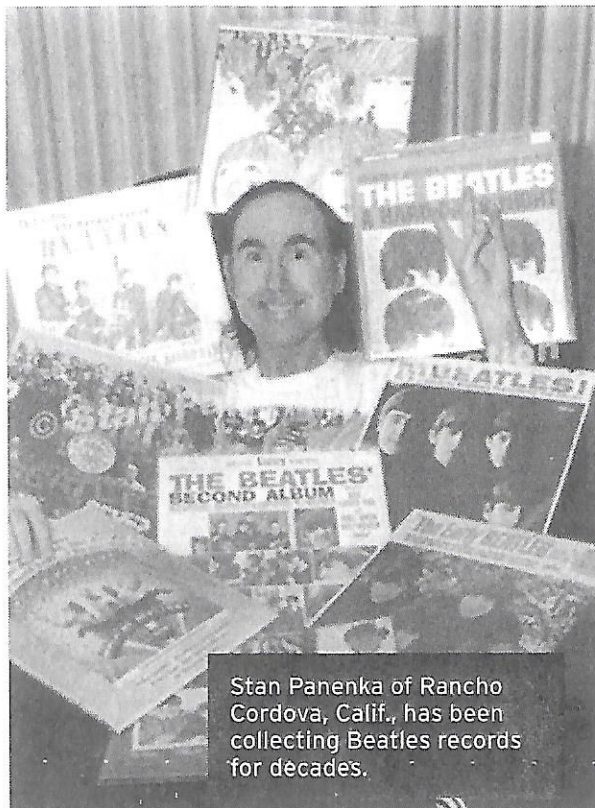
**Stan Panenka:** I am now retired from working for the state of California as a computer programmer analyst. I currently am a caregiver for my mom. I thank God every day that my mom is still alive. She took good care of me when I was small, so now I don't mind one bit doing the same for her.

I recently opened an auction house called Fab Four Auctions. The function of the auction house is to buy, sell and take in quality consignments for an auction. I plan on having two auctions a year. The house mainly deals in Beatle records and Beatle memorabilia, but we are willing to take good quality items from other artists. All profits are going to go toward buying that special house for my mom.

I hope that all who read this article will consider participating in my auctions by either consigning items with the auction house and/or put in some serious bids when you see stuff in the auction that you want.

### What was the very first record that you bought as a kid? Do you still enjoy it?

**SP:** The very first record that I ever bought was the Beatles "Hey Jude" album in 1970. Yes, I still have it in my personal collection, though it is not in the condition that I accept a record or a picture sleeve to be in. For a record or a picture sleeve to be added to my personal collection, it must be in my Near Mint or better condition. I grade a bit tougher than most collectors/dealers do. One well-known dealer had told me the following and has probably told numerous collectors the same thing, too:



Stan Panenka of Rancho Cordova, Calif., has been collecting Beatles records for decades.

"There is Near Mint condition and then there is Stanified Near Mint condition." I only keep it because it was the first record that I ever bought.

**Given that your website is [www.ultimatebeatlescollection.com](http://www.ultimatebeatlescollection.com) and you've stated your goal has been to become the No. 1 Beatles fan of all time, we're going to hazard a guess that The Beatles are probably your favorite group. Which musical act would win runner-up status with you?**

**SP:** Jolly good guess! The Beatles is my favorite artist of all-time! The runner-up would be The Rolling Stones. The reason why I like the Stones so much is because of their great music.

**Have you had any challenges to your title as owner of the absolute finest quality American Beatles record collection? If so, how many? And how did those challenges pan**

**out?**

**SP:** First off, I want to say that the only reason why I had issued the challenge to anyone in the first place is because my attorney had told me that I had made several statements on my website stating that my copy of whatever titles we were discussing was the best one, and I had told him that everyone who knew about my collection had told me that my example of that title and also that my collection was the best one for American Beatle records. He kept on telling me that I had to remove that info. So I had decided that was enough.

I know that not all of my pieces are the best examples. However, I do have many records and sleeves that are known to be the best example of that title, and that as a collection, it is the finest-quality American Beatles record collection that is known that exists.

No, I have had no challengers to my crown yet. I was told by some very well-known dealers that there would be no challengers. These dealers know most of the longtime collectors who have really good Beatle record collections.

I have had several longtime collectors ring me up and tell me that they have a good collection or thought that they had a good collection until they had seen my website. They all told me that their collection is nowhere near as good as mine is. Several years ago, one longtime collector had told me that he had never dreamed that such a collection would have existed. He estimated the odds to be billions to one. I have since added several pieces to my collection! Some of those pieces are significant, including the Lennon Butcher album.

My entire collection is *not* showcased on my website. I have many records and sleeves that are not there. Many of these were taken down a year ago or so. I wanted to change my website a bit. I added John Lennon's personal Butcher album just for show. I had asked numerous dealers and longtime collectors to get their opinion to see if they would agree with me that this is the