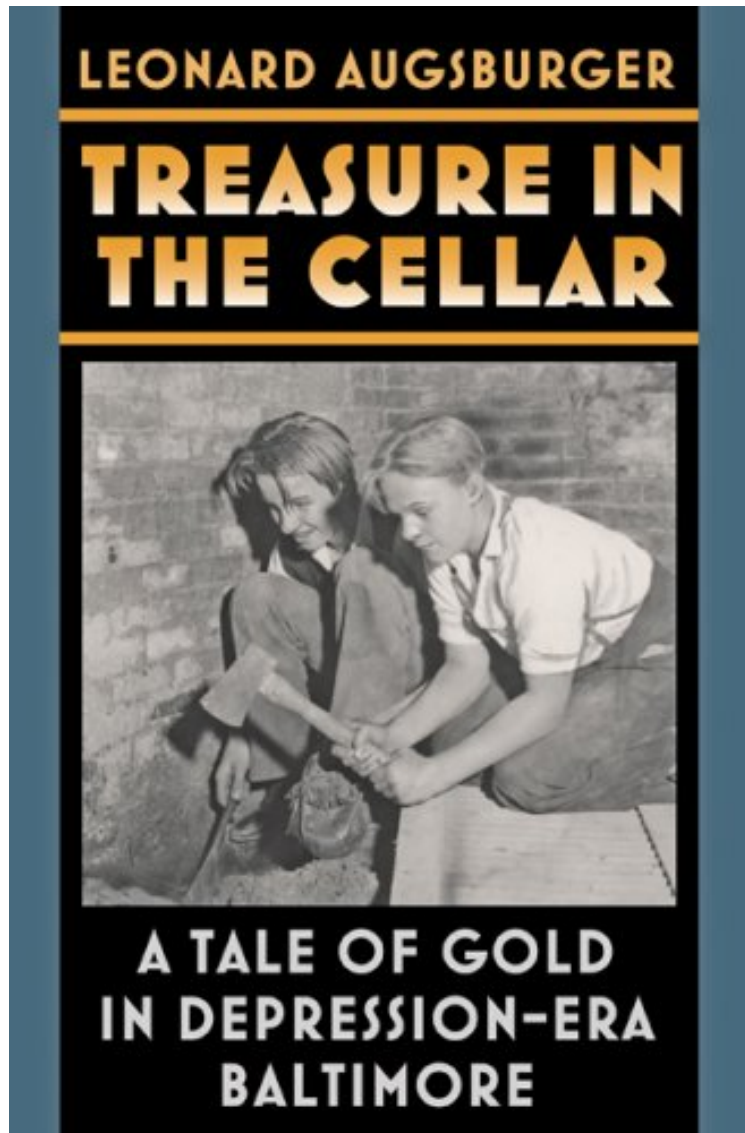


#1815294 in Books The Maryland Historical Society 2008-05-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.04 x .52 x 6.08l, .70 #File Name: 0938420976208 pages | File size: 45.Mb



Leonard Augsburger
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Treasure in the Cellar: A Tale of Gold in Depression-Era Baltimore

Leonard Augsburger : Treasure in the Cellar: A Tale of Gold in Depression-Era Baltimore before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised [Treasure in the Cellar: A Tale of Gold in Depression-Era Baltimore](#):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gold in the Cellar! For REAL!By Jack BarlowGREAT TRUE STORY...that I have always wanted to read the whole story about. How amazing to find all that gold digging around in a dirty old basement! Exciting!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good readBy gordon d blankGreat

story but when money gets involved greed always raises it ugly head.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. An excellent read for anyone interested in coins, Baltimore, treasure troves, and historyBy SageRadLen does a terrific job weaving history, numismatics, law, and lore, backed by extensive research to spin a masterful tale. As the story goes, two poor boys find a sizable accumulation of gold coins from 1834 through 1856 (including the mega-coin, an 1856-O \$20) in the basement of a slum in Baltimore in 1934. Naturally, the coins change their fortunes, along with those of their families, forever, but in ways which are not entirely expected. The book deals a lot with the legal challenges for ownership of the coin, which are indeed complex, but fascinating. There are twists and turns in the story line, and while you never know exactly what is going to happen in the end (and I am not going to tell you), a Hollywood ending never really seems in the cards.Len has a polished, professional writing style that is very smooth and readable. The research goes deep and touches upon many aspects of the history of the City of Baltimore from the early 1800's through the Depression. Despite that the subject is relatively esoteric, anyone who enjoyed Tripp's Illegal Tender or Frankel's Double Eagle (both written about the 1933 Saint) would find this book to be equally pleasing.

Coin collectors and enthusiasts have long been familiar with the story of two boys who unearthed a fortune in gold coins while playing in a Baltimore basement in 1934. But the rest of the story trailed off to a few odd details. One of the boys died young, the other ran into trouble with the law. No one seemed to know more. A lifelong coin collector, Leonard Augsburger was determined to uncover the rest of the story. What happened to the kids? The gold? Who buried it in the first place? Meticulously researched, *Treasure in the Cellar* delves into the lives of the boys and their families, recreates the hours at the police station after the boys reported what they found, and describes months of courtroom drama as descendants of several former property owners came forward, each claiming the fortune for themselves.

"Using historical context, concrete details and quotes, Augsburger offers a riveting tale of poverty, greed, legal red tape, and the way they exacerbate each other." (Diane Scharper Baltimore Sun)"An interesting read." (Mike Thomas Numimaster.com)About the AuthorLeonard Augsburger is an engineering manager in the telecommunications industry. He has written numerous articles for numismatic hobby periodicals and is a frequent speaker at numismatic events. He is a member of the Maryland Historical Society, the American Numismatic Association, and the American Numismatic Society.