

FEATURED COLLECTIONS



The Edward W. Rataj Collection of World, Ancient & Islamic Coins

An impressive collection of World, Ancient, and Islamic coins, the Edward W. Rataj Collection was lovingly gathered over 6 decades by an advanced collector with a deep appreciation for historically significant coins spanning millennia. His children have prepared the following background of his collection.

As the kids of Edward Rataj, we are proud to pass along, to you, a collection-of-value imbued with our father's values.

"Young Ed" as he was called at the time began his interest in coins working in his father and uncle's St. Louis area coin shop. "I would see people dressed in suits come to the store and buy something I wanted but couldn't afford. This motivated me to study and get a good job", he once shared. This spark helped him grow as a numismatist, historian, lawyer, economist, and storyteller. His collection grew quickly too, as

each piece became much more than 'coins', but an integral piece in the puzzle of humanity.

As a curious and generous teacher, each of us could see how he used the collection to express his values.

Curiosity: The only thing he was more excited about than a coin he knew about was a coin he didn't know about. Each piece gave him the opportunity to learn new alphabets, make new friends, and draw new conclusions about how the world works. The proudest parts of his collection may not be the most valuable but are the pieces he carefully and intricately researched and annotated.

Teaching: As a proud member and frequent speaker of the St. Louis Ancient Coin Group, he would share his expertise in Byzantine, Islamic, and Medieval Coins. He curated gifts to schools and organizations so that the next generation of numismatists could find the hobby and jumpstart their collections and deepen their knowledge.

Generosity: Until now, none of his collection was ever sold. However, there were many charity auctions in which specifically chosen items would appear. These generous donations raised money while also spread the joy he received as a numismatist.

He loved to tell us about the times he politely pointed out a mistake to a museum director, and the cautionary tale of hyper-inflation his grandparents lived through in Germany. He was so much more than a coin collector, but as a coin collector he showed each of us the kind of people we can be. Dad, we miss you!