

# RARITIES NIGHT

The August 2018 ANA Auction

August 15, 2018

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



*Stack's & Bowers*  
GALLERIES

*An Official Auctioneer of the ANA World's Fair of Money®*

## Coins and Currency

Date	Auction	Consignment Deadline
August 29, 2018	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> StacksBowers.com	August 13, 2018
September 26, 2018	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> StacksBowers.com	September 10, 2018
October 17, 2018	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>Ancients, World Coins &amp; Paper Money</i> StacksBowers.com	September 14, 2018
October 24-26, 2018	Stack's Bowers Galleries – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> Official Auction of the Whitman Coin & Collectibles Baltimore Expo Baltimore, MD	August 28, 2018
October 31, 2018	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> StacksBowers.com	October 10, 2018
November 20, 2018	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> StacksBowers.com	October 31, 2018
December 19, 2018	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> StacksBowers.com	November 28, 2018
January 11-12, 2019	Stack's Bowers Galleries – <i>Ancient, World Coins &amp; Paper Money</i> An Official Auction of the NYINC New York, NY	November 6, 2018
February 27-March 2, 2019	Stack's Bowers Galleries – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> Official Auction of the Whitman Coin & Collectibles Baltimore Expo Baltimore, MD	December 31, 2018
March 25-27, 2019	Stack's Bowers and Ponterio – <i>Chinese &amp; Asian Coins &amp; Banknotes</i> Hong Kong Auction of Chinese and Asian Coins & Currency Hong Kong	January 22, 2019
May 22-24, 2019	Stack's Bowers Galleries – <i>U.S. Coins</i> Official Auction of the Whitman Coin & Collectibles Baltimore Expo Baltimore, MD	March 26, 2019
August 6-9, 2019	Stack's Bowers Galleries – <i>World Coins &amp; Paper Money</i> An Official Auction of the ANA World's Fair of Money Rosemont, IL	June 7, 2019
August 6-9, 2019	Stack's Bowers Galleries – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> An Official Auction of the ANA World's Fair of Money Rosemont, IL	June 7, 2019
August 19-21, 2019	Stack's Bowers and Ponterio – <i>Chinese &amp; Asian Coins &amp; Banknotes</i> Hong Kong Auction of Chinese and Asian Coins & Currency Hong Kong	June 21, 2019

Stack's Bowers Galleries presents  
**The August 2018 ANA Auction**

**RARITIES NIGHT**

August 15, 2018

Room 115A  
Pennsylvania Convention Center  
1101 Arch Street,  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

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Use the enclosed bid sheet and mail or fax it to us. If sending by mail, please allow sufficient time for the postal service.

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View additional images and add items to your personal tracking list. You may also place bids and check their status in real time. Visit our website at [www.stacksbowers.com](http://www.stacksbowers.com).

## During the Live Auction

### Attend in Person

Auction Event: Pennsylvania Convention Center  
1101 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

### Live Online Bidding

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Please send all check, money order or cashier's check payments to:

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# The August 2018 ANA Auction

## Rarities Night

August 15, 2018

## Lot Viewing

Lot Viewing will be conducted in the Santa Ana, CA offices (by appointment only): July 23-26, 2018

Lot Viewing will be conducted in the NY offices (by appointment only): August 2-7, 2018

Lot Viewing will be conducted at the Pennsylvania Convention Center Room 115C as follows:

Saturday, August 11 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM ET	Sunday, August 12 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM ET	Monday, August 13 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM ET	Tuesday, August 14 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM ET	Wednesday, August 15 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM ET
Thursday, August 16 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM ET	Friday, August 17 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM ET			

## Auction Location

Pennsylvania Convention Center  
1101 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

## Auction Details

<b>Session 1*</b> U.S. Currency Part 1, featuring the John E. Herzog Collection Tuesday, August 14 Room 115A 7:00 PM ET	<b>Session 2*</b> U.S. Coins Part 1 Wednesday, August 15 Room 115A 9:00 AM ET Lots 1-649	<b>Session 3</b> Rarities Night Wednesday, August 15 Room 115A 6:00 PM ET Lots 1001-1427	<b>Session 4*</b> The Joel R. Anderson Collection of U.S. Paper Money Part II Thursday, August 16 Room 115A 6:00 PM ET Lots 2001-2070	<b>Session 5*</b> U.S. Currency Part 2 Thursday, August 16 Room 115A 8:00 PM ET Lots 11001-11375
<b>Session 6*</b> U.S. Coins Part 2 Friday, August 17 Room 115A 9:00 AM ET Lots 3001-3796	<b>Session 7*</b> U.S. Coins Part 3 Friday, August 17 Room 115A 5:00 PM ET Lots 4001-4665	<b>Session 8*</b> U.S. Coins Part 1 Internet Only Monday, August 20 StacksBowers.com 9:00 AM PT	<b>Session 9*</b> U.S. Coins Part 2 Internet Only Tuesday, August 21 StacksBowers.com 9:00 AM PT	<b>Session 10*</b> U.S. Coins Part 3 Internet Only Wednesday, August 22 StacksBowers.com 9:00 AM PT

*\*Please refer to our other August 2018 Philadelphia auction catalogs for further offerings of U.S. Coins and Currency, Ancient and World Coins and Paper Money. View our entire auction schedule online at [StacksBowers.com](http://StacksBowers.com).*

**Session 11\***  
U.S. Paper Money  
Internet Only  
Thursday, August 23  
StacksBowers.com  
9:00 AM PT  
Lots 12401-12926

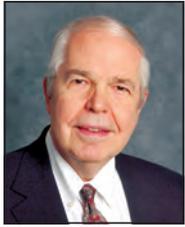
## Lot Pickup

Lot Pickup will be conducted at the Pennsylvania Convention Center Room 115C as follows:

Wednesday, August 15, 2018 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM ET	Thursday, August 16, 2018 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM ET	Friday, August 17, 2018 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM ET	Saturday, August 18 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon ET
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*Dates, times and locations are subject to change.*

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*Cataloged by Jeff Ambio, Q. David Bowers, James McCartney, Benjamin Orooji,  
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# Welcome to Rarities Night

## A Stack's Bowers Galleries Tradition

### With the ANA World's Fair of Money Philadelphia

#### Rarities Night Introduction

Welcome to Rarities Night 2018! This event is always a highlight of our series of auctions with the American Numismatic Association World's Fair of Money.

This year we have multiple catalogs and multiple auction sessions. Whatever your interests and specialties are, you will have many opportunities.

The market is robust, the auction city is ideal and easy to reach, and a week of numismatic activity and enjoyment is in the offing.

#### When Great Coins and Collections Are Sold...

Stack's Bowers Galleries sells them. Year in and year out, decade after decade back to 1935, we have handled more great collections than all other current auction houses combined. Often, the owners of these collections come back again when they sell other parts—the Louis E. Eliasberg, Emery May Holden Norweb, Cardinal Foundation, D. Brent Pogue, Joel R. Anderson and Harry W. Bass, Jr. collections being a short list of examples.

Offered in a special section of this catalog is the finest known 1913 Liberty Head nickel, an ultra-Gem Proof from the collection of Dr. William Morton-Smith, a coin that not only was the first coin in the world to cross the million-dollar mark in our 1996 sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg Collection, but also stands today as the most famous treasure from the incredible collection of Col. E.H.R. Green.

Each of our Rarities Night events—going back years into history—have included coins and other items from some of the finest cabinets ever formed. In this sale we have a superabundance of blessings. Consignments include, in alphabetical order, properties from the Blue Ridge Mountains Portfolio, Cardinal Collection, Des Moines Collection, ESM Cabinet, Fairmont Collection, Anne Kate Collection, Midwest Collection, Paisley Acres Collection, Rosie Collection, Soberman Collection, Thaddeus A. Tatum III Collection, and John Whitney Walter Estate—and this is just a short list. I thank the preceding and others for making this one of the nicest Rarities Night sales ever.

#### A Preview of Rarities

What to mention? In actuality, if I were to list all of the major rarities I would need several pages, so I will note only a few. The catalog itself beckons you to explore it page by page for treasures and other items of interest.

Colonial coins are a specialty, and what better way to start than by saying that the NE shilling, a classic, is one of the finest known—followed by a Mint State 1652 Massachusetts Pine Tree shilling, a New Yorke in America token and others.

Copper and related coins come to the fore with key half cents and large cents (check the near-Gem 1793 Wreath), a Gem 1856 Flying Eagle cent (probably the single most famous “popular” 19th century rarity), memorable Indian and Lincoln cents and two-cent pieces.

Nickel coins include not only the fantastic Gem 1913 Liberty Head nickel, but also important three-cent pieces and five-cent types from the 1866 Shield onward.

Silver coins range from the first year of issue (the 1792 half disme) down to superb gem Franklin half dollars and modern dollars—and with many notable coins in between, such as a Mint State 1796 half dollar, a Gem 1800 Draped Bust dollar, a Proof-67 1895 Morgan dollar, one of the finest 1895-O dollars we have ever seen (the *only* Morgan dollar for which no group of pieces is recorded from the 1962-1964 Treasury release), a MS-67 High Relief 1921 Peace dollar, and many others.

Gold coins from dollars to double eagles start in the 1790s and continue to offer many important pieces. Patterns (check the ultra-Gem 1871 Indian Princess dollar), commemoratives, territorial gold (Templeton Reid and Pacific Company issues among other rarities!), and more await your consideration.

## Plan to Participate!

If you plan to attend the World's Fair of Money in Philadelphia, the red carpet will be rolled out for you. I and the entire Stack's Bowers Galleries staff is at your service at the auction and on the bourse floor to help with buying, selling, bidding, or just to "talk coins." A great event is planned.

If you are staying at home—good news for you. Using our dynamic Internet site you can participate in virtual reality—in real time watching our auctioneer at the podium, seeing the item being offered, and featuring an enticing green "Bid!" button! With advance preparation with us you can also arrange to bid by telephone on important lots. Whether you live in Tacoma, Zurich, Hong Kong, or Sarasota you will be "here." It is amazing how worldwide our auctions have become in recent years.

Again, welcome to Rarities Night.

Sincerely,



Q. David Bowers

Co-founder, Stack's Bowers Galleries

## Thinking of Selling?

If so, let our success be your success. If you have a fine collection for sale – large or small – or interesting duplicates, or other valuable items, tap into the world's finest rare coin auction service.

For generations, ever since our first auction in New York City in 1935 and continuing to the present day, we and our antecedents have handled more fine collections and more rarities than any other coin auction firm in the world. As you read these words we hold numerous records for the most valuable collections ever sold *and* the highest single prices ever achieved for rare coins at auction. Of the top 10 most valuable United States coins sold at auction last year we sold 9! We have always emphasized quality instead of quantity. Perhaps unique in the profession, we have built, often completely exclusively, some of the finest collections ever. The Josiah K. Lilly Collection of Gold is the most valuable part of the National Numismatic Collection in the Smithsonian Institution, and every coin was supplied by us.

While great collections and rarities make headlines, in reality the vast majority of our worldwide business is done with more modest consignments, from \$10,000 upwards into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. In addition to convention and gallery sales, we also offer our Internet auctions that are ideal not only for scarce and rare coins and currency, but for pieces of modest value.

