

THE Asylum

VOL. 35 NO. 3



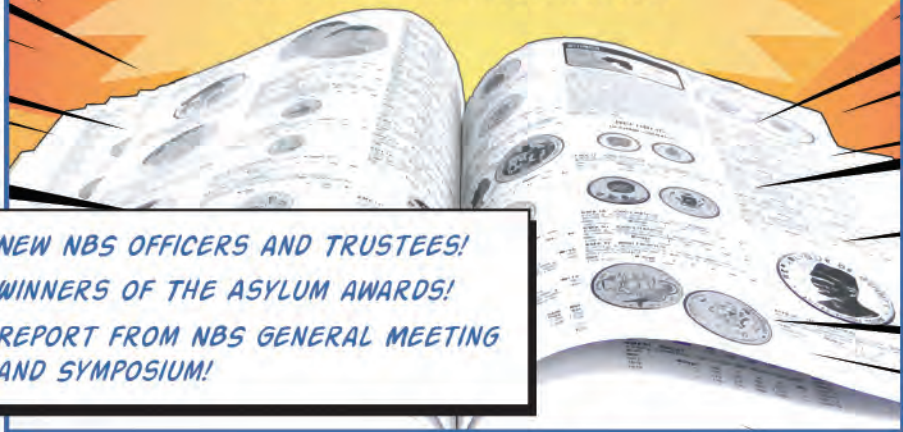
AUTUMN 2017

Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomaniac Society • COINBOOKS.ORG

BIBLIOMANIA ORIGIN STORIES

JOSEPH BOLING • CHRIS BOWER
BILL DAEHN • JEFF DICKERSON • JOE FOSTER
PETER GASPAR • DAVID GLADFELTER • TOM HARRISON
BRAD KAROLEFF • DAVID LANGE • MICHAEL MAROTTA
DAVE PERKINS • DAVID PICKUP • PETE SMITH
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*NEW NBS OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES!
WINNERS OF THE ASYLUM AWARDS!
REPORT FROM NBS GENERAL MEETING
AND SYMPOSIUM!*





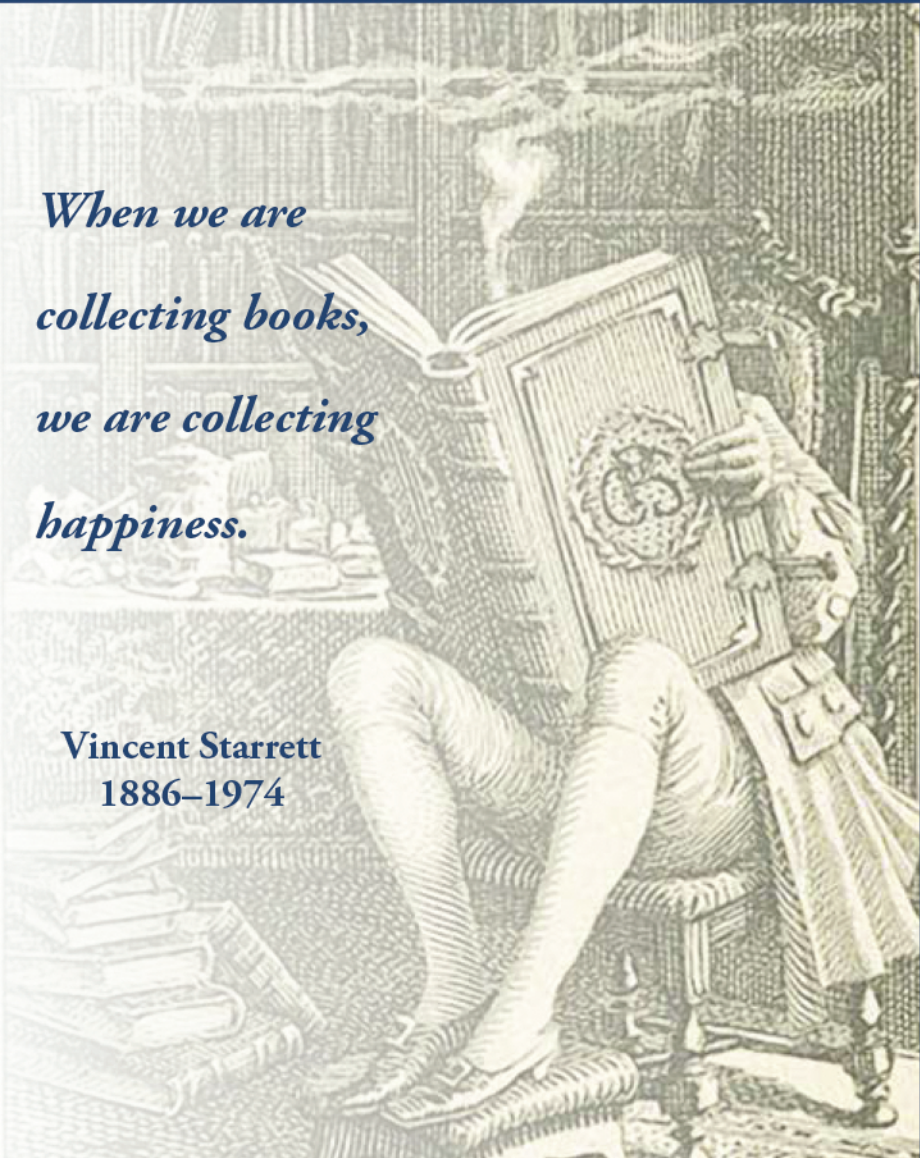
Kolbe & Fanning

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*When we are
collecting books,
we are collecting
happiness.*

**Vincent Starrett
1886–1974**



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Numismatic Bibliomania Society

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NBS Membership/Subscriptions: *The Asylum* is mailed to all NBS Members. Membership is \$40.00 inside the United States, \$60.00 outside the U.S., and \$25 for digital-only. New members receive one back issue plus all new issues upon publication. Requests for membership and change of address should be submitted to the Treasurer at the address below.

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Tom Harrison
NBS President

Message from the President

It is my privilege to serve the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, an organization that is endowed with such a rich tradition. Like many time-honored organizations, both numismatic and non-numismatic, we are facing challenges during this time of transition. We have valid concerns regarding the digital revolution's impact on the future of our hobby. In addition, it is an accepted fact that a large segment of the younger generation no longer values the benefits of participating in the collecting community. Many hobby organizations are struggling to recruit new members and rekindle the enthusiasm they enjoyed decades ago. The NBS is fortunate to possess a number of stalwart members who have carried our mantle for many years. Their unwavering devotion has not waned. We owe these staunch enthusiasts our gratitude.

The NBS has remained relatively consistent over the past several years. Our membership has hovered in the 350 range, funds have just covered expenditures, and the number of *The Asylum* submissions have often been wanting. The question we must each ask is, are we satisfied with the status quo of our organization, or do we aspire for a more vibrant NBS? Most of our members are actively involved in a number of other numismatic organizations. Hopefully, an additional modest commitment to the NBS by the broader membership will provide dramatic results. Each and every member has valuable talents they can contribute to the enrichment of the numismatic literature community. I sincerely believe if there is any numismatic organization with an ability not only to merely survive, but to thrive, it is the NBS.

My wish for the NBS in the coming year is that each member will find a way to give a little something more to our organization and in return, be rewarded with the knowledge that our combined efforts will significantly contribute to a more dynamic NBS. You might consider a submission to *The Asylum* regarding your thoughts and ideas for the NBS in a letter to the editor, a well-researched article on a favorite title, or a valuable book review. You might consider a literature exhibit at a local, regional, or national coin show to promote our hobby. You might consider donating duplicate or unused volumes from your library to next year's NBS fund-raising auction. Please know that your contribution, large or small, will play a significant role in the successful future of the NBS and will be appreciated by the greater numismatic literature community.

It is only through the efforts of many that we can maintain the enthusiasm we all desire for the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. Will you please share your passion for numismatic literature and join our efforts to continue the rich traditions of the NBS? May your numismatic library provide investigation, discovery and most of all, enjoyment.



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David Hill



Sydney Martin



W. David Perkins

Congratulations to This Year's Award Winners!

And many thanks to all NBS members who contributed to our award-winning publications!

The Asylum Award Winners



Shanna Schmidt accepting her Jack Collins Award from Tom Harrison, NBS President.
Photo by Len Augsburger

Jack Collins Award Best Article by a First-Time Author in 2016:

Shanna Berk Schmidt,
“The Harlan J. Berk Ltd.
Numismatic Library” (v.34 n.2)

Joel J. Orosz Award Best Article of 2016:

Christopher Faulker, “In De-
fense of a Library” (v.34 n.4)

Numismatic Literary Guild 2017 Awards

Best Issue, Small-Circulation Club Publications:

The Asylum, Autumn 2016, “The Future of Numismatic Literature”
Maria Fanning, editor

Best Column, Small-Circulation Club Publications:

“Off the Shelf,”
by David Fanning, *The Asylum*

PCGS Education Award:

E-Sylum,
Wayne Homren, editor



E-Sylum editor Wayne Homren and NBS Vice President Len Augsburger admire the *E-Sylum*'s PCGS Education Award plaque. Photo by Debra Kurtz

The 2017 NBS Annual Meeting

by Joel J. Orosz

The 2017 NBS Annual Meeting was held on Friday, August 4, 2017 in the vastnesses of the Colorado Convention Center in Denver. Twenty-five dauntless NBS members hiked the trackless expanses from the bourse to Room 112, where new NBS President Tom Harrison gaveled the 38th Annual Meeting to order at precisely 11:30 am.

The first order of business was the report on the 2017 NBS Board of Trustees meeting, which had just concluded before the annual meeting began. A decision was taken—and a committee was formed—to update the NBS constitution and bylaws, a task last undertaken more than 20 years ago. Membership in the club has declined from 350 to 300, largely due to last year's increase in annual dues from \$25 to \$40, so the Board has placed a priority upon recruiting new members. One manifestation of this priority will be an NBS table at the 2018 ANA in Philadelphia. Ideally, the club table will be sited in the midst of numismatic literature dealers set up on the bourse, so as to maximize exposure to potential new recruits. It will be staffed by NBS member volunteers, with exhibits, at least for the first three and a half days of the convention, consisting of the lots for the NBS benefit auction. The Board is also considering a more affordable initial membership rate for young numismatists, in hopes of attracting more of them to NBS membership.

Vice President Len Augsburg delivered the financial report in behalf of NBS Treasurer Terry White, who was not able to attend the convention. The current balance in the NBS exchequer is \$4,800, but with two more issues of *The Asylum* to publish in calendar year 2017, plus other liabilities, a deficit of \$3,000 would occur unless

offset by the upcoming benefit auction. The Society's financial outlook will improve significantly when the income stream from the ANA Edition of *The E-Sylum* comes on line. When this occurs, the NBS will receive an upfront payment of \$1,250 per quarter, with any additional income to be split between the ANA and Wayne Homren, Editor and Publisher of *The E-Sylum* (and past President of the NBS).

Wayne Homren then spoke briefly about the process of creating two weekly versions of *The E-Sylum*, both the regular NBS version and the new version which goes to all members of the ANA for whom the ANA has an e-mail address. The sheer size of these weekly e-newsletters is daunting, but Wayne has produc-



Wayne Homren, editor of the *E-Sylum*.
Photo by David Fanning

tion down to a science. He begins with a template, using HTML plain text files and a Flickr archive of images to lay out each issue. His general approach is to “touch it once,” making reader submissions a priority, especially for regular contributors such as Dick Johnson, Len Augsburger, and John Lupia. Wayne also writes a miscellaneous column called “Numismatic Nuggets.” This, and the introductory “Wayne’s Words” feature, are the last pieces to go into every issue. He never knows what the content will be from week to week, but despite—or perhaps because of—the uncertainty, he finds the process to be lots of fun.

The Annual Awards, as decided by a vote of the NBS membership, were as follows:

Jack Collins Award for Best Article by a First-Time Author in *The Asylum* was won by Shanna Berk Schmidt, for her article, “The Harlan J. Berk Ltd. Numismatic Library,” appearing in the Summer 2016 issue of *The Asylum*.

Joel J. Orosz Award for Best Article Appearing in *The Asylum* was won by Christopher Faulkner for “In Defense of a Library,” appearing in the Winter, 2016 issue of *The Asylum*.

The George Frederick Kolbe Award for Lifetime Achievement in Numismatic Literature was, for the second year in a row, not awarded.

2017 proved a bumper year for literary awards earned by NBS members (especially those surnamed Fanning):

The Numismatic Literary Guild award for best issue of a small-circulation club publication was awarded (quite appropriately!) to Maria Fanning, editor of *The Asylum*, for the Autumn, 2016 issue, focusing on “The Future of Numismatic Literature.”

The NLG award for best column in a small-circulation club publication went to David Fanning for his “Off the Shelf” column in *The Asylum*.

The NLG’s PCGS Education award was presented to the *E-Sylum*, Wayne Homren, editor.

The NLG Book of the Year award went to the NBS member trio of Pete Smith, Len Augsburger and Joel J. Orosz for their monograph, *1792: Birth of a Nation’s Coinage*. This book was also honored

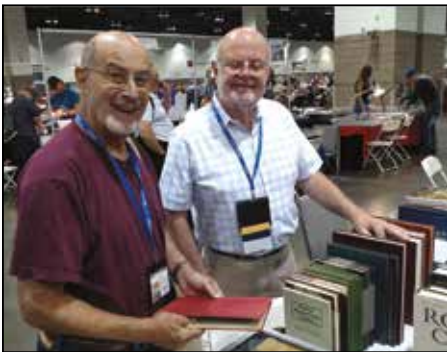


Len Augsburger, Joel Orosz and Pete Smith accepting their NLG for Book of the Year Award for *1792: Birth of a Nation’s Coinage* (top) and at their book signing (bottom).
Photo by Debra Kurtz

by the Professional Numismatists Guild with its Robert Friedberg Award for best book.

The final order of business was the annual benefit auction. Ample drama was supplied by the fact that the auction needed to realize \$3,000 in order to wipe out the impending deficit for year-end 2017. A lineup of generous donors, led by Dan Hamelberg, President Tom Harrison, Kolbe and Fanning Booksellers, George Kolbe and David Fanning individually, and Len Augsburg, provided 32 lots that were described in a mail bid catalogue prepared *pro bono* by David Fanning. Spirited bidding split between absentees and attenders drove lots to healthy levels. Honors for highest price realized ended in a tie between an absentee bidder who paid \$500 for lot 9, a modern plated reprint of the Chapmans' Bement Sale Part II, and John W. Adams, who paid a like amount for lot 21, a leatherbound special edition of Neil Musante's *The Medalllic Work of John Adams Bolen*. When the last hammer fell, the benefit auction had realized \$3,550, extirpating the NBS deficit for 2017, and leaving a small surplus entering 2018.

