

Treasuring United States Coins: A Collector's Guide to U.S. Currency

Introduction

The world of coin collecting is a fascinating and rewarding hobby that can be enjoyed by people of all ages. Whether you're a seasoned collector or just starting out, there's always something new to learn and discover.

In this comprehensive guide, Pasquale De Marco takes you on a journey through the history of United States coins, from the early colonial era to the present day. You'll learn about the different types of coins that have been minted, the factors that determine their value, and the best ways to collect and care for them.

You'll also get expert advice on how to identify rare and valuable coins, how to take beautiful photographs

of your coins, and how to get involved in the exciting world of coin collecting clubs and organizations.

With its engaging writing style and stunning full-color photographs, *Treasuring United States Coins: A Collector's Guide to U.S. Currency* is the perfect resource for anyone who wants to learn more about the fascinating world of coin collecting. Whether you're a seasoned collector or just starting out, you're sure to find something to enjoy in this informative and entertaining guide.

In addition to its historical and educational value, coin collecting can also be a lucrative investment. Rare and valuable coins can appreciate in value over time, making them a wise choice for investors looking to diversify their portfolios.

However, it's important to remember that coin collecting is first and foremost a hobby. The true value of coin collecting lies in the enjoyment and satisfaction that it brings to collectors. Whether you're a seasoned

collector or just starting out, there's no right or wrong way to collect coins. The most important thing is to have fun and enjoy the journey.

Book Description

Treasuring United States Coins: A Collector's Guide to U.S. Currency is the ultimate guide to the fascinating world of coin collecting. Written by renowned expert Pasquale De Marco, this comprehensive book covers everything from the history of United States coins to the different types of coins that have been minted, the factors that determine their value, and the best ways to collect and care for them.

With its engaging writing style and stunning full-color photographs, Treasuring United States Coins: A Collector's Guide to U.S. Currency is the perfect resource for anyone who wants to learn more about this rewarding hobby. Whether you're a seasoned collector or just starting out, you're sure to find something to enjoy in this informative and entertaining guide.

Inside, you'll discover:

- The history of United States coins, from the early colonial era to the present day
- The different types of coins that have been minted, including gold, silver, and copper coins
- The factors that determine the value of a coin, such as rarity, condition, and historical significance
- Expert advice on how to identify rare and valuable coins
- How to take beautiful photographs of your coins
- How to get involved in the exciting world of coin collecting clubs and organizations

Whether you're looking to start a new hobby, learn more about American history, or simply enjoy the beauty of these timeless treasures, *Treasuring United States Coins: A Collector's Guide to U.S. Currency* is the perfect resource. With its wealth of information and stunning visuals, this book is sure to captivate and inspire coin collectors of all levels.

Chapter 1: The History of United States Coins

The Origins of American Currency

Before the United States was even a country, its people used a variety of different currencies. These currencies came from all over the world, including Spain, England, France, and Portugal. This made it difficult to trade and do business, as the value of each currency fluctuated constantly.

In 1792, the United States government passed the Coinage Act, which established the dollar as the official currency of the United States. The act also created the United States Mint, which was responsible for producing coins.

The first coins produced by the United States Mint were the half cent, cent, dime, quarter, half dollar, and dollar. These coins were made of copper, silver, and gold. The designs of these coins were simple, featuring

the head of Liberty on the obverse and an eagle on the reverse.

In the early 1800s, the United States began to produce a wider variety of coins, including commemorative coins and gold coins. These coins were often more elaborate in design and were often used as gifts or as a way to commemorate special events.

The Coinage Act of 1857 standardized the weights and fineness of United States coins. This made it easier to trade and do business, as people could be sure that the coins they were using were worth the same amount of money.

The designs of United States coins have changed over time, but the basic principles have remained the same. The obverse of the coin typically features the head of Liberty or another national symbol, while the reverse typically features an eagle or another symbol of the United States.

Today, United States coins are used all over the world. They are a symbol of the country's strength and stability, and they play an important role in the global economy.