Year in and year out, decade in and decade out, the rare coin market has always remained dynamic despite political, economic, military, and other events worldwide. In autumn 2018 with eyes looking forward to 2019 and beyond, more than ever before, our clientele is worldwide. Bidders in London, Moscow, Zurich, Dubai, and other locations will be online in virtual reality. Enthusiasm and excitement prevails.

Let our success be your success. Let us present your coins, tokens, medals, and paper money to the finest clientele of private buyers, museums, investors, and dealers of any auction house. The same buyers who have set records in the past will be bidding on your consignment! A win-win experience awaits you.

For one low, competitive commission rate we will take care of everything: visiting you to make arrangements and pack your items (for larger consignments), receiving your items at our end by insured carrier at our expense (for most consignments), insurance, publicity, cataloging by the world's most accomplished team of professionals, superb graphics, and more!

All you need to do is cash our generous check!

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## Dr. William “Bill” Morton-Smith



Dr. William “Bill” Morton-Smith was born on March 16, 1948, in New York, New York. He and his sister, Adrienne, were raised in the city by their parents, Katrina and James. Bill attended The Buckley School, St. Mark’s Preparatory School and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He completed his medical degree at the University of Southern California.

While on medical rotation in London, Bill was set up on a blind date with his future wife, Rhodabel. After a long-distance relationship, Rho and Bill were wed in Gargrave, Rho’s hometown in Yorkshire, England. After Bill completed his residency at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena, California, the couple moved to Santa Barbara, where Bill would live for the next 35 years. Bill and Rho had three children: Timothy, Nicholas and Emma.

“Dr. Bill,” as most knew him, ran a private medical practice for 20 years. As Santa Barbara’s medical community would tell you, Bill was an exceptional physician who cared for his patients with the utmost excellence and deepest compassion. In 2001, he closed his practice and, after Rho’s passing, he shifted his focus to volunteer and humanitarian work, locally and around the world.

Several decades ago, I got a call from Bill asking me to come to his home to view his coin collection. His collection contained a complete set of Proof Liberty nickels, various other U.S. sets, colonial coinage, large cents, and half cents that he had inherited. Bill was interested in the value of the coins and wished to discuss having them certified, as he had researched the best way to handle coins.

I spent hours at his house examining the collection. All the while we talked about numismatics and he told me the story of how the coins came into his possession. The story begins with Bill’s inheritance of an antique desk that had belonged to his grandfather, William Spaulding.

William Spaulding belonged to a prominent Boston family. He amassed great wealth mainly through his partnership in the Nash, Spaulding & Co. sugar refining company. He also held important positions in other businesses, including as a director with Boston Consolidated Gas Co. and a trustee with Suffolk Saving Bank. The Spauldings lived in a mansion at 99 Beacon Street and they had a passion for acquiring art. Their donation of 6000 Japanese prints to Boston’s Museum of Fine Art in the early 1920s is an important part of that Museum’s collection.

Bill continued his story by telling me that he was inspecting the desk’s drawers and compartments one day when he opened up a compartment and discovered the coins. He was stunned that the coins had not been found before! He said this find transformed him from someone with a casual interest in coins into a true collector.

I advised Bill to submit the set of Liberty nickels to PCGS along with other highlights from his collection. He did so and we were both happy with the results. After he received the graded coins, he remarked that his only complete set was the Liberty nickels. I pointed out that he was missing the 1913 date, a very rare coin that would make his set complete. It was then that Bill asked me to find a 1913 Liberty nickel to finish his collection. We eventually acquired one – the Gem Proof example being offered in this auction.

Bill and I became good friends and met regularly for lunch. We would talk about coins, old cars, the stock market, and various topics of the day. He developed his knowledge of numismatics and obtained more rare coins for his collection. He always looked forward to going to the Long Beach coin show and would usually bring a special coin from his collection to show to other collectors.

In addition to coins, he also inherited and purchased other fine antiques and collectibles, which he loved to display to family and friends. He hosted dinner parties where he would feature a coin or an item from one of his other collections, or a guest would bring an interesting piece to share. I enjoyed attending a few of these gatherings. I recall one party where a guest brought a cased set of Colt Revolvers and another party where a special, old bottle of French wine was the showpiece.

Bill was devoted to his family, to his patients and to his humanitarian work. He was also a collecting enthusiast who truly appreciated the historical importance and artistry of numismatics.



Ron Gillio  
Numismatic Acquisitions Coordinator  
Stack’s Bowers Galleries



# The ESM Collection of Circulation Strike Flying Eagle and Indian Cents with Major Varieties

The ESM Collection of Circulation Strike Flying Eagle and Indian Cents with Major Varieties is a true treat for specialists in the series. The coins from this collection rank among the current and all-time finest sets on the PCGS Set Registry within their respective series and comprise some of the most iconic key dates and die varieties to emerge from the U.S. Mint in the 19th and 20th centuries. The collector, Pete Miller, took an interest in coins at an early age when his grandparents gave him Whitman albums for dimes, quarters, and half dollars. However, it was Small Cents that most strongly drew his interest, and he has been pursuing

the great rarities of this series ever since. Highlights from the ESM Collection of Circulation Strike Flying Eagle and Indian Cents include an MS-63 (PCGS) 1856 Flying Eagle cent, an 1858 Small Letters Flying Eagle cent certified MS-66 (PCGS), a bronze 1864 Indian cent with L on Ribbon graded MS-66 RD (PCGS), an MS-64 BN (PCGS) 1873 Indian Cent with Doubled LIBERTY, a Gem Red 1877 Indian Head cent certified MS-65 RD (PCGS), an 1888/7 Indian cent graded AU-58 (PCGS) CAC, and a 1909-S Indian cent certified MS-66 RD (PCGS) CAC, among many others.



# The William B. Martin Collection

William B. Martin (1942-2001) was a lifelong stamp and coin collector. He was born and raised in Ellenville, New York and at the time of his death resided in Pottersville, New York. Bill was passionate about world travel, history, and the outdoors, and his collections reflect all of these interests. As a librarian, he was in his element as a researcher and seeker of knowledge. His favorite travel destinations were Europe, South America (Peru in particular), and his beloved Adirondack Mountains. Among his many accomplishments were becoming a New York State Licensed Guide and a member of both the Adirondack 46er's and the Catskill 3500 Club. Bill was also a proud United States Army veteran serving his country in the Vietnam War.

The selections from Bill's collection offered in the pages that follow touch upon nearly every series of U.S. coinage from half cents to double eagles, with a particular concentration on Liberty Seated coinage across all denominations. Assembled chiefly from the 1960s through the end of the 20th century, the treasures of the William B. Martin Collection have been carefully acquired over a lifetime and are only now returning to market for the first time in decades. Highlights from this collection include an AU-58 (PCGS) 1781 Libertas American medal in bronze, a scarce 1800 Capped Bust Right eagle with AU sharpness, an MS-62 (PCGS) 1861-S Liberty Seated dime, and an AU-50 (PCGS) 1854 Liberty Seated dollar, among many others.



# The Midwest Cabinet

Stack's Bowers Galleries is pleased to present Liberty Seated dollars from the Midwest Cabinet, a collection gathered by a father and son team in the early to mid 2000s. The original goal of the collection was a set of original Liberty Seated silver dollars in EF to AU condition. This was a challenge as, in the words of our consignor: "It is often more difficult to locate these large coins in nice, mid-level grades than it is to find them in higher grades. Many of the coins we encountered were dinged, hairlined, or had some other problem."

As time went on, the collectors developed "champagne taste" and many of the pieces in the collection were replaced, as higher grade pieces became available. At this time we are pleased to offer duplicates, coins that were carefully chosen in the early days that the cabinet was being built.

Our consignor reminded us of the words of Dr. John Wong and his family, related in our catalog for the November 30, 2001, sale of that gentleman's Liberty Seated dollars: "We are but temporary guardians of these beautiful coins. One day, others will, in turn, enjoy them." It is in this spirit that the current Liberty Seated silver dollars are passed on to their future owners.



# The Thaddeus A. Tatum III Collection



Thaddeus Tatum was an inspired human being and brought great enthusiasm to the things he loved, including coin collecting, music, travel, genealogy, and all things Americana. His interest in coin collecting began in his youth when his mother gave him coin books for collecting pennies and dimes. Thad also collected 1950s and 1960s music and jukeboxes, a passion fostered through his father's work as a

band director and owner of a music store. Ultimately, Thad discovered his own path which resulted in two master's degrees in Finance from the University of Texas, Austin. His education culminated in achieving his CPA license and a career helping others save their money. Thad also loved traveling America by car with his son, Will, and in the last two summers they were able to visit 30 of the 50 states. On these trips Thad was able to explore two other passions, visiting American sites and investigating his genealogy.



# John Whitney Walter



John Whitney Walter, or “Mr. 1796” as he was best known to the numismatic community, became interested in numismatics in the late 1930s as a result of two separate events. His father, a vice

president at Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, had given him an 1881 nickel three-cent piece that he had received in change when he bought a newspaper. In addition, his father took him to see the Chase National Bank currency exhibit, located in permanent standing glass encased frames on the sidewalk, outside the Chase Bank’s main office in New York City. These two events, along with receiving a few years later an 1892 United States Columbian Exposition commemorative half dollar from a friend of his grandmother’s, started John on a lifelong quest to collect numismatic material so he could exhibit these treasures for others to see, the way the Chase Bank had done.

John’s collection of coins started early with some remarkable finds in pocket change, and then advanced to trips to the bank for rolls of coins to be searched through. These coins were then re-rolled and exchanged for new rolls, a practice familiar to many early stage collectors. In the late 1940s, John met Jack Friedberg, who ran the coin department at Gimbel’s Department Store. Jack sold him his first National Coin Albums and the “Red Book” (*A Guide Book of United States Coins*, by R. S. Yeoman).



When John received his commission as an officer in the U.S. Army Signal Corps and was sent to Germany in 1956, it provided him the opportunity to learn, first hand, about the history, artistry and money of Western Europe. As a history buff, he was intrigued by the ancient and medieval coinage that was abundant in Europe and how the coinage was used for its monetary value, as political propaganda, and to communicate who was in charge at the time of issue. He started assembling a library of books and catalogs to aid him in understanding how coinage circulated and how it affected politics because of the people who controlled the mines and mints.



When John returned back to the United States, he set about completing a U.S. gold and silver commemoratives set, building on the 1892 Columbian half dollar given to him back in the 1930s. While collecting U.S. coins, he developed an interest in coins minted in 1796. The pieces of this year intrigued him for their artistic character as well as for the fact that it was the only year that the U.S. mint issued every authorized denomination of coins dated the same year from the mint’s inception in 1793 until 1849. The key to all of his collections was “The Exhibit”! His various quests began with an imaginary exhibit plan for the collection. With this in mind he would fill in the “blank spaces” in the exhibit; much the same way as a collector fills in the “holes” in an album.



John became a specialist in ancient Roman and Greek coinage, culminating in the historic collection catalog, poster and auction of Roman coinage entitled “MEN OF ROME,” presented by Stack’s in 1990 and the donation to the Smithsonian National Numismatic Collection of his unique five-coin Greek silver coin type set of the “Demareteion Master Engraver” in 1999. His interest in 1796 coins led to an equally historic and unique collection along with a research-filled catalog of the “U.S. Coins of 1796,” auctioned by Stack’s in 1999. Most recently, many hundreds of collectors and visitors had the opportunity to see a collection of U.S. federal currency at two great venues: the ANA conventions in New York City in 2002 and in Baltimore in 2003. This collection was later auctioned by Lyn Knight in 2004. Once the exhibiting had been completed and a collection was as good as it could reasonably be, typically John’s next step was to memorialize and document the collection as a future reference, for subsequent collectors to use in their own quests. He would then give the next generation of collectors the chance to own these gems of numismatic material.

