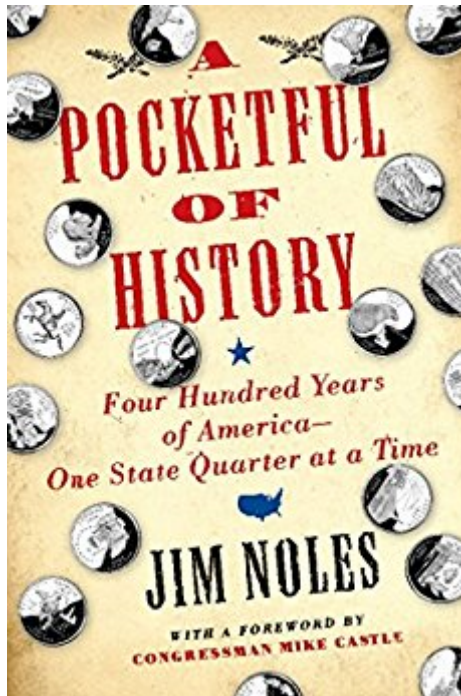


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A Pocketful Of History: Four Hundred Years Of America--One State Quarter At A Time At A Time



Synopsis

The U.S. Mint's Fifty State Quarters Program-its most ambitious program to date-has been a huge popular success. When the final state quarters are released in 2008, many thousands of individuals will have collected one commemorative quarter for each state in the Union. But what can we learn about our country's history and culture from \$12.50 worth of quarters? A Pocketful of History tells the intriguing story behind each state's quarter: how each state chose its quarter's design; what is important about the people, scenes, or themes depicted on the coin; and what the collection tells us about how we view ourselves and our heritage. A Pocketful of History will guide readers on a fascinating journey through America's rich history of change.

Book Information

File Size: 2742 KB

Print Length: 354 pages

Publisher: Da Capo Press; Enlarged, Updated with new material edition (March 25, 2009)

Publication Date: March 25, 2009

Sold by: Hachette Book Group

Language: English

ASIN: B009K44LT8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,465,065 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #78

in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Coins & Medals > State Quarters
#228 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Coins
& Medals #26296 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States

Customer Reviews

History, Sartre said, is what happens behind our backs (or something to that effect). It's also something that jangles in our pockets, if we carry or save or even spend quarters from the 50 State Quarters Program. We know this because Jim Noles has taken the time and expended great effort to write the winsome and valuable A Pocketful of History: Four Hundred Years of America--One State Quarter at a Time (Da Capo Press). Following Canada's lead in the mid 1990s, the US government

decided to issue, over a period of ten years, commemorative quarters representing some significant and representative event or symbol or enduring attribute of each of the fifty states, issued in the order in which all fifty states came into the union. There is more than one history at work here, that being a coin's depiction of a state's historical self-definition -- but, in addition, much to our benefit, Noles has taken the time to tell us the stories behind the states' decisions and debates on which events or symbols to use, and how best to depict them. Those descriptions in themselves prove to be a fascinating look at how politics and personalities shape what we see and how we see it -- a history lesson in itself. In scrupulous -- but not overbearing -- detail, Noles tells us about Delaware's Ceasar Rodney who, in 1776, suffering from a debilitating cancer, rode 80 miles in one day from his home state to Philadelphia just in time to cast his vote for independence; or Colorado's perhaps not unexpected depiction of the majestic Rockies as a symbol of the beauty and natural resources of the state; or North Dakota's display of bison and the stunning buttes and mountains that make up the 39th state's harshly beautiful Badlands.

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