

HISTORY OF THE DIME

THE FASCINATING HISTORY OF THE DIME: AMERICA'S SMALLEST COIN WITH A BIG STORY

HISTORY OF THE DIME IS A JOURNEY THROUGH AMERICAN CURRENCY THAT REVEALS MUCH MORE THAN JUST THE EVOLUTION OF A SMALL COIN. THE DIME, OFTEN OVERLOOKED DUE TO ITS MODEST SIZE AND LOW VALUE, HOLDS A RICH AND INTRIGUING PAST THAT REFLECTS THE GROWTH OF THE UNITED STATES ITSELF. FROM ITS ORIGINS IN THE LATE 18TH CENTURY TO ITS MODERN-DAY DESIGN, UNDERSTANDING THE HISTORY OF THE DIME OFFERS A UNIQUE GLIMPSE INTO AMERICAN CULTURE, ECONOMICS, AND ARTISTRY.

THE ORIGINS AND EARLY YEARS OF THE DIME

THE WORD "DIME" COMES FROM THE LATIN WORD **DECIMUS**, MEANING TENTH, WHICH PERFECTLY FITS ITS VALUE AS ONE-TENTH OF A DOLLAR. THE HISTORY OF THE DIME OFFICIALLY BEGINS WITH THE COINAGE ACT OF 1792. THIS ACT ESTABLISHED THE UNITED STATES MINT AND AUTHORIZED THE CREATION OF VARIOUS COINS, INCLUDING THE DIME. HOWEVER, IT WASN'T UNTIL 1796 THAT THE FIRST OFFICIAL DIMES WERE STRUCK.

THE FIRST DIME DESIGNS

THE EARLIEST DIMES FEATURED THE DRAPED BUST DESIGN, CREATED BY ROBERT SCOT, THE FIRST CHIEF ENGRAVER OF THE U.S. MINT. THESE COINS DISPLAYED LADY LIBERTY IN A CLASSICAL STYLE, SURROUNDED BY STARS REPRESENTING THE STATES. THE REVERSE SIDE FEATURED AN EAGLE, SYMBOLIZING STRENGTH AND FREEDOM. THESE INITIAL DIMES WERE MADE OF 89.24% SILVER AND 10.76% COPPER, A COMPOSITION THAT REMAINED STANDARD FOR OVER A CENTURY.

EVOLUTION OF THE DIME'S DESIGN

OVER THE YEARS, THE DIME'S DESIGN HAS CHANGED SEVERAL TIMES, REFLECTING SHIFTS IN ARTISTIC TRENDS AND NATIONAL IDENTITY. EACH VERSION TELLS A PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE DIME AND THE VALUES IT WAS MEANT TO REPRESENT.

THE SEATED LIBERTY DIME (1837-1891)

ONE OF THE LONGEST-RUNNING DESIGNS, THE SEATED LIBERTY DIME, WAS INTRODUCED IN 1837. THIS DESIGN DEPICTED LIBERTY SEATED ON A ROCK, HOLDING A SHIELD AND A POLE TOPPED WITH A LIBERTY CAP. THE REVERSE FEATURED A WREATH SURROUNDING THE DENOMINATION. THE IMAGERY SYMBOLIZED READINESS TO DEFEND FREEDOM—AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE DURING A PERIOD OF GROWING NATIONAL EXPANSION.

THE BARBER DIME (1892-1916)

DESIGNED BY CHARLES E. BARBER, THE BARBER DIME ADOPTED A MORE NEOCLASSICAL STYLE, WITH LIBERTY'S HEAD WEARING A LAUREL WREATH AND A HEADBAND INSCRIBED WITH "LIBERTY." THE REVERSE WAS A SIMPLE WREATH ENCIRCLING THE COIN'S VALUE. THE BARBER DIME WAS MINTED DURING A TIME OF INDUSTRIAL GROWTH AND MODERNIZATION IN AMERICA, REFLECTING A MORE RESTRAINED AND FORMAL AESTHETIC.