Finally, it is notable that in attendance at the meeting were two of the rising scholars of American numismatics, young numismatists Garrett Ziss and Kellen Hoard, whose membership in the NBS bodes well for the organization's future. We look forward to the 39th annual meeting, which will be held next year in Philadelphia.



Scott Rubin and George Kolbe browse at Charlie Davis' booth.
Photo by Wayne Homren



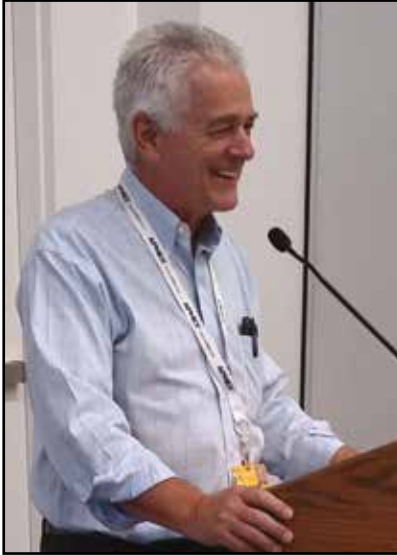
Tom's NBS tie, offered in the auction.
Photo by David Fanning



Ute Wartenburg Kagan and Charlie Davis chat on the bourse.
Photo by Wayne Homren

The 2017 NBS Symposium

by Joel J. Orosz



Neil Musante speaks about his book *Medallic Washington* at the NBS Symposium.
Photo by Wayne Hornren

A recurring theme of NBS meetings at ANA conventions over the years has been the vast tracts of real estate that lie between bourse and meeting room, and for 2017, the cavernous Colorado Convention Center in Denver carried on the tradition. Chairman Mao's Long March had nothing on endless trek necessary to reach Room 407 from the teeming bourse. Along the way, it seemed less like a stroll through Denver, and more like a forced march over the mountains to Aspen.

The 35 numismatic athletes who completed this long day's journey into knowledge by Thursday, August 3, 2017 at 1 pm were amply rewarded, however, by scholar and author Neil Musante's recounting of how he researched, wrote, and published his eagerly-awaited revision of William S. Baker's *Medallic Portraits of Washington*. Neil's two-volume *Medallic Washington* is both a

worthy successor to Baker's work and the new authoritative reference in the field. He provided us with a glimpse of how he was able to displace a classic that for 132 years had been the standard of excellence in the field of Washingtoniana.

The genesis of *Medallic Washington* can be traced to the time when Neil had just finished writing another standard reference for its field, *The Medallic Work of John Adams Bolen*. Tom Adams, Neil's friend, and Washingtoniana collector extraordinaire, urged Neil to make his next project a thorough revision of Baker. NBS member Anne Bentley added her voice to Adams', specifically urging him to revise the unwieldy Rulau/Fuld updating of Baker's classic work. The tipping point arrived a few years ago at a Baltimore convention, when another NBSer, John Kraljevich, added his voice to the chorus, and the die, so to speak, was cast: Neil would take on this daunting task.

The book's working title was taken from a Washington medal, Baker 104 and 105, "Whom all do Honor Must be Great." This provisional title, however, did not survive withering criticism from Neil's friend, numismatic bookseller and longtime NBS member Charles Davis, delivered in what Ebenezer Locke Mason would have called "plain Saxon language." Neil took Davis' critique to heart, and renamed the book *Medallic Washington*.

In organizing the book, Neil sought to avoid the traps into which Baker & Co. had fallen, particularly the snare of tying each medal to a specific medallic portrait, which

indiscriminately throws pieces of different dates together. He instead organized the medals by date. A slightly enlarged photo of each medal, obverse and reverse, is provided along with a concise text, which avoids the necessity of the reader flipping back and forth between illustration and text.

The overall design of *Medallic Washington* was inspired by two works. The first was James Ross Snowden's *The Medallic Memorials of Washington in the Mint of the United States*, with its beautiful gilt depictions of the Washington Cabinet of Medals medal on its front board. Neil had hoped to place a gilt depiction of a medal on the cover of his volumes, but found that this has become a lost art. He was able to do the next-best thing, placing color photographs of medals into circular depressions on the front board of both volumes. The second inspiration came from the superb overall quality of the binding of John W. Adams' and Anne Bentley's *Comitia Americana and Related Medals*, published by NBS co-founder George Frederick Kolbe. Neil's publisher, Spink & Son, Ltd., strove to replicate that quality and largely succeeded.

Neil expressed his gratitude to a number of individuals and institutions who had aided him on his long journey to publication. Besides the aforementioned, David Menchell opened his splendid collection of Washingtoniana for study and photography; as did the Massachusetts Historical Society (William Sumner Appleton Collection); the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (William S. Baker Collection); and the Boston Public Library, which allowed Neil to photograph (but not to handle), George Washington's gold Washington Before Boston medal. Apart from taking 90% of the book's photographs himself and writing 100% of the text, Neil feels that his main contribution was the improved organization and presentation of the information. That modest assessment notwithstanding, he was forced to admit under questioning that he had been able to unearth and share significant new information about several of the medals described. Still there is much research that still needs to be done; Neil cited in particular the Jacob Perkins Funeral Medal as one that required further study.

Neil's presentation was lively, but all too self-effacing, underplaying his remarkable accomplishment in the research and writing of this valuable reference, which truly has attained its goal of superseding the venerable Baker reference. Perhaps the best summary of Neil's signal achievement resides in a slight paraphrasing of the rejected title for his book: "That which all do Honor Must be Great."



Increasing Membership in the NBS: Some Preliminary Ideas

By YN Kellen Hoard

A constant focus of specialty numismatic organizations is retaining a sufficient membership. The NBS must deal with similar issues, and I have spent some time thinking up methods to increase the membership. Never has this Society had a dedicated, focused drive to gain members and I personally believe it is necessary to maintain the specialty of collecting numismatic literature through years to come. The rise of the internet has definitely made an impact, though whether it is positive or negative is open to debate. Ultimately, I have brainstormed some ideas that I leave open to discussion and debate among the membership.

ANA Events

At the ANA World's Fair of Money, the Society holds a few meetings. These are listed on the schedule, but otherwise get relatively little promotion. I recommend the NBS invests in more marketing. ANA events are an excellent place to get promotion! Therefore, it is a reasonable idea to rent a table on the bourse during the August show. The NBS has done this in the past, but it eventually comes down to money and volunteers. First, I think the money aspect requires evaluating short-term versus long-term gain. While the money to rent a table for the convention may cost a fair amount in the short-term, the long-term benefits (including increased membership and more awareness about the NBS in general) could outweigh it. Then, consider volunteers. Many NBS members attending the convention have a lot on their agenda, and it is impractical for them to volunteer. Therefore, I suggest an unmanned table. So, what would such a table look like? To start, it could contain informative graphics. These graphics could contain any information NBS members deemed worthy. The most important thing is that they are interesting enough to hold a passerby's attention. These graphics could also be replicated on sheets of paper that interested people could take home. Second, the table could contain free literature in the Fred Lake style. It is feasible that by giving non-bibliomaniacs some starter material that they may be more willing to consider membership. An issue with this latter idea is that some over-enthusiastic people may decide they want to take all the books; for this I have no solution currently but would be open to hearing suggestions from the membership.

Also important is Summer Seminar. Each week an impressive book sale is held, and this could be a perfect opportunity for promotion. Obviously, those attending the sale are interested in information beyond that on the internet. If the ANA library agrees, it might be a good idea to hang promotional fliers in or near the book sale.

Exhibiting

In 1991 the Society donated money to establish and endow the Aaron Feldman exhibit award. This honor would be conveyed on some of those who exhibited literature at ANA conventions; unfortunately, interest died off. The award was most recently conferred in 2011! So, I think it is time for a stronger push for exhibits to be created. Exhibits are perfect for sharing why your topic is fun or interesting. Unfortunately, a few problems arise. Foremost among them are the time it takes to create a good exhibit, and the difficulty in transporting books (and this does not even consider the fact that exhibitors must stay the entire show). There are a couple solutions. Multiple bibliomaniacs could help assemble an exhibit together, though it would have to be non-competitive. Single-book exhibits are also a worthy idea. In terms of transport, one book is obviously considerably easier. They also prevent those passing near the exhibit from being overwhelmed by volume.

Unfortunately, transportation of books would be an issue no matter what, and I leave discussion of the resolution to those interested. In the end, those involved in exhibiting must coordinate to overcome the issues so that we can share our specialty in an exciting way. An alternative for those not traveling to ANA conventions is local or regional shows. While your exhibit might not get as much viewing, it is still fun, easier to work with, and every membership it generates is helpful!

Membership Promotions

Currently a “Print” membership is \$40, and even the digital option is \$25. For many, these may seem like relatively small sums. But as a Young Numismatist, this is a considerable amount of money to pay for any club. For those who are just beginning to collect numismatic literature, this is discouraging as they are not sure the trade-off is equal. So, I recommend a YN membership option. There could be a discounted membership price for children until they are 18. At that age, there are current two possible ideas. First, the membership rate could go all the way up to current rates. Second, the rate could increase by \$5 a year until the current rate is reached. This latter idea, in Joel Orosz’s words “would give YN’s every incentive to stay connected.”

To encourage interest in the NBS, a contest for a year of free membership would produce interesting results. This contest could be about anything; the important thing is that it gives an opportunity for one or a few lucky people to experience what the NBS is all about. I am curious what your ideas are for the topic of a possible contest. Would participating parties have to write an article? Another possibility is a random drawing. It is up to you.

Finally, consider an “each one pays for one” idea. Each member could be asked to pay for an NBS membership for a person of their choice. To incentivize this, there could be a minor reward or something similar.

As I mentioned earlier, these are just a few beginnings of ideas. I really do want this to launch an ongoing discussion among the membership and I feel it could help the NBS. If you have any additions, subtractions, or revisions, feel free to let me know and I would love to hear them. Let’s make our organization even better!



BIBLIOMANIA ORIGIN STORIES

The Making of a Bibliomaniac

by Joseph E. Boling

The earliest books I remember having read to me are Beatrix Potter and Joel Chandler Harris books and a young-adult novel titled *Winabojo*, which I received for my fourth birthday from my aunt. I don't remember learning how to read, but I recall being allowed to stay up late one weekend night in fourth grade (until about midnight) reading *London Zoo*. I also remember having a headache the next day. In sixth grade I read the Bible through (and again in ninth grade—my, how the sex scenes had changed).

In sixth grade I read *Moby Dick* (the un-condensed version) and learned all I would ever need to know about flensing blubber. Our house had many natural history books, especially dealing with India (where my mother had been born), and I read most or all of them. By ninth grade I had read all of Sherlock Holmes, all of H.G. Wells, and all of Hornblower. Through high school I read current novels (*Dr. Zhivago*, *Lolita*, *Peyton Place*), the *Topper* stories, the *Mr. Glencannon* series, *Silent Spring*, all of Roy Chapman Andrews, and other books about archeology, human evolution, and migration patterns (such as *Kon-Tiki*). College shut down all recreational reading—it was texts and technical books from then until now.

My earliest acquisition records for numismatic books are for Robert Friedberg, *Paper Money of the United States* (5th edition), Brown and Dunn (4th) and Smith-Matras, in the late '60s and early '70s. I had both Craig and Yeoman on world coins before acquiring my first Redbook (1973). The numismatic section of my library is now at 1678 titles, with stacks of unaccessioned acquisitions dating back over five years cluttering the floor of my office. In addition, most of my Japanese-language books have never been accessioned, and that's a big part of the library. However, about 800 of the accessioned books, while still in my inventory records, are coded to show that they have been donated to the ANA. Therein lies a tale.

About 2001 when I made the first major sales of my Japanese paper money collection (the coins having been liquidated a decade earlier), I decided I needed some significant deductions to offset the taxes on the sales. I could sell the notes because I felt I had exhausted them as research tools and I was ready to move on to other collecting interests. But as I packed books to go to the ANA, I looked at one after another and realized that I had *not* exhausted *them* as research tools, and sincerely regretted seeing many of the titles going into cartons. Eventually, I had to re-acquire some of the more significant series, because people continued to ask me about this Japanese item or that, and I had to get the references back within arm's reach. It was an eye-opener. The numismatic holdings are now about 14 bookcases.

As an Army officer with a Japan foreign area officer subspecialty, from 1973 on I also built a large history and culture library about Japan (about ten bookcases worth). That part of my library survives. So does the military history library on non-Japan-related subjects (another five bookcases).

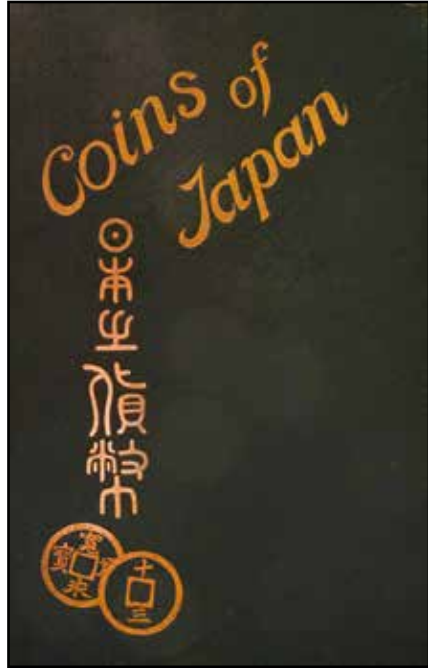
My wife, Louise, has her own literary interests. Besides military and civilian nursing history, she collects fiction of all stripes. Her share of the bookcases amounts to about twenty. I also have many filled with modern auction catalogs. All told, we have over fifty bookcases stuffed with treasures.

As for George Kolbe's plea that we appreciate the books as collectible items in themselves, rather than simply storehouses of information, I confess I have not been much of an aficionado of bound volumes. I would surely rather have a physical book than a DVD of same (I have every edition of all three volumes of the *Standard Catalog of World Paper Money* in hard copy), but the only books I have that I truly appreciate as stand-alone works of art are a few Bird and Bull titles and my copy of Munro, *Coins of Japan* (which had its covers ripped off by German packers when I left Heidelberg in 1979—Alan Grace rebound it for me). There are also a very few century-old Japan-published books on Japanese coins that I take extra care of.

