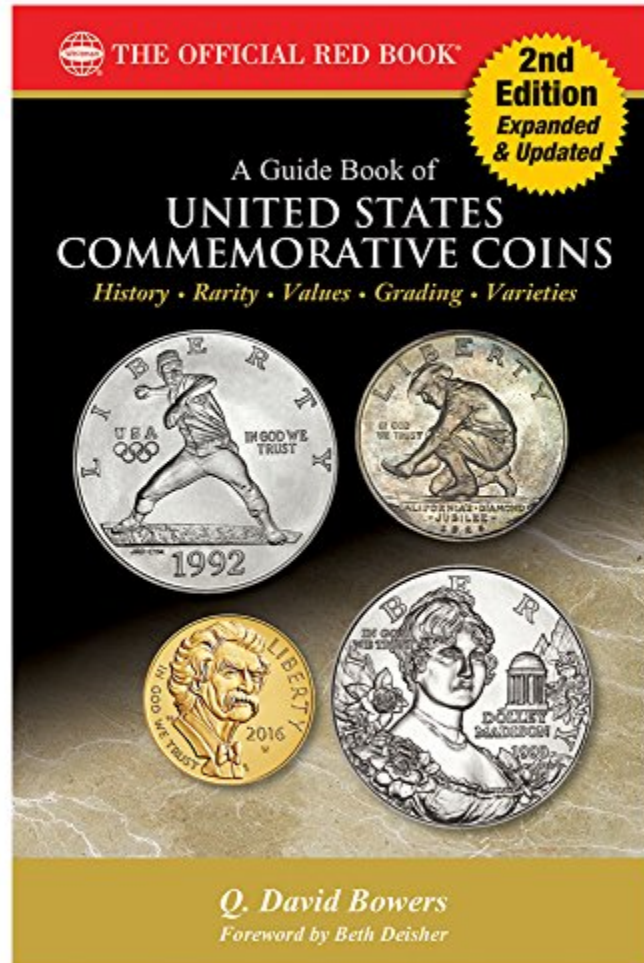


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Q. David Bowers : A Guide Book of United States Commemorative Coins, 2nd Edition (The Official Red Book)
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Guide Book of United States Commemorative Coins, 2nd Edition (The Official Red Book):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. No Information on SetsBy trotsI only give this three stars for a few reasons.As a price guide, this book is lacking:1) Someone else commented that the pictures are too small. Agreed, but unlike the same publisher's (Whitman) 'Red Book' which also depicts the coins in actual size (which has its advantages), this Commemorative book has no magnified insets showing close-ups of interesting features, the presence or lack of which affect the coin's value. Also, I think the picture quality is overall inferior to that of the 'Red Book', as if they were shot with a lower resolution or they're copies of copies of copies or something2) For the Modern

Commemoratives, in the "Keys to Collecting" section he says the same thing over and over again: some variation of, "Superb gems are easily found in the marketplace." C'mon, is that really the best you can do or were you just saving time?3) There is *NO* information on the the myriad sets and special collector issues which the Mint has produced for nearly every Modern Commemorative. Really? The author *might* mention something like "there were 15 pre-ordering options" and then give you a low-to-high price range, but if you want to know the initial price and current value of your 2 or 3-coin Proof Set, you're out of luck with this book. Even the 'Red Book' has a section for that, and unlike this book it is NOT a book solely on US Commemoratives. What it's good at is giving you the pure history and - more often than not - politics that are behind every Commemorative. Very interesting reading. BTW, there's a just-released book on Modern (only) Commemoratives: Modern Commemorative Coins: Invest Today - Profit Tomorrow.