THE MERCURY DIME (1916–1945)

ARGUABLY ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR AND ARTISTICALLY ADMIRED DIMES, THE MERCURY DIME WAS DESIGNED BY ADOLPH A. WEINMAN. IT FEATURES LIBERTY WEARING A WINGED CAP, OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR THE ROMAN GOD MERCURY—HENCE THE COIN’S NICKNAME. THIS DESIGN EMPHASIZED FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION. THE REVERSE SIDE SHOWED A FASCES (A BUNDLE OF RODS WITH AN AXE) SYMBOLIZING UNITY AND STRENGTH, ALONGSIDE AN OLIVE BRANCH FOR PEACE.

THE ROOSEVELT DIME (1946–PRESENT)

THE CURRENT DIME DESIGN HONORS PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, INTRODUCED SHORTLY AFTER HIS DEATH IN 1945. ROOSEVELT’S LEADERSHIP DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND WORLD WAR II LEFT A LASTING LEGACY, MAKING HIM A FITTING FIGURE TO GRACE THE COIN. THE OBERSE FEATURES A PROFILE OF ROOSEVELT, WHILE THE REVERSE DISPLAYS A TORCH, OLIVE BRANCH, AND OAK BRANCH, SYMBOLIZING LIBERTY, PEACE, AND STRENGTH.

MATERIAL CHANGES AND ECONOMIC INFLUENCE ON THE DIME

THE HISTORY OF THE DIME IS NOT ONLY ABOUT DESIGN BUT ALSO THE MATERIALS USED AND HOW ECONOMIC FACTORS SHAPED THESE CHOICES.

SILVER CONTENT AND THE IMPACT OF THE COINAGE ACT OF 1965

FOR MUCH OF ITS HISTORY, THE DIME WAS COMPOSED MOSTLY OF SILVER. HOWEVER, BY THE MID-20TH CENTURY, THE RISING PRICE OF SILVER MADE IT IMPRACTICAL TO CONTINUE USING PRECIOUS METALS IN EVERYDAY COINS. THE COINAGE ACT OF 1965 MARKED A MAJOR TURNING POINT: IT ELIMINATED SILVER FROM DIMES AND QUARTERS, REPLACING IT WITH A CLAD COMPOSITION OF COPPER AND NICKEL. THIS CHANGE ENSURED THE DIME REMAINED AFFORDABLE TO PRODUCE WHILE RETAINING DURABILITY.

COLLECTIBILITY AND SPECIAL EDITIONS

THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY, RARE AND SPECIAL EDITION DIMES HAVE ATTRACTED COLLECTORS AND NUMISMATISTS. FOR EXAMPLE, CERTAIN MERCURY DIMES WITH SPECIFIC MINT MARKS OR ERRORS CAN BE QUITE VALUABLE TODAY. ADDITIONALLY, THE U.S. MINT HAS OCCASIONALLY ISSUED PROOF SETS AND COMMEMORATIVE DIMES THAT CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARIES OR SPECIAL EVENTS, ADDING LAYERS TO THE DIME’S HISTORICAL NARRATIVE.

THE DIME’S ROLE IN AMERICAN CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

THE DIME HAS INFLUENCED MORE THAN JUST CURRENCY—IT HAS FOUND ITS WAY INTO AMERICAN IDIOMS AND CULTURE.

IDIOMS AND EXPRESSIONS

PHRASES LIKE “A DIME A DOZEN” OR “DROP A DIME” HAVE ENTERED EVERYDAY LANGUAGE, SHOWING HOW DEEPLY INGRAINED THE COIN IS IN AMERICAN SOCIETY. “A DIME A DOZEN” IMPLIES SOMETHING IS COMMON OR INEXPENSIVE, WHILE “DROP A DIME” ORIGINALLY REFERRED TO MAKING A PHONE CALL TO REPORT SOMEONE, BACK WHEN PAYPHONES COST TEN CENTS.

THE DIME IN POPULAR MEDIA

THE DIME HAS OFTEN APPEARED IN FILMS, LITERATURE, AND ADVERTISING AS A SYMBOL OF THRIFT, VALUE, OR SMALLNESS WITH SIGNIFICANCE. ITS IMAGERY EVOKES NOSTALGIA AND A CONNECTION TO AMERICAN HISTORY, REMINDING US OF SIMPLER TIMES AND THE NATION'S DEVELOPMENT.