John was a member of the ANA, and a member of Early American Coppers, CONECA, CC&GTCC and SPMC. He was also a Life Fellow and 1st VP of the American Numismatic Society and was responsible for the renovation of and their relocation to a new headquarters building in downtown NYC.



# The York Collection of Rare and Key Date Coins

The York Collection of Rare and Key Date Coins was built over a number of years and represented a complete type set of US coins, featuring all of the most iconic issues from the 1793 half cent to the 1907 High Relief double eagle, as well as denomination sets of challenging dates and mintmarks including the 1864-S, 1866-S, 1873-CC and 1879-CCs. Although most of the 200+ coin collection has been dispersed over the last few years, Stack's Bowers Galleries is proud to have been selected to offer the final two portions of coins from this collection, comprising the sets that were the consignor's personal favorites.

Offered as part of the August 2018 ANA World's Fair of Money sale is a nearly complete set of Carson City \$5 half eagles. This is truly a beautiful set that includes the famous 1873-CC from the Nevada Collection and the 1875-CC from the Battle Born Collection, both graded MS-61 by PCGS. The collection lacks only the 1870-CC, 1878-CC and the 1884-CC half eagles as this discriminating collector was waiting for the "right coins" in order to achieve his goal of having the all-time highest rated PCGS Registry Set of Carson City Half Eagles.

The second set from the York Collection to be offered in the August 2018 Philadelphia auction comprises only four coins, but it is an accomplishment that puts this savvy numismatist in the company of a very elite group of gold collectors. He is only the fourth person to own all four varieties of the 1810 Capped Bust, Bust Left half eagle, joining the ranks of Harry Bass, George Gozan, and D. Brent Pogue. We at Stack's Bowers Galleries believe that this may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to own one of the rarest United States coins: the 1810 Large Date Small 5 Capped Bust half eagle. With only two or three examples of this underappreciated variety available to collectors, the offered coin, pedigreed to the D. Brent Pogue Collection, will be a great prize for its next owner.



# Order of Sale

## Session 3

### Rarities Night

Wednesday, August 15

Room 115A

6:00 PM ET

Lots 1001-1427

### Category

### Lot Number

**U.S. Coins & Related ..... 1001-1425**

Massachusetts Silver Coinage ..... 1001-1002

New Yorke in America Token ..... 1003

Continental Dollars ..... 1004-1007

Regulated Gold ..... 1008

Patterns of 1792 ..... 1009

Half Cents ..... 1010-1011

Large Cents ..... 1012-1060

Small Cents ..... 1061-1090

Two-Cent Piece ..... 1091

Silver Three-Cent Piece ..... 1092

Nickel Five-Cent Pieces ..... 1093-1100

Half Dimes ..... 1101-1106

Dimes ..... 1107-1121

Twenty-Cent Piece ..... 1122

Quarter Dollars ..... 1123-1140

Half Dollars ..... 1141-1174

Silver Dollars ..... 1175-1242

Trade Dollar ..... 1243

Gold Dollar ..... 1244-1245

Quarter Eagles ..... 1246-1253

Three-Dollar Gold Piece ..... 1254-1256

Four-Dollar Gold Pieces ..... 1257

Half Eagles ..... 1258-1292

Eagles ..... 1293-1319

Double Eagles ..... 1320-1396

Commemorative Silver Coins ..... 1397-1398

Commemorative Gold Coins ..... 1399

Proof Sets ..... 1400

Pattern and Experimental Coins ..... 1401-1402

Mint Errors ..... 1403-1413

Private and Territorial

Gold Coins and Related ..... 1414-1427

*Please refer to our other August 2018 Philadelphia auction catalogs for further offerings of U.S. Coins and Currency, Ancient and World Coins and Paper Money. View our entire auction schedule online at [StacksBowers.com](http://StacksBowers.com).*

SESSION 3  
RARITIES NIGHT



LOTS 1001-1427

## MASSACHUSETTS SILVER COINAGE

Magnificent 1652 NE Shilling  
Noe 1-A, Salmon 1-B  
Among the Finest Known  
Ex Donald Partrick



1001

**Undated (1652) NE Shilling. Noe 1-A, Salmon 1-B, W-40. AU-50 (PCGS).** 70.2 grains. A truly impressive example of this coveted issue. The surfaces show a mottled patina of grey and light peach tones beneath a faint golden iridescence. Glints of olive and navy texture show within the punches and suggest original luster. The planchet is imperfect but largely round, drawn to a soft point at the lower obverse. The punch on that side shows the typical softness at the very upper border, though is otherwise sharp and within a strongly defined cartouche. Each of the characters feature a negligible distortion from repeated impressions of the punch, and die breaks are well developed at the middle arm of the E and in the field to the right. An old mark just below center is matched by a similarly ancient blemish at center on the reverse, though neither of these distract from the overall aesthetic. The reverse punch is exceptionally bold, with the numerals uniformly pronounced and clear striations visible off the top of the first I. An exceptionally defined and impeccably preserved specimen.

This piece is a well documented and storied example, having served as the host coin to a number of highly deceptive forgeries discovered in the 1970s. One of these counterfeits had been consigned to our (Bowers and Ruddy Galleries) August 1978 ANA Auction in a group of 7 other colonial coins, 6 of which were also forgeries. Another one of these counterfeit shillings was owned by specialist Bill Anton and had been designated a forgery in June 1977 by ANACS. In describing this saga in his article "Superb Numismatic Forgeries Are Upon Us" in the April 1979 edition of *The Numismatist*, Eric Newman provides a thorough analysis of the present piece, providing a weight identical to the present assessment (70.2 grains) and a specific gravity (10.36). He notes the "dark & natural" toning in addition the "s shaped bend" of the planchet that distinguishes this genuine example from the two forgeries.

Modern Colonial researchers have been gifted an indispensable tool concerning these coveted NE shilling in the form of Jack Howes' lengthy survey of New England coinage published in the August 2010 *Colonial Newsletter*. This was an extraordinary feat of census work and redefining provenance chains that had often become confused in recent decades. In the Howes article, he identified a surprising 14 specimens from the Noe 1-A dies, a far cry from the five pieces that had been seen by the Ford cataloger in 2005. Of those 14 coins, fully

half are impounded, with seven coins in the collections of the ANS, British Museum (three pieces), the Lasser Collection at Colonial Williamsburg, the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution (the gift of Mrs. Norweb), and the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow. The appearance of the EF-45 (PCGS) example in our March 2015 sale of the Kendall Collection, known to the Ford cataloger (the "New England Collection" coin) but not listed by Howes, makes for a total of 15 survivors, of which eight are in private hands.

The Howes 1 coin, the Ford piece, was acquired from the Ford XII sale by John Kraljevich on behalf of David Sundman, who later consigned it to our sale of November 2013. Graded AU-55 by PCGS in 2013, it brought \$440,625, up from the \$253,000 it sold for in 2005. Newman's superb Noe 1-A, the high grade Mills (1904) coin, brought \$352,500 in the May 2014 Newman sale, now graded PCGS AU-55.

Partrick had two Noe 1-As, the present example being the finest of the pair. His other example, certified EF-40 (NGC), is listed as number 6 in the Howes census and previously sold in our (Stack's) 1988 Oechsner Estate; its more complete punches outweighing its lower surface quality. The other four privately owned Noe 1-As are Howes 3, the very well struck Judd-Stack coin, Howes 5, the AU-50 (PCGS) example to be offered in our October 2018 auction as part of the Archangel Collection, and Howes 7, the Zabriskie-Groves coin that Breen confused for the Ford coin.

It is difficult to grade, or even rank, NE shillings. Different collectors will differently assess the importance of good original surfaces, complete stamps, or a lack of marks. We would not presume to tell bidders one aspect is more valuable than another. However, when all factors are considered and opinions are taken, it is irrefutable that the present example is among the most desirable of the extant population. It is an important relic of American history and numismatics and will surely be a crowning achievement of the next cabinet it graces.

PCGS# 13.

*Ex Sotheby's London Auction of September 1972, lot 162; Quality Sales Corporation's (Abner Kreisberg and Jerry Cohen) Public Coin Auction of September 1973, lot 444; Alan V. Weinberg; Early American Numismatics' Buy or Bid Sale #2 December 1984, lot 3; Bertram Cohen, August 9, 1989; Donald Groves Partrick; Heritage's sale of the Partrick Collection, January 2015, lot 5513.*

# Gorgeous Choice Mint State 1652 Pine Tree Shilling

## Noe-8, Large Planchet Style

### Ex Boyd-Ford



1002

**1652 Pine Tree Shilling. Large Planchet. Noe-8.2, Salmon 7-E, W-740. Rarity-4. Ligatured NE in Legend. MS-63 (NGC).** 71.0 grains. The ownership of a Large Planchet Pine Tree shilling has always been a badge of distinction. For many, such pieces typify early American coinage at its most historic. Asked what their one favorite American coin is, Ken Bressett, Dave Bowers, and the late Louis E. Eliasberg each said, "the 1652 Massachusetts Pine Tree shilling."

The offered piece is a truly exceptional Pine Tree shilling. It was offered as lot 96 in Part XII of our (Stack's) sales of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, where it was a non-certified coin very conservatively graded "Choice EF" and where it realized \$18,000 at the hammer. The certified Choice Mint State grade is seemingly in line with the strong price paid in 2005. The golden-gray surfaces are as smooth as a collector will ever find for the design type, and they exhibit soft luster throughout. There is a faint wave to the wide and well-formed planchet, the result of the rocker dies used to strike Noe-8 and other Pine Tree shilling varieties. All of the peripheral dentils are present on both sides save for a few above HV on the obverse. The beaded circles on both sides are full and bold, though two of the beads immediately below the second S are weak. Retrograde N at IN, first T weak at left side, cud at base of tree just forming. Reverse with cud at GL that also engages the beaded circle, A of ENGLAND apparently without serif,

crumbling at ND, cud at OM and attached to dentils, faint spidery die cracks within inner beaded circle around date, NE of NEW as one letter. Diagnostics of the Noe-8 variety include a small cud forming at the base of the pine tree, a noticeably split tree trunk, the retrograde N and monogram NE, and the reverse cuds noted above.

The overall quality of the present piece is the visual and physical equivalent, to our eyes, of the Wurtzbach-Ford specimen we (Stack's) sold in October 2005 (Ford XII, lot 94), that piece called "Gem Uncirculated" by the writer (Michael Hodder, who was founder in 1993 of the Colonial Coin Collectors Club). That coin, however, has nothing on the present beauty. Indeed, if we were to match the Noe-8 offered here with just about any example currently known, we feel this specimen would still finish high in the quality and eye appeal departments. For comparison, the present piece is considerably finer to us than many of the "name" EF coins that were in the collections of Norweb, Picker, and Roper, or the other EF piece in the Ford Collection. It is also physically and aesthetically finer than the other Ford Uncirculated Noe-8 (XII:95). We suggest that this specimen will long be remembered as one of the finest examples of Noe-8 to cross the auction block in recent memory.

