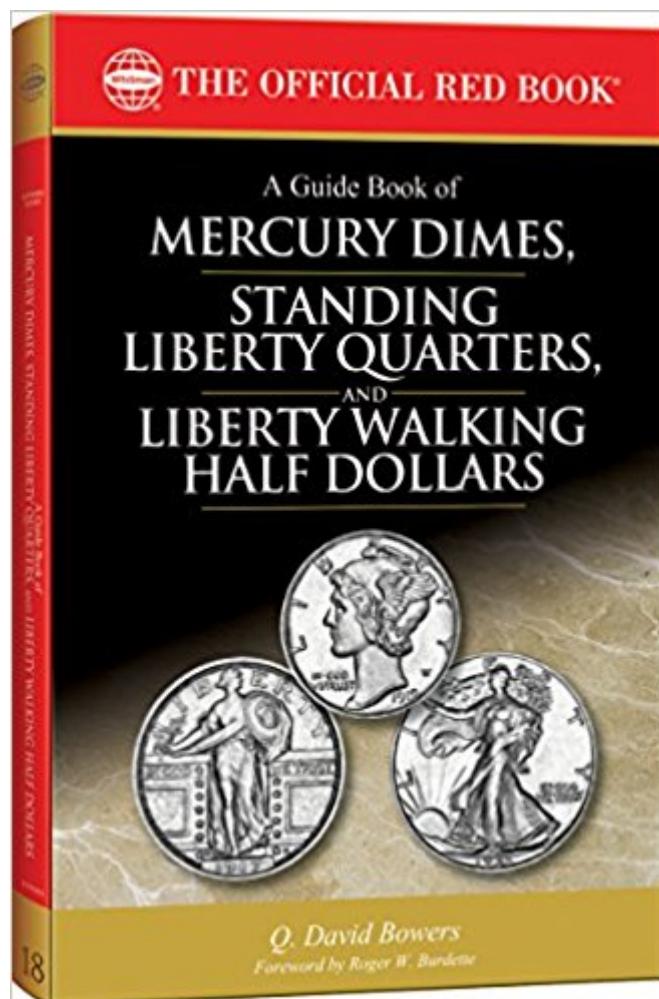


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# A Guide Book Of Mercury Dimes, Standing Liberty Quarters, And Liberty Walking Half Dollars, 1st Edition



## Synopsis

Volume #18 in Whitman's best-selling Bowers Series covers three of the most popular U.S. coins: Mercury dimes, Standing Liberty quarters, and Liberty Walking half dollars. These classic silver coins were minted between 1916 and 1947, an era spanning two world wars and the Great Depression. Now the Dean of American Numismatics, Q. David Bowers, gives collectors a single-volume study of technical, historical, and market-oriented advice and insight. Contents cover how to grade your collection, tips on smart buying, current retail values, and a thorough analysis of each date and mintmark. Lavishly illustrated in full color, the book features high-resolution enlargements for important overdates and other die varieties. Mintages, specifications, certified population data, and other details add to the book's importance as a standard reference. Colorful essays set the coins in the context of the time period. This Guide Book will deepen your appreciation and make you a smarter buyer and collector of these popular U.S. coins.

## Book Information

Paperback: 310 pages

Publisher: Whitman Publishing; 1st edition (June 2, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 079484314X

ISBN-13: 978-0794843144

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #463,352 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 inÂ  Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Coins & Medals > State Quarters #326 inÂ  Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Antiques Care & Reference > Reference #792 inÂ  Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Antiques & Collectibles

## Customer Reviews

Unfortunately, I must agree with the other reviewer that gave this book only two stars. There are other books that cover each of these series in a more comprehensive manner: David Lange on Mercury Dimes, J.H. Cline on Standing Liberty Quarters, and Bruce Fox on Walking Liberty Halves. These authors are referred to in some of the text. I also found the history part on each year extremely superficial. For example, for 1938, he doesn't even mention Hitler's takeover of Austria, and the Munich Agreement! I expect more from the author, as has been the case for most of the

titles in the Official Red Book Series, with the new volume on Half Cents and Large Cents being a good example. The only thing that I found helpful was his advice not to go by a certified grade only, if the coin does not have eye appeal. Also, split bans for the dimes and full heads for the quarters should not be the only consideration. A nice MS-63 or MS-64 example without the above details, but with a good strike and eye appeal, may be a better and cheaper choice. Sometimes deferring to a better book already published, but not by Whitman, is a better choice if there is no specialist for the series available who will write a truly comprehensive treatment. Also, I personally cannot afford these coins in mint state, so the advice needs to be aimed toward affordability as well as quality. This is a problem in all of Bowers books, which implies you should forget coin collecting if you have modest means.

The mercury dimes with the winged messenger god, Mercury, (the planet's namesake, for its speedy journey around the sun) is a beautiful design that matches in style and grace the two turn of the century ladies on our quarter and half-dollar coins from the early teens of the 20th century. These coins are highly collectible and are celebrating a century of numismatic history. David Bowers is the expert in coin collecting and his remarks are treasures. Each of the Guide Books belongs in any serious collectors library.

Detailed, perhaps overly detailed, account of three popular series of United States coins. Three new coin designs debuted in 1916: the Mercury dime, Standing Liberty quarter, Walking Liberty half dollar. These are three of the most attractive designs used on US coins and continue to be popular with collectors. Author Bowers does not just tell of the coins and produce statistics, he gives an overview of what life was like during the time the coins were minted. This area was a bit overdone in this particular book, taking up almost 50 pages in a 300 page book. The coin info is outstanding, making this a reference for many years and not just the current year.

Unless you have no other books that contain general US minting history, the better value is to purchase "A Guide Book of United States Coins Deluxe Edition". The details on the noted series of coins is the same.

In reading reviews for this book, I think one should keep in mind that a) it covers three series, b) in 300 pages. No, it is not as comprehensive as the individual volumes on the series by different authors. That would make the book massive!Instead, it's a usable book that's handy for taking to a

coin show with information on grading, history, collecting, populations and prices. As Dennis Tucker writes in the preface, "If a Grandpa of a certain age had a cigar box or candy dish that he tossed his pocket change into, chances are good it held a few of these silver pieces." This is a great book from which one can begin collecting these three series.

Padded to the gills with irrelevant and redundant information, obviously to puff out what would otherwise be a much thinner (and much cheaper) volume. Whitman Publishing stretched a limited amount of useful, specialized data simply to produce one more item for their booklist.

Great history and background, not only of the coins but what else was going on at that time in history. Great detail on the varieties and strategies for anyone interested in building a collection.

This is by far the poorest coin book I own for all three series. The information is a repetitive rewording of someone else's numerical research. I was extremely disappointed. Little or no discussion of "collector " grade coins.

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