UNDERSTANDING THE DIME TODAY

WHILE THE DIME TODAY IS A SMALL, EVERYDAY COIN, ITS HISTORY ADDS DEPTH TO ITS PRESENCE IN OUR POCKETS. IT SERVES AS A TANGIBLE LINK TO AMERICA'S PAST, CARRYING STORIES OF ARTISTIC EVOLUTION, ECONOMIC CHANGE, AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE.

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN COIN COLLECTING OR AMERICAN HISTORY, THE DIME OFFERS A REWARDING SUBJECT. OBSERVING THE SUBTLE DETAILS OF THE DESIGNS, THE MINT MARKS, AND THE CHANGES IN COMPOSITION CAN REVEAL MUCH ABOUT THE ERA IN WHICH EACH DIME WAS PRODUCED.

TIPS FOR COLLECTORS INTERESTED IN DIMES

- LOOK FOR DIMES MINTED BEFORE 1965 IF YOU WANT SILVER CONTENT, AS THESE COINS CONTAIN 90% SILVER.
- CHECK MINT MARKS CAREFULLY; COINS FROM CERTAIN MINTS CAN BE RARER AND MORE VALUABLE.
- CONDITION MATTERS—WELL-PRESERVED DIMES WITH MINIMAL WEAR FETCH HIGHER PRICES.
- LEARN TO IDENTIFY KEY DATES AND ERRORS, WHICH CAN SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE A DIME'S WORTH.

EXPLORING THE HISTORY OF THE DIME IS NOT JUST ABOUT CURRENCY—IT'S ABOUT UNDERSTANDING A SMALL BUT SIGNIFICANT PIECE OF AMERICA'S STORY, ONE TEN-CENT COIN AT A TIME.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHEN WAS THE DIME FIRST INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES?

THE DIME WAS FIRST INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1796.

WHY IS THE COIN CALLED A 'DIME'?

THE WORD 'DIME' COMES FROM THE FRENCH WORD 'DixME', MEANING 'TENTH PART', REFLECTING ITS VALUE AS ONE-TENTH OF A DOLLAR.

WHO DESIGNED THE ORIGINAL BARBER DIME?

THE ORIGINAL BARBER DIME WAS DESIGNED BY CHARLES E. BARBER, THE CHIEF ENGRAVER OF THE U.S. MINT, AND WAS FIRST ISSUED IN 1892.

WHAT CHANGES WERE MADE WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ROOSEVELT DIME?

THE ROOSEVELT DIME, INTRODUCED IN 1946, FEATURED A PORTRAIT OF PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT TO HONOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE MARCH OF DIMES CAMPAIGN.

WHAT METAL COMPOSITION HAS THE DIME HAD THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY?

INITIALLY, DIMES WERE MADE OF SILVER (90% SILVER, 10% COPPER) UNTIL 1965, AFTER WHICH THEY WERE COMPOSED OF A COPPER-NICKEL CLAD TO REDUCE COSTS.

WHY WAS THE ROOSEVELT DIME INTRODUCED SHORTLY AFTER WORLD WAR II?

THE ROOSEVELT DIME WAS INTRODUCED TO HONOR FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, WHO HAD DIED IN 1945 AND WAS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE MARCH OF DIMES, A FOUNDATION FIGHTING POLIO.

HOW HAS THE SIZE OF THE DIME CHANGED SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION?

THE SIZE OF THE DIME HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY CONSISTENT SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION, WITH MINOR ADJUSTMENTS IN THICKNESS AND WEIGHT TO ACCOMMODATE METAL COMPOSITION CHANGES.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TORCH, OLIVE BRANCH, AND OAK BRANCH ON THE ROOSEVELT DIME REVERSE?

THE TORCH REPRESENTS LIBERTY, THE OLIVE BRANCH SYMBOLIZES PEACE, AND THE OAK BRANCH STANDS FOR STRENGTH AND INDEPENDENCE.

ARE THERE ANY NOTABLE RARE DIMES THAT COLLECTORS SEEK?