PCGS# 45373. NGC ID: 2ARY.

*Ex F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part XII, October 2005, lot 96; our Chicago ANA Sale of August 2014, lot 13004.*

## NEW YORKE IN AMERICA TOKENS

## Superlative New Yorke in America Token

### Finest Known by Far



1003

**Undated (Circa 1670) New Yorke in America Token. W-1705. Brass. AU-55 (PCGS).** 2.51 grams. An extraordinary specimen of a very rare and immensely popular early American token, thought to have been struck on behalf of Governor Francis Lovelace of New York. The most exhaustive research on this enigmatic type was a paper by John Kleeberg, published in the 1991 ANS COAC proceedings. Therein, he enumerated 20 listings in brass, perhaps (or probably) including some duplication. At least a few new specimens have been discovered since the paper was published, including the present piece, but overall this issue is at least Rarity-6+ with roughly 20 examples known. Most known specimens are downright ugly—this piece a remarkable exception to that norm. Its surfaces are smooth and glossy, with the obverse patina a deep golden brown with honey-gold high points while the reverse displays an even brassy tan patina. Struck slightly off-center to the west, the rim is partially incomplete from 1 to 3 o'clock on the obverse. In terms of pedigree marks, the sharpness of strike surpasses any other example we have ever seen and that alone will likely be enough to identify this piece in the future. The eye appeal is nothing short of superb. A seemingly unknown example prior to 2016

when it showed up in an European auction; it was estimated therein at 9400 EUR; roughly \$11,000. Unsurprisingly it surpassed the estimate and hammered at 88,500 EUR plus buyer's premium. After the present piece, the next finest known is the Ted L. Craige specimen, an EF-40 with a mint clip that we sold in March 2013, as lot 196; following that is the lightly cleaned VF-20 piece we sold in November 2002 as lot 31 that we called "among the sharpest known;" after that are two Fine-15 examples at which point the condition of remaining known examples drops off precipitously.

Ranked 25th in the Katherine Jaeger and Q. David Bowers book *100 Greatest American Medals and Tokens*, this is a well-known token that will draw interest from many different schools of collectors and is sure to see spirited bidding. The combination of eye appeal and rarity marks it as an ideal addition to a connoisseur's cabinet, and the likelihood of another comparable example surfacing seems extremely remote, making the present lot a once in a lifetime opportunity.

PCGS# 226.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Bruun Rasmussen's Auction 868, November 2016, lot 491.



## CONTINENTAL DOLLARS

### Sharp and Lustrous CURENCY Continental Dollar Rare Newman 1-B Variety



1004

**1776 Continental Dollar. Newman 1-B, W-8435. Rarity-7+. CURENCY. Pewter. Genuine—Surface Damage (PCGS). Choice AU Details.** Lustrous deep silver gray with deeper high points, a coin with excellent eye appeal despite a few scattered marks and blemishes, those mostly relegated to the obverse. On the positive side, the strike is about as bold as you will see for the issue; the sun face is complete despite a tiny mark there, the sundial is likewise complete, as are the horizontal lines above MIND YOUR BUSINESS. On the reverse the chain links and state names are as crisp as anyone could wish for. In other words, this is a choice piece despite some minor drawbacks, a coin that should be seen to be fully appreciated. Indeed, we commend that interest parties study and consider this coin carefully, and bid accordingly. The Newman 1-B and 1-C varieties of the CURENCY Continental dollar in pewter are easily confused, with most examples of the former mistakenly attributed as the latter in numismatic listings. Indeed, the dies for both varieties are the same, the rings on the reverse initially comprised of dots (Newman 1-A, known only in brass) that were eventually cut into lines. While Newman 1-C is one of the more frequently varieties of this enigmatic issue, Newman 1-B is one of the rarest. The present example readily reveals most (although not all) of the most significant diagnostics of Newman 1-B:

1 - Lack of a prominent obverse die break that originates above the letters GI in FUGIO. This feature is also absent on early die state examples of Newman 1-C, so this diagnostic alone should not be considered conclusive for the Newman 1-B attribution.

2- Remnants of the dots that once comprised the rings on the reverse are still readily evident. Due to die lapping, these are no longer evident on Newman 1-C examples.

3 - The comma after the word AMERICAN in AMERICAN CONGRESS still appears as such, whereas for Newman 1-C the aforementioned die lapping reduces this feature to a period.

4 - The rays right of the word CONGRESS are full on Newman 1-B examples, whereas they are attenuated for Newman 1-C due to die lapping.

5 - A prominent die chip appears within the ring for Pennsylvania on some Newman 1-B examples (not evident here), but is always absent on Newman 1-C coins. A fleeting bidding opportunity for the advanced collector, and sure to see spirited bidding at auction.

PCGS# 791. NGC ID: 2AYN.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III.*

# Intriguing 1776 Continental Dollar

## CURRENCY Variety in Pewter

### Choice Mint State



1005

**1776 Continental Dollar. Newman 1-C, W-8445. Rarity-3. CURRENCY. Pewter. MS-63 (NGC).** Lustrous satin surfaces exhibit lovely pewter gray patina on both sides. This is a well-struck example for the type with most design elements sharp. Fully Choice in quality with outstanding preservation, this piece is destined for inclusion in an advanced Americana cabinet. The Continental dollar is an enigmatic type for which no specific documentation detailing its origin has ever been found. Numismatic scholars have been able to piece together a story that, up until recently, had become the generally accepted version of events. According to this story, resolutions passed by the Continental Congress on February 17, 1776, and May 9 of the same year provided for the issuance of paper money in various denominations, including a \$1 note. Resolutions passed later in the year on July 22 and November 2, however, omitted the \$1 note. Based on these facts and supported by the existence of these coins, it was theorized that the Continental Congress intended these coins to serve in lieu of the \$1 note beginning in the latter half of 1776. The vast majority of surviving examples are struck in pewter, as here, although a few silver and brass impressions are also known. It was easy to conclude that pewter was the intended composition of such a coin, as the coins would have been fiat money without intrinsic backing, as the notes were. In addition, the fledgling government did not have a significant treasury reserve. Elisha Gallaudet was identified by Eric Newman as the likely maker based on convenient circumstantial evidence. He was a New York City engraver of the period who was known to have been involved in production of New York paper money issues of the 1770s and thus clearly a prime candidate.

In any event, as convincing as this story seems and as long as it has been accepted, recent research and a two-part article by Erik Goldstein and David McCarthy entitled "The Myth of the Continental Dollar"

published in the January and July 2018 editions of *The Numismatist* challenge the long accepted theories surrounding these coins. According to the authors, the Continental dollars were struck in England (specifically, London) sometime after 1776, likely as privately manufactured pieces commemorating American independence and intended for sale to contemporary collectors. The authors' theory is based primarily upon documentation left behind by two of the leading numismatists of the 18th century: Pierre Eugene du Simitiere, widely recognized as the "Father of American Numismatics," and Sarah Sophia Banks, for all intents and purposes the matron of the British Museum's numismatic collection. In the second part of the article, the issue of the identity of "E.G." is addressed, ruling out Elisha Gallaudet, but simultaneously opening a door to more investigation as to who the mysterious "E.G." may have been. In addition, the theory of the "dollars" as replacements for the missing paper \$1 Continental notes is also swiftly taken apart through the observation that more than 1,000,000 coins would have been necessary to match the number of \$1 notes not issued (as determined by study of issuance patterns in other series and denominations). We direct readers to these fascinating articles for more information on this intriguing new theory. In any event, the Continental dollar has always been in strong demand and it remains a classic rarity. While our understanding of its true nature is becoming more complete, it is not unlike other prized rarities relating to young America, a Libertas Americana medal being a prime example. Back to the Continental, Mint State examples, in particular, are always greeted with enthusiasm and strong bidding activity when they appear at auction. This one has superior eye appeal for the assigned grade and is worthy of the strongest bids.

PCGS# 791. NGC ID: 2AYN.

NGC Census: 11; 6 finer (MS-66 ★ finest).



## A Second Mint State Newman 1-C Continental Dollar



1006

**1776 Continental Dollar. Newman 1-C, W-8445. Rarity-3. CURRENCY. Pewter. MS-62 (NGC).** A lovely Mint State example of this classic early American type, both sides exhibit dominant pewter gray patina. Direct lighting calls forth brighter silver highlights in the fields that are associated with flashes of satiny mint luster. The strike is generally well centered on the planchet, both sides with bold to sharp detail throughout the design that includes some of the finer

elements of the sun face on the obverse. Otherwise smooth enough to support a Choice Uncirculated grade, a few small areas of light surface roughness on the reverse are noted for accuracy. If the Newman 1-C Continental dollar in the preceding lot gets away, we offer bidders a second opportunity to acquire an endearing Uncirculated example of this historic issue.

PCGS# 791. NGC ID: 2AYN.

NGC Census: 12; 17 finer (MS-66 ★ finest).

## Another Famed 1776 Continental Dollar



1007

**1776 Continental Dollar. Newman 3-D, W-8460. Rarity-4. CURRENCY, EG FECIT. Pewter. Unc Details—Environmental Damage (NGC).** This is an exceptionally attractive Continental dollar, even with the stated qualifier. Both sides are predominantly brilliant with a vibrant satin to semi-reflective finish readily evident in a strong light source. Boldly defined with the obverse alone just a tad shy of perfect centering. A few areas of inactive corrosion are noted for accuracy, but they are widely scattered and the only one of particular note is located over the sun on the obverse.

Despite its shortcomings, the present 1776 EG FECIT Continental dollar represents an infrequently offered opportunity for a collector to obtain one of the few pieces in American numismatics that bear the all-important year of our nation's birth, 1776. The "EG" of EG FECIT (EG made this) fame has been attributed to Elisha Gallaudet. Though the intended denomination for these pewter pieces is uncertain, traditional numismatic wisdom considers this to be the first of our nation's dollar coins. The present example, qualifier and all, is well worth your attention and definitely worthy of strong bidding support.

PCGS# 795.

## REGULATED GOLD

## Significant Jeremiah Snow III Regulated 1744 6400 Reis

## Unique for this Regulator

Ex John J. Ford, Jr. - Edward Roehrs



1008

(ca. 1776-1786) Jeremiah Snow III Regulated Brazilian 1744 Rio Mint 6400 Reis (\$8). 214.6 grains. VF-30 (NGC). **Circumferentially Clipped, Plugged, Countermarked IS.** An incredibly significant offering in the field of United States regulated gold coinage representing the unique survivor of this distinct touchmark. The surfaces display rich yellow and honey-gold coloration, with traces of deep burgundy patina in the protected areas. Any notable abrasions have long worn into the patina, including thin marks near the center of each side and a trace of moved metal in the upper right reverse field. The circumference has been uniformly clipped down to the denticles, trimmed from 32mm to 30mm, and the original edge device replaced by rudimentary reeding. A massive plug protrudes from the central obverse, conveying a heft and presence to this piece that is well perceived in-hand. The plug is less dramatic but still obvious at the central reverse, having been hammered level with the fields and showing somewhat ragged edges.