I have found it odd that native Japanese collectors (and non-collectors) treat books very harshly—turning the pages by pulling them down from the corners with the flat of the hand and then mashing the page to the left roughly. I cringe whenever I watch this method of finding a page.

I almost forgot—I also own twenty Heath counterfeit detectors, including *The American Bond Detector*. Those also get special care.

So while I am clearly a biblioholic, I'm not sure I fully qualify as a bibliomaniac. You be the judge.



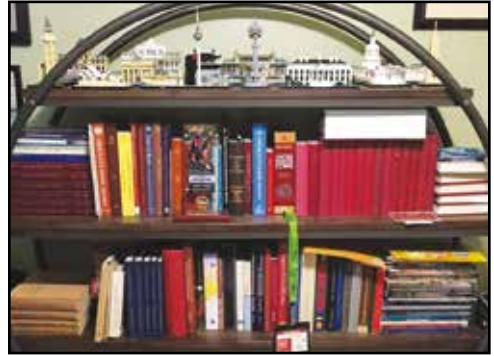
BIBLIOMANIA ORIGIN STORIES

How I Got Here

by Chris Bower

I started collecting coins in the early 1970s by helping my grandfather sort pennies for our Lincoln folders. We would spend hours sitting around my grandparents' dining room table. I remember being absolutely amazed at the size of his collection of what I considered to be impossibly old coins.

His pride and joy was his nearly complete set of Liberty Head (V) Nickels. Missing only the 1883 no cents and of course the 1913. I remember there being a perforated cardboard plug in the spot of the 1913. I thought it was perforated so that if you did happen to find one you could just press it into that Whitman blue folder.



He had multiple almost complete sets of Lincoln cents and mostly complete sets of both Mercury dimes and Buffalo nickels. Just about everything in his collection was both well-worn and minted during his lifetime because he pulled coins out of circulation. In fact, he couldn't understand why people would pay good money for coins when you could get them for face value. He always gave away his most complete Lincoln folder when there was a new grandchild in the family.

Well into my 30s I was content with the Redbook being my primary source of information. In fact, if I had photographed my numismatic library even 10 years ago it would have been pretty sparse and would have had mostly various years of the Redbook and a mix of back issues of various magazines.

At this point in my life I was trying to complete the collections my grandfather had started but was growing bored with the project. I decided to start a collection of large cents partly because he never had any. I quickly realized that the Redbook wasn't going to cut it as far as having enough information on large cents. I found old copies of *Penny Whimsy* and Newcomb's *United States Copper Cents, 1816-1857*. At this point I should mention, I love reading, really... but these two books kicked my butt. They weren't for me and almost caused me to give up on the collection. This is when I made my first big numismatic book purchase. While talking to Rick Snow at his shop in Tucson he pulled out one of the new Noyes attribution books. I quickly ordered all of the volumes in print and impatiently waited for the rest to come out. The key

point to me is that my search for these books introduced me to several numismatic booksellers.

It was when my attention turned to world coins that my numismatic library exploded. Currently my focus is German states, Colonial Portugal and its colonies and British trade tokens. I have always agreed with the saying “buy the book before the coin” but you can’t just go in to the local bookstore and pick up a book on German states coins. With the help of several online booksellers I have been purchasing just about any English language books on these topics. It has turned in to a bit of an addiction. At times, it is more enjoyable than my coin collection. I have found that my loved ones are more tolerant of my book collection than the coins. My wife frowns upon me bringing coins to bed but a good coin book is perfectly normal to her.

I have purchased from all of the major numismatic booksellers and found they all have their pros and cons. When there is a book I am looking for one of them is bound to have it and I lean on them to help me with suggestions when I can’t determine a title on my own. I have found that they will freely suggest titles even if it is something they don’t currently have in inventory.

During my life one of the few constants is my love of books. There are always one or two books (or more) on my nightstand. The subject matter is less than consistent but tends to be heavy in historical subject matter. My coin collecting has had its peaks and valleys with lulls during the typical parts of my life. I almost completely stopped collecting while raising my daughter which probably is a big reason she never caught the bug. As stated above I didn’t find my way to numismatic literature until more recently but this is when I have been the most active.

There has been a lot of discussion recently on the pros and cons of digitizing numismatic literature on sites such as the Newman Numismatic Portal. I could see how the booksellers could feel threatened by this but I think they should promote it and take advantage of the opportunities that it can provide. Look at the free advertising that sites like this give them. I am one to relentlessly search the internet for information. When I do find a reference to a book that has the content I need I try to find a place to purchase it. Of course, that is not always possible. My suggestion to the online sellers is to improve your online presence. Make sure when someone is looking for that elusive title that they get directed to you.

My book collection has been growing the past few years and now includes some nice scarce titles. The photo shows the current condition of my book shelf. Yes, there are books behind books. I know my collection is small but I am regularly adding quality material. Above all else I am having fun.



BIBLIOMANIA ORIGIN STORIES

The Growth of a Numismatic Library

by Bill Daehn

Building a numismatic library can be a lifetime's pursuit. For me, it began nearly as soon as I began collecting coins. My first numismatic book was the 1970 edition of Yeoman's *Handbook of United States Coins* (the "blue book"). Although I would have preferred to purchase Yeoman's *Guide Book*, the "red book" cost about \$5 at the time, versus just \$3 for the "blue book." As a ten-year-old, the extra \$2 was too much for my budget. Knowing that the *Guide Book* contained a great deal more historical information and background details on the coinage, it remained on my want list and two years later I acquired the 1972 edition. I still own both books—the foundation of my numismatic library.

The library grew slowly but steadily, and its emphasis mirrored my evolving collecting interests. Initially, I concentrated on basic books about U.S. and modern world coins. Later, I added references on a broad range of numismatic areas including paper money, tokens, and pre-modern foreign coins.

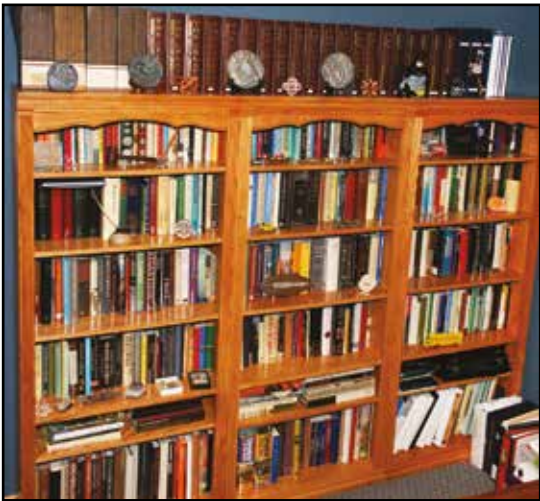
It was when my collecting interests turned to ancient Greek coins that the growth of my library accelerated. Ancient Greek numismatics is a vast field, and its literature is equally extensive. The study of ancient coins exploded along with the science of archaeology in the latter half of the nineteenth century, and the publication of related research kept pace with the growing interest in the coinage.

The vastness of the literature, and the fact that much of it is found in academic journals and long out-of-print books, presents a challenge to the numismatist. It was this fact that spurred me to compile my *Annotated Bibliography of Ancient Greek Numismatics* (Lancaster: Classical Numismatic Group, 2012). It was clear that a comprehensive reference to the literature would be beneficial to any collector or researcher.

It was during the many years that I spent writing the *Bibliography* that my library expanded to its current state. Because my goal was to write a synopsis of the contents of each listed work, I needed to have access to the books and articles, rather than just consolidating listings from other bibliographies. So in many cases, if I could not find a book in a reference library, I bought the book for my own library—regardless of its significance.

My bibliography project also spurred growth in another area of my library. Because so many important papers on Greek coinage have been published in both academic and hobby periodicals, my files of photocopied articles grew greatly and has become a significant portion of my library. Of course, as I add to that collection today, I scan the items and retain them as PDF files only.

Pursuing knowledge about ancient coins requires much more than numismatic references. A solid understanding of the coinage can only be gained through a familiarity with the related fields of ancient history, art, archaeology, mythology, architec-



The main portion of my numismatic library fills two walls in my home office. Another large bookcase holds auction catalogues and price lists, but is necessarily relegated to the basement furnace room!

feet of shelf space. Once I had finished utilizing this set in my bibliography project, I decided to free-up some shelf space by selling it. I corresponded with Fred Lake about consigning it to one of his sales. As I communicated to Fred, I had to either sell some literature or buy a bigger house. Shortly after Fred had agreed to list my set in a future auction sale, I informed Fred that I had changed my mind—I decided to buy a bigger house!

And so it goes with numismatic literature collecting, as all NBS members know.



ture, and literature. So books on these subjects comprise about a third of my library and I consider them an integral part of my numismatic library.

Collectors of ancient coins face a dilemma that U.S. coin collectors may not face. Much of the literature on ancient numismatics has been written in languages other than English. I do not read any other languages. Therefore, when one of the standard references is in German, or French, or Italian, should I spend the money to acquire it—knowing that I won't be able to read it? For me, the answer has been—if the book contains quality photographs that will be useful in attributing or cataloguing coins, I'll consider adding it to my library.

Most book collectors eventually find that their library has outgrown the space available for housing it. This certainly was the case with my library. One of the essential references that I acquired was the American Numismatic Society's periodical, *Numismatic Literature*. Published since 1947, the complete set comprises 147 volumes and occupies several

BIBLIOMANIA ORIGIN STORIES

Bibliomania Origin Story

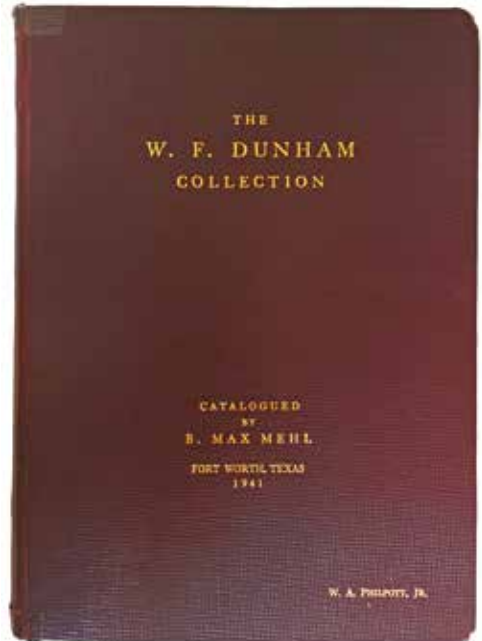
by Jeff Dickerson

It began innocuously enough. I was attending my first Dallas Coin Club meeting in August 2013. As is customary, the end of the meeting had an auction of items that had been brought in by the members. One of the “club lots” was a B. Max Mehl auction catalogue, which brought no bids at its \$15.00 minimum. Eventually one member (who I believe had actually donated the item) bid, won, and made the comment that this copy was in great condition, implying that a deal could have been had.

My interest was piqued. The underlying context of the offhand comment was to imply that there was more to this hobby than just the accumulation of metal and paper money. I knew of Mehl of course, having myself been born and raised in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. So after arriving back at home that night, I began researching what catalogues were available. I quickly came across references to Martin Gengerke’s wonderful compilation *American Numismatic Auctions*. I also discovered the Kolbe and Fanning website and placed my first order with them, which included both volumes of John Adams’ *United States Numismatic Literature*. I eventually found my way to the Numismatic Bibliomania Society website.

In October 2013 I was overseas on a business trip. During that trip, I read through all of the back issues of the *E-Sylum*. There was so much to learn from this treasure trove of news, research, and stories. I became particularly interested in the history of the hobby and the personalities that have inhabited it. It was shortly thereafter that I joined the NBS. Numismatic literature seems to be a safe haven, still protected from the excesses of the coin hobby. On reflection, *The Asylum* seems a more appropriate journal name with each passing year.

Beyond obtaining basic references and catalogues, a central focus with my library has been to acquire books and ephemera related to the numismatic history of the DFW area. In the January 2015 Kolbe & Fanning sale, I was thrilled to have the op-



portunity to successfully bid on a deluxe copy of Mehl's Dunham sale, which is the copy that was originally given to William A. Philpott, Jr., and had subsequently been in the Harry Bass library. William A. Philpott, Jr. was a prominent Dallas banker and collector of Federal Reserve Notes (among other things), and Harry Bass was, well, Harry Bass. To bring that catalogue with its connections to three prominent area numismatists back to Dallas was a treat. I always try to pick up Bass library items when they come up. Association copies in general are items of interest, and I always end up getting duplicate copies of material I already own, just because a certain person owned it.

I am still a relative newcomer to numismatics and numismatic literature. I can't help but feel that I have missed the golden age of both hobbies. Many of my library purchases have been an attempt to capture items that tie back to the great names of the numismatic literature hobby, if only to experience that era vicariously. I have John Bergman and Remy Bourne's presentation copies of George Kolbe's landmark sale IX (as well as Harry Bass' deluxe presentation edition of the sale). I have the unique printer's setup proofs of several Jim Grady auction catalogues (sold by David Sklow). I have Fred Lake's presentation hardbound copy of the Katen library sales. Such items are a small part of my library but are secret gems nonetheless.

I also began buying 19th century auction catalogues not too long ago. Aside from my natural compulsion to complete catalogue sets (or "go the full Gengerke" as I like to call it), I feel a responsibility to preserve these often delicate paper relics for the future. I might get minimal utility from many of them in the coming decades, but being a mere steward has great value to me. Being a "data guy," I am particularly interested in the survival rates of many of the earlier catalogues, and would like to build upon Karl Moulton's efforts (from *The Asylum*, Vol. XXIII, No. 1) on completing an accurate survival census of these catalogues.

My love of numismatic literature extends to my numismatic hobby activities. As a member of the Dallas Coin Club, I try to present numismatic literature for show-and-tell on occasion. Such items have included the aforementioned Philpott copy of Mehl's Dunham sale, a letter from Philpott to Charles Wormser preceding the 1953 ANA convention held in Dallas, and Wayte Raymond's presentation copy of the 1953 ANA sale. I also gave the October 2015 club presentation, which focused on 19th century auction catalogues and a basic history of the hobby at that time. With these efforts, I am doing what I can to generate local interest in our hobby. I want to be a contributor rather than just an observer.

