



Responsible for Your Gallery's Antique Book Collecting Budget? 10 Terrible Ways to Spend Your Money

Are you provided the responsibility of managing the antique book collecting budget of a gallery? Then you should have a clear understanding on how to get the maximum out of budget allocated to you. We often see how people make mistakes and end up with failing to get the most out of the budget. To make sure that you don't commit any such mistake, we thought of sharing 10 terrible ways on how you can spend your money.

Expecting perfection

You will need to keep in mind that you are [collecting antique books](#). Hence, it is never possible for you to expect perfection in the books that you collect. The books that you collect for the gallery would be decades, or even hundreds of years old. Hence, you cannot expect to find them in the original form. However, you should still make sure that the books you buy are in pristine condition. If the book is in decent condition and if you get a good price, you can go ahead with the purchase. Otherwise, you will wait too long, and you will eventually end up with purchasing a book that doesn't deserve the price.

Failing to negotiate properly

When it comes to bargaining, there is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all strategy. Depending on the sort of vendor, seasoned collectors alter their strategy. If you're shopping in a flea market, for example, you'll have more room to haggle and negotiate to get a better deal. If you buy from a dealer at a boutique store, though, don't expect a great discount. Shop owners have more overhead, so don't walk out because the dealer won't sell for half the asking price. Expect shop curators to take no more than 10% off the price tag as a general rule. Anything goes with flea market merchants.

The distinction between flea market sellers and boutique-based merchants is sometimes lost on new collectors. As a result, they have inflated expectations, particularly when dealing with the latter.

Not having a clear understanding on what to buy

You must always have a clear understanding on what you are looking for. If you are provided the task of collecting rare books, you need to make sure that you focus on them. When you start exploring what's available out there in the market, there is a high possibility for you to get distracted. However, having a clear understanding on what to buy will assist you to get the best books out there.

Avoiding Research

If you know what you want to acquire ahead of time, devote some time to thorough study. Find out everything you can about it on the internet or from other sources. At the very least, you should be able to tell the difference between a genuine and a fake or replica of that particular piece.

Let's assume you've set your sights on a French wooden armoire from the mid-1700s. The condition of the wood in this case tells you all you need to know about its authenticity. Wood shrinks across the grain as it ages, creating warping. Do the outside borders appear to be a little crooked? Do the wooden pegs protrude more than usual? This is an excellent indicator of genuineness since it shows evidence of age-related shrinking. You may even look at the nails if you want to. During that historical period, rose-head cut nails were very popular.

Failing to buy the first editions

When it comes to antique books, [first edition books](#) are the most valuable. Therefore, you should make sure that you are trying to get first edition books as much as possible. Then you will not have to worry too much about the returns that you are receiving. You can justify the amount of money that you are spending on the first edition books as well.

Failing to consider the cost of restoration

As previously said, genuine antique books are bound to contain flaws. Some collectors like obvious imperfections since they indicate the age of the item. If you want to repair the antique, however, you must evaluate the expenditures in proportion to the antique's price and value.

A [comprehensive restoration](#) may necessitate a complete surface scraping and refinishing. This might be anything from \$300 to \$500 for a five-drawer dresser, for example. Newer collectors are more likely to miss this reality and focus solely on the antique's initial sale price.

Failing to buy books from a dealer that you can trust

As you buy rare and antique books, you should make sure that you are spending money on a dealer that you can trust and rely on. If it is not possible, you will run into numerous major issues. However, you can keep the peace of mind when you are buying books from a dealer that you can trust.

Failing to get a second opinion

Don't assume you know everything; there's always someone who knows more. Antiques are divided into a variety of categories based on their age and location. Collectors, curators, and dealers that specialize in certain antique categories exist. Do you have your heart set on a German phonograph from the nineteenth century? Look for someone who is knowledgeable in that field. Don't be scared to

photograph the artwork and email it to a knowledgeable acquaintance after you've arrived at the dealer. He might be able to determine if you're staring at a genuine national treasure or a forgery.

Failing to inspect them in person

If you don't find enough information about antique books on the internet, you should physically inspect them. This will help you to get a better understanding about the condition.

Misunderstanding the jargons

There are numerous jargons that you need to keep in mind as you try to collect old and rare books. You should never go ahead with hunting for antique books without an understanding on these jargons. Otherwise, you will end up with wasting your money.