Chapter 1: The History of United States Coins

The First Coins: The Fugio Cent and the Draped Bust Coins

The history of United States coins begins with the Fugio cent and the Draped Bust coins, which were the first coins officially minted by the United States government.

The Fugio cent was introduced in 1787, during the Articles of Confederation period. It was designed by Benjamin Franklin and featured a sundial on one side and the words "Fugio" (meaning "I flee") and "Mind Your Business" on the other. The coin was intended to circulate alongside Spanish and British coins, which were widely used in the United States at the time.

The Draped Bust coins were introduced in 1796, shortly after the ratification of the Constitution. These coins

were designed by Robert Scot and featured a draped bust of Liberty on one side and an eagle on the other. The Draped Bust coins were the first coins to bear the motto "In God We Trust."

Both the Fugio cent and the Draped Bust coins were struck in copper. They were not particularly popular with the public, as they were often counterfeited and their value fluctuated wildly. However, these coins played an important role in the early history of the United States, as they helped to establish a national currency and promote economic stability.

The Fugio Cent

The Fugio cent was the first coin struck by the United States government. It was designed by Benjamin Franklin and first minted in 1787. The coin features a sundial on one side and the words "Fugio" (meaning "I flee") and "Mind Your Business" on the other.

The Fugio cent was not a popular coin. It was often counterfeited and its value fluctuated wildly. However, it played an important role in the early history of the United States, as it helped to establish a national currency and promote economic stability.

The Draped Bust Coins

The Draped Bust coins were introduced in 1796, shortly after the ratification of the Constitution. These coins were designed by Robert Scot and featured a draped bust of Liberty on one side and an eagle on the other. The Draped Bust coins were the first coins to bear the motto "In God We Trust."

The Draped Bust coins were more popular than the Fugio cent. They were well-made and their value was more stable. However, they were still not widely used, as most people preferred to use Spanish and British coins.

The Legacy of the Fugio Cent and the Draped Bust Coins

The Fugio cent and the Draped Bust coins are important pieces of American history. They were the first coins minted by the United States government and they played a role in establishing a national currency and promoting economic stability. Today, these coins are highly sought-after by collectors and are considered to be valuable historical artifacts.

Chapter 1: The History of United States Coins

The Gold Rush and the Rise of the Double Eagle

The discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in California in 1848 set off a wave of migration to the American West that would forever change the course of American history. The Gold Rush brought hundreds of thousands of people to California, all hoping to strike it rich.

The sudden influx of gold into the economy caused a sharp increase in inflation, and the U.S. government was forced to take action to stabilize the currency. In 1849, Congress passed a law authorizing the production of a new gold coin, the Double Eagle.

The Double Eagle was the largest and most valuable gold coin ever produced by the United States Mint. It contained 20.67 troy ounces of gold and had a face

value of \$20. The coin was an immediate success, and it quickly became the standard for large gold transactions.

The Double Eagle played a major role in the development of the American West. It was used to pay for goods and services, to purchase land, and to finance businesses. The coin also helped to facilitate trade between the United States and other countries.

The Double Eagle was produced for over 100 years, from 1849 to 1933. It was finally discontinued in 1933, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order banning the private ownership of gold.

Today, the Double Eagle is a highly sought-after coin by collectors. It is a symbol of the American Gold Rush and a reminder of the important role that gold has played in American history.

The Double Eagle is also a valuable investment. The price of gold has been rising steadily for many years,

and the Double Eagle is a way for investors to own physical gold.

If you are interested in collecting Double Eagles, there are a few things you should keep in mind. First, Double Eagles are relatively rare coins. They were not produced in large quantities, and many of them have been lost or melted down over the years. Second, Double Eagles are valuable coins. The price of a Double Eagle can vary depending on the year it was minted, its condition, and its rarity. Third, Double Eagles are a good investment. The price of gold has been rising steadily for many years, and the Double Eagle is a way for investors to own physical gold.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

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