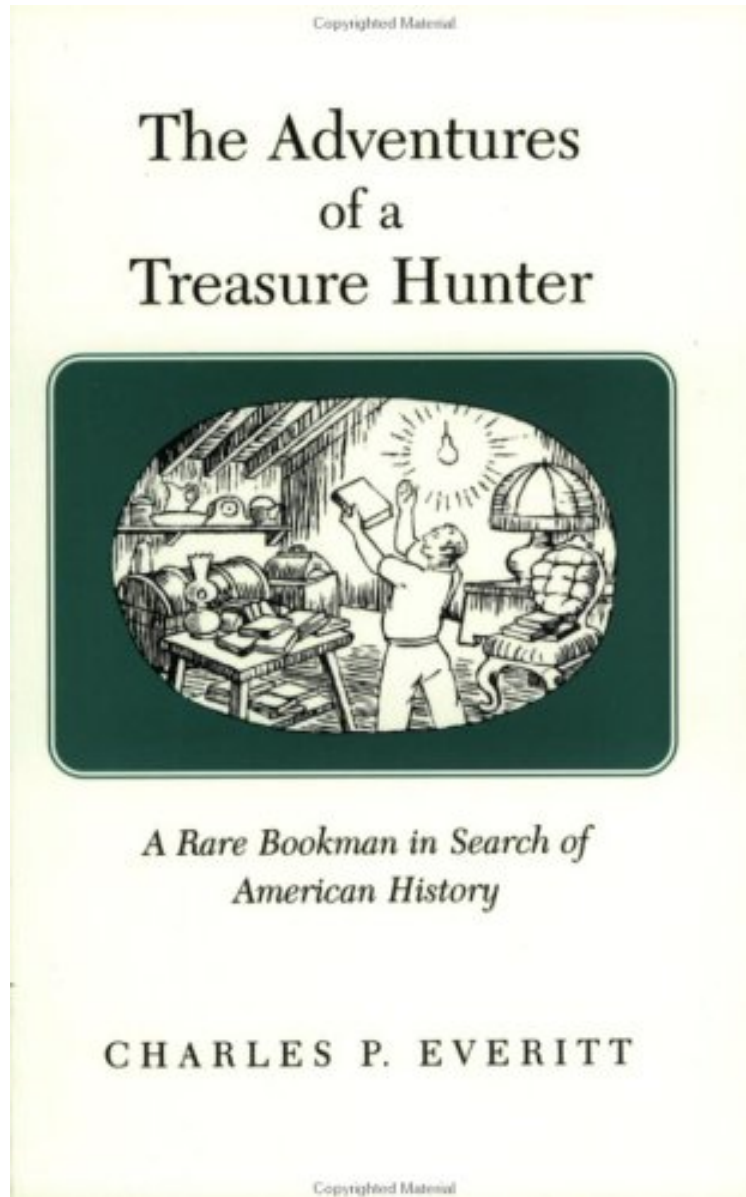


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The Adventures of a Treasure Hunter: A Rare Bookman in Search of American History

Charles P. Everitt

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Charles P. Everitt : The Adventures of a Treasure Hunter: A Rare Bookman in Search of American History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Adventures of a Treasure Hunter: A Rare Bookman in Search of American History:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. My Favorite By Tim Schmidt This is by far my favorite book about book collecting and bibliophiles! Written like my crotchety Grandpa Tony used to tell me war stories over a pot of coffee, I was captivated by the "good old days" of book scouting/dealing when a person could knock on a door and ask if they had old books for sale. Everitt used this and many other tactics to find treasures that otherwise may have been lost to history. Rather than a beginning to end story, it is a series of antic dotes in his buying and selling books, documents, and ephemera. Some of the treasures include an original pencil sketch of the Idaho state seal (that the State of Idaho was not interested in buying), Bay Psalm Book (first book published in North America), various Lincoln letters, and all types of obscure early Americana. As a person interested in Americana, the description of the countless treasures was half the joy and several of the items were added to my personal wish list. The book is a collection of stories within three topical sections: Americana - What and So What, The Customers, and The Trade. The stories, however, do not have the expected beginning, middle and end. Rather, they are the kind of ramblings that I had come to expect from Grandpa Tony where he begins talking about Joe, throws a few adventures in the middle, and ends the story talking about Henry as if the story had been about Henry the whole time. Far from a negative, it keeps the reader on the edge of their seat and afraid to get up for a second or third cup of coffee for fear of missing something. In fact, you certainly will. 6 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Am I the only one who disliked this book? By Kentucky Kurio I love books about books and book dealers. And after the glowing reader reviews here, I had to order this book. But I practically had to force myself to finish it. It seems to be nothing more than a collection of unconnected war stories, most of them meant to show how much smarter Everitt was than the rest of humanity. It is very dated and his comments about minorities are jarring, even taking into consideration that he lived in a different time. Everitt clearly prided himself on being a cantankerous old grouch and after 265 pages, frankly I was glad to be rid of him. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. An ode to an era and an occupation By Jesse S. Walker This book is an ode to an era as well as to an occupation. As it was written originally in the early 1950's it tells the stories of an age before you could look online to find rare books, back when a search might take months or years. Since this all takes place well before the Internet age much of the book talks about his dealings with the people as well as the books, and history. This book isn't like most books of this genre where the book starts early in the author's life and ends near the publishing time. With over 60 years in the book business he's got too much to talk about, to waste time building up his life history. He pretty much gives a quick summary of his first transaction and from there lets his mind wander. A marvelous book that ended all too soon for me.

Charles P. Everitt happened to be a rare book dealer and authority on Americana, but he could have been a character out of Mark Twain. The stories he tells in "The Adventures of a Treasure Hunter," about the grand old days of wheeling and dealing in the first half of the 20th century, are unfailingly vivid and colorful.

"His book is a succession of stories about the intriguing and slightly larcenous art of buying cheap and selling dear...." -- The New Yorker "The book is written very much as he talked it, which means it is delightful...." -- J. Frank Dobie His reminiscences are rambling, discursive and digressive -- but completely fascinating." -- The Chicago Tribune