YES, NOTABLE RARE DIMES INCLUDE THE 1894-S BARBER DIME, OF WHICH ONLY 24 WERE MINTED, MAKING IT HIGHLY VALUABLE AMONG COLLECTORS.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

THE HISTORY OF THE DIME: EVOLUTION OF AMERICA'S SMALLEST COIN

HISTORY OF THE DIME TRACES THE JOURNEY OF ONE OF THE MOST FREQUENTLY CIRCULATED COINS IN THE UNITED STATES. THOUGH SMALL IN SIZE AND DENOMINATION, THE DIME HOLDS SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE. THIS COIN, VALUED AT TEN CENTS, HAS UNDERGONE NUMEROUS DESIGN CHANGES, MATERIAL SHIFTS, AND SYMBOLIC TRANSFORMATIONS SINCE ITS INCEPTION. UNDERSTANDING THE DIME'S HISTORY NOT ONLY OFFERS INSIGHT INTO AMERICAN NUMISMATICS BUT ALSO REFLECTS BROADER ECONOMIC AND SOCIETAL CHANGES SPANNING OVER TWO CENTURIES.

ORIGINS AND EARLY DESIGNS OF THE DIME

THE DIME WAS FIRST AUTHORIZED BY THE COINAGE ACT OF 1792, WHICH ESTABLISHED THE UNITED STATES MINT AND STANDARDIZED THE NATION'S COINAGE SYSTEM. THE TERM "DIME" ITSELF IS DERIVED FROM THE LATIN WORD *DECIMUS*, MEANING "TENTH PART," REFLECTING ITS VALUE AS ONE-TENTH OF A DOLLAR. THE FIRST DIMES WERE STRUCK IN 1796, FEATURING A DRAPED BUST DESIGN ON THE OBERSE AND AN EAGLE ON THE REVERSE.

THE EARLY DIMES WERE RELATIVELY LARGE COMPARED TO TODAY'S COINS, MEASURING APPROXIMATELY 18 MILLIMETERS IN DIAMETER. THEY WERE COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF SILVER, A METAL CHOSEN FOR ITS INTRINSIC VALUE AND DURABILITY. THE PURITY OF SILVER IN DIMES WAS SET AT 89.24%, A STANDARD THAT CONTINUED UNTIL THE COINAGE ACT OF 1837 INCREASED THE SILVER CONTENT TO 90%.

THE SEATED LIBERTY DIME ERA

ONE OF THE MOST ICONIC DESIGNS IN THE DIME'S HISTORY IS THE SEATED LIBERTY SERIES, MINTED FROM 1837 TO 1891. THIS DESIGN DEPICTED LADY LIBERTY SEATED ON A ROCK, HOLDING A SHIELD AND A POLE TOPPED WITH A LIBERTY CAP. THE REVERSE TYPICALLY FEATURED A WREATH ENCIRCLING THE DENOMINATION.

THE SEATED LIBERTY DIME REFLECTED THE ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL SENSIBILITIES OF MID-19TH-CENTURY AMERICA. IT WAS DURING THIS PERIOD THAT THE DIME BECAME MORE WIDELY USED IN EVERYDAY COMMERCE, COINCIDING WITH THE COUNTRY'S RAPID EXPANSION AND INDUSTRIALIZATION. NOTABLY, THE DIME'S SIZE WAS SLIGHTLY REDUCED IN 1837, ALIGNING MORE CLOSELY WITH MODERN DIMENSIONS.

DESIGN CHANGES AND SYMBOLISM IN THE 20TH CENTURY

THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY MARKED A SIGNIFICANT REDESIGN FOR THE DIME, ALIGNING WITH THE BROADER MOVEMENT TO MODERNIZE AMERICAN COINAGE. THE BARBER DIME, NAMED AFTER ITS DESIGNER CHARLES E. BARBER, APPEARED IN 1892 AND REMAINED IN CIRCULATION UNTIL 1916. THIS ITERATION FEATURED A PROFILE OF LIBERTY WEARING A CAP AND LAUREL WREATH, WITH A SIMPLE REVERSE DESIGN OF A WREATH SURROUNDING THE DENOMINATION.