The recent Charles Davis sale of February 2017 provides a final illustration of why I love building my library. In that sale, I acquired two related items by accident. The first is the set of Charles Horning's working copies (and related ephemera) of the Armand Champa library sales conducted by Bowers and Merena (lot 5). The second is a nicely bound copy of Woodward's Jenison sale (lot 480). What I was not aware of at the time of bidding is that the Jenison sale was originally sold as part of the Champa library (sale 3, lot 2651), and purchased at that time by Mr. Horning. Horning's ephemera from that sale includes his invoice for that very lot. How serendipitous!



BIBLIOMANIA ORIGIN STORIES

My Bibliomania Story

By Joe Foster

Manistee, Michigan 1955—that's where it started. I was a born collector. My mother collected little “knick knacks” and took me to what was called “white elephant sales.” I was born in Cairo, Illinois and grew up in Enfield, Illinois in my grandmother's house. The area was full of arrowheads and I remember finding them when the soil was tilled for planting.

Back to the books. In Manistee I started collecting Canadian tokens that I got from the local bank. The banker would, evidently, find them with Canadian money turned in or spent. As there was no one around that had books about them, someone steered me to Grand Rapids, Michigan to Garland C. Hughes “The Golden Rule Dealer.” My mother drove me there one Saturday to his shop and he gave me a copy of Jim Charlton's book explaining to me that if I was to collect, I needed knowledge and books were the way to obtain this! Heavy stuff for a 10-year-old! He also gave me a copy of one of Charlton's auction catalogs, explaining the process to me. He gave me the address of James Brown, the bookseller on the East Coast, and advised me to get on his mailing list, and the rest is history, I guess! So you might say I have been a bibliophile for 62 years!

My collecting interests these days are medals of the French Regime in Canada and the New World by Leroux & Betts, and my library reflects this, as well as books about Montreal and ephemera of Montreal and histories of Canada and books of Canadian art and silver and pottery (I also collect these items).

My first library I sold to a devoted collector in Canada about ten years ago, which includes periodicals and auction catalogs and books on foreign, US and Canadian numismatics. There were ten 4 foot by 4 foot by 4 foot high pallets of boxes, shipping costs were over \$3000 (without the customs charges)!! This doesn't include all the periodicals ie: *Canadian Antiquarian*, *AJN*, *Numismatist*, *Mehls Monthly*, etc. etc. I believe I had most all periodicals published on numismatics... which I hand delivered in my truck...



Jon P. Amato, Ph.D. (1940–2017)

submitted by Mark Borckardt and Mark Van Winkle

Jon P. Amato was born in New York in 1940 and studied in the United States and Canada, earning his bachelor's degree from Arizona State University, his master's degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and his doctorate degree in economic geography from the University of Toronto.

He served for 20 years as a professor in the departments of Geography and Planning at Buffalo State College and the State University of New York at Albany. His professional publications included works on environmental analysis, agricultural location theory, and regional land use planning. He worked for 12 years as a professional economic developer for the states of Arizona and New York. He provided technical assistance to rural Arizona communities, and assisted several New York communities in their efforts toward economic revitalization.



A longtime coin collector who joined the American Numismatic Association in 1981, Amato joined the numismatic cataloging staff of Heritage Auctions after he retired from his position with the State of New York. He returned to his longtime home in Albany, New York in 2010, and continued as a part-time Heritage cataloger, working on nearly every catalog for the past seven years. He recently began researching 1796 quarters with plans to publish a background and census of that issue. The Heritage cataloging staff plans to continue that research project in his memory.

His numismatic works include:

“An Analysis of 1796-97 Draped Bust Half Dollars,” *The Numismatist*, September 2001.

“Surviving 1796-97 Draped Bust Half Dollars and Their Grade Distribution,” *John Reich Journal*, February 2005.

The Coinage of Augustus Saint-Gaudens as Illustrated by the Philip H. Morse Collection, with James L. Halperin, Mark Van Winkle, and Gregory Rohan (Numismatic Literary Guild Extraordinary Merit Award, August 2007).

“Jules Reiver’s 1796-97 Draped Bust Half Dollar Varieties,” *John Reich Journal*, April 2007.

“The Bayside New York Collection of 1796-1797 Half Dollar Varieties,” *John Reich Journal*, November 2008.

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BIBLIOMANIA ORIGIN STORIES

How I Became a Numismatic Bibliophile

by Peter Gaspar

Washington University in Saint Louis

It happened in stages, the first when I was 12 years old, bedridden for months with a kidney infection. Among the books that my mother brought home from the public library was, by chance, G.C. Brooke's classic "English Coins," the book that initiated my lifelong love of medieval English coins.¹

More about medieval English coins was found in *The Mint* by Sir John Craig, an early addition to my small gathering of numismatic books, much too small to call it a library. I requested *The Mint* from Howard Linecar, head of Spink's book department and editor of the *Numismatic Circular*, that I began reading in 1963. During my first visit to Spink in 1969 I met Patrick Finn, who became my numismatic mentor. Mr. Linecar introduced me to his young assistant, Douglas Saville, who became a lifelong friend and who, from the start, encouraged my bibliophilia. I carried away from Spink a copy of *The Mint* and spent most of the night reading it.

I pursued several entries in Craig's bibliography and thus learned the value of secondary and tertiary sources, and also that some of these are scarce and difficult to find. It took more than a decade to acquire a copy of E. Schloesser's 1884 *Die Muenztechnik* and required a bid of more than four times its estimate to buy it in a German auction.

My bibliophilic numismatic horizons were greatly expanded by David Edmunds through the fixed price lists of John Drury in the '70s and '80s and also by the careful descriptions of lots in George F. Kolbe's auction catalogs. Previous sale catalogs by the Katens rarely went beyond giving authors and titles. I learned the value of association copies with numismatically important handwritten inscriptions.

The last addition to my numismatic bibliomania was an appreciation of sale catalogs. My first major acquisition of numismatic sale catalogs was the Seaby bound volume of the Lockett medieval sales. A massive, well-bound volume, offered at the equivalent of less than \$60, with numerous collotype plates, the volume offered excellent images of Lockett's incomparable collection, with specimens of most major rarities, some of which would not be offered publicly again for 40 years, e.g. an Agnus Dei penny.

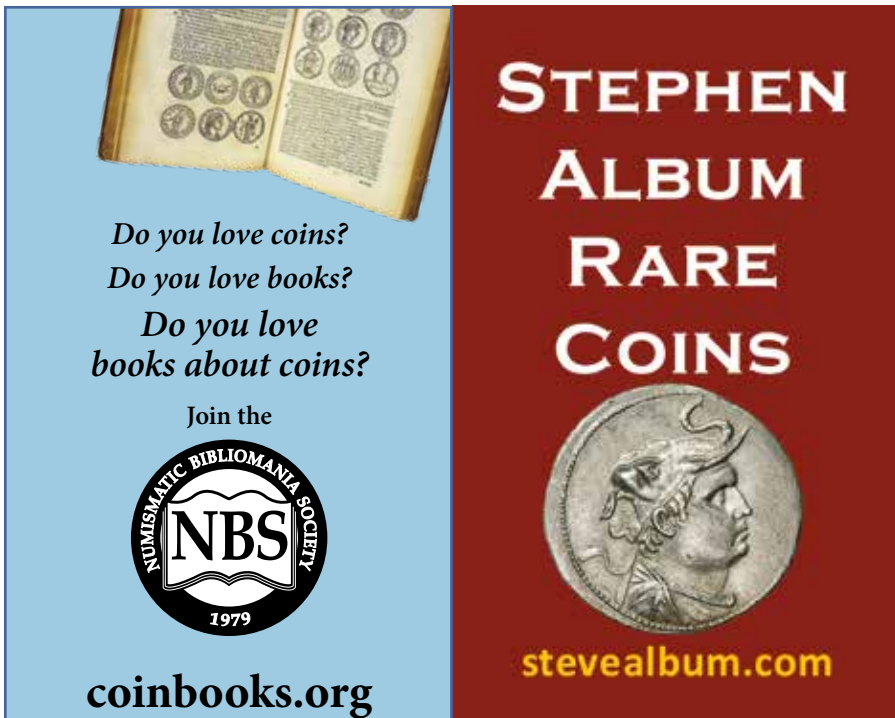
When Douglas Saville offered me, in two volumes, the large-size catalogs of the pre-Anne British section of the great collection, formed in a short space of time by Hyman Montague, I accepted his offer, but I found the 40 gp price high (which it was compared with Seaby, Lockett volume 1).

I soon learned the numismatic value of sale catalogs, have acquired hundreds more, and subscribed to the Glendinings catalogs for several decades. Their value for recognizing variations in design details and inscriptions, and for tracing pedigrees are too well known to require further elaboration. The work of Harry Manville on British sale catalogs has made it easier to locate specific sales.

Having passed my 80th year, my interest in numismatic literature remains strong. I no longer issue yearly want-lists, because their yield became very low, but I keep my eyes open for items of interest, and continue adding to my library.


NOTES

1. Peter P. Gaspar, "The Book That Awakened My Love of Coins," *The Asylum*, Vol. XII, No. 1 (1994).




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BIBLIOMANIA ORIGIN STORIES

Follow Your Interests

by David D. Gladfelter

*“Begin at the beginning,” the King said, very gravely,
“and go on till you come to the end, then stop.”*

—Lewis Carroll

I follow the stream of my numismatic library back to its source: A 1940s Whitman Blue Book, long gone, and a faded 6th edition Whitman Red Book, still around. In those young and foolish days I interacted with books by writing and marking in them, but that was then (now I write separate notes and harmlessly lay them in). These books told me what to look for as I sorted through rolls of coins in the Milwaukee city treasurer’s office on Saturday mornings, thanks to a friend, Nathan Kaufman, who worked there.

Two tributaries of the library concern the coinages of our neighbors Canada and Mexico, the former more extensive since I have been there more often. Basic references are the catalogs by James Charlton and T.V. Buttrey (again, published by Whitman), supplemented by the historical and descriptive references by Robert McLachlan, P.N. Breton, Alberto Pradeau, Frank Grove, Miguel Muñoz and others. These take up two shelves.

Among the junk retrieved from Milwaukee parking meters was my first Civil War token, a present from Mr. Kaufman, issued by a Manitowoc produce dealer. Before collecting CWTs in earnest, I bought the two reference books by George and Melvin Fuld (yet again, published by Whitman) on store card or merchant issues and patriotic or anonymous issues. Importantly, the Fulds included rarity estimates with their listings, which mattered in determining prices. (Ben Odesser, at Rarcoa in Chicago, priced his stock of CWTs at \$2 per rarity in the 1960s.) When a revised edition of the patriotic catalog came out in 1982, I had by then become knowledgeable enough, through actual correspondence with the Fulds and others, to contribute a chapter to it. The token and medal section of my library now takes up many shelves and is in constant use in correspondence and writing.

Acquisition for \$7.50 of a common New Jersey copper in the 1950s started my interest in the coins, medals and tokens of colonial America and its early Federal period. The Token and Medal Society’s reprint in 1965 of Sylvester Crosby’s classic *The Early Coins of America* provided a meticulously researched reference on these pieces, many of which could be had at a price level at or below that of regular mint-issued coins. Now, a shelf in my library is devoted to 18th century American numismatics and includes Philip Mossman’s economic and historical study, that by the team of Roger Siboni, John Howes and Buell Ish on the copper coinage of my home state



New Jersey, Will Nipper's descriptively-titled *In Yankee Doodle's Pocket*, the American Numismatic Society's annotated manuscript of Damon Douglas's *The Copper Coinage of the State of New Jersey* (to which I contributed), all five editions of Eric Newman's *The Early Paper Money of America*, and more. Crosby's book also belongs in the "old but good" category of numismatic publications of the 19th century, a topic that merits its own separate treatment.

A fortunate mistake occurred when, having bid at auction on what was described as a standard hardcover version of Gregory Brunk's *American and Canadian Counter-marked Coins*, I received instead a special leatherbound deluxe edition, "Number IX of XV." From that experience I learned that every book in one's library doesn't have to be blandly utilitarian and that the enjoyment one gets from using a beautifully bound book can often be worth the extra cost. Most of my specially bound books are scattered throughout the library, but a few are kept separately, including Mark Tomasko's *The Feel of Steel* (the Bird and Bull Press edition) and matching three-quarter leather versions of Kraay and Hirmer's *Greek Coins* and J.P.C. Kent's *Roman Coins* (both published by Harry N. Abrams).

Bibliographic references are a must-have in any numismatic library, the most generally useful being Elvira Clain-Stefanelli's *Numismatic Bibliography* (which is so thorough, it even includes an obscure piece written by me). However, it was published 32 years ago, and much (perhaps a third of the material in my library) is more recent. Philip Grierson's annotated *Bibliographie Numismatique* is even older but also useful. The masterly series of bibliographies on 16th, 17th and 18th century numismatic books written by Christian Dekesel and published by George F. Kolbe, beginning in

1997, are well worth having even if your library contains only a single volume from this period. Important specialized bibliographies including Charles Davis's *American Numismatic Literature*, John Adams's two volume *United States Numismatic Literature* (dealing specifically with auction catalogues), the two-volume work on Canadian numismatics edited by D.A. Atchison, and Dennis Kroh's *Ancient Coin Reference Reviews* have all found their place in my library, along with Kolbe's *The Reference Library of a Numismatic Bookseller*, his personal statement of what we collectors can aspire to.

Some authors are so prominent and prolific that they deserve a special place in one's library. You all know whom I'm talking about. So I have set aside the Q. David Bowers Book Shelf. I've told him that he can actually write faster than I can read. He's always willing to inscribe his books to me (because I collect people as well as books). Several of them are presents from him, and a few credit me with assistance of one kind or another.

I'm looking at a shelf holding 35 volumes of *The Asylum*, the first 30 bound to prevent individual issues from going astray. But I probably won't have any more of them bound because I have some doubts about the future of printed numismatic periodicals. We already offer a digital-only membership in NBS at a substantial discount over the printed journal membership. However, 258 of our current 301 members currently opt for continuing their runs of the printed version. Some organizations to which I belong, notably the Numismatic Literary Guild, have gone completely digital. But periodicals are probably the most important part of my library, with seven book cases (five of them along the "periodical wall") being entirely devoted to them. These are what constitute numismatic journalism. They contain up-to-the-minute research, opinion, correspondence, new finds and other discoveries, in-depth analyses, and the regular give and take among collectors old and new. More than 60 numismatic periodicals are kept here, most of them indexed, about a fourth of which I have written articles for. Most of these are still being published.

Is there a coherent principle here about how to form one's library? Each can draw his or her own conclusions. Mine is to collect that which piques my interest. What's yours?



