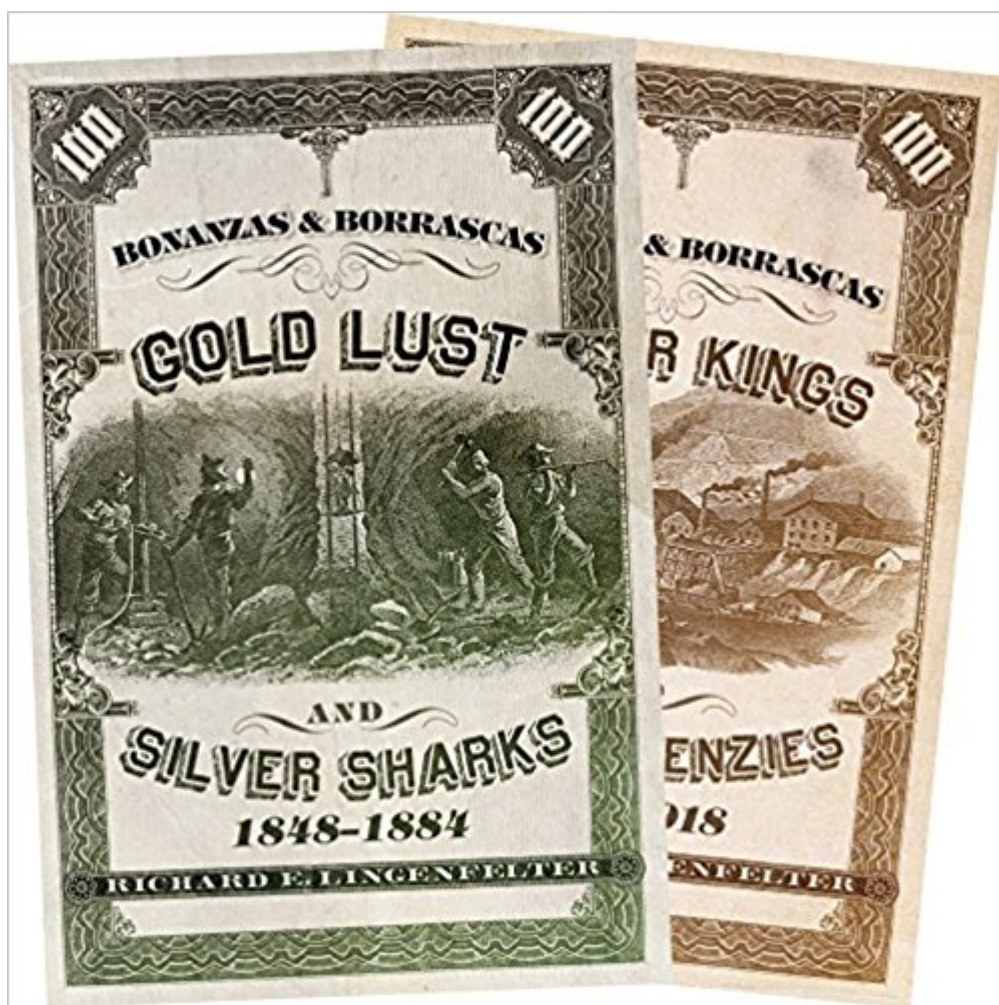


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Bonanzas & Borrascas 2 Volume Set (Western Lands And Waters Series)



Synopsis

This two-volume study of the heyday of gold, silver, and copper mining in the American West is unique in both scope and approach. Here is a saga of mines and money, of the richly profitable bonanzas and crushingly profitless borrascas of the West. Richard E. Lingenfelter describes how miners, managers, investors, and speculators produced enormous wealth—spurring the American economy, attracting myriads of Argonauts and settlers, and transforming the West and the nation. This tale of great expectations follows the money from rich pockets of ore and the bulging pockets of investors and speculators through mills, smelters, and stock markets. Some of the greatest stockholder losses came from insider looting and market manipulation. *Bonanzas & Borrascas* ties together the fortunes of East and West by exploring the impact of eastern investors and speculators on western mines, as well as the generally unrecognized impact of the western mines on Wall Street and Washington, D.C. The cast of characters includes an array of financial, political, and cultural icons ranging from Hearst, Guggenheim, Baruch, and Hoover to Fremont, Edison, and Twain. *Gold Lust and Silver Sharks, 1848–1884* moves from the early years when western investors and speculators dominated both the mines and the markets, to the early 1880s, after San Francisco's mining sharks were driven to New York. The companion volume, *Copper Kings and Stock Frenzies, 1885–1918*, begins with that watershed and reveals how easterners bought control of most of the large mines to further exploit eastern markets for even bigger profits and losses. At the same time, developing technology opened ever greater deposits of lower-grade ore in the West, and copper became the leading metal as the electrification of the nation drove up demand and prices. Both volumes are illustrated with stock certificates of many of the companies discussed. The stories Lingenfelter tells of past speculative bubbles and fraud illuminate the speculative greed of the present and remind us that where a lot of money is involved, things are seldom as they seem.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“This modern classic is clearly the definitive history of our West’s mineral rushes: gold, silver and copper.”
—Richard H. Dillon, True West Magazine

Richard E. Lingenfelter is a Research Physicist with the Center for Astrophysics and Space Sciences, University of California, San Diego. Among the numerous books he has authored, coauthored, or edited are *The Hardrock Miners: A History of the Mining Labor Movement in the American West, 1863–1893* and *Death Valley & the Amargosa: A Land of Illusion*.

Not only is Richard Lingenfelter an excellent writer, he is an excellent researcher. If Richard says something happened, it did. Bank on it! Much has been written on the history of gold and silver mining in the west. In this two book series he turns to copper. Such a book has been long overdue..If you have any need of the history of copper mining in the west, you cannot afford not to have these two references!

Richard Lingenfelter has done it again - in spades. He has produced a masterwork. His two-volume *Bonanzas and Borrascas* is a financial history of American nonferrous metal mining from 1848 to 1918, and just published, it is an instant classic of mining history. It is encyclopedic in coverage, astonishing in depth, and thoroughly documented. As with his previous books, it seems that there is no source, however obscure, that Lingenfelter does not know. From now on, no bookshelf on American mining history is complete without these two volumes.

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