

Taking Stock

*Smart collectors of historic securities invest
in the wealth of online information.*

THIS MONTH'S featured website is www.psta.com, the Professional Scripophily Traders Association, which includes ANA members Bob Kerstein, Robert Galiette and Lawrence Falater. "Scripophily" is the formal name for the collecting of historical stocks and bonds. According to Galiette, the club's legal advisor, "People readily relate to how specie (hard currency), paper money, stocks and bonds (government and private) are used to start businesses, and . . . how one can be converted into another."

Before 1933, gilt-edged U.S. securities often were payable in gold coin. Through scripophily, a collector can connect with the great names of American capitalism, including railroad, telegraph, telephone and radio

companies; steel mills and coal mines; automobile and aircraft manufacturers; and even movie studios.

Favorite Links

► www.holabird.org

The Holabird-Kagin Americana website "specializes in the sale and appraisal of antiquarian mining goods, including old stock certificates, documents, photographs and other antiques and collectibles relating to western mining and history."

► www.scripophily.net and www.scripophily.com

These complementary sites are operated by ANA member and certified public accountant Bob Kerstein. They offer "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQs), news and pointers on how to research old companies.

► www.scripophily.org

The International Bond and Share ☉

PHOTO: WWW.SCRIPPHILY.COM

▲ Numismatics includes the study of bond and stock certificates, many of which depict artistic vignettes. Invest a few moments in a website such as www.scripophily.com to learn more.

Society (IBSS) of Ashtead, Surrey, England, is a nonprofit organization that promotes the collection and study of all manner of historic securities. The site presents news, an archive of articles from the *Scripophily* quarterly, and FAQs.

► www.numistoria.com

Numistoria SARL of Paris, France, stores a range of informative essays from the IBSS *Scripophily* quarterly and boasts the largest online gallery of stock certificates.

► www.smytheononline.com

On March 7, 2008, ANA member-dealer R.M. Smythe and Company was purchased by Spink, the oldest numismatic firm in the world. R.M. Smythe was founded in 1880 and has been “researching inactive, unlisted and obscure securities for over 116 years.” Choose “Stocks & Bonds” on the left for a complete inventory of antique stocks and bonds listed by subject.

► www.coxrail.com

This site is the work of Terry Cox, author of *Collectible Stocks and Bonds from North American Railroads* (second edition) from numismatic publisher BNR Press, operated by ANA member Carlton “Fred” Schwan. Cox has compiled an interesting list of “deceptive company names that are not railroads, but are either model railroads, bus companies, shipping companies, or other kinds of non-railroad companies.”

► www.realstockcertificates.com

An inventory of archived articles includes offerings from *USA Today*, the Securities and Exchange Commission and *The Motley Fool*. Scroll down the homepage and find the link to “Scripophily Articles” at the left.

► www.nyse.com

The New York Stock Exchange supports history and education with pull-downs on the homepage.

► www.sec.gov/answers/oldcer.htm

The U.S. government’s Securities and Exchange Commission website provides an authoritative overview of the study and collecting of stock and bond certificates.

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