BIBLIOMANIA ORIGIN STORIES

Dumpster Find Launches New Avocation

by Thomas D. Harrison

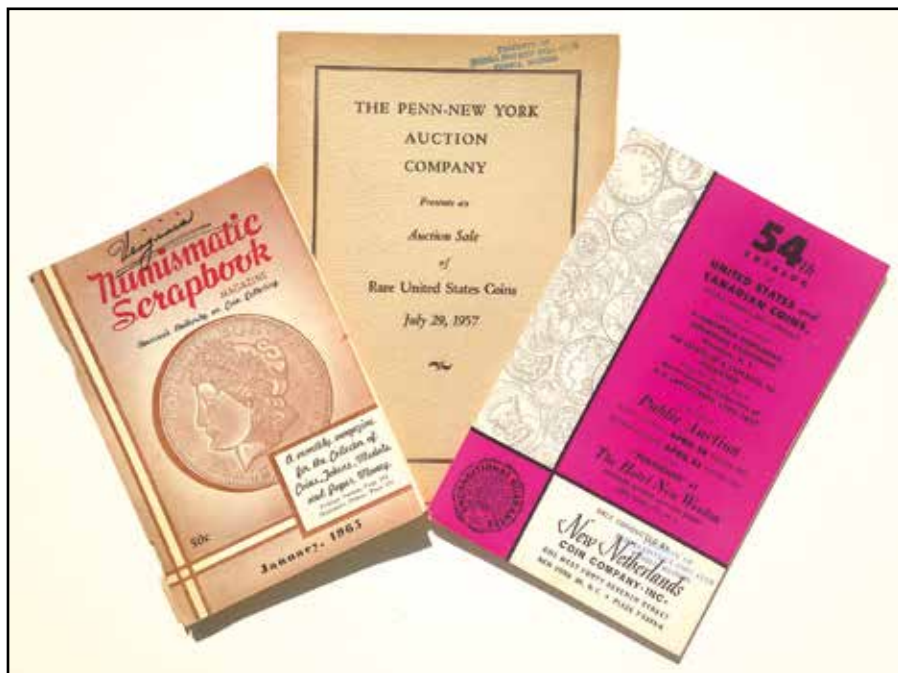
My numismatic journey began in the late 1950s with an episode of *Dennis, the Menace*. In this particular show, Dennis's neighbor, Mr. Wilson, introduced the mischievous lad to the virtues of coin collecting. By the show's conclusion, I had my entire family searching high and low for copper images of Lincoln. Several days later my grandmother gave me a box of coins collected by



her father. This was my watershed moment into numismatics that left my interest in collecting fossils, stamps and baseball cards waning.

Fast forward to the 1970s when I began to assemble a U.S. type set and compile a collection of supportive literature. As various catalogs and periodicals such as *Bowers* and *Ruddy's Rare Coin Review* began to line a bookshelf, I soon realized a new collecting passion was emerging. I thought these works were worthy collectables and that it would be fun to track down the missing back issues.

With Frank Katen still in business, along with numerous literature dealers hanging out their shingles and the founding of The Numismatic Bibliomania Society in 1979, my timing could not have been better. In addition, the early issues of *The Asylum* offered a smorgasbord of delicacies feeding my voracious appetite for enlightenment regarding my emerging pastime. Topics ranged from the entertaining John Ford presentation at the 1980 NBS meeting in Cincinnati to Jack Collins's account of the strategic bidding wars for plated Chapman catalogs at George Kolbe's June 12th and 13th, 1981 Lee/Champa Sale. Other subjects covered were Joel J. Orosz's informative article detailing the preservation of leather and paper and the announced relocation of bookbinder Alan Grace from England to the United States. These early issues are always worthy friends to revisit.



Enthusiasm for my newly discovered avocation was running high with literature auction catalogs and periodicals arriving at least once a month. As the door into numismatic literature began to open, I was fascinated by the vast array of historical documents that wove together a narrative of our hobby. Dealer periodicals like *The Money Tree's Out on a Limb* and Cal Wilson's *Numismatic Repository* were highly entertaining, each documenting many of the activities and personalities of the day. Even today their accounts provide some of my favorite numismatic reading. A crucial added bonus was I could afford a rare volume for a fraction of the cost of a comparable coin. For me, numismatic literature seemed to have it all!

By the early 1980s I had taken the biblio bait, but the hook was not set until I stopped by a recently opened coin shop in February 1984. The first thing that caught my attention was a young man toting boxes out the back door. When I questioned him, he said he was trashing old books and catalogs. I asked the owner if I could have the discards destined for the scrap heap, and he told me to help myself to the half dozen boxes next to the dumpster. By any standard this was not a treasure trove, but it was a classic case of one man's junk is another man's treasure. For a novice bibliophile a nice run of the *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine*, assorted auction catalogs from the 1950s and 1960s and numerous periodicals made an exciting addition to my modest library.

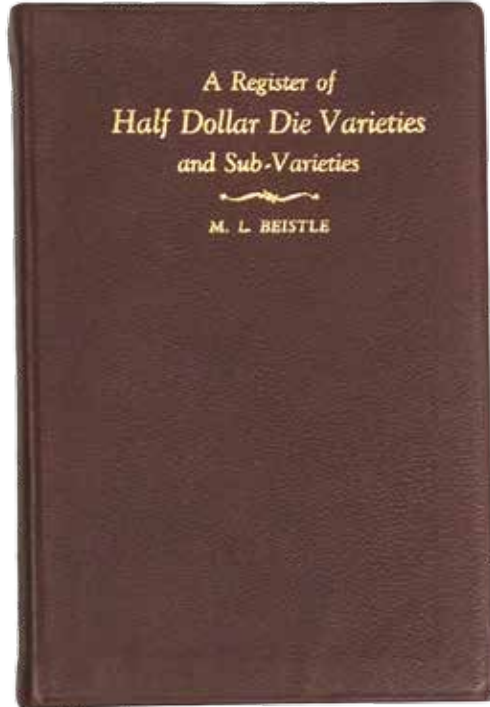
Once I secured my discovery, I returned to see what other goodies might be unearthed. One of my favorite coins entrusted to me by my grandmother was an 1835 Bust half dollar, so naturally when I spotted a deluxe edition of M. L. Beistle's *A Register of Half Dollar Die Varieties and Sub-Varieties*, my interest piqued. The owner said

he was adding this and the remaining volumes to his personal library. I was a bit disappointed not to land the Beistle or any of the other classic works I observed. Nevertheless, then and there, I resolved that one day a fine deluxe Beistle would complement the Bust half dollar bequeathed so long ago.

As we continued to visit, the owner related that he had purchased the inventory and library of longtime Peoria, Illinois, dealer Virginia Baker following her death. I had spent many Saturday mornings at Virginia's Coin Shop during my junior high and high school years striving to plug the gaps in my Whitman coin boards. I was delighted this fortunate stroke of luck provided an opportunity to rescue a portion of Virginia's library from the landfill.

Due to the rigors of starting a business in 1992, I stepped away from numismatics with my only lifeline being my NBS membership which dated to the society's inception. In 2008 my mania resurfaced and has remained unabated as I enjoy the many challenges and rewards of collecting numismatic literature.

Today a fine deluxe Beistle resides on a special shelf to remind me of that serendipitous day in 1984 when I rescued my prized cache from the dumpster and set upon a quest to discover the fascinating world of numismatic literature.

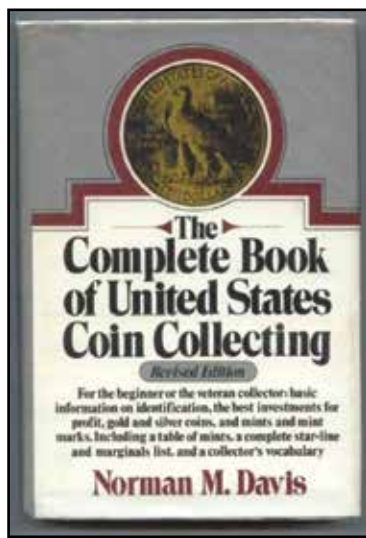


BIBLIOMANIA ORIGIN STORIES

by Brad Karoleff

My numismatic library began, more than likely, much like many other collectors—with a copy of the Redbook. The Bluebook soon followed with a copy of the Brown and Dunn grading guide. I thought I had a numismatic library!

Soon thereafter, I acquired a copy of *How to Detect Altered and Counterfeit Coins and Paper Money* by Bert Harshe. I was a budding collector looking to complete my first set: Jefferson nickels. The 1950-D had eluded me and now it was time to buy one. I had read the Harshe book just before my search began for the elusive 50-D. Page 23 informed me that some people cut off parts of a 9 or 6 to “make” the rare 50-D. I talked my mother into taking me to a nearby town to look through the antique dealers cases for the needed nickel. The first place we stopped had one and after inspection, it turned out that the coin began life as a 1959-D! The book had saved me from making a huge mistake. I NEEDED more books!



One of my next library purchases was *The Complete Book of US Coin Collecting* by Norman M. Davis. The book was far from complete but did have a section on each coin, describing the purchasing power of the coins at the time of their circulation. This hooked me on the historical perspective of numismatics which permeates my collection to the present day.

The Overton book soon came into my life; unfortunately it was the almost useless first edition. I tried using it and became overly frustrated and then was told the second edition was available and MUCH easier to use. I obtained that and began my quest into the wonderful world of die marriages.

There were other books creeping into my fledgling library a little at a time. I soon began collecting autographed numismatic books. It was relatively easy to obtain the signatures at shows from the authors. The other advantage to shows was the numismatic literature dealers! Grady, Burns, Davis, Kolbe, Fanning, Lowe and Xenos became names important to me. They helped form the library by graciously and continually selling me books!

One day Orville Grady showed me a book that had raised images of coins tinted with metallic inks. The images were toned just like real coins and I was hooked! I purchased the copy of *Alten Numismatik* by Grasse as my first embossed tinted plate book. Some years later I saw the Kirby Brown collection of this genre of books be-

ing auctioned by George Kolbe. I was a successful bidder on numerous lots and later purchased the books that did not sell directly from Kirby, after George forwarded me his contact information.

During my trip through numismatics, I came across specialty coin clubs that printed journals that would educate me. EAC, LSCC, JRCS, C4 and others began filling up space on my shelves after having been digested. This was a whole new avenue of information, hot off the presses. I could not wait for the next issue after reading the one just received in the mail. This also led to networking with other collectors and dealers, an ever expanding world of information.

I consumed anything related to the early U.S. mint in Philadelphia and the coins they produced. Taxay, Cooper and Carothers became teachers. Logan, McCloskey, Davis, Wright and others became not only teachers and mentors but also friends.

Others like Souders, Peterson, Fricke and Davignon solicited my help or information to include in their works. A book with Rea, Peterson and Kovach followed, so now I was a supplier as well as a user!

I also became interested in the limited edition books with special bindings offered by many of the contemporary authors. I began to add leather to my collection. It was not only necessary to own just one of each book, but one of each edition in each binding variant. The disease had spread, becoming almost an obsession.

Today my library is a cherished part of my life. It allows me to visit numismatics anytime at home while the coins themselves reside in the safe deposit box. The cumulative knowledge of centuries of numismatists is at my fingertips, if not on the shelf, now on the Newman Portal. The exchange of information has reached terminal velocity and we are reaping the benefits.

I often ask the question of other collectors; “When does one transition from a collector to a numismatist?” I have received many different answers to my question. I, however, define the moment as the year that someone spends more on his library than his coins. This may change now that the Newman Portal makes ownership of some of the books obsolete, but the premise is the same. Learning is the basis of the hobby—embrace it.

There has been debate lately about how the Newman Portal will affect the collecting of numismatic literature. We cannot know for sure but I am still of the school that believes there is nothing as rewarding as holding the fruit of an author’s labors in your hand caressing the binding and turning each page, in turn revealing new information. Pride of ownership of rare volumes will continue to hold the interest of many collectors. Research may be easier on the Portal but there is always something special about doing it the old way, touching the same pages as the pioneers of our hobby, which creates a connection with the past that does not transfer through the computer screen. It is my firm opinion that there will always be a place in the world for the printed book. It will coexist beside the computer, holding our interest much like the coins we collect, talismans of a time in our past when we rode the train and disembarked at the small town of Willoughby.



BIBLIOMANIA ORIGIN STORIES

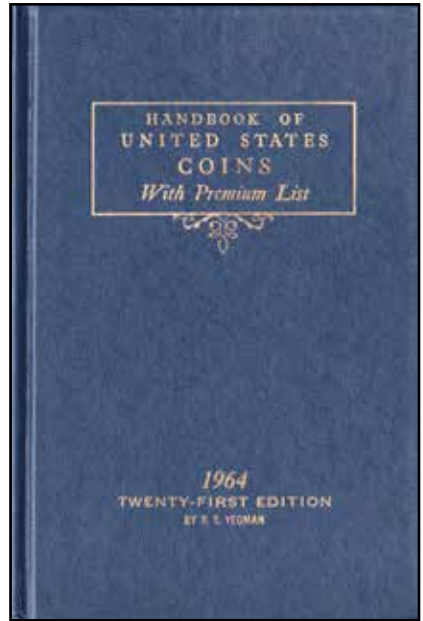
by David W. Lange

I've been a coin collector ever since I learned to read, though the road to becoming a numismatic bibliophile was a long one with several detours. I took over my brother's partial sets of Lincoln cents and Buffalo nickels when his one summer of coin collecting ended, and he went on to other interests. This occurred when I was about seven, and I never looked back. With the coins I inherited his numismatic library, which consisted solely of the 1964 Whitman Blue Book. To this my parents soon added a pulp guide to coin collecting that Mom probably purchased at the supermarket checkout counter, and I was on my way.

Enchanted with my Blue Book, I marveled at all the old coins illustrated and their values. I wondered how anyone could ever find a Seated Liberty Dime in circulation when I couldn't finish my set of Mercuries. It wasn't until I discovered that the local Woolworth store sold not only coin folders, but actual old coins, that the pieces came together. The prices were higher than in my Blue Book, but I couldn't resist buying a 1914 cent in Good for 75 cents. More than 50 years later, my purchase is finally worth what I paid!

