

# INTRODUCTION

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Gold, the precious metal that has fascinated mankind since the dawn of time, has played a role in my life and in the development of Garrett Metal Detectors. I have spent countless hours in the field recovering gold nuggets and flakes that now glitter in my safety deposit box. Some of the earliest books published by our RAM subsidiary explained how Roy Lagal and I used pans and detectors to find gold, even as we coined the term “electronic prospecting.”

And, I know for a fact that many of our customers during the past 45 years have purchased Garrett Detectors *specifically to search for gold*. This has been especially true during the times in year past when the price of gold soared as high as \$800 an ounce. It is a fact that orders for our detectors literally overwhelmed the factory, and we were weeks behind in delivering product. I also believe that although most detector buyers don’t plan to use their metal detector to find gold, the thought remains in the back of their minds that these miraculous instruments might *someday* discover gold for them.

Amateur treasure hunters and professional prospectors alike know that gold is a remarkable and precious element closely associated with man’s yearning for riches throughout the ages. In fact, gold is mentioned more than 400 times in the Bible. Men and women of all walks of life have always loved gold and desired it both as a decorative object and for its monetary value..

Today, there is a renewed excitement to prospecting for gold since the metal’s value recently surpassed \$1,000 per ounce. I find it fascinating that this element is still earnestly sought—and will continue to be—after so many thousands of years.

The history of gold tells a fascinating story of the many ways in which it has helped to shape our modern society...so fascinating that RAM went beyond its usual “how-to” style in 1996 to publish *Gold of the Americas*. In this delightful book, popular author Jenifer Marx

*Gold in the Ancient World*

explains in interesting detail how the lust for gold was essentially responsible for both the discovery of America itself and then the western settlement of the United States.

It's been my great pleasure to know Jenifer and her famous marine archaeologist husband, Sir Robert Marx, for many years. The amount of research they put into their treasure expeditions is extraordinary. Bob has used Garrett's *Sea Hunter* metal detectors literally all over the world to assist him in discovering countless riches beneath the seas. He first met Jenifer on one of his archaeological ventures, and she has since joined him on some of his journeys to bring golden treasures from the ocean's depths.

Her life's work in this field and training in research have given Jenifer great expertise concerning gold's history. Our 1996 volume offered proof. Now Jenifer has dug back far beyond her history of gold in the Americas. *Gold in the Ancient World* paints a broad picture of adventure, artistry and greed as it explores achievements resulting from man's love of gold...wars and rituals that have surrounded the precious metal for more than fifty centuries.

As this book is published, golden treasures from the tomb of King Tut are once again touring the United States. Remarkable treasures such as these sometimes seem to be the only legacy of long-vanished civilizations. Fortunately, *Gold in the Ancient World* offers an opportunity to learn from factual history how gold built up and tore down vast empires. Illustrations in the book depict many of the golden treasures that drove mankind to marvelous feats over the years.

I truly believe that anyone interested in gold, whether an active prospector or not, will benefit from reading this history of the metal that is being sought so enthusiastically today with 21st-century detectors. Just as a coin hunter's library is incomplete without coin guides, so too is the prospector's bookshelf lacking without this detailed work on the how and why of gold's influence on mankind.

I know that you'll enjoy this book as I continually do because of its fascinating history and photo documentation. I hope to see you in the gold fields...

*Charles Garrett*