Each end of the central plug features the characters IS punched within a rectangular cartouche, with a bold period suspended above the lower serif of the S. The mark on the obverse is nicely centered and tilted upward relative to the portrait of King John V. Its prominent placement has caused most of the S to wear smooth, save for the lower serif. The reverse mark is well positioned but inverted 180 degrees and doubled, having been punched first to the north then corrected

to the south. Wear and distortion from their very application has left the punches slightly obscured, though their identification as the characters IS remains certain. We have not discovered a perfectly congruent match to the punch displayed on this piece, though current research leads us to Massachusetts goldsmith Jeremiah Snow III, whose I.SNOW touchmark transcends coincidence in similarity (see photo of I. SNOW mark for comparison).

At a modern weight of 214.6 grains, or 8 dwt 23 grains, the present piece is masterfully aligned to the 216 grain, or 9 dwt, standard for a "half joe" that rose to prominence around the time of the American Revolution and would remain the standard, with a few exceptions, up through the establishment of the U.S. Mint in 1792. We first encounter this standard of 216 grains at a valuation of \$8 proposed by the New York Chamber of Commerce in August 1770, representing a weight reduction from the established standard of 221 grains that had governed Colonial commerce.

Founded by a group of twenty influential New York City merchants in 1768, the Chamber of Commerce was soon granted a royal charter by King George III in 1770 and became a major force in the New England economy over the following decades. The first president of the New York Chamber of Commerce, Isaac Low, went on to serve in the First Continental Congress in 1774 and was perhaps influential in the decision of the Second Continental Congress to adopt the 216



grain standard in April 1776, institutionalizing it as the accepted value throughout the Colonies. Working most prolifically throughout this era, Jeremiah Snow III would have been acutely aware of these changes in valuation and this piece reflects his adherence to this new weight standard.

The significance of this particular specimen is exemplified by its inclusion in two of the most important collections of countermarked gold coinage ever assembled. It was first offered as part of the sale of the incredible John J. Ford, Jr. Collection of West Indian Cut and Countermarked Coins, presented by Glendining's in October 1989. Though more widely known for his United States and related coins, tokens, and medals, Ford assembled a comprehensive collection of countermarked coinage over the middle portion of the 20th Century, acquiring some pieces directly from Europe in the 1940s and obtaining many others as part of the F.C.C. Boyd Estate in the 1950s. The present example was offered in lot 267 of the 1989 Glendining's sale, placed under the heading of "Miscellaneous and North America" but denied a specific regulator. The cataloger references an IS punch associated with the island of St. Vincent in Ralph Gordon's seminal 1987 reference, though admits there is no resemblance to the current mark. Called "very rare," this piece earned a strong bid of £3,400 against a high estimate of £2,000.

It would be another two decades before this piece emerged onto the market once again, this time as part of the historic Edwards Roehrs Collection of U.S. Regulated Gold. Featuring 73 examples of U.S. regulated gold coinage, it was an unprecedented display of metalworking from the American Colonies including six specimens from the famed New York regulator Ephraim Brasher. In cataloging this piece, researcher John Kraljevich suggests Boston silversmith Joseph Smith (died 1789) as the potential regulator, though admits that "the identity of the maker is far from certain." He goes on to call it "an exciting piece, undoubtedly unique on this a regulator," and nearly a decade later this distinction remains the same.

Our current attribution of Jeremiah Snow III as the present regulator builds upon nearly thirty years of examination and research into the fabric of this significant gilded relic. Up until recently, the oeuvre of silversmithing, goldsmithing, and swordsmithing featuring the I.SNOW touchmark had been assigned to a single personality with the name of Jeremiah Snow who was working in the mid-to-late 18th Century. However, we now know that this vast catalog of wares is

attributable to at least three distinct individuals, all of the Jeremiah Snow namesake. Our regulator, Jeremiah Snow III (born 1735), falls in the middle of this dynasty, having inherited the trade of metalworking from this father, Jeremiah Snow, Jr. (born ca. 1705), who was working around Boston as a gold and silversmith as early as 1736. A number of tablespoons survive that are attributed to the elder Snow, produced circa 1760s and displaying several deviations of the I.SNOW mark, some substituting the I for a J, others using a colon instead of a period between the characters.

The present goldsmith, Snow III, is thought to have borrowed many of these same marks from his father, whom he apprenticed under circa 1749. He spent most of his career working in the western Massachusetts town of Springfield, where he was identified as a goldsmith as early as 1759. Springfield was settled at the intersection of four rivers and became a significant trade route between the cities of New York, Albany, Boston, and Montreal. It was the bustling commerce between these metropolises that would have brought this very piece to the shop of Jeremiah Snow III for the aforementioned adjustments. He went on to have a son, Jeremiah Snow IV (born 1764), that continued in the trade of metalworking through the early 19th Century, usually employing the J.SNOW mark on his wares.

Though Snow III is known by a number of tablespoons and teaspoons, his I.SNOW mark is most closely tied to the patriotic spirit of early America through the production of hundreds of swords both before and during the American Revolution. Utilizing Spanish blades imported via the West Indies, Snow III manufactured swords featuring a hilt of his own design, at times stamping the underside with the touchmark seemingly echoed on the present piece. It is during this Revolutionary era that this piece would have entered the Springfield, MA shop of Jeremiah Snow III for regulation, and it evidently went on to serve many years afterwards as an essential lubricant of commerce throughout the early United States.

The present specimen remains an important artifact of this foundational era; a unique and pedigreed representative of this IS mark whose brethren have been lost to history. For advanced collectors of U.S. Regulated Gold coinage, this offering is of monumental significance.

This is the only known coin to feature this IS countermark.

Ex Glendining's sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection of West Indian Cut and Countermarked Coins, October 1989, lot 267; Heritage's sale of the Edwards Roehrs Collection of U.S. Regulated Gold, August 2010, lot 21328.

## PATTERNS OF 1792

## Important 1792 Half Disme

### Judd-7 in Silver



1009

**1792 Half Disme. LM-1, Judd-7, Pollock-7. Rarity-4. Silver. Reeded Edge. Genuine—Flattened (PCGS). EF Details.** This bold and intriguing example delivers strong eye appeal and sharpness to represent this coveted early issue. The dominant slate-grey patina is accented by an underlying silver pearlescence and glints of powder blue in the fields. Liberty's portrait is impressively preserved, showing strong profile features and intricate hair detail. The obverse is pleasantly smooth, with a few tiny blemishes and traces of roller marks throughout. A planchet fissure near U of UNITED allows for ready identification of this particular specimen, and a thin scratch below ICA has long worn into the overall complexion. The reverse shows a crazed texture, potentially a result of the noted flattening, though the overall eye appeal remains considerably strong for the issue.

The new reference on 1792 coinage by Smith, Orsoz, and Augsburgers entitled *1792: Birth of a Nation's Coinage* (2017) has been a gift to enthusiasts of this early era of the Mint and has helped shed some light on the present example. While the current piece tells an incredibly interesting story, it leaves us with more questions than answers. It is potentially the example offered in Ebenezer L. Mason's October 1880 sale of the Smith Cabinet which was described as "large planchet" in lot 1263. Nearly a century later there emerges a similarly puzzling description for a half disme in French's sale of October 1970 that notes "it is possible that the coin was put through rollers or hammered out while under some protection."

We first handled this example over 40 years ago in our (Bowers and Ruddy's) sale of the Harold A. Blauvelt Collection, where we suggested that "the planchet was round when made and was subsequently somewhat flattened by being placed between two pieces of leather and pounded with a hammer. Good detail remains but the planchet is irregular, slightly larger than normal, and slightly thinner than normal." At some point prior to August 2001 it was certified by XF-45 by PCGS and was offered at auction a couple of times in the following years, before eventually being placed in the current "Flattened" holder which most accurately represents the coin's condition.

Despite this impairment, it remains an important artifact of U.S. history, drawing strong interest from a wide range of collectors and scholars. It is one of just 166 confirmed survivors of this inaugural issue, offering incredible rarity and significance that is seldom seen.

PCGS# 11020. NGC ID: 22ZS.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Pine Tree's sale of May 1976, lot 1; the Harold Blauvelt Collection; our (Bowers and Ruddy's) sale of February 1977, lot 997; Dr. Joseph M. Seventko; Heritage's sale of August 2001, lot 8301; the Casa Becca del Norte Collection; Heritage's sale of January 2008, lot 2740; Heritage's sale of January 2009, lot 3657; our (Teletrade's) sale of February 2009, lot 1364; Heritage's sale of August 2016, lot 3991.*

*Also possibly ex E.L. Mason's sale of the Smith cabinet, October 1880, lot 1263; French's sale of October 1970, lot 655.*



## HALF CENTS

### Lovely Choice AU 1793 Half Cent Popular One year Design Type



1010

**1793 Liberty Cap Half Cent. Head Left. C-3. Rarity-3. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** This is a breathtakingly beautiful example of the historic 1793 half cent. Boldly defined from a well centered impression, both sides exhibit a hard satin texture that is free of significant blemishes. Warmly patinated in medium autumn-brown, the reverse exhibits subtle pale gray overtones, while a streak of slightly deeper color that bisects the letter R in LIBERTY on the obverse helped us identify an earlier auction appearance. A delight to behold, and equally well suited for inclusion in a high quality type set or early copper cabinet.

Authorized by the Act of April 2, 1792 at a weight of 132 grains, the weight for the half cent was changed to 104 grains by the Act of January 14, 1793 before actual coinage in the denomination had commenced. The present coin is about as nice as you are apt to find at the assigned grade; a plurality of examples of the date are porous throughout. The fact that the 1793 is the only Liberty Cap half cent with the portrait facing left virtually guarantees that this premium quality example will see spirited bidding at auction. EAC grade AU-55.

PCGS# 35009. NGC ID: 2222.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier from Heritage's sale of the Fred Yee Collection, September 2012, lot 3361.*

## Rare Gem Proof 1833 Half Cent



1011

**1833 Classic Head Half Cent. C-1. Rarity-5 as a Proof. Proof-65 RB (PCGS). CAC.** This is a beautiful and elusive 1833 half cent. Both sides are fully struck with intricate detail from the rims to the centers. The obverse exhibits even orange-brown color, while on the reverse a splash of deep olive over the upper right interrupts otherwise similar patination. A significant bloom of original Red mint luster shows on the obverse, complemented by iridescent pinkish-lilac undertones and appreciable semi-reflectivity in the fields throughout. These lustrous and vibrant surfaces have earned it a coveted green sticker from CAC, which has been awarded to just two other examples in this color designation including the PR-65+ RB (PCGS) Missouri Cabinet specimen that went on to bring \$74,750 in 2014. An ancient reverse carbon spot is out of the way at the border above the letter E in UNITED, and it is mentioned here solely as a means of tracking this coin. Otherwise virtually pristine, this handsome and fully original specimen is sure to catch the eye of astute bidders. An obverse die crack extends from star 2 to beyond star 7 but, in the absence of reverse clash marks within the wreath, this coin was struck from an earlier die state than Manley 1.0, the earliest state known for circulation strikes of this date.

