

Recent coins of Iran: Not so special, yet collectible



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Social Desk

EXCLUSIVE

Coin collecting, also known as numismatics, is a fascinating hobby that has been enjoyed by people for centuries. Coin collecting has a long history which dates back to ancient times when rulers and wealthy individuals would collect coins as a sign of their wealth and power. Over time, coin collecting evolved into a popular hobby that is enjoyed by people of all ages and backgrounds. The origins of coin collecting can be traced back to ancient Greece and Rome. During this time, coins were not only used as a means of exchange but were also considered works of art. Wealthy individuals would collect coins as a way to display their wealth and knowledge of history. In fact, some of the earli-

est coin collectors were Roman emperors who would collect coins from conquered territories as a way to celebrate their victories. During the Renaissance period, coin collecting became more popular among the general population. This was due, in part, to the increased availability of coins as trade and commerce expanded across Europe. Collectors during this time were particularly interested in ancient Greek and Roman coins, which were seen as symbols of the classical world. In the 19th century, coin collecting became more organized and formalized. The first coin-collecting societies were established in Europe and America, which helped to standardize the practice of coin collecting. These societies also helped to promote the study of numismatics and encour-

aged collectors to share their knowledge and expertise with others. Today, coin collecting remains a popular hobby around the world. Collectors are interested in a wide variety of coins including ancient, commemorative, and rare coins. Some collectors focus on a particular type of coin such as coins from a specific country or era, while others collect coins based on their artistic or historical significance.

Coin collecting in Iran

The legacy of coins in Iran dates back to ancient times, with the Achaemenid Empire being the first to mint these precious objects around 550 B.C. Made of gold and silver, these coins featured the image of the king on one side, and a symbol representing the empire on the other. As time passed, the Parthian

and Sassanian Empires continued this tradition, producing coins of exceptional quality and artistic design. During the Islamic period, which began in the 7th century A.D., coins continued to be minted in Iran. The early Islamic coins featured Arabic inscriptions and were made of gold, silver, and copper. The later Islamic coins featured Persian inscriptions and were made of silver and copper. In modern Iran, coins are still used as a means of exchange, although they have taken on a rather surprising dimension as collectibles. The coins currently in circulation in the country include the 250 rial, 500 rial, 1,000 rial, 2,000 rial, and 5,000 rial coins. These days, amidst a sea of ads flooding the widely-used Iranian application named "Divar", a peculiar trend has emerged

in the country: buying and selling seemingly insignificant coins. Despite lacking any discernible artistic or historical value like the coins minted in antiquity, these coins have garnered the attention of a select group of collectors. While some are drawn to the metals such as bronze or nickel that were used in their minting, others seek out specific coins to add to their personal collections. Surprisingly, the value of these coins can surpass that of recently-minted ones, with individual 250 rial coins from 2001 fetching prices equivalent to a kilogram of any recently-minted coins that are similar yet less special. Onlookers may find themselves perplexed by this curious phenomenon, as coins minted less than three decades ago are considered rare items to be revered and invested in.

Pitfalls of believing in all-knowingness in social media age

Social Desk

The advent of social media has had far-reaching effects on society, and one of the most pernicious of these effects is the belief that we now know everything. Despite our best efforts, there still exist inexorable unknowns, and it is imperative to be cognizant of all aspects of a matter including its origins before forming an opinion. However, owing to the deluge of information transmitted via social networks, individuals form an erroneous conviction that they possess all-encompassing knowledge.

Illusion of knowledge

According to communication and media experts, we live in an epoch in which virtual space and social media have bestowed upon people a sense of pride and self-assurance, giving rise to a cohort of pseudo-sages who opine on every topic and consider themselves all-knowing without actually having adequate pro-

ficiency.

Social networks treat us as standing at the heights of the realm of knowledge, while the illusion of knowledge germinates within society. This pestilence's genesis lies in the exorbitant volume of information exchanged day and night, which reaches its virtual audience via myriad routes.