THE MERCURY DIME: A NUMISMATIC FAVORITE

PERHAPS THE MOST CELEBRATED DIME DESIGN IS THE MERCURY DIME, MINTED BETWEEN 1916 AND 1945. CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, THE FIGURE ON THE OBERSE IS NOT THE ROMAN GOD MERCURY BUT RATHER A DEPICTION OF LIBERTY WEARING A WINGED CAP, SYMBOLIZING FREEDOM OF THOUGHT. DESIGNED BY ADOLPH A. WEINMAN, THE MERCURY DIME IS PRAISED FOR ITS ARTISTIC ELEGANCE AND INTRICATE DETAIL.

THE MERCURY DIME'S REVERSE SHOWCASES A FASCES—A BUNDLE OF RODS WITH AN AXE—SYMBOLIZING STRENGTH AND UNITY, ALONGSIDE AN OLIVE BRANCH REPRESENTING PEACE. THIS COMBINATION OF SYMBOLS WAS ESPECIALLY POIGNANT DURING THE TURBULENT YEARS LEADING UP TO AND DURING WORLD WAR I AND II.

THE ROOSEVELT DIME AND ITS ENDURING LEGACY

FOLLOWING PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT'S DEATH IN 1945, THE DIME UNDERWENT ANOTHER TRANSFORMATION. ROOSEVELT'S IMAGE WAS CHOSEN TO HONOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE MARCH OF DIMES CAMPAIGN, A FOUNDATION DEDICATED TO COMBATING POLIO. THE ROOSEVELT DIME WAS INTRODUCED IN 1946 AND REMAINS THE CURRENT DESIGN.

THE OBERSE FEATURES A PROFILE BUST OF ROOSEVELT, WHILE THE REVERSE DISPLAYS A TORCH FLANKED BY OLIVE AND OAK BRANCHES, SYMBOLIZING LIBERTY, PEACE, AND STRENGTH. THE ROOSEVELT DIME HAS BECOME A STAPLE OF AMERICAN CURRENCY, WITH ONLY MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO THE MINT MARK PLACEMENT AND RELIEF DETAILS OVER THE DECADES.

MATERIAL COMPOSITION AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

ORIGINALLY MINTED IN 90% SILVER, THE DIME'S METALLIC COMPOSITION HAS CHANGED IN RESPONSE TO ECONOMIC FACTORS AND METAL SCARCITY. IN 1965, THE COINAGE ACT ELIMINATED SILVER FROM DIMES AND QUARTERS, TRANSITIONING TO A CLAD COMPOSITION OF COPPER AND NICKEL. THIS CHANGE WAS DRIVEN BY THE RISING COST OF SILVER AND THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE COIN'S PRODUCTION VIABILITY.

THE SHIFT TO CLAD COINS IMPACTED THE DIME'S INTRINSIC VALUE BUT MADE MASS PRODUCTION MORE COST-EFFECTIVE. TODAY'S DIMES CONSIST OF AN OUTER LAYER OF 75% COPPER AND 25% NICKEL BONDED TO A PURE COPPER CORE, BALANCING

DURABILITY WITH AFFORDABILITY.

PROS AND CONS OF MATERIAL CHANGES

- **PROS:** REDUCED PRODUCTION COSTS, INCREASED CIRCULATION WITHOUT HOARDING, AND ENHANCED DURABILITY.
- **CONS:** LOSS OF INTRINSIC METAL VALUE, DECREASED APPEAL FOR SILVER COLLECTORS, AND CONCERNS ABOUT LONGEVITY COMPARED TO SILVER COINS.

COLLECTABILITY AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

THE DIME'S RICH HISTORY AND DIVERSE DESIGNS HAVE MADE IT A SUBJECT OF INTEREST AMONG COIN COLLECTORS AND HISTORIANS ALIKE. EARLY SILVER DIMES, PARTICULARLY THOSE FROM THE DRAPED BUST AND SEATED LIBERTY SERIES, ARE HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER FOR THEIR RARITY AND HISTORICAL VALUE. MERCURY DIMES ALSO COMMAND SIGNIFICANT ATTENTION DUE TO THEIR AESTHETIC APPEAL AND SYMBOLIC DEPTH.

