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Numismatics

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DEFINITION of Numismatics

The study of the physical embodiment of various payment media (i.e. currencies). The study of numismatics as it applies to coins, is often in the research of the production and use of the coins to determine their rarity. Numismatics has many subfields, including but not limited to:

- Notaphily - the study of paper money (i.e. bank notes)
- Exonumia - the study of coin like items such as medals used in place of currency
- Scripophily - the study of securities (i.e. stocks and bonds)



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Where to Buy a \$10 Million Coin

BREAKING DOWN Numismatics

Numismatics differs from historical and economic studies of money. Numismatists study the physical attributes of the payment media rather than the use and development.

Numismatics also differs from coin collecting due to the scientific research involved. It could be said that all numismatists are coin collectors, but not all coin collectors are numismatists. It is widely believed that numismatics began during the European Renaissance, as part of an effort to re-discover all things classical.

The first English usage of the word “numismatics” was in 1829, stemming from the word adjective numismatic, which translates to “of coins”, and stemmed from the French word “numismatiques”, which itself derived from the Latin word “numismatis”.

There are numerous societies dedicated to the study, research and advancement of numismatics sciences. For example, The [American Numismatic Society](#), founded in New York City in 1858, was created to foster public appreciation of coins, medals and currencies, and has since cultivated more than 800,000 objects dating from 650 BCE, and boasts a numismatic library, with some 100,000 books and artifacts. Other numismatic organizations include:

- Ancient Coins Collectors Guild
- Archaeological Institute of America
- [The Canadian Numismatic Association](#)
- The Czech Numismatic Society