Effects of information overload

As per the findings of the most recent research and scientific inquiries, the amount of information a contemporary individual receives in one day is tantamount to the entire body of information that an 18th-century person received during their entire lifespan.

This onslaught of information imposes itself on us, the recipients of such information, with such celerity and magnitude that it deprives us of the opportunity to evaluate and analyze it, ultimately leaving us in a state of confusion. The information presented to the

audience on various subjects has a fleeting impact, akin to a flash of lightning, only to be forgotten shortly thereafter.

Need to limit media consumption

A researcher of media and virtual space believes if one inspects how those in their vicinity behave within the virtual space where they are submerged in the sea of information, what one will observe is that a myriad of their virtual contacts suffers from the illusion of media omnipotence. To shun such superficiality, we should always keep our distance from this realm and limit our mental inputs.

Delusion of erudition

The delusion of erudition has permeated all domains, and it is crucial to understand its psychological and cognitive structures. There are two categories of experiences for the majority of us living in Iran: The first involves our encounter with individuals in

certain environments who opine on everything. The second category of experiences we commonly face describes how arduous and, at times, humiliating it becomes to admit that we do not know the answer to a question.

This creates a sort of vagueness and uncertainty that is mentally unpleasant for every individual. However, the most crucial aspect is that cultural systems play a significant role in redefining mental and cognitive characteristics and directing them toward cultural structures and human social life. Our educational systems continuously offer models to confront such challenging circumstances where one does not know the answer to a question. In general, a discrepancy can be seen among Iranians in such situations. On the one hand, all of us prefer to confess our lack of knowledge, but in practice, such an admission is akin to confessing sin and is highly uncomfortable.

Desire to provide answers

Perhaps, within Iranian cultural traditions, the desire to provide answers has created its set of patterns. Essentially, our perception of a scientist or expert has been shaped by this desire. We expect them to possess a deep understanding of their respective fields and to have the ability to solve complex problems with ease. As a result, we often turn to experts for guidance on important matters such as public health and environmental issues. While this reliance on experts can be beneficial, it can also be problematic. It can lead to a disregard for personal experience and intuition, and it can foster a culture of blind acceptance of authority. Therefore, it is important to strike a balance between seeking guidance from experts and trusting our own instincts. By doing so, we can make informed decisions that align with our values and lead to a more fulfilling life.

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Matthew Perry to pull Keanu Reeves jibe from memoir



GETTY IMAGES

Friends actor Matthew Perry has pledged to remove "mean" references to Keanu Reeves from future copies of his autobiography.

The star, who played Chandler Bing in the US sitcom, made repeated references to the star in his memoir 'Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing', BBC reported. On two occasions, he asked why Reeves "still walks among us" while "talented" actors like River Phoenix had died. "I said a stupid thing. It was a mean thing to do," Perry admitted.



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Speaking to the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, he added: "I pulled his name because I live on the same street. I've apologized publicly to him. "Any future versions of the book will not have his name in it." He said he had not made amends in person but, "if I run into the guy I'll apologise. "It was just stupid," he added. Published last year, Perry's memoir recounted his career-long struggle with substance abuse and addiction. In it, he describes Phoenix, his co-star in the 1988 film A Night in the Life of Jimmy Reardon as a genius who was "way ahead" of his time. "River was a beautiful man, inside and out - too beautiful for this world, it turned out. It always seems to be the really talented guys who go down. "Why is it that the original thinkers like River Phoenix and Heath Ledger die, but Keanu Reeves still walks among us?" Phoenix died in 1993, aged 23, after an overdose of cocaine and heroin. Heath Ledger died from an accidental overdose of prescription medication in 2008. Perry has already apologized for the jibe about Reeves, saying he picked the John Wick actor's name at random and was a "big fan". "I apologise. I should have used my name instead," he said in a statement to People in October.