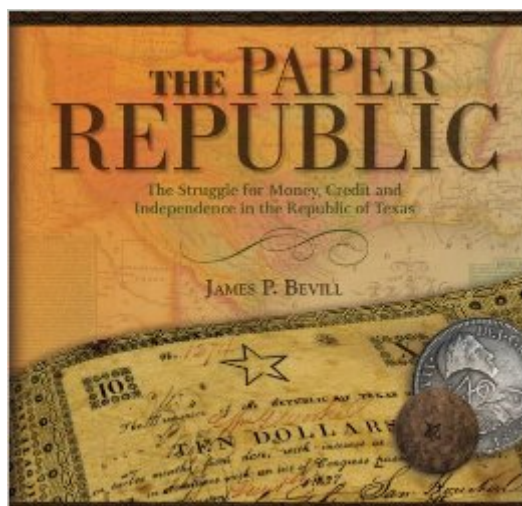


The book was found

Paper Republic: The Struggle For Money, Credit And Independence In The Republic Of Texas



Synopsis

Offering a new take on the stirring story of the Texas Revolution, this history focuses on the financial underpinnings and monetary issues that factored into the struggle. Deftly weaving numismatics and history into an engaging and highly entertaining narrative, the story unveils a verifiable trail of many of the most significant people and events surrounding the struggle for independence in Texas. It is replete with colorful anecdotes about visionary kings, obsessive dictators, crooked politicians, and counterfeiters, and includes a detailed history of each piece of coin and currency used in the old Republic.

Book Information

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Bright Sky Press (February 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1933979259

ISBN-13: 978-1933979250

Product Dimensions: 10.7 x 1.3 x 10.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,515,444 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #74 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Coins & Medals > Paper Money](#) #3600 in [Books > Business & Money > Biography & History > Economic History](#) #28427 in [Books > Business & Money > Economics](#)

Customer Reviews

The Paper Republic: The Struggle for Money, Credit and Independence in the Republic of Texas
By James P. Bevill
Bright Sky Press
An old reporting adage says that to find the heart of the story, follow the money. James Bevill does just that in a fascinating look at how money - and the lack of it - both shaped and haunted the emergence of Texas as a new nation in 1836. The history of the Lone Star State is most often told in terms of stirring tales of heroic battles for independence from Mexico. We remember the Alamo. As well as the tragedy of Goliad and the triumph of San Jacinto where a small Texian army defeated Santa Ana's forces. What is often left out of the history books, however, is that revolutions are easy. Creation of a workable government is hard. And expensive. The Paper Republic gives us account after account of just how difficult and expensive it was. The Paper Republic is an eminently good read to discover a Texas you didn't know about. This is not a history

only accountants and bankers will love. Nor is it solely for the numismatists among us, though they will savor the full-color reproductions of rare Texas currency. Bevill is familiar with both camps. A career financial services specialist in Houston, Bevill is also the past president of the Texas Numismatic Association. But he is also a historian fascinated with the rich fabric of the Texas story. Virtually every step of that journey from revolution to statehood can be told through the various coins, printed notes and bills issued in Texas, Bevill tells us. This is not the usual view of Texas history, but one that takes us along some wonderful back roads that enriches our understanding of how Texas came to be.

James P. Bevill had let it be known several years ago that he was working on a book about the money and finances of the Republic of Texas; and frankly, I was not sure what to expect. Having seen a number of catalogues geared towards paper money collectors, I was not prepared for the groundbreaking scope of Bevill's finished book, "The Paper Republic - The Struggle for Money, Credit and Independence in the Republic of Texas." Almost everyone who has read "The Paper Republic" has been completely awestruck by what James Bevill has accomplished. What he has done is nothing short of extraordinary. In an era of endless hashing and rehashing of secondary sources by revisionist historians, Bevill went out and dug into a mountain of private Texana collections locked up in dozens of safe deposit boxes across the state - primary sources of new information. Working with other collectors to tell the previously untold story of Texas money, he discovered documents that no one had ever looked at before by looking where no one had thought to look before. What makes this tour de force all the more amazing is that Bevill is not a historian by vocation. Bevill is a wealth management advisor at UBS in Houston. He is also a numismatist who got interested in collecting Republic of Texas currency as a hobby. Later, he decided to learn everything he could about the Republic of Texas currency that he was collecting but initially found only a vacuum of information on the subject. While trying to learn more about the money of the Republic of Texas, he meticulously researched the Texas Treasury Papers - transcripts of original correspondence from the treasury of the Republic, and compared these letters to the original monetary instruments which were imaged from numerous private collections.

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