

Read All About It

Get ready for the traditional school year and expand your hobby education by building a numismatic library.

COINS AND paper money can be appreciated in many ways. They're historic artifacts reflecting the political and economic context of their times. They're everyday objects produced with artistry and technology. And, of course, they're collectibles to be identified, evaluated and acquired.

As such, it's not surprising many interesting and useful publications are available. Here are some suggested references to acquaint you with the various facets of numismatics.

History. Coins and currency represent the societies that produced them, and, as numismatic objects, they have fascinating stories all their own. *The Coin Atlas* (ANA Library Catalog No. AA40.C7c) by Joe Cribb et al has historical text with numerous color photos, and *Warman's Coins and Currency* (CC20.B4) by Allen Berman offers extensive background information and a price guide. Other works explore American issues in detail: Richard Doty's *America's Money, America's Story* (GA40.D6) explains the historical connections involving coins and currency, while *History of the United States Mint and Its Coinage* (GA80.L3h) by David Lange discusses coin production.

Economics. Money plays a vital economic role, and these two books explain the various forms coins and currency have taken. *History of Money* (WA30.W4) by Jack Weatherford offers a global perspective, while *Greenback* (US20.G6) by Jason Goodwin fo-

cuses on various incarnations of the American dollar.

Art. Many outstanding examples of public art can be seen in the relief sculpture of coins and the intricate engravings of currency, and several books present numismatic masterpieces in

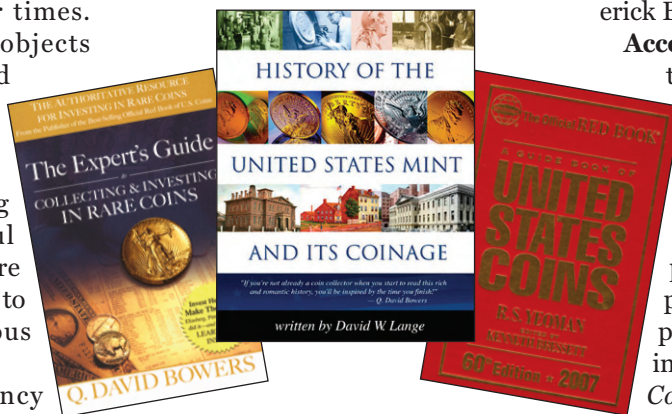
is an intricate, industrial process. Two books explain the details of production and provide insight by identifying how things can go awry: *The Official Guide to Mint Errors* (GA95.H4) by Alan Herbert and *United States Paper Money Errors: A Comprehensive Catalog & Price Guide* (US27.B3) by Frederick Bart.

Accounting and Finance. You have to spend money to collect money, so it's important to find good value for your numismatic budget. Scott Travers' *Coin Collector's Survival Manual* (CA50.T7) helps you avoid potential pitfalls in the marketplace, while Q. David Bowers provides knowledgeable collecting advice in *The Expert's Guide to Collecting and Investing in Rare Coins* (AA78.B6b).

You'll have many options when selecting a price guide. *A Guide Book of United States Coins* (GA50.W5), also known as the "Red Book," is edited by Kenneth Bressett and has color photos of all coins made in American territory; *Coin World Guide to U.S. Coins* (GA55.G5) has extensive price listings for uncirculated coins, along with hobby information; and *Official Blackbook Price Guide to U.S. Coins* (GA50.D4) offers detailed introductions to American issues.

Arthur and Ira Friedberg's *Guide Book of United States Paper Money* (US15.F7) covers U.S. currency since the Civil War. And there are exhaustive listings of the world's money in the phone-book-sized volumes of *Standard Catalog of World Coins* (CC87.K7) and *Standard Catalog of World Paper Money* (UA33.P5s).

Chemistry and Physics. Human handling and environmental elements ©



▲ You can purchase references, or borrow them from fellow collectors or the ANA's Dwight N. Manley Numismatic Library.

full color. *The Art of Money* (UA40.S8) by David Standish features an eclectic collection of bank notes from around the world, and Ron Guth and Jeff Garrett's *United States Coinage: A Study by Type* (GA40.G8) is a coffee-table book featuring choice examples of American, regular-issue coins.

Guth and Garrett include background information and large, high-quality photos of notable American coins in *100 Greatest U.S. Coins* (GA40.G3), and Q. David Bowers and David Sundman do the same for America's landmark paper money in *100 Greatest Currency Notes* (US.20.B6).

Technology. Manufacturing money

are perilous to numismatic objects, whose values are heavily influenced by their state of preservation. You can learn to evaluate coins with the descriptions and photos in *Official A.N.A. Grading Standards for United States Coins* (GA50.A5) and *Making the Grade* (GA50.D38) by Beth Deisher. Coin storage is equally important and is discussed in Ron Guth's *Coin Collecting for Dummies* (AA60.G8).

Most of the books mentioned in this article can be borrowed from the ANA's Dwight N. Manley Numismatic Library or purchased from the ANA MoneyMarket at www.money.org. Collectors of coins and currency are fortunate to have access to a wealth of high-quality numismatic publications. Your numismatic library will provide invaluable information and insight as you explore the many areas that comprise our hobby.

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