

Rare Finds: A Guide To Book Collecting



Synopsis

Rare Finds is a friendly, wide-ranging introduction to the world of rare book collecting. It is intended for those with a budding interest in this exciting field rather than simply professional booksellers and librarians. The guide contains an easy-to-use Glossary as well as sections devoted to Frequently Asked Questions, Book Production, and Format. Lavishly illustrated, it includes chapters on all major collecting areas.

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Customer Reviews

--This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

David and Natalie Bauman founded Bauman Rare Books in 1973. Today the company is among the largest and best known in the nation, with galleries on Madison Avenue in New York and in Philadelphia. Bauman Rare Books offers an extraordinary and extensive selection of rare books and autographs ranging from the fifteenth through the twentieth centuries. Having formed many important book collections through the years, the company is known for its research, exceptional inventory and large expert staff. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Good

Since David Bauman represents the pinnacle of commercial rare book dealers I expected a bit more

from this all too superficial book. He describes various types of rare books from different times and places which is certainly interesting for someone just thinking about collecting rare books, but I would have liked to hear more of his own experiences with some of the extraordinary volumes he's come across. Bauman's weekly add in the NY Times Book Review, while just a tempting little more than a listing, nonetheless has always struck me with a palpable sense of how books are a valued (often very highly valued) part of our culture. You get a little of this from Rare Finds and certainly some nice pictures, but just not enough of the human side of what these books mean to someone like Bauman and, in turn, what they should mean to us as collectors. How does he acquire such valuable works? How are they stored? Who buys a signed First Edition of Tender is the Night for \$75,000? What do some great private libraries contain? and why? Unfortunately these and similar questions aren't addressed. Instead, Rare Finds is a rather brief, pedestrian tour of book collecting in general with little to excite the reader.

This is a beautiful book in itself, offering delightful photographs of treasured literary masterpieces. It offers an overview of the most highly collectible works, including some interesting facts about them. It is obvious on every page that the Baumans are truly in love with books. However, most of the ones they feature would be out of reach of everyone except the most well-heeled collector. For the rest of us, this book has value for the pleasure perusing its pages brings and the very useful list of references, explanation of bindings, and the glossary.

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