BEYOND NUMISMATICS, THE DIME HAS PLAYED A ROLE IN AMERICAN CULTURE. THE MARCH OF DIMES FOUNDATION, ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED AS THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS, UTILIZED THE COIN'S SYMBOLISM TO PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES. THE DIME'S ASSOCIATION WITH ROOSEVELT AND POLIO ERADICATION CAMPAIGNS UNDERSCORES ITS PLACE BEYOND MERE CURRENCY.

COMPARISONS WITH OTHER US COINS

WHILE THE DIME REPRESENTS ONE-TENTH OF A DOLLAR, IT IS NOTABLY SMALLER THAN THE NICKEL (FIVE CENTS) AND THE QUARTER (TWENTY-FIVE CENTS) DESPITE ITS RELATIVELY HIGHER VALUE THAN THE NICKEL. THIS SIZE DIFFERENCE HAS PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR VENDING MACHINES AND COIN-OPERATED MECHANISMS, WHICH OFTEN RELY ON DIAMETER FOR IDENTIFICATION. THE DIME'S SMALL SIZE AND LIGHT WEIGHT MAKE IT UNIQUE AMONG CIRCULATING U.S. COINS.

MODERN USAGE AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

IN THE DIGITAL AGE, PHYSICAL CURRENCY FACES CHALLENGES FROM ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS AND DIGITAL WALLETS. NEVERTHELESS, THE DIME REMAINS A VITAL COMPONENT OF EVERYDAY TRANSACTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN SITUATIONS REQUIRING EXACT CHANGE OR CASH-BASED PURCHASES.

LOOKING AHEAD, THE U.S. MINT CONTINUES TO EXPLORE INNOVATIONS IN COIN PRODUCTION, INCLUDING POTENTIAL MATERIAL ALTERNATIVES AND DESIGN UPDATES. HOWEVER, THE ROOSEVELT DIME'S ENDURING DESIGN AND HISTORICAL RESONANCE SUGGEST THAT ANY FUTURE CHANGES WILL BE GRADUAL, RESPECTING THE COIN'S ESTABLISHED LEGACY.

THE HISTORY OF THE DIME IS A TESTAMENT TO THE EVOLVING NARRATIVE OF AMERICAN CURRENCY — FROM ITS EARLY SILVER ORIGINS TO ITS MODERN CLAD COMPOSITION, AND FROM SYMBOLIC ARTISTRY TO PRACTICAL UTILITY. AS A SMALL YET SIGNIFICANT PIECE OF THE NATION'S MONETARY FABRIC, THE DIME ENCAPSULATES A BLEND OF HISTORY, ECONOMICS, AND CULTURE THAT CONTINUES TO CIRCULATE WITH EACH PASSING GENERATION.

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history of the dime: The Oxford History of Popular Print Culture Gary Kelly, Joad Raymond, Christine Bold, 2011 Planned nine-volume series devoted to the exploration of popular print culture in English from the beginning of the sixteenth century to the present.

history of the dime: The Social History of the American Family Marilyn J. Coleman, Lawrence H. Ganong, 2014-09-02 The American family has come a long way from the days of the idealized family portrayed in iconic television shows of the 1950s and 1960s. The four volumes of The Social History of the American Family explore the vital role of the family as the fundamental social unit across the span of American history. Experiences of family life shape so much of an individual's development and identity, yet the patterns of family structure, family life, and family transition vary across time, space, and socioeconomic contexts. Both the definition of who or what counts as family and representations of the ideal family have changed over time. Available in both digital and print formats, this carefully balanced academic work chronicles the social, cultural, economic, and political aspects of American families from the colonial period to the present. Key themes include families and culture (including mass media), families and religion, families and the economy, families and social issues, families and social stratification and conflict, family structures (including marriage and divorce, gender roles, parenting and children, and mixed and non-modal family forms), and family law and policy. Features: Approximately 600 articles, richly illustrated with historical photographs and color photos in the digital edition, provide historical context for students. A collection of primary source documents demonstrate themes across time. The signed articles, with cross references and Further Readings, are accompanied by a Reader's Guide, Chronology of American Families, Resource Guide, Glossary, and thorough index. The Social History of the American Family is an ideal reference for students and researchers who want to explore political and social debates about the importance of the family and its evolving constructions. Key Themes: Families and Culture Families and Experts Families and Religion Families and Social Change Families and Social Issues/Problems/Crises Families and Social Media Families and Social Stratification/Social Class Families and Technology Families and the Economy Families in America Families in Mass Media Families, Family Life, Social Identities Family Advocates and Organizations Family Law and Family Policy Family Theories History of American Families

