

**Maurer, Bill. How would you like to pay?: how technology is changing the future of money. Duke, 2015. 163p bibl index afp ISBN 9780822359562, \$69.95; ISBN 9780822359999 pbk, \$19.95; ISBN 9780822375173 ebook, contact publisher for price.**

Twenty-five years ago, *Amazon* was the name of a river, not an emporium, and the term *cell phone* would have applied only to a prison inmate calling his lawyer—or dealer. *Facebook, Flickr, YouTube, Reddit, Twitter, Instagram, Yik Yak*, and *hashtag* are all 21st-century words. Into this innovative flurry jumps Maurer (legal and economic anthropology, Univ. of California, Irvine) to examine how technology is changing—but also not changing—not only how people pay for dinner but relationships as well. Mobile money services, from Kenya’s M-Pesa to Apple Pay, digital currencies such as bitcoin, and familiar, time-honored coins and currencies are treated from an anthropologist’s perspective. The author poses questions (e.g., what is money? where is money?) and then offers fictional mini cases as illustrations. He explores the ways in which money is actually used and the role of the state in the creation of (and restrictions on) money and payments. If there is an underlying anchor for the book, it is clearly the phone. Written primarily for professionals and lay readers, this very brief volume, with no footnotes but decent references and photos instead of equations, should nevertheless stimulate both casual and in-depth thinking about payment systems in the future. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and professionals; general readers.