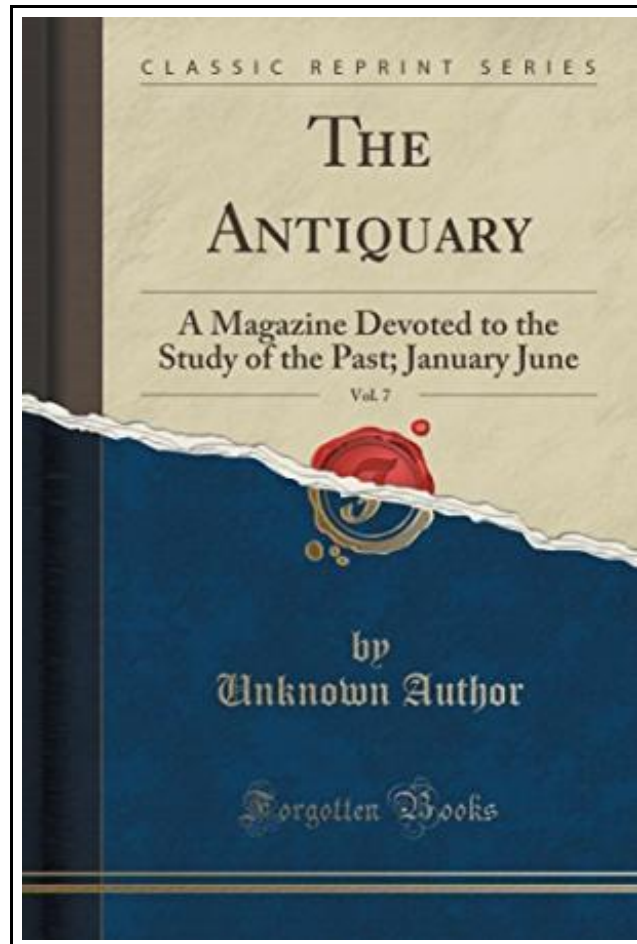


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from The Antiquary, Vol. 7: A Magazine Devoted to the Study of the Past; January June Bullion Money. - Many centuries before the invention of the art of coining, gold and silver in the East, and bronze in the West, in bullion form, had already supplanted barter, that most primitive of all methods of buying and selling, when among pastoral peoples the ox and the sheep were the ordinary mediums of exchange. The very word Pecunia is an evidence of this practice in Italy at a period which is probably recent in comparison with the time when values were estimated in cattle in Greece and the East. The Invention of Coinage. - So far as we have any knowledge, says Herodotus (I. 94), the Lydians were the first nation to introduce the use of gold and silver coin. This statement of the father of history must not, however, be accepted as finally settling the vexed question as to who were the inventors of coined money, for Strabo (VIII. 6), Aelian (Var. Hist., XII. 10), and the Parian Chronicle all agree in adopting the more commonly received tradition, that Pheidon, King of Argos, first struck silver coins in the island of Aegina. These two apparently contradictory assertions modern research tends to reconcile with one another. The one embodies the Asiatic, the other the European tradition; the truth of the matter being that gold was first coined by the Lydians, in Asia Minor, in the seventh century before our era; and that silver was first struck in European Greece about the same time. Earliest and later Methods of Coining. - The earliest coins are simply bullets of metal,...

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