history of the dime: The Age of Dimes and Pulps Jeremy Agnew, 2018-07-31 From the dime novels of the Civil War era to the pulp magazines of the early 20th century to modern paperbacks, lurid fiction has provided thrilling escapism for the masses. Cranking out formulaic stories of melodrama, crime and mild erotica--often by uncredited authors focused more on volume than quality--publishers realized high profits playing to low tastes. Estimates put pulp magazine circulation in the 1930s at 30 million monthly. This vast body of disposable literature has received little critical attention, in large part because much of it has been lost--the cheaply made books were either discarded after reading or soon disintegrated. Covering the history of pulp literature from 1850 through 1960, the author describes how sensational tales filled a public need and flowered during the evolving social conditions of the Industrial Revolution.

history of the dime: A History of American Crime Fiction Chris Raczkowski, 2017-10-26 A

History of American Crime Fiction places crime fiction within a context of aesthetic practices and experiments, intellectual concerns, and historical debates generally reserved for canonical literary history. Toward that end, the book is divided into sections that reflect the periods that commonly organize American literary history, with chapters highlighting crime fiction's reciprocal relationships with early American literature, romanticism, realism, modernism and postmodernism. It surveys everything from 17th-century execution sermons, the detective fiction of Harriet Spofford and T. S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, to the films of David Lynch, HBO's *The Sopranos*, and the podcast *Serial*, while engaging a wide variety of critical methods. As a result, this book expands crime fiction's significance beyond the boundaries of popular genres and explores the symbiosis between crime fiction and canonical literature that sustains and energizes both.

history of the dime: The Social History of Crime and Punishment in America Wilbur R. Miller, 2012-07-20 Several encyclopedias overview the contemporary system of criminal justice in America, but full understanding of current social problems and contemporary strategies to deal with them can come only with clear appreciation of the historical underpinnings of those problems. Thus, this five-volume work surveys the history and philosophy of crime, punishment, and criminal justice institutions in America from colonial times to the present. It covers the whole of the criminal justice system, from crimes, law enforcement and policing, to courts, corrections and human services. Among other things, this encyclopedia: explicates philosophical foundations underpinning our system of justice; charts changing patterns in criminal activity and subsequent effects on legal responses; identifies major periods in the development of our system of criminal justice; and explores in the first four volumes - supplemented by a fifth volume containing annotated primary documents - evolving debates and conflicts on how best to address issues of crime and punishment. Its signed entries in the first four volumes--supplemented by a fifth volume containing annotated primary documents--provide the historical context for students to better understand contemporary criminological debates and the contemporary shape of the U.S. system of law and justice.

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history of the dime: Comic Books and American Cultural History Matthew Pustz, 2012-02-23 A highly original collection of essays, demonstrating how comic books can be used as primary sources in the teaching and understanding of American history.

history of the dime: Natural Born Celebrities David Schmid, 2024-05-31 Jeffrey Dahmer. Ted Bundy. John Wayne Gacy. Over the past thirty years, serial killers have become iconic figures in America, the subject of made-for-TV movies and mass-market paperbacks alike. But why do we find such luridly transgressive and horrific individuals so fascinating? What compels us to look more closely at these figures when we really want to look away? *Natural Born Celebrities* considers how serial killers have become lionized in American culture and explores the consequences of their fame. David Schmid provides a historical account of how serial killers became famous and how that fame has been used in popular media and the corridors of the FBI alike. Ranging from H. H. Holmes, whose killing spree during the 1893 Chicago World's Fair inspired *The Devil in the White City*, right up to Aileen Wuornos, the lesbian prostitute whose vicious murder of seven men would serve as the basis for the hit film *Monster*, Schmid unveils a new understanding of serial killers by emphasizing both the social dimensions of their crimes and their susceptibility to multiple interpretations and uses. He also explores why serial killers have become endemic in popular culture, from their depiction in *The Silence of the Lambs* and *The X-Files* to their becoming the stuff of trading cards and even Web sites where you can buy their hair and nail clippings. Bringing his fascinating history right up to the present, Schmid ultimately argues that America needs the perversely familiar figure of the serial killer now more than ever to manage the fear posed by Osama bin Laden since September 11. This is a persuasively argued, meticulously researched, and compelling examination of the media phenomenon of the 'celebrity criminal' in American culture. It is highly readable as well.—Joyce Carol Oates

