

James Crawford Master of the Mint at Carson City: A Short Full Life

Rusty Goe



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Perhaps you have heard of the Carson City Mint, Nevada s historic coin factory. Almost a century and a quarter ago this western mint at the base of Nevada s celebrated Comstock Lode banged out silver dollars and a host of other denominations, including gold coins, which today have become some of the most cherished in the field of numismatics (the study of coin collecting). In 2004, a silver dime dated 1873 bearing the legendary CC mintmark, sold for \$1 million. Yet, although the coins have gained in notoriety, the men who made them passed into obscurity many years ago. However, according to Reno coin dealer Rusty Goe, the award-winning author of 2004 s The Mint on Carson Street, at least one of these men deserves a tribute. In James Crawford: Master of the Mint at Carson City A Short Full Life, published in July 2007, Goe resurrects the life of the man who served as the fourth superintendent of the Carson City Mint from 1874 to 1885, and who was credited with overseeing the striking of eighty-five percent of all the coins ever produced at that institution. The book provides a panoramic view of the sweeping history of Nevada's connection to California's Gold Rush era; with an in-depth look into life in the Silver State's northwestern region from 1863 to 1885. Filled with never-before-presented facts about James Crawford and the Carson City Mint, this 650-page book is linked with stories about some of Nevada's most prominent historical figures and many contemporary events occurring in the United States as well as hundreds of references to coins struck at the Carson City Mint.

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