I pre-ordered but don't have it yet. 16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. A Complete Guide to Commemorative Coins By The Creative Investor This is a great book on U.S. gold and silver commemorative coins. Anything by written by Q. David Bowers on coins is a fun read. The book covers both the classic era (1892-1954) and the modern era. Today, a type set of the classic 50 coin silver commemoratives would run approximately \$30,000 in Mint State 64 condition, \$60,000 in MS65, and \$140,000 in MS66. Slightly less than double those figures would be needed if you wanted to have a complete classic 144 silver commemorative coin collection. If you aspire to collect classic U.S. commemorative coins, you must buy this book. Dave Bowers discusses the statistics, background, and key to collecting each coin. Time and time again, Dave explains that coins laden with abrasions and bagmarks were the result of the original planchet surfaces not striking up fully at the mint or that the coins were simply mishandled at the mint. And he encourages you to keep looking for a finer specimen. Critical information for those looking for exceptional coins. Given that the book is published on glossy paper and the pictures are in color, the book would have benefited from having the pictures in 2X size to show the detailing in each coin. Dave uses the Lafayette Dollar as an example of how the price increases as you go up the grade ladder. He also advises what grades he thinks are getting the best value for the money; he likes MS64 (\$4,000) and MS65 (\$12,000). A triple increase in the price of the Lafayette (or \$8,000) for one step up in grade is a big difference! It would have been appreciated if Dave had gone a step further and explained what you actually get for the money, beyond the "label," when you go from a MS63 to MS64 to MS65 to MS66. Perhaps it would be overkill to do it for every coin; but, an example could have been made using the 1928 Hawaiian. I was delighted to learn that undipped Hawaiians often have a yellowish tint; I thought the yellow was the result of overdipping or a bad bath!!! How many coin dealers know that the inner "circle" or "line" often found near the obverse rim of the Panama-Pacific half dollar is due to die characteristics? Some readers may be disappointed that there isn't more of an emphasis on investing; but, Q. David Bowers is above all, a smart coin dealer. He knows that emphasizing investment isn't what sustains the coin collecting hobby; especially, with the roller coaster pricing of commemoratives. It's the collector that sustains the hobby and Dave is always trying to encourage the collector side of us. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. If you collect commemoratives....buy this book By Wandering boy Don't even think about starting to collect classic commemoratives without spending the money on this book by one of numismatics genuine true masters. Dave Bowers has written so many wonderful books on areas of numismatics that it is hard to tell you which is the best. While I don't think this is his best book (not that it isn't great...but Dave has written some seriously wonderful books about some very difficult topics in numismatics) it is an absolute must for anyone collecting commemoratives. I have to specify that I only collect Classic Commems....so I've spent no time on the modern ones in the book, but I can tell you that any information you want to know about the classics is in this book, including what to look for in terms of strike, condition and which grades he feels are the best values. Great addition to any numismatic library.

Collecting United States commemorative coins is like compiling a photo album of the nation's history. Because these coins represent so many aspects of America from dramatic battles to Olympic games, from presidents to national parks each collector can build a set that has its own unique and personal significance. In this handy volume Q. David Bowers chronicles the history of commemorative coins in the United States from 1892 to the present. He explores how a commemorative develops from initial concept to final coinage. On the technical and production side, you will learn about die preparation, the coining process, mintages, Proof and assay coins, and distribution. On the market side, Bowers tells you ways to build your collection, and gives you advice on evaluating quality, being a smart buyer, realities of the marketplace, Full Details, certification, population reports, registry sets, establishing fair market prices, and more. New appendices share an interview with a commemorative-coin designer from the Artistic Infusion Program and a wealth of designs considered for recent commemoratives. This book is a single-volume library for any interested in the people, places, and events that make America great, and how they are honored in our nation's coins. "Q. David Bowers is the consummate numismatic storyteller. Each commemorative coin has a story and there is no one better to guide you through their ins and outs than Dave Bowers." -from the foreword by Beth Deisher

From the Inside Flap Collecting United States commemorative coins is like compiling a photo album of the nation's history. Because these coins represent so many aspects of America from dramatic battles to Olympic games, from

presidents to national parks each collector can build a set that has its own unique and personal significance. In this handy second edition of *A Guide Book of United States Commemorative Coins*, Q. David Bowers chronicles the history of commemorative coins in the United States from 1892 to the present. He explores how a commemorative develops from initial concept to final coinage. On the technical and production side, you will learn about die preparation, the coining process, mintages, Proof and assay coins, and distribution. On the market side, Bowers tells you ways to build your collection, and gives advice on evaluating quality, being a smart buyer, realities of the marketplace, Full Details, certification, population reports, registry sets, establishing fair market prices, and more.