

By the Book

Your numismatic library should grow

along with your coin collection.

“**B**UY THE book before the coin” is common advice in the numismatic world, and for good

reason. Books serve as vital references and guides as you acquire coins, and they are valuable resources for understanding and appreciating the pieces you collect. To elaborate on this bit of numismatic wisdom, here are some reasons why your bookshelf should grow along with your coin collection.

Buy the book for an overview of coin collecting. Several texts conveniently compile useful numismatic advice. Popular choices include *Coin Collecting for Dummies®* by Ron Guth, *Coin Collecting* by Kenneth Bressett and *The New York Times Guide to Coin Collecting* by Ed Reiter. These works introduce numismatics as a hobby, explain the workings of the marketplace and point to sources of additional information.

Buy the book to evaluate the coin. Numismatic how-to books help you master the fundamentally important topic of coin grading. *Official A.N.A. Grading Standards for United States Coins*, edited by Bressett and Abe Kosoff, includes written grading standards and illustrative black-and-white photos. Another source, *The Official Guide to Coin Grading and Counterfeit Detection*, presents detailed grading criteria for all U.S. coins, as well as photographs of popular series.

Buy the book to learn the coin's value. Price guides are perennially useful references. *A Guide Book of United States Coins* (known as the “Red Book” because of the color of its

cover) lists values for coins in many grades, along with historical information and attractive color photographs. Two other price guides, *Coin World's Guide to U.S. Coins* and *The Official Black Book Price Guide to U.S. Coins*, contain chapters on various aspects of numismatics.

Buy the book to explore the world's coins. Books can serve as travel guides to world coinage, past and present. *Eyewitness Guide: Money* by Joe Cribb and *The Coin Atlas* by Cribb, Barrie Cook and Ian Carradice both are lavishly illustrated. *Warman's Coins & Paper Money* by Alan Berman provides values for many U.S. and world coin types, along with informative introductory essays.

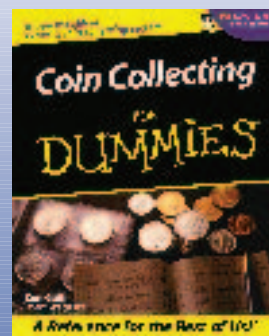
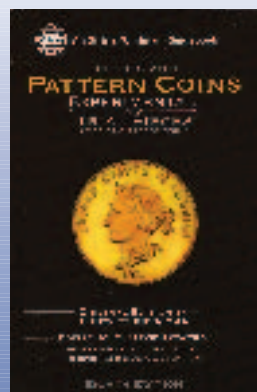
Buy the book to learn the history of the coin. Some books on American coinage feature plots as rich as any novel. *Illegal Tender* by David Tripp is a true-crime page-turner about the characters and controversies surrounding the world's most valuable coin, the 1933 \$20 gold piece. Other numismatic epics include *The World of Coins and Coin Collecting* by David Ganz, which covers the legal, political

and economic background of U.S. coins, and *America's Money, America's Story* by Richard Doty, which examines money as a reflection of society.

Buy the book for detailed knowledge of the coin. Many treatises consider specific areas of numismatics in great detail. Two excellent examples are *The Complete Guide to Lincoln Cents* by David Lange and *Morgan Silver Dollars* by Q. David Bowers. Though the books focus on particular series, their interesting insights and useful advice make them worthwhile reading for all coin collectors.

Buy the book to admire the coin. Illustrated books allow you to appreciate numismatic masterpieces at minimal cost. In *100 Greatest U.S. Coins* by Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth, you'll find descriptions of superlative specimens in American numismatics, as well as large color photographs of these gems. For a fascinating glimpse into what might have been, read about unissued coins cataloged in *United States Pattern Coins, Experimental and Trial Pieces*, written by J. Hewitt Judd, Q. David Bowers,

Read numismatic material for a variety of reasons, all of which will add to your enjoyment of the hobby.



Robert Hughes and Saul Teichman, and edited by Bowers.

Buy the book for the coin's historical context. You'll find many books that relate tales of people, places and events portrayed on money. For example, if you're intrigued by the U.S. Mint's new Westward Journey® nickel series, you might enjoy the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in Stephen Ambrose's *Un-
daunted Courage*. With a bit of searching, you're sure to find many other non-fiction titles that will complement your numismatic curiosity and interests.

Numismatic reference books offer many great benefits: they're interesting and informative, accessible and affordable. Whatever your reason for reading and whatever titles you choose, you'll get the most out of the hobby (and your money!) when you buy the book first.

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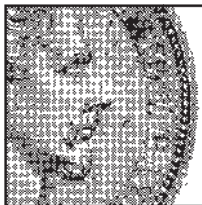
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