This specimen was struck in the second Philadelphia Mint building located at Juniper and Chestnut streets. Construction on the new facility began in 1829, and coinage operations commenced in January 1833, aided by a complement of brand new machinery. This is the Mint building in which all half cents would be produced from 1833 through the denomination's end in 1857. Regarding the 1833 Classic Head, only a single die pairing is known, and it was used to strike both Proofs and circulation strikes. The Proofs were undoubtedly produced first, as the early die state described above suggests. Exactly how many of these specially prepared coins were struck is unknown since Mint personnel did not record the mintages of Proof coins during that era. Rick Coleman included only five examples in his census, while Walter Breen (1983) estimated that "at least fifty proofs [sic] survive" and went on to opine, "These may have been made in large quantities to celebrate the opening of the new Mint, which commenced in January, 1833." PCGS CoinFacts provides an estimate of 30 to 40 coins extant in all grades. Clearly this is a scarce to rare issue, expertly preserved and attractive Gems such as this decidedly in the latter category.

PCGS# 1199. NGC ID: 2239.

PCGS Population: 2; just 3 finer through Proof-66 RB.



## LARGE CENTS

### Choice VF Chain AMERI Cent



1012

**1793 Flowing Hair Cent. Chain Reverse. S-1. Rarity-4. AMERI. VF-35 (PCGS).** Warm medium brown dominates both sides of this boldly detailed example of this iconic Choice VF Chain cent. All major design features are readily apparent with an easily discernible date and smooth surfaces. A couple minor planchet flaws (as made) can be seen at 3 o'clock on the reverse and to the right of the date on the obverse, but these are hardly distracting and are mentioned for accuracy only. Overall a very appealing high-quality mid-grade example of this challenging type. The first coins of the U.S. Mint at Philadelphia were the large cents and half cents of 1793, with the March 1 coinage of cents preceding the production of half cents by several months. In the first year there were three distinct styles of large cents struck — Chain,

Flowing Hair, and Liberty Cap — with numerous varieties within each type. Sheldon-1, as here, is the only variety of the issue with the AMERI. abbreviation in the reverse legend, its mintage believed to comprise approximately 7,000 of the 11,178 coins delivered between February 27 and March 1. A scarce die marriage with only 200 or so examples believed extant in all grades, the 1793 S-1 cent enjoys strong collector demand at all levels of preservation. That this attractive specimen is up for bids is only fitting in an ANA sale of this quality. Take a good look, plan your bids accordingly, and perhaps this prize will be yours. A great way to begin a large cent collection or an advanced early U.S. type set.

PCGS# 901340. NGC ID: 223E.  
PCGS Population: 4; 24 finer.

### Another Popular Chain AMERI Cent



1013

**1793 Flowing Hair Cent. Chain Reverse. S-1. Rarity-4. AMERI. VF Details—Repaired (NGC).** The eagerly sought AMERI variety of the one year design type 1793 Chain cent, represented here by a more affordable mid grade example. Boldly toned in a blend of copper-rose and steel-gray patina, both sides are universally porous with an overall rough, granular texture. Of sizeable blemishes we see nothing

of note, however, and the detail is bold to sharp throughout with much to tempt the budget minded type or variety collector. Sheldon-1 is the only die marriage of this historic issue with the AMERI abbreviation in the reverse legend. Noyes Die State A.

PCGS# 35432. NGC ID: 223G.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier from Heritage's Chicago Signature & Platinum Night Auction of September 2011, lot 3039.*

## Sharp AU Chain Cent AMERICA, With Periods Variety



1014

**1793 Flowing Hair Cent. Chain Reverse. S-4. Rarity-3+. AMERICA, With Periods. AU Details—Rim Damage (NCS).** A more affordable, yet overall sharply defined example of this perennially popular one year design type from the early large cent series. The reverse design is virtually full, while the obverse also displays an uncommon amount of detail for this challenging issue. Rich deep copper patina with microscopic granularity throughout and a few wispy surface blemishes, the most significant detractors are a series of edge bruises

on the reverse that explain the NCS qualifier. Sheldon-4 is the only die marriage of the 1793 Chain cent with periods after the word LIBERTY and the date on the obverse. With the considerable sharpness of detail that it possesses, the present example holds particular appeal for the budget minded type collector. Noyes Die State B.

PCGS# 35444. NGC ID: 223F.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier from Heritage's Long Beach Signature Auction of September 2005, lot 689.*

## Charming 1793 Chain AMERICA Cent With Periods



1015

**1793 Flowing Hair Cent. Chain Reverse. S-4. Rarity-3+. AMERICA, With Periods. EF Details—Surfaces Smoothed (PCGS).** One of the classic coins and possibly one of the most desirable of all American coins, Henry Voigt's Chain cent remains as popular as ever in all levels of preservation. Numismatic scholars believe that the entire mintage of 36,103 pieces for this one-year type was delivered between February 27 and March 12, 1793, though the precise breakdown between types is not known. The Sheldon-4 pairing is the only die variety of this issue with periods following the date and the word LIBERTY, making it easy to attribute even without a loupe, both of which are plainly visible on

the present example. The bust is somewhat soft in definition, a regular occurrence given the shallow relief of the die, but the major hair tresses are delineated. The smoothing is well executed and not detracting as is often the case and the coin is evenly toned in a dark chocolate patina overall with only the faintest traces of porosity. Despite the holder's qualifier, this coin has an overall pleasing countenance that will charm. Here is a delightful example of a legendary coin that has much to offer in terms of eye appeal and detail for the budget-minded early copper aficionado and type collector alike.

PCGS# 1341. NGC ID: 223F.



## Desirable 1793 Chain Cent



1016

**1793 Flowing Hair Cent. Chain Reverse. S-4. Rarity-3+. AMERICA. With Periods. VF Details—Repaired (PCGS).** Readily discerned by the periods at the end of the word LIBERTY and the date, the Sheldon-4 variety of the perennial favorite Chain cent is scarce in any grade level and a coin that provides pride of ownership at any grade level. Both sides are warmly and evenly toned in antique dark brown copper-rose patina with splashes of brick-red. The hair tresses are sharply defined and highly detailed with individual hair strands

clearly visible, suggesting a higher grade level. The reverse chain and denomination indicator is clean and sharp. The naturally smooth surfaces are interrupted only on the reverse with evidence of what appears to be tooling or smoothing around the words STATES OF, hence the qualifier on the insert. The remaining letters of the legend are clear with ample detail. This is a wholesome mid-grade example of the historically significant and ever popular Chain cent and a more than suitable representative of the nation's first coinage.

PCGS# 1341, NGC ID: 223E

## Exceptional Choice Mint State 1793 Wreath Cent Vine and Bars Edge



1017

**1793 Flowing Hair Cent. Wreath Reverse. S-9. Rarity-2. Vine and Bars Edge. MS-64+ BN (PCGS).** This is a simply outstanding condition rarity from the classic one-year Wreath cent design type of 1793. A somewhat glossy deep golden-tan specimen, both sides possess exceptional eye appeal throughout. Striking detail is sharp to full throughout, allowing ready appreciation of the high relief design of this beautiful type. Some natural planchet flaws on Liberty's cheek and neck are as made, and they are only readily evident under low magnification. The surfaces are amazingly free of contact marks to the unaided eye, and even closer scrutiny with the aid of a loupe reveals naught but a few tiny pecks. Breen Die State VII. This is the second design type issued for large cents in 1793; the first was the Flowing Hair obverse with Chain style reverse. Newspapers and the public criticized the Chain design, and stated that "Liberty was in chains." Mint Director David Rittenhouse ordered new designs for the cent and the Wreath reverse was born. (Only the Birch and Voigt cents of 1792 have a leafy sprig below the bust and above the date, along with the 1793 half cents, perhaps pointing to a common designer.) Liberty herself is more defined after the shallow relief seen on the Chain cents, with more voluminous hair executed in high relief and a steady gaze upward. The reverse wreath leaves include a trefoil style which may be a cotton leaf, while the berries are arranged on long strands, some of which fork into branches with attached berries. The longer leaves depicted are almost certainly laurel leaves, the same species of laurel (*laurus nobilis*) native to ancient Greece that was used to crown the victors of local sporting events. This tradition of the laurel wreath may have been used to symbolize America's freedom won through the Revolutionary War. The identity of the designer of the Wreath cent is uncertain and various candidates have been advanced, none with certainty. Just a few months after this design was introduced, the Wreath style was abandoned when the talented engraver Joseph Wright was secured by the Mint in the summer of 1793. Wright completed a third new design for the 1793 cents known as the Liberty Cap style and these were adopted late in the year. Tragically, Wright died in the yellow fever epidemic a few months after he was hired. The total mintage of the Flowing Hair, Wreath cents is thought to be 63,353 pieces by analysis of deliveries and dates. Perhaps somewhat more than 2,000 exist today, with only 30 or so examples in Mint State. Far fewer approach the quality of this magnificent coin. Indeed, the present Choice Mint State example is a true American classic, a coin that any specialist would be proud to own for its exceptional quality, condition

rarity, and extraordinary eye appeal. We have always loved 1793 cents of the four major types — Chain AMERI., Chain AMERICA, Wreath (as here), and Liberty Cap. Of the four, indeed unique within the entire large copper cent series, the 1793 Wreath is in wonderfully dramatic high relief, as previously stated, the portrait of Liberty being almost sculptured in its appearance. Although no documentation survives, likely it required special attention and effort to strike these up properly on a hand press. We can imagine a high rejection rate. The obvious solution was to lower the relief of the designs, which indeed was done when the Liberty Cap variety was introduced later in the year. In any numismatic season a 1793 Wreath cent is an object of desire. Even if worn nearly smooth, such a coin commands interest and attention. When numismatics became a very popular hobby in 1857 and 1858, following the passing of the large copper cent and the introduction of the small Flying Eagle cent, there was a nationwide passion to collect the pieces of an earlier era — the large copper cents generating fond memories of childhood. Dr. Montroville W. Dickeson in the first large-format American book on the hobby *The American Numismatics Manual*, 1859, mentioned that well worn 1793 cents could still be found in circulation! This did not last for long, and almost as quick as a wink, all disappeared. There were no magazines on American numismatics, so public interest and questions were addressed by features in magazines and newspapers of general interest, including *Historical Magazine*, launched in 1857, and in newspaper submissions in New York City by Augustus B. Sage and in Boston by Jeremiah Colburn. Along the way some nicknames for cents that endured such as Booby Head and Silly Head for varieties of 1839 were attached. In 1858 George Cogan, an English immigrant who conducted an art shop in Philadelphia, had a mail bid sale of large copper cents. The leaflet was distributed to those interested, bids came pouring in, and Cogan was startled at the enthusiastic response as well as the prices generated. This prompted him to thinking. Within a couple of years Cogan left the business of prints, painting frames, and the like behind and went into numismatics primarily. Later, he moved to New York City, the center of attention in the marketplace. As years went on, large copper cents continued to be the focus of interest for many collectors and the first photographic plate to appear in *The American Journal of Numismatics* (launched in 1856), was published in 1869 and featured cents of the 1793 date. As the years went on, these pieces continued to be the focus of specialists whose names are remembered today. Into the 20th century the momentum continued. Most numismatists collected 1793

cents by the types listed in *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, one each of the four designs. A notable exception was Dr. Charles Ruby, a university professor in Southern California, who felt that if four 1793 cents were desirable, 10 were better yet, and dozens even more desirable! The coin market evolves, and today with certification led by PCGS and NGC, high grade coins have become a greater focus of attention than ever before. While opinion can still differ, the PCGS and NGC certifications have been widely accepted and linked into various market commentaries. David Hall, one of the greatest innovators in

our hobby, came up with the idea of the Registry Set a generation ago, adding impetus to the marketplace. Today there is a great deal of excitement among those desiring to complete a Registry Set in a given specialty. This coin, with its exceptionally high grade for a 1793 Wreath cent of any die marriage, is ideal for inclusion in a high ranked Registry Set, as well as holding tremendous appeal for advanced type collectors and early copper enthusiasts.

