

# BATMOBILIA



Did you have a favorite superhero growing up? Mine was Superman and that great radio broadcast opening, "Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's..."

Over the years, however, my loyalties turned to Batman.

It started with the 1966 classic TV "Batman" series starring Adam West, the epitome of "high camp." Then in 1989 the first of Tim Burton's trilogy was released, entitled "Batman" with Michael Keaton in the starring role. After that I bought my first Batman figure and Batmobile. They carried me into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

A few years ago we downloaded the 1966-68 TV series during a visit from our grandsons. They loved watching the episodes and read aloud the comic book "Pow!" "Bang!" "Zing!" graphics as they came on the screen.



Each show, as you may recall, featured the Batmobile barreling out of the Batcave. That kick started the collection and led to purchases of four sizes of the 1966 Batmobile (scale 1/25 to 1/64). (Nickel knowledge: This Batmobile was created by George Barris from a 1955

Lincoln Futura concept car made by Ford in Italy. The Futura is also seen in the 1959 movie, "It Started with a Kiss.") The 1966 Batmobile was soon joined by five different-sized 1989 Batmobiles. From there I would buy Hot Wheels Batmobiles for the boys' collections at Publix or Target. Hot Wheels has made a lot of different Batmobiles and other Batman cars over the years, mostly in 1/64 scale. Other manufacturers are Jada, ERTL, Snap-it, and Corgi mostly for the adult collector, and, of course, Lego, which offers many Batman kits for all ages, including those from "The Lego Batman Movie."

This collection has 20 different Batmobiles (actually one is a hot rod "character" car) and there are others that haven't been made into toys. Do you remember Batman's first name? What's your favorite Batmobile? If you are interested, let me know, and I'll send you some links to more online Batmobile fun.

Batman first appeared in Detective Comics #47 (now simply DC) in 1939 and was created by Bob Kane and Bill Finger. Although he doesn't seem to age much (unlike the rest of us), this is Batman's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was recently celebrated around the world when the bat signal was seen in the skies of several major cities.

See pictures of my collection below.

# BATMOBILIA



# THE COLLECTON

# BATMOBILIA



5 1989 BATMOBILES



6 FAVORITES FROM ALL MEDIA