Recognizing my serious commitment to the hobby, my aunt and uncle bought me a nice BU Morgan Dollar for Christmas, along with the 1969 Red Book. This provided me with much more information and, for the first time, fairly accurate retail values. I soon began buying *COINage Magazine* at the newsstand, while the school library had a subscription to *COINS*. These proved to be enough reading material until I was in my mid-teens, when my interest progressed from 20th century coins to much older issues. The purchase of a few Bust and Seated Liberty type coins prompted me to seek specialized books in these areas, yet such were not to be had at area coin shops. Asking around, I learned that a member of the Fremont (California) Coin Club sold these books, and that's when I met Cal Wilson. This was a real game changer for me.

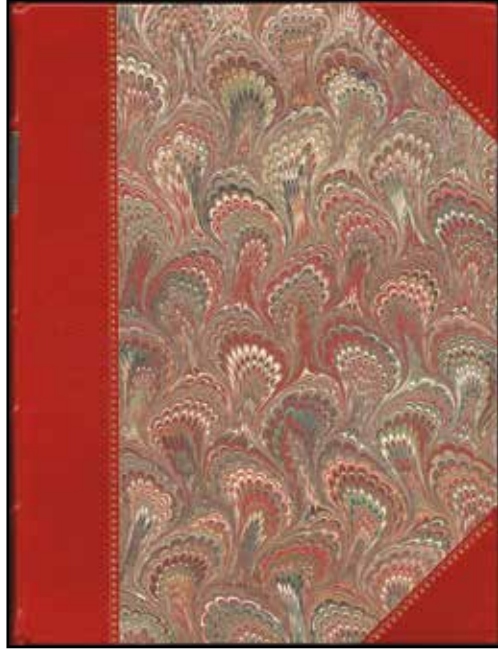
At the time, Cal was still in some administrative role with the Del Monte Corporation, and he didn't have a store. In fact, he sold numismatic books out of the trunk of his car, and this gave the whole experience an air of clandestine adventure. I would



My first coin book: Whitman Blue Book 1964

meet Cal at coin shows or his office parking lot, and he would pull out the books I sought. In the mid-late 1970s, these included several Quarterman reprints that served as my introduction to Sheldon, Valentine, Crosby, et al. I read each book with the intensity of new discovery, though I really struggled to attribute my circulated coins using the small, low-contrast images in these references.

There were relatively few new books coming out on United States coins, aside from grading guides and investment schemes. Among the exceptions were Kamal Ahwash's book on Seated Liberty Dimes, Wayne Miller's on Morgan and Peace Dollars and, of course, Walter Breen's proof book, which was absolutely fascinating to me. By 1980 I had acquired all of the

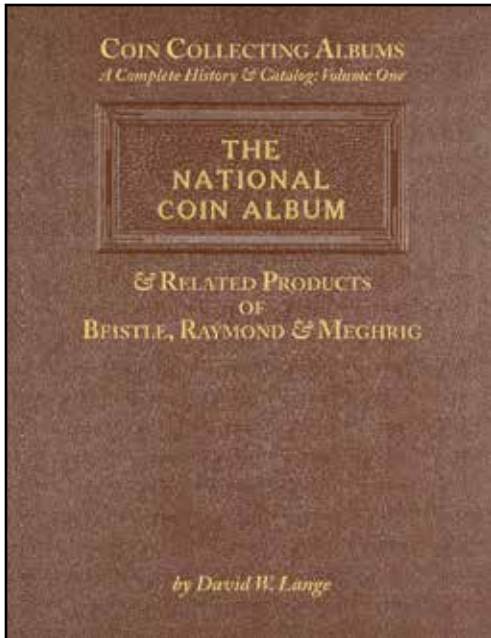


Mercury Dime Deluxe Edition

standard references for USA coins from Cohen's half cents through Akers' magnificent series on gold coins. I now had enough information and experience to begin giving back some of what I'd learned, and my first published article ran in *Coin World* that same year.

Around this time I learned from Cal Wilson of a new club for those interested in numismatic literature. Though I didn't consider myself a "collector" of such items, I was intrigued enough to join the Numismatic Bibliomania Society a year or two after its founding. This brought me into contact with many other booksellers, such as George Kolbe, Orville Grady, John Bergman, Charles Davis, The Money Tree guys and, a few years later, John Burns. Their inventories made me a bibliophile, as I soon found myself buying books just because they were beautiful or of some historic interest. I've never become as impassioned by old or finely bound books as some NBS members, but I did commence ordering the limited editions of all major auctions as they were offered. I also assembled a complete set of Red Books just before the prices of early editions took off in the mid-late 1980s. While both the Red Books and the deluxe catalogs were later sold, I was pleased to discover that I made money on all of them, while often losing money on coin sales. In my ignorance, however, I early-on blind-stamped my books on the front flyleaf, rather than applying a more elegant bookplate. This mistake was corrected fairly quickly.

It was because of my exposure to the numismatic literature collecting field that I sought to include deluxe editions of my own books when they began to be published in 1992. Being new to this activity, I selected a bindery recommended to me that



National Album Book

did not do a particularly good job with my first outing, as several bibliophiles observed. Nevertheless, the deluxe editions of my Buffalo Nickel and Mercury Dime books sold out quickly, as the numismatic literature hobby was hot in the early-mid '90s. When my Lincoln Cent book came out in 1996, I'd already learned a few things, and the deluxe edition was a truly elegant production, though it cost more and took longer to sell. Subsequent editions of my earlier titles were given the same care.

A chance purchase of an old Whitman coin board in the early '80s quickly led to obsession, and I thereafter divided my numismatic literature budget between purchasing books that I needed or thought to be important overall and my growing pursuit of antique coin

boards. This passion eventually extended to the coin albums, folders and general hobby memorabilia which now overwhelm parts of my home. Since I burned with the urge to publish what I'd learned about these items, and commercial publishers were not interested, I started my own imprint, PennyBoard Press.[™] I still buy important numismatic books as they appear, but I no longer entertain the idea of seeking rare or limited editions as collectibles in their own right. Nevertheless, my journey has been a wonderful learning experience and has given me many friends who share a common interest in the printed word.



BIBLIOMANIA ORIGIN STORIES

A Rhapsody on Literature

by Michael E. Marotta

Since I got my first book about dinosaurs for Christmas when I was eight, I have always had a library. I have not always been a collector, and, by the best standards, I may not be a true bibliomaniac.

Clifford Mishler gave a “stump speech” to coin clubs about the culture of collecting. Whether your interest be coins, stamps, figurines, or automobiles, Mishler said that all collectors share passions for condition, rarity, completeness, and value. However, what motivates me most is the information inside, even if the book is undervalued, hard to find, and in good condition. On my top shelf is *A History of American Currency* by William Graham Sumner (Henry Holt and Company, 1874). I paid two dollars for it at a city library sale. The newest book on my research shelf is *The Whitman Encyclopedia of Obsolete Paper Money, Volume 7, South Atlantic, Part 2* by Q. David Bowers (Whitman Publishing LLC, 2016) for which I edited the chapter on Texas. I own no others in the series.

The simple fact is that books explain coins. And “books” is only a general word for stored knowledge, just as being a “coin collector” explains an interest in bank drafts. It was while working at *Coin World* that I learned to value auction catalogs, periodicals, and coin club ephemera. Without that information, the media of commerce have no condition, rarity, or value. This was explained to me by Stuart Segan, the Trends editor for *Coin World* when he encouraged me to buy my own copy of *Walter Breen’s Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* so that I could mark it up with corrections, as was the copy in the Amos Press library.

Coin World hired me, in part, because the ANA had granted a Heath Literary Award to an article that I wrote on the origins of coinage. Coming to numismatics only in middle age, I worked as a technical writer. I was also already a published author of magazine articles on business, technology, and culture. So, it was easy for me to use the local Michigan State University library to research the ancient coins that had captured my interest. I wrote an article on the origins of coinage and sent it to the *Classical Numismatic Review*. It was rejected. I would normally have followed Robert Heinlein’s advice and just submitted it elsewhere, but I called the editor, Kerry Wetterstrom, and asked him what I could do to fix the article. After all, it was based on the works of Gardner, Hill, Head, and Seltman. He said, “You are reading the wrong books.” Kerry sent me a bibliography of academic journal articles. The MSU reference librarian found more for me to read. Twenty-five years later, I have many boxes of offprints, reprints, and photocopies.

They do not hold much potential for resale, but they do represent the creation of value in other items. The coins, etc., that we collect would be anonymous curios



Barbara Gregory and me at the ANA National Money Show, Dallas, March 1-5, 2016 where I judged exhibits and delivered a Money Talks presentation, "From Texas to the Moon with John Leonard Riddell."

without the literature that explains them. For me, the thrill in numismatics is in the research. At a local coin club meeting, I won a 100-year old bank draft as a door prize. Some digging on the Internet revealed the histories of the issuer, its corresponding bank, and the payee. Now, I have a story. It has been said that dealers do not sell coins, they sell stories. If you "buy" the story, the dealer "gives" you the coin.



BIBLIOMANIA ORIGIN STORIES

A Special 1968 Lester Merkin Auction Sale Catalog and a Few Books

by W. David Perkins, NLG

After selling my childhood coin collection in 1970 to buy my first car, I got back into collecting in 1983. I began buying Seated and Trade Dollars, 18th and 19th Century Type Coins, and Half Cents by die marriage. And I bought my first early U.S. silver dollar, a beautiful 1800 silver dollar in Extra Fine.

I quickly fell in love with the early dollars. I joined the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) in 1986. I attended the American Numismatic Society (ANS) Coinage of the Americas Conference in New York on America's Silver Coinage 1794-1891. I purchased books and joined many numismatic organizations, including NBS. This opened many doors, and I began to meet and get to know other collectors and researchers.

As I read numismatic books, articles, and studied new and old auction catalogs I became more and more interested in “those who collected before us” and their collections. I learned that not every major collection of early dollars was sold at public auction—many collections were sold privately, with no auction catalog to record the collection.

In 1987 I attended a local coin show in Denver. Not unexpectedly, this local coin show offered very few early dollars. I covered most of the bourse quickly, and then noticed a dealer's table with high bookcases in the back of the room. I wandered over. It turned out to be the table of Art Rubino, a Santa Fe, NM rare book dealer. I asked Art among other things if he had any Lester Merkin auction sale catalogs. He pointed me to a box under a table. I looked through the box and soon pulled out two copies of the September 18, 1968 Lester Merkin Public Auction Sale.



Bid book for Part I of the January 20, 1945 Numismatic Gallery sale of the *World's Greatest Collection of U.S. Silver Coins* (the silver dollars). The bid book provided buyer's names for pedigree purposes. It also included a list of all subscriber's names and addresses for the sale catalog, a great source of potential early dollar collectors of the era. This lot was purchased from a 1985 Kolbe Sale.

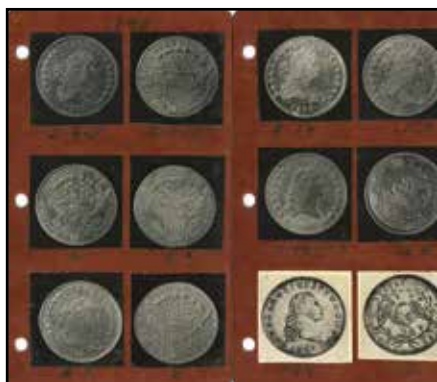
One copy was pristine; the other copy had handwritten notations and arrows drawn on the cover. Sets of arrows pointed to a high grade 1795 Flowing Hair Dollar and an extremely rare 1870-S Seated Dollar. In the lower right of the cover was written “My Estimate” in red ink, and “Realized” in blue ink. I thought to myself, “this could be interesting.” And it was.

Laid inside this copy of the sale catalog was the consignor’s auction settlement, in this case that of a well-known collector team from the 1950s and 1960s, Alfred J. Ostheimer and his wife Jacque. Lester Merkin included detailed pedigree information for most of the sale lots. There was an “adding machine tape” with “Cost Baldenhofer” noted at the top. From this I was able to determine the lots that traced were formerly in the W. G. Baldenhofer Collection, a very large silver dollar collection by die marriage that had not been sold via public auction and that I’d been wondering about.

I of course bought the “non-pristine” copy.

This catalog and the information laid in helped to spark my interest, both as a collector of numismatic literature and as a researcher and author. As did three books.

The first book on numismatic literature that furthered my interest as a numismatic bibliomaniac and researcher was *American Numismatic Literature: An Annotated*



Top: Two pages from a notebook used by dealer-collector K. P. Austin of Salisbury, MD to identify the different die marriages. The book is “pocket size.” Photos were made from the Bolender book negatives, probably by collector (and professional photographer) Frank M. Stirling of Baton Rouge, LA. At one time I contacted Austin by phone and he told me that all of his records had probably been “lost or stolen.” It turns out Austin had given this book to M. H. Bolender when Bolender purchased the Austin Collection of early dollars. Bolender gave it to the Ostheimers when they purchased Austin’s early dollar collection privately, and I purchased this book from Mrs. Ostheimer over a decade ago.



Right: This is the first page of the listing (used for a “bill of sale”) of the W. G. Baldenhofer silver dollar collection which dealer M. H. Bolender sold en bloc to the Ostheimers. Note Bolender included pedigree and condition census information. This is the only complete listing of Baldenhofer’s silver dollar collection that I’ve seen. The collection was extensive, and included silver dollars from 1794 to 1935!



Top: Photo of the Taylor-Whitney-Miller 1796 B-6, BB-64 Dollar. This was Lot 6 in the *America's Outstanding Collection of Silver Dollars* fixed price list, and was the discovery specimen. All three examples of this R-8 die marriage have the neat vertical die break bisecting the reverse.

Left: This page is from collector W. Earl Spies copy of the 1959 Hollinbeck Kagin Fixed Price List titled, *America's Outstanding Collection of Silver Dollars*. Lot 6 was the Discovery Specimen for the R-8 (with 3 examples known to me today) 1796 B-6, BB-64 silver dollar and establishes that it was owned by collector Emanuel Taylor. John "Mr. 1796" Whitney acquired this coin in the September 1995 B&M The Greenwald & Jackson Collections sale:1249. Spies has written a short

note in the catalog stating "nice profit" and that it "was acquired for \$35.00!" Warren Miller bought this coin Mr. 1796's Collection was sold. Andy Lustig and I sold this coin from the Miller Collection in 2016 for a high five figure price (in contrast with the \$35.00 price referenced in 1959).

Survey of Auction Sales 1980-1991 by Charles E. Davis. This book opened up the world of past auction sales, for example deluxe catalogs, and catalogs with extra plate photos. This motivated me to look for more of the same.