PCGS# 1347. NGC ID: 223H.

From our Americana Sale of January 2013, lot 13109.

## Bold EF 1793 Wreath Cent



1018

**1793 Flowing Hair Cent. Wreath Reverse. S-9. Rarity-2. Vine and Bars Edge. EF Details—Repaired (PCGS).** This is a desirable Wreath cent that offers plenty of bold to sharp definition for a more modest sum. The recesses retain considerable sharpness of detail, in fact, wear light and confined to the higher elements such as Liberty's hair and the leaves in the wreath. The obverse is a bit lighter in blended steel and medium brown, the reverse deeply and evenly toned in charcoal-copper. Both sides with considerable evidence of smoothing, the reverse somewhat matte-like in texture and the obverse with a curiously glossy appearance. The strike is well centered on both sides with the border beading full. Noyes Die State A. The replacement for

the short-lived Chain Reverse cent of the same year, the 1793 Wreath Reverse cent was itself supplanted before the year was out by the Liberty Cap motif of Joseph Wright. The designer of the Wreath cent is unknown, but the dies were engraved by Henry Voigt. Over the course of three months the Mint struck only 63,353 cents of this type, survivors of which have long enjoyed a strong numismatic following. The Sheldon-9 variety offered here features an obverse on which the stem of the sprig is slightly curved and parallels the top of the digits in the date. This obverse was also used to strike coins of the S-8 and NC.4 varieties. The reverse is unique to this pairing and features a large, round bow to the ribbon at the base of the wreath.

PCGS# 1347. NGC ID: 223H.

## Superior Quality 1793 Wreath Cent Condition Census



1019

**1793 Flowing Hair Cent. Wreath Reverse. S-11C. Rarity-3-. Lettered Edge. AU-53 (PCGS). CAC.** This is a simply outstanding example of both the type and variety that is eagerly awaiting inclusion in another high quality numismatic cabinet. Satiny and tight, the surfaces also reveal modest semi-reflective tendencies in the fields as the coin dips into a light. The overall appearance is so smooth as to border on pristine, certainly relative to the grade assigned by PCGS, and the only useful identifiers are shallow planchet flaws (as made) on the obverse at the lowest leaf in the sprig above the date and at the reverse border between the letters TA in STATES. Obverse ideally centered within a full beaded border, the reverse impression is drawn trivially toward 1 o'clock, although only the border beading along the upper right is affected. All major design elements are sharp to full, light rub to the highest points of the obverse portrait and a few of the leaves in the reverse wreath doing little more than upholding the validity of the assigned PCGS grade. Accuracy alone compels us to

mention a few wispy pin scratches on the reverse, but they are so faint as to be easily overlooked and even more easily forgiven. A gorgeous Wreath cent irrespective of variety, and among the finest known for the S-11C attribution. With an EAC grade of EF-45, in fact, this coin is included in the Condition Census for this variety in the Breen large cent encyclopedia (2000). Breen Die State II.

PCGS# 35477. NGC ID: 223J.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex our (Bowers and Ruddy's) Rare Coin Review #24, Autumn 1975; our (Bowers and Ruddy's) sale of December 1975, lot 270; our (Bowers and Ruddy's) Rare Coin Review #26, Summer 1976; Andrew P. Lustig; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of September 1985, lot 14; Kagin's (sale of January 1986, lot 4100; Andrew P. Lustig; Midwest collector; Jay Woodside (The Scotsman); Harold "Red" Seiler; Jay Woodside (The Scotsman), September 1993; Thomas D. Reynolds, February 1997; John B. MacDonald; Denis W. Loring; Heritage's sale of the Denis W. Loring Collection of 1793 Large Cents, January 2012, lot 3030.*



## Key Date 1793 Liberty Cap Cent Eighth Finest Known for the S-14 Die Pairing



1020

**1793 Liberty Cap Cent. S-14. Rarity-5-. VF-35 (PCGS).** An uncommonly well preserved example of this scarce and conditionally challenging die marriage. There is appreciable gloss to this attractive mid-grade coin, the surfaces toned in a handsome blend of steel-brown and rose-brown patina. Ideally centered on the planchet, the strike has imparted full border beading around both sides. The devices are generally sharp in detail, especially on the reverse, while Liberty's portrait is suitably bold in the areas affected by the ever-present bisecting die crack. A few wispy marks in the right obverse field are easily overlooked, as is trivial porosity that is only discernible with the aid of a loupe. Rather smooth in hand, this is an impressive coin that would do equally well in an advanced large cent date or variety set.

Sheldon-14 is the popular Bisecting Crack die marriage of the key date 1793 Liberty Cap cent, an elusive issue in all grades with a mintage of 11,056 pieces. The present example grades EAC VF-30 per Bland, EAC VF-25 per Noyes, with both numismatists ranking it as the eighth finest known from this die pairing.

PCGS# 1359. NGC ID: 223L.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Thomas L. Elder's sale of the Henry C. Miller Collection, April 1917, lot 644; Henry C. Hines; Dr. William H. Sheldon; Sheraton Coin Co.; Dr. William H. Sheldon, April 1972; New Netherlands' sale of the R.E. "Ted" Naftzger, Jr. Collection, November 1973, lot 336; First Coinvestors; Pine Tree Auctions' sale of February 1975, lot 599; William R. T. Smith; Jack H. Beymer; Albert Ault; Alfred K. Nippert, Jr.; Heritage's Long Beach Signature Auction of September 2015, lot 3688. Heritage lot tag included.*

## Scarce 1794 Liberty Cap Cent Head of 1793, Edge of 1794



1021

**1794 Liberty Cap Cent. S-19B. Rarity-4+. Head of 1793. VF Details—Cleaning (PCGS).** A predominantly deep copper example with lighter golden-brown highlights evident on the obverse. For the reverse we note intermingled steel-red tinting as the coin rotated under a light. The obverse is nicely centered, although devoid of denticulation, while the reverse is trivially off center to 12:30. Mentionable softness of detail is confined to the upper reverse border, where the letters TES OF and faint, yet discernible. All other design elements are bold, and there are no significant blemishes apart from a touch of glossiness and minor porosity. Breen Die State II. This scarce variety was discovered by Dr. Edward Maris sometime before 1869. The present example is graded

EAC VF-20 in both the Bland and Noyes censuses, ranking CC#10 in the former and CC#11 in the latter. This is a conditionally challenging die marriage, the use of crude, dark planchets going a long way to explain the rarity of high grade survivors.

PCGS# 35519. NGC ID: 223N.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Thomas D. Reynolds, March 1995, purchased unattributed on February 11, 1987 from Marian Wittenberg (Carlsbad Coins); Walter J. Husak; Denis W. Loring, April 2001; Jon Alan Boka; Heritage's sale of the Jon Alan Boka Collection of 1794 Large Cents, September 2016, lot 5304. Collector envelope with attribution and provenance notes included.*

## Condition Census 1794 S-71 Cent The Green-Hain-Holmes Specimen



1022

**1794 Liberty Cap Cent. S-71. Rarity-2. Head of 1795. MS-61 BN (PCGS).** Simply put, this is a lovely Liberty Cap cent irrespective of date or die marriage. Both sides exhibit rich, even, deep brown patina with the barest trace of faded mint color in the protected areas along the upper obverse and reverse borders. The surfaces are hard, tight and predominantly smooth. There are a few minor blemishes, however, and they include a faint hairline scratch on Liberty's neck, another in the hair curls above the digits 17 in the date, several others in the field around the denomination ONE CENT on the reverse, and a small planchet spot in the field under the final letter A in AMERICA. Ideally centered on the obverse with a uniformly denticulated border on that side, the reverse also exhibits full denticulation, although it is trivially off center to 7 o'clock. The reverse is rotated 10 degrees counterclockwise from normal coin alignment. Breen Die State III. Solidly in the Condition Census for the die pairing, this coin is graded EAC EF-40 by both Noyes and Bland and tied for CC#6 in both

listings. Also EAC EF-40 and tied for CC#6 in the Breen large cent encyclopedia. Bob Grellman grades it EAC EF-45 in his cataloging for the September 2009 sale of the Dan Holmes Collection. The obverse of this beautiful coin is plated in *Penny Whimsy, Early American Cents*, and Tom Morley's 1794 grading guide, the latter to illustrate the EF-45 grade.

PCGS# 35696. NGC ID: 223R.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex "Colonel" E.H.R. Green; Burdette G. Johnson (St. Louis Stamp & Coin Co.), May 1942; Thomas L. Elder; Oscar J. Pearl; Numismatic Gallery's Fixed Price List of 1944, lot 84-J; H. South; our (Stack's) sale of February 1951, lot 343; I.M. Irving; Lester Merkin; unknown intermediaries; our (Stack's) sale of March 1986, lot 1192; Andy Hain; our (Stack's) sale of the Hain Family Collection, January 2002, lot 734; Superior's Baltimore Elite Coin Auction of July 2003, lot 209; Chris Victor-McCawley, January 2004; Ira & Larry Goldbergs' sale of the Dan Holmes Collection, Part I, September 2009, lot 114. Goldbergs lot tag, collector envelope and Grellman tag with attribution and provenance notes included. Plated in Early American Cents and Penny Whimsy.*

## Choice Mint State 1795 Liberty Cap Cent Sheldon-78



1023

**1795 Liberty Cap Cent. S-78. Rarity-1. Plain Edge. MS-63 BN (NGC).** A conditionally rare example, the importance of this early large cent for Mint State type purposes cannot be overstated. Both sides are well centered on the planchet, the denticles broad and full in virtually all areas around both sides. The Brown color designation fails to address the considerable mint red color remaining on each side, making this piece an incredible opportunity that not be overlooked. Glints of original rose-orange luster still adhere to the protected areas around some of the devices, all of which possess suitably sharp

definition by early U.S. Mint standards. The dominant appearance is one of warm medium-brown patina, and it is easy to appreciate the technical and aesthetic merits of this coin due to a lack of significant blemishes. A few trivial carbon spots on the reverse are hardly worth mentioning. A strong Choice Unc with that is sure to appeal to the advanced collector.

PCGS# 1380. NGC ID: 223T.

NGC Census: 10; 4 finer through MS-65 BN.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex our sale of November 2010, lot 407.*

## Intriguing 1795 Jefferson Head Cent Rarity



1024

**1795 Liberty Cap Cent. S-80. Rarity-5+. Jefferson Head. Plain Edge. Fine-15 (PCGS).** An inviting example of this enigmatic rarity from the early large cent series. Deep copper-rose patina blankets both sides, the detail of which is bold for the grade apart from minor softness along the upper and lower right reverse border. The surfaces are uniformly microporous with light olive-russet encrustation that is largely confined to the protected areas around the devices. There are few sizeable marks, however, a few shallow scuffs at the digit 1 in the date and a tiny void on the liberty cap being the most useful identifying features.