history of the dime: Illustrated History of the United States Mint George G. Evans, 1893

history of the dime: A History of American Literature Richard Gray, 2011-09-23 Updated throughout and with much new material, *A History of American Literature*, Second Edition, is the most up-to-date and comprehensive survey available of the myriad forms of American Literature from pre-Columbian times to the present. The most comprehensive and up-to-date history of American literature available today Covers fiction, poetry, drama, and non-fiction, as well as other forms of literature including folktale, spirituals, the detective story, the thriller, and science fiction Explores the plural character of American literature, including the contributions made by African American, Native American, Hispanic and Asian American writers Considers how our understanding of American literature has changed over the past thirty years Situates American literature in the contexts of American history, politics and society Offers an invaluable introduction to American literature for students at all levels, academic and general readers

history of the dime: Is God Worth a Dime? Sandra Kay Cooper, 2019-02-16 Can you spare a dime? Most of us probably could, but too often we keep our money to ourselves when someone asks. But what if it were God asking you for some spare change? Could you spare a dime for the Creator of the universe, your Father God in heaven? *Is God Worth a Dime?* explores the practice of tithing, which is something that many Christians either do not practice or do not fully understand. Author Sandra Kay Cooper shares her own personal testimony of how she discovered the meaning and great joy of giving, and she hopes this will shed light on the importance of giving—or tithing. She offers both biblical advice and step-by-step instructions that will help you make a difference in your life through the godly practice of tithing. Giving is the first financial priority of the Christian believer, and Paul taught us that we should always set aside a collection for God. God will accept your giving whenever you can, but he expects us to be consistent and joyful as we give. You can probably spare a dime for God, so now is the time to learn how to give and further the kingdom of God!

history of the dime: Illustrated History of the United States Mint George Greenleaf Evans, 1892

history of the dime: The Oxford History of the Novel in English J. Gerald Kennedy, Leland S. Person, 2014-06-26 The *Oxford History of the Novel in English* is a 12-volume series presenting a comprehensive, global, and up-to-date history of English-language prose fiction and written by a large, international team of scholars. The series is concerned with novels as a whole, not just the literary novel, and each volume includes chapters on the processes of production, distribution, and reception, and on popular fiction and the fictional sub-genres, as well as outlining the work of major novelists, movements, traditions, and tendencies. In thirty-four essays, this volume reconstructs the emergence and early cultivation of the novel in the United States. Contributors discuss precursors to the U.S. novel that appeared as colonial histories, autobiographies, diaries, and narratives of Indian captivity, religious conversion, and slavery, while paying attention to the entangled literary relations that gave way to a distinctly American cultural identity. The Puritan past, more than two centuries of Indian wars, the American Revolution, and the exploration of the West all inspired fictions of American struggle and self-discovery. A fragmented national publishing landscape comprised of small, local presses often disseminating odd, experimental forms eventually gave rise to major houses in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia and a consequently robust culture of letters. Dime novels, literary magazines, innovative print technology, and even favorable postal rates contributed to the burgeoning domestic book trade in place by the time of the Missouri Compromise. Contributors weigh novelists of this period alongside their most enduring fictional works to reveal how even the most American of novels sometimes confronted the inhuman practices upon which the promise of the new republic had been made to depend. Similarly, the volume also looks at efforts made to extend American interests into the wider world beyond the nation's borders, and it thoroughly documents the emergence of novels projecting those imperial aspirations.

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