The other two books that influenced me were *United States Numismatic Literature*, Volumes One and Two, by John W. Adams. These two books helped take me to get to the next level in my research, collecting numismatic auction sale catalogs, and learning more about collectors and the great collections of the past.

Over time I was able to locate and purchase almost all of the catalogs I had identified as of interest from these three books.

Over the years I have had some good fortune tracking down early dollar collectors and /or their children, grandchildren, and other relatives. I did this mostly by sending out letters, and putting subtle postings on internet genealogy forums. It helped that I always had information and knowledge to share with those I made contact with.

Over the years I have purchased or been given annotated reference books, auction catalogs and invoices, old letters, notes, and correspondence. I learned more about the collectors and their collections. The Davis and Adams' books inspired me to pursue this avenue, as did finding the Ostheimer's personal copy of the "Merkin '68 Sale" catalog at the local coin show in Denver.

Here are some of my "special finds" from over the years.

I was successful in getting in touch with and eventually meeting with Jacque Os-

theimer, wife of Alfred J. Ostheimer III. Jacque was a both a collector and numismatist. The Ostheimers collected among other things all silver dollars from 1794 to 1935. Many numismatists know that the Ostheimers collected the early dollars 1794-1803 by die marriage, and had one of the finest early dollar collections ever formed. What only a small number know is that they also collected Gobrecht Dollars, Liberty Seated Dollars in business strikes and Proof, Trade Dollars, Morgan and Peace Dollars, Leshner and Bryan Dollars, and selected Pattern Dollars. It took a little work to piece together their extensive collection, most of which was sold in the late 1960s privately and at auction. Most recently, the 1794 Lord St. Oswald Silver Dollar was sold as part of the Pogue Collection. Mrs. Ostheimer told me she went to London herself to purchase this special coin.

I was able to purchase notes, correspondence, old invoices and other numismatic items from Mrs. Ostheimer. Highlights include Farran Zerbe's research file on 1804 Dollars, Jacque Ostheimer's notes for a new book on the early dollars 1794 to 1804 (working with Milferd H. Bolender), extensive correspondence between the Ostheimers and leading collectors of the day, much from M. H. Bolender, including the letters and inventory listings from the purchase and sale of the K. P. Austin and W. G. Baldenhofer early silver dollar collections. Bolender had bought and then sold these two large early dollar collections privately to the Ostheimers. It helped explain why there was no public record of these two collections having been sold despite finding numerous references to these two collections and auction lots with pedigrees to these two individuals.

Some NBS members may recall a talk that I gave on the Ostheimers, at the NBS Meeting at the 2000 ANA Convention, Philadelphia. It was titled, "The Ostheimers of



Top: The W. Earl Spies collection of early dollars was sold by Stack's at public auction in December 1974. Spies also collected Seated Dollars, both in Proof and business strikes! His business strike set resided in a bank box for decades. This Wayne Raymond holder holds the 1840-1846-O Seated Dollars, all matched nicely in both color and grades (AU and Mint State). Spies had an example of every Seated Dollar except the extremely rare 1870-S (my research).



Bottom: Copy of cancelled check from Frank M. Stirling to B. Max Mehl dated February 5, 1954 paying Mehl for a 1795 Flowing Hair silver dollar. I have a large number of cancelled checks from Stirling to different dealers and collectors. They can be helpful in establishing pedigrees and the cost for the coin at the time.

Philadelphia and their Extraordinary Collection of Silver Dollars.”

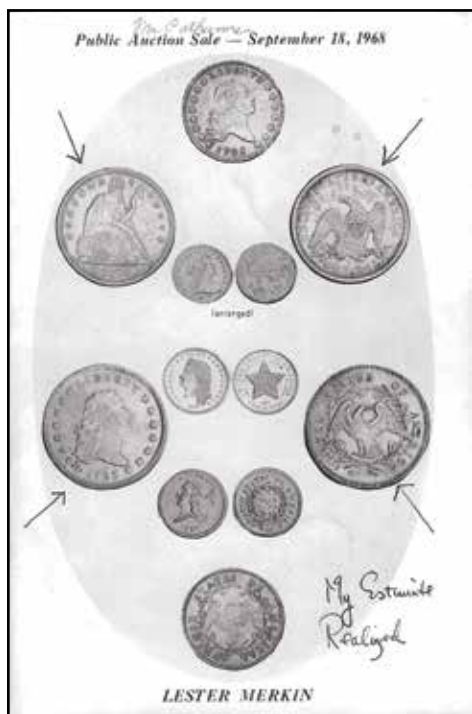
Through dealer Julian Leidman I was able to talk with and correspond with dealer and early dollar collector K. P. Austin (of Salisbury, MD) before he passed away. Austin loved the early dollars, and had purchased all of Milferd H. Bolender’s 1795 Flowing Hair Dollar die marriages in Bolender’s 183rd Sale in February 1952, the sale of Bolender’s personal reference collection. I have a set of photos that Bolender gave to Austin after Austin purchased all of the 1795 Flowing Hair Dollars. Austin gave these photos to me for some research help that I did for him.

I tracked down a niece of W. G. Baldenhofer, and learned a little more about Baldenhofer. (*The Asylum*, Vol. 25, No. 2, Spring 2007: “Who was Farish Baldenhofer?” by W. David Perkins) Baldenhofer had a significant United States silver dollar collection 1794 to 1935.

I was able to get in contact with a daughter and a grandson of Frank M. Stirling of Baton Rouge, LA. Stirling was an active early dollar collector by die marriage from the 1940s through around 1980. Stirling also collected Gobrecht and Seated Dollars, Gold, and currency.

I was able to acquire extensive written correspondence between Stirling and many of the top collectors, researchers, and dealers from the 1940s through 1980s. I later learned from a letter dated December 11, 1954 included with the Stirling Correspondence that Frank Stirling cataloged the Andre DeCoppett Collection of early dollars for James Kelly. This main collection was sold in Kelly’s April 29-30, 1955 Central States Numismatic Society Convention Sale, and the balance privately and via Fixed Price List lists in Kelly’s *Coins and Chatter* publications. (“The DeCoppett Hoard of Early Silver Dollars,” *The Asylum* Vol. 25 No. 1, Winter 2007, pages 9-14).

Years later I was able to acquire some rare 1795 Flowing Hair silver dollar die marriages from two of Stirling’s grandsons, one specimen in



Cover of the Ostheimer’s personal copy of the Lester Merkin *Public Auction Sale - September 18, 1968*. The early dollars were not identified in the catalog as being from the Ostheimer Collection. With the Merkin auction settlement *laid in* the catalog we now know that all but two of the 1794 to 1803 Dollars were consigned by the Ostheimers, as was the 1870-S Dollar on the cover. This special catalog was acquired by the author from Art Rubino of Santa Fe, NM at a local Denver coin show.

particular that allowed early dollar specialist collector Warren Miller to be the only collector ever to complete a collection of all of the known die marriages of early dollars 1794-1803. Andy Lustig and I are now in the process selling the Miller Collection of Early Dollars. (*Coin World* May 22, 2006, "Early dollar collector first to complete die marriages / Acquisition of unique B-19 variety ends quest.")

In the 1980s I had seen a reference to an early dollar with the "Taylor-Kagin" pedigree. I asked the late Art Kagin about this, and eventually learned that in 1959 Art had bought the large Emanuel Taylor silver dollar collection including Taylor's early silver dollars 1794 to 1803. Art told me that he personally had a particular fondness for the early dollars.

Art and Paul Kagin offered the Taylor collection via a little known Fixed Price List (FPL) in 1959 titled, *America's Outstanding Collection of Silver Dollars*. This information might have been lost as Taylor's name was not mentioned in this FPL.

All of the lots in the FPL were from the extensive Emanuel Taylor collection per Art Kagin. Taylor was somewhat known for collection Large Cents, but the Taylor early and other silver dollar collection was otherwise pretty much unknown up until this time. (*The Asylum*, Vol. 23, No. 4, Fall 2005: "A Rare but Little Known Fixed Price List: America's Outstanding Collection of Silver Dollars for Sale at Fixed Prices.")

I was able to contact the son of collector W. Earl Spies who collected early and other silver dollars in the 1960s and 1970s. The W. Earl Spies Collection of U.S. Silver Dollars 1794-1803 was sold in a public auction sale by Stack's in December 1974. Spies' son was in his late 70s at this time! I now have a copy of Spies heavily annotated Bolender book, *The Early United States Silver Dollars from 1794 to 1803*. I also learned that W. Earl Spies collected all silver dollars 1794 to 1935. I eventually purchased his business strike set of Seated Dollars which had been in a bank box for the previous 30-40 years or more.

I also recently acquired Mrs. Ostheimer's annotated copy of the Ostheimer's Bolender book.

It's amazing for me to think about how a catalog and a few books led to all of this. And more.



BIBLIOMANIA ORIGIN STORIES

Old Bookshops and Coin Collecting

by David R. Pickup

In the 1980s my collecting “library” consisted of just a handful of books. An old Seaby’s catalogue, a few booklets and some “check your change” books. More specialist books were expensive. At that time, I enjoyed visiting secondhand book shops, mainly to get cheap novels to read. It was rare to see books about coins in shops like these and if you did come across them they were old editions of catalogues or very basic starter books and usually at ridiculous prices. I do not know how these shops kept going. They were unwelcoming places, and ran on the basis of the owner staring at customers and making them feel uncomfortable until they bought something in a panic or just fled the place.

A trip to a small town which was known for old bookshops led to a chance discovery. I came across a copy of John Yonge Akerman’s *Numismatic Manual*. It was in good condition apart from the fact it had completely lost its cover and was dusty but I had never seen anything like it and it was on sale for a few pounds. Reader, I bought it.

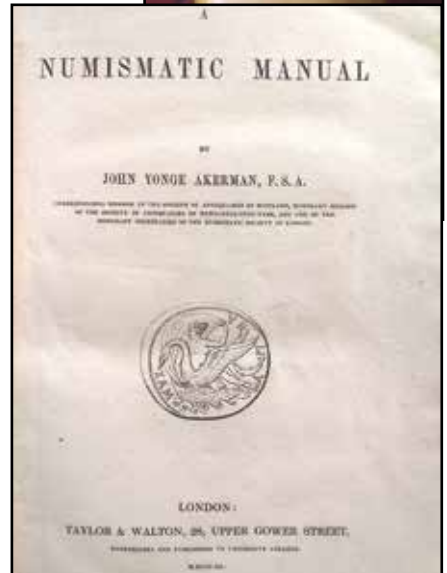
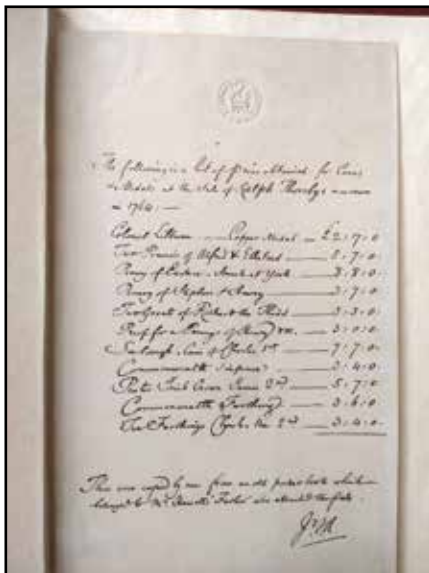
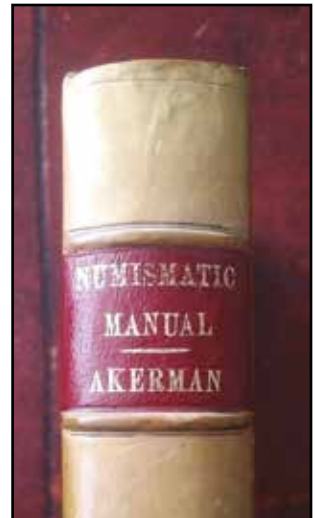
It led me to start collecting books on coins and for quite a long time it was more interesting to get a book on a whole series of coins for a few pounds rather than spend the same amount of money for one coin. I bought other books including Addison’s *Dialogues Upon the Usefulness of Ancient Medals* (also without a cover). This is a great title and I later discovered the word “medal” included coins. I came across a book by Revd Walsh called *An Essay on Ancient Coins, Medals, and Gems: As Illustrating the Progress of Christianity in the early ages*. They did not go in for snappy titles in those days. Walsh was clergyman who had travelled the world and wrote about various topics. The contents of his only book on numismatics are somewhat unorthodox to say the least. I also bought a book by Major W. Stewart Thorburn called *A Guide to the Coins of Great Britain and Ireland, in Gold, Silver, and Copper, from the Earliest Period to the Present Time, with Their Values* and J. Henry’s *English Coins Copper Tin & Bronze* published in 1879. I bought it for £4.00 because it “lacked plates.” Some research at a local library showed the book was not issued with illustrations so that did not bother me too much. What it did have was some old price lists at the back.

Some of these books I have now sold for others to enjoy. Sometimes I wrote my name in and was surprised in the auction catalogues to see this referred to. Perhaps in years to come “ex libris David Pickup” will lead to a premium—or perhaps not!

I enjoyed old books, not only for the enthusiasm and scholarship of the author but many of them had already passed through different owners’ hands who had written their names, dates of purchase, address, or notes in them. Sometimes the collector

marked to indicate which coins he had in his collection. Others have dedications from the author and if you are lucky, inscriptions from aunties or uncles to their favourite collecting nephew on his birthday or just a note of when it was bought. Some even have elaborately engraved nameplates. A book is a personal item and so we should write in them. That is what the margins are for! The only rule is do not write in other people's volumes. I also enjoyed these books because they were written by enthusiastic amateurs. They often commented on other writers in the prefaces and through this I learned of previous books on the subject.

The Numismatic Manual was published in 1832 when Akerman was in his 20s. My copy is the later and much extended second edition of 1840. It contains a single sheet of paper, written in Akerman's handwriting and signed with his initials. It is a copy of a list of some of the coins sold in the Thorsby sale in the 18th century. The notes had been made by a Mr. Hewett's father who had been at the sale. This book made me want to find out more about John Y. Akerman. He wrote a huge number of books on a range of coin subjects. He started the Numismatic Society and founded *Numismatic Journal* which respectively became the *Royal Numismatic Society and Numismatic Chronicle*. He also wrote other books fishing, dialects and stories—most of which are completely unreadable today. However, I found that his book on fishing includes a picture of the man. Outside numismatics he was involved in London's first railway. I discovered he had lived in Abingdon in Oxfordshire which I have been to and



most interesting, for me at least, he must have visited the village where I moved to because he had a mutual interest in coins astronomy and antiquities shared by other writers who lived in the neighbourhood. I found this out by chance after I had moved to this area. There is a fine portrait of him on a medallion of Akerman commemorating a new railway in Buckinghamshire.

These early writers were heroes. Yes, I know there were books on coins written in the 17th and even 16th century but the 19th century was the time the hobby became available to the general public, not just the rich man. Cheaper books, better illustrations

and easier travel brought the hobby together and made it possible for interested persons to learn and meet together.

My interest in old books on coins has waned as the prices have increased and there seem to be fewer about. You rarely see an independent secondhand bookshop now as they have gone and are replaced by charity shops. If they ever get offered anything antiquarian they just put it in an auction.

Also in the 1980s, I remember a happy few days visiting secondhand bookshops in York. I did not find many but late in the day came across a battered, coverless book. It dated from the 1840s or 1850s and was a volume three of something. It only cost a few pounds and I was in a hurry and put it back, thinking I did not need a tatty third volume of something. Despite having a reasonable knowledge of 19th century books on coins I have no idea what it was the third volume of. It may have been part of an early edition of Rodgers Ruding, *Annals of the Coinage of Britain and its Dependencies*. Who knows! I do not. I do not think there is much point in going back to York to see if it is still there, do you?



BIBLIOMANIA ORIGIN STORIES

My Origin Story

by Pete Smith

I met Dick Punchard at a local coin show on November 6, 1976. I had just bought my first 1793 large cent and Dick was an established large cent variety collector. He recommended that I join the Early American Coppers Club. I somehow got the impression that membership was a requirement if I wanted to learn more from him. My new membership was listed in *Penny-Wise* for November, 1978, and I attended my first EAC convention in January of 1979. Among many people I met there were John Adams and Jack Collins.

I have a photograph taken at the 1979 EAC convention with me sitting next to John Adams. This was during a 1794 Whist match among Adams, Del Bland, Denis Loring and Myles Gerson. Much of the conversation was in pedigree shorthand. I didn't understand all of the references, but I understood that pedigrees were important at the upper level of EAC.

Dick became my mentor for collecting large cents. Most of our early discussions were about grading according to EAC standards. He was also my mentor for building



A small part of my working library. A few shelves in the book cases show some of my collection of bottles, jugs, steins and shot glasses issued by A.M. Smith. At the far left is a 1911 Encyclopaedia Britannica.

a library. He had an extensive library with many old auction catalogs that he used to track coins in his collection. He was generous in letting me use his library for any large cent research. Dick also sold me some duplicate catalogs so I suppose that was the start of my catalog library.

In 1979 I bought a copy of *Monographs on Varieties of United States Large Cents 1795-1803* and in 1980 I bought *Monographs on Varieties of United States Large Cents 1793-1794*. These provided access to the foundational literature for collecting large cents and were affordable compared to acquisitions of the original books.

For a while I collected every book related to early copper. I started with current reprints and later filled in earlier editions. As I got more interested in medals, the library expanded in that direction.

Dick and I travelled to several EAC and ANA conventions together. In 1980 we went to Cincinnati for the ANA convention. Together we attended a meeting of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society that was being formed. I recall John J. Ford, Jr. at the front table and Harry Bass heckling from the back of the room. I would later have several opportunities to speak with Ford. I did not meet Harry Bass that day and never saw him again.

I wrote to Jack Collins inquiring about membership. He was somewhat slow in answering my request, and I missed inclusion as a charter member of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society.

It was around September of 1981 that Dick mentioned a local numismatic literature dealer starting up in Minneapolis. The store was quite near my home and I drove up to meet the proprietor, Remy Bourne. He provided a local source to expand my library.

In 1983 Dick and I went to San Diego for the ANA convention. Together we attended a literature sale conducted by Cal Wilson. I am sure there were many important literature collectors there but the only one I recall meeting was Armand Champa. Walking from the bourse back to my room, I came upon Ken Bressett and Walter Breen talking in the parking lot. I interrupted their conversation to meet them.

In 1984 I went to New York City for the first Coinage of the Americas Conference. At the conference I met Eric Newman and several other important members of the ANS. I had the opportunity to browse the library at the ANS but had no current project for research.

I can't identify a specific time when I made the transition from a casual literature collector to a serious one or when the collecting bug became an obsession. Perhaps that is true of many of us. The addiction develops gradually and space disappears slowly. At some point we have no room for more catalogs but we acquire them anyway.

My library allows me to share a little space in a one bedroom apartment. Recently I have been trying to eliminate catalogs that I don't need to gain space. With great resources on the Newman Numismatic Portal, I no longer need a hard copy of every interesting auction catalog. Some days the addiction wins and some days I make progress in the fight against it.



BIBLIOMANIA ORIGIN STORIES

Bibliomaniac Origin Story

by Ray Williams

My first numismatic book was Whitman's "Red Book", which I obtained in 1963 while working on my Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge. In high school, coin collecting took a back seat to girls, cars, college, military, marriage... until 1979. I took out the old folders and started filling in the empty holes. That was the year I joined the ANA and subscribed to *Coin World & Numismatic News*. It is also the year I expanded my library from Red Books to include the Dave Bowers work *The History of US Coinage as Illustrated by the Garrett Collection*. This opened my eyes beyond filling holes in a coin chart. After another decade of more advanced collecting, in 1988 I purchased a copy of *Penny Whimsy*. Dr. Sheldon's writing just captured my imagination and that led to joining EAC in 1988. It was in 1988 that I purchased Walter Breen's *Encyclopedia of US and Colonial Coins* at the GSNM Convention, where Walter autographed it.

My library started to grow with publications about Large Cents and Half Cents. It was in 1988 when I became involved with an auction consignment and was exposed to the world of colonial numismatics and purchased my first NJ Copper at auction. I purchased economical colonials here and there while pursuing Large Cents. I then jump to 1991, where that same auction consignment brought me in touch with John Griffiee. His enthusiasm for collecting NJ Coppers was addictive. I was hooked. I eventually sold my federal coppers to purchase colonials. My library of about 20 books about Large Cents started to expand exponentially. I bought a Green reprint of Crosby for \$10! I bought Quarterman reprints of Crosby and Maris. Dan Freidus sold me an original Maris *New Jersey Coppers*—the exact one Quarterman used to make their reprints. George Kolbe sold me an original Crosby in a nice binding (ex Wayne Raymond). There was something intriguing about holding the original reference books that I could sense... the smell, the binding the printing... but the right words to adequately describe the experience escape me.

My library has taken over a good part of my house. Diane says that I don't need any more books—that I can't read everything I have in a lifetime! I explained to her that a reference library is just that... it's there when I need (want) to refer to it. When we were first married, I came home from conventions and Diane would ask what I bought and I'd show her and explain the numismatic importance. Now when I come home from a convention, she says, "You didn't bring home more books, did you?"

As much as I appreciate the availability of numismatic literature online, there's nothing like owning a book where I can make notations in the borders.



BIBLIOMANIA ORIGIN STORIES

My Numismatic Bibliomania Origin Story

by Bruce D. Wonder

In my career as a professor of (business) management, I was rewarded for focus on my academic specialty; specialization in one's field was key. In sharp contrast, in my nearly lifelong passion for numismatics, I have enjoyed the freedom to be a generalist, shifting and broadening my collecting pursuits to mirror my changing interests over time. I began collecting at age 12 in 1954. Like many young collectors then, I started out collecting Lincoln and Indian Head cents, soon with the aid of my first numismatic book: the so-called "Blue Book" (12th ed.). I also bought a subscription to the *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine* which gave me access to the advertisements of dealers across the country. Thus, it wasn't long before Lauren Benson (Davenport, Iowa) introduced me to collecting modern world proof sets. This whetted my appetite to expand my collecting interests; initially, to modern mint sets, gradually to Czarist Russian coins, then on to other European countries, and eventually to coins worldwide and across time periods from ancient to early modern (and including exnumia and currency).

For most of my numismatic life, I tended to treat my library as an adjunct to my coin collecting (and, from 1982 onwards, coin dealing) pursuits. Thus, I viewed my growing library as an aid to the buying and enjoyment of my collection/stock. The size and contours of the library pretty much paralleled my expanding areas of interest. Thus, my early (non-U.S.) aids included Richard Yeoman's *A Catalogue of Modern World Coins*, William Craig's *Coins of the World: 1750-1850*, and (starting in 1982) the various Krause-Mishler catalogues. Meanwhile, fixed price lists and auction catalogues (e.g., those of Jess Peters, Jim Elmen, Cordry & Craig, Randolph Zander, Richard Margolis, Münzen und Medaillen, Jerry Schimmel, and Hans Schulman) assisted me mightily, simultaneously directing me to additional sources in print that could prove useful to my broadening numismatic interests.

The publication of Elvira Clain-Stefanelli's *Numismatic Bibliography* (1985) was a watershed event for me, as it afforded me a guide to my literature needs and a rough assessment of the quality of the sources I already had to support my diverse coin interests. Nonetheless, my library hardly qualified me to think of myself as a bibliomaniac: it was far too unfocused, a feature that was only exacerbated by my occasional purchase of other persons' accumulations, in one case (1987) to the tune of several hundred volumes. I loved my books, but still saw them primarily as a support to coin buying and selling, rather than as an end in themselves.

Along the way, two acquisitions (some twenty years apart!) would eventually lead



Bruce and Claire holding Charpentier and Budé, respectively.

me to a very different view of my book buying. In about 1981, while perusing Cal Wilson's book stock in Fremont, California, I came across volume III of Lorenz Beger's (1696) *Thesauri regii et electoralis brandenburgici* (Dekesel #B70). Impressed by such an antique volume with its wonderful plates, I asked Cal about it. He told me he normally sold all his antiquarian acquisitions to John Bergman for about \$75 each, but he consented to sell this particular one to me for that same price. I was delighted to own a book then nearly 300 years old. Some twenty years would pass before I acquired another book of similar age. It happened because my wife, Dr. Claire Carlin, had taken an interest in some of my French exnumia and, as a scholar of 17th century French literature, chose to write an academic paper on what is, perhaps, the most acclaimed of all numismatic volumes on French medals, Fr. Charpentier's (1702) *Médailles sur les principaux événements du règne de Louis le Grand*. As she called me from Paris to tell me how each day the librarians at the Bibliothèque Nationale would bring a copy to her assigned desk in the space for visiting scholars, I felt distinct envy at her access to such a special volume. Then, as it turned out, a couple of years later, George Kolbe's sale #88 (2002) included a (folio) copy of Charpentier (lot #390), coincidentally, ex lib. John Bergman. With my successful bid, I was able to surprise Claire with our own family copy of this wonderful book.

Still, while I enjoyed having another antiquarian volume, it was only with my belated purchase in 2003 of Christian Dekesel's masterful *Bibliotheca Nummaria: Bibli-*

ography of 16th Century Numismatic Books (1997) that I developed the desire to collect a particular subset of the vast field of pre-19th century numismatic books: those from the first half century of numismatic literature beginning in 1514 A.D. Assisting me mightily in prioritizing specific purchase options were three other volumes in particular: John Cunnally's *Images of the Illustrious* (1999), Ferdinando Bassoli's *Antiquarian Books on Coins and Medals* (2001), and *Numismatics in the Age of Grolier* (curated by John Cunnally, Jonathan Kagan, and Stephen Scher, 2001).

Thus, after collecting some 1,500 sources over nearly fifty years, primarily as an adjunct to coin collecting and dealing, only in the last fifteen years have I become a novice numismatic bibliomaniac, by which I mean that I seek these antiquarian tomes for their own sake, not to facilitate my coin pursuits. I am very fond of many of the other books I have acquired since my first "Blue Book," but, as I contemplate the many, mostly unknown, owners of these earliest of numismatic texts, the tactile and visual joy of holding and beholding one is, to borrow and modify a familiar coin phrase: "History in my hands!" I now possess, among others, the first and second illustrated numismatic books: Andrea Fulvio's *Illustrium imagines* (Dekesel F15) from 1517 A.D., and a first edition of Johannes Huttich's *Imperatorum romanorum libellus* (Dekesel H37) from 1525 as well as the overall first and second (non-illustrated) numismatic books: a first edition of Guillaume Budé's *De asse et partibus eius* (Dekesel B122) from 1514 and a first edition of Leonardi Porzio's *De sestertio pecuniis ponderibus et mensuris antiquis libri duo* (Dekesel P38, undated [1515–1520]).

And today, as a bibliomaniac must, I continue the hunt for new treasures!



Jon P. Amato, Ph.D. (1940–2017) continued from page 22

"Breakup of the 1796-97 Half Dollar Reverse A," *John Reich Journal*, May 2012.

"American Indian Treaty Payments," *The Numismatist*, November 2010 (Numismatic Literary Guild Large Club Publications Best Article Award, August 2011).

The Draped Bust Half Dollars of 1796-1797: Numismatic Background and Census, James L. Halperin and Mark Van Winkle, editors, 2012 (Numismatic Literary Guild Extraordinary Merit Award, August 2013).

Numismatic Background and Census of 1802 Half Dimes: A Classic American Rarity, 2017 (Numismatic Literary Guild Extraordinary Merit Award, August 2017).

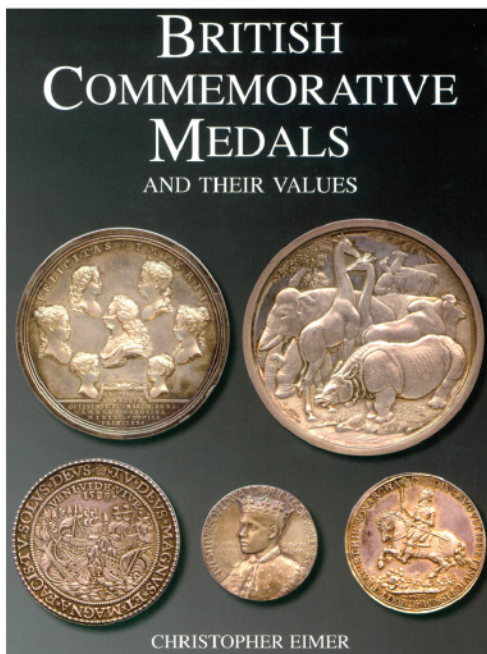
In addition to the ANA, Amato held memberships in the American Numismatic Society, the Central States Numismatic Society, the John Reich Collectors Society, the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, and the Numismatic Bibliomania Society.



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