This variety was coined outside the United States Mint by John Harper in an attempt to win a private coining contract. Harper's name is well

known to numismatists, as his humble saw shop (sometimes mistakenly called a "cellar") is thought to have been the facility where the first 1792 half dismes were struck, standing in for the still-unfinished United States Mint building nearby. Harper's shop, where this coin was struck, was on the northeast corner of North 6th and Cherry streets, a stone's throw from President Washington's house at 5th and Market and within sight of Independence Hall; the site is now occupied by the National Constitution Center. The First Philadelphia Mint was a little over a block away on 7th Street. Harper's proximity and skill set made him a natural partner for the Mint, and he turns up several times in the Mint's account books: providing a press and mechanical assistance in 1792, selling saws in 1793, and selling a pair of rollers in 1794.



Harper's talents as a blacksmith and machinist were well known to the Mint when Elias Boudinot, then a congressman, sought advice from Mint assayer Albion Cox on how to improve the Mint's processes and production. Cox took "the liberty of recommending to you a practical man who operated in the New Jersey coppers — he will give you such information with respect to the proceedings of coinage as will appear almost incredible when contrasted with the present proceedings." Assuming that Boudinot, then in the midst of an inquisition into the Mint's operations on behalf of Congress, must "be acquainted with the defects" of that institution, Cox strongly recommended he talk to "John Harper, now very extensively in the saw-making business near the iron works at Trenton." According to Pete Smith, Joel J. Orosz, and Leonard Augsburger in the book *1792: Birth of a Nation's Coinage*, Harper "visited the Mint on January 23, 1795, and suggested improvements but [Director David] Rittenhouse and the staff of the Mint were not impressed." Rittenhouse resigned the following June, followed in the director's office by Henry deSaussure, who lasted until just October. The next Mint director was Elias Boudinot, who had been hearing about Harper for nearly a year by that point.

Harper reached out to Boudinot almost immediately after his appointment. He wrote on November 4, 1795: "I propose to engage with you...to receive sheet copper of the right size and coin the same into cents complete for circulation at the rate of eighty dollars per ton and to return the same in Cents and shurf deducting twenty-five pounds in each ton for waste. I will also forge and harden all the dies, beds, and punches for the same." Recognizing that promises and actions are two different things, Harper showed Boudinot what he could do. He made dies and struck the coins that we today call Jefferson Head cents. Elias Boudinot dutifully reported to Congress on Harper's work on February 3, 1796. He told the House of Representatives that Harper had "with great candor and freedom communicated his knowledge" but, having felt a cold reception by the current staff at the Mint during his interaction with them, decided to "make a press and cutting machine at his own expense." A few weeks later, according to Smith et al.:

*"Without Congressional authority, Harper produced dies, built a press, and invited the committee [of the House of Representatives] to observe his ability to produce cents faster and more efficiently than the Mint. The committee was impressed and dug into their own pockets to reimburse Harper for the copper used. Perhaps they took home a few of his cents as mementos."*

It made Boudinot nervous that Harper had dies that looked so much like federal cents, so he informed Congress that when he "found the dies used by the memorialist [Harper] still in his possession and conceiving this to be very improper [he] took them into the Mint." When he realized that he had no power to reimburse Harper for the dies or his other labors, Boudinot offered him a job as assistant coiner. Harper declined.

Within 70 years, Harper's cents were valuable collectibles. The earliest acknowledgement of the desirability of the "Jefferson Head" cents appears in W. Elliot Woodward's sale of October 1864, where lot 617 was described as "1795 Sometimes called the Jefferson Head, in rather poor condition but an extremely rare type." William Strobridge, a coin dealer then based in New York, bought it for one dollar. It is unknown when this variety was first identified as distinctive, or given the name "Jefferson Head," or by whom. The earliest reference of which we are aware is Edward Cogan's sale of June 1864, where one was listed under the heading of "Fabrications," along with things like Bolen copies and pieces with altered dates. Described as "1795 Cent, Jefferson Head," it sold for a quarter. If Cogan could simply call it a "Jefferson Head" and assume bidders would know what it was, and Woodward could use the same name just a few months later, the moniker must have had general currency among numismatists by then.

By the 20th century, the Jefferson Head cent was revered as a distinctive rarity in the early copper series. Initially dismissed as a counterfeit intended for circulation, Walter Breen appears to have been the first to make the connection between these cents and John Harper's experiment, leading modern collectors to appreciate these coins as not only rarities, but historical relics of the Mint's unsteady infancy. Nearly all surviving specimens are heavily circulated, and many are impaired. Three varieties are known: Sheldon-80, as here, with a plain edge; 1795 NC-1, with a different reverse die and a lettered edge; and 1795 NC-4, from the same dies as Sheldon-80 but with a lettered edge. Among the three varieties, not a single example exceeds Very Fine and, indeed, survivors are highly prized regardless of level of preservation. The present example would certainly serve as a centerpiece in an advanced numismatic cabinet.

PCGS# 1386.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III.*

# Incredible Mint State 1796 S-82 Liberty Cap Cent

## The Woodin-French-Clarke-Sheldon-Naftzger-Walter Specimen

### Condition Census #2



1025

**1796 Liberty Cap Cent. S-82. Rarity-5. MS-62 BN (PCGS).** A simply outstanding example of both the issue and the variety that is sure to have no difficulty finding its way into another highly regarded large cent cabinet. Both sides are toned in a blend of rich golden-brown and medium copper patina. Full mint gloss throughout, the fields semi-reflective when viewed with the aid of a direct light. The reverse, in particular, has a modest cameo finish. Striking detail is exceptional for the type with uniformly denticulated borders surrounding sharp devices. A loupe reveals traces of strike doubling, particularly on the reverse, and especially at the letters in the denomination ONE CENT and the words STATES and OF in the legend. In fact, this coin has the appearance of having been deliberately struck more than once to bring out all of the detail and to create a sharp and aesthetically pleasing piece. The surfaces are microporous, although they appear hard and smooth to the unaided eye. A few tiny obverse marks are noted, the most significant at the left border serving as a useful identifying feature. The reverse is virtually pristine. Die states nearly perfect with only a

faint obverse bulge at the upper left border. Breen Die State I.A highly significant example of a scarce die marriage, this coin is the second finest known 1796 Sheldon-82 large cent per the listing in *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of Early United States Large Cents: 1793-1814* (2000), where it is given an EAC grade of AU-50. It is also the plate coin for the die marriage in the books *Penny Whimsy* by William H. Sheldon (1958) and *United States Large Cents: 1793-1814* by William C. Noyes (1991). Well known to specialists, and carrying an illustrious provenance, this beautiful S-82 Liberty Cap cent stands tall among the highlights in the magnificent John Whitney Walter Collection.

PCGS# 1392.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection. Earlier ex Peter Mougey; William H. Woodin; Thomas L. Elder's sale of September 1919, lot 21; Dr. George P. French; B. Max Mehl's Fixed Price List of 1929, lot 97, cataloged there as a "Proof;" T. James Clarks, 1949; William H. Sheldon, April 1972; R.E. Naftzger, February 1992; Eric Streiner; our (Stack's) 65th Anniversary Sale, October 2000, lot 61. Stack's lot tag included. The plate coin for the variety in Penny Whimsy and the Noyes large cent reference.*



## High Grade 1796 S-87 Liberty Cap Cent The Mervis Specimen



1026

**1796 Liberty Cap Cent. S-87. Rarity-3-. AU-53 (PCGS).** Hard and tight surfaces are attractively toned in a blend of gray-brown and autumn orange. The strike is slightly off center to 2 o'clock on the obverse with scant denticulation along the right border on that side, left border with particularly broad denticles. The reverse is better centered, although the upper right border is softly struck and devoid of denticulation. Both sides are universally bold throughout the design with only light high point rub and nothing but small, inconsequential handling marks. A faint spot in the right obverse field

is a useful identifying feature. Breen Die State III. Graded EF-40 by EAC standards in Heritage's January 2014 cataloging of the Adam Mervis Collection, and tied for seventh finest for the S-87 dies in the Bland census based on that rating. A conditionally scarce Liberty Cap cent irrespective of variety, this coin holds tremendous appeal for high grade type collectors and advanced early copper enthusiasts.

PCGS# 1392. NGC ID: 223V.

*From Heritage's sale of the Adam Mervis Large Cent Collection, January 2014, lot 2542.*

Near Mint 1796 Liberty Cap Cent  
Sheldon-91  
Condition Census Quality  
Ex Sheldon-Walter-Gardner



1027

**1796 Liberty Cap Cent. S-91. Rarity-3. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** This is a truly magnificent 1796 Liberty Cap cent, exhibiting qualities irresistible to both the type collector and specialist. The patina boasts a blend of espresso and caramel hues, with areas of reddish bronze tones scattered throughout. A trivial suggestion of friction is apparent across the high points, though the surfaces otherwise flirt with Mint State preservation. Traces of the original planchet texture remain at the left obverse and reverse but actual handling marks are scarce under inspection. Liberty is sharply defined, showing intricate hair detail and profile features despite evidence of a late die state. Die defects are now prominent in the right obverse field and to the right of the 6 in the date, accompanied by swelling at the first half of STATES on the reverse. A beautiful piece with strong eye appeal and character to stimulate the advanced numismatist.

This significance of this piece has long been recognized, having passed through the hands of several significant collectors including Dr. William H. Sheldon who selected it to be illustrated in his *Early American Cents* (1949), which would later become *Penny Whimsy*

(1958). We most recently handled this example as part of our (Stack's) offering of the incredible John Whitney Walter collection in May 1999. Featured in lot 1721 with a grade of "Choice About Uncirculated-55, if not slightly finer," we noted that "traces of original mint gloss can be seen in some of the protected areas on the obverse. Very sharp strike everywhere." Nearly 20 years later, we are delighted to be handling it once again alongside additional rarities from the John Whitney Walter Collection in our Philadelphia ANA Auction.

PCGS# 35780. NGC ID: 223V.

PCGS Population: 1; only the MS-66 Sheldon-Cardinal specimen ranks finer (S-91 variety only).

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Col. E.H.R. Green; B.G. Johnson as St. Louis Stamp & Coin Co., August 1942; James G. Macallister; J.C. Morgenthau's sale of January 1944, lot 420; George H. Clapp; the American Numismatic Society; Dr. William H. Sheldon; Dorothy Paschal; Superior Galleries' sale of the Robinson S. Brown, Jr. Collection, September 1986, lot 119; Dr. Allen Bennett, April 1992; Eric Streiner; our (Stack's) sale of the John Whitney Walter Collection, May 1999, lot 1721; Heritage's sale of the Walter Husak Collection, February 2008, lot 2092; Heritage's sale of the Eugene H. Gardner Collection, Part II, October 2014; lot 98028. This piece is illustrated in Dr. William H. Sheldon's *Early American Cents* (1949).*



## Highly Significant 1796 S-100 Draped Bust Cent Tied for Second Finest Known The French-Clarke-Sheldon-Naftzger-Walter Specimen



1028

**1796 Draped Bust Cent. S-100. Rarity-6-. Reverse of 1797. AU-53 (PCGS).** A handsome and fully original piece, both sides exhibit a pleasing blend of golden-brown and reddish-copper patina. The surfaces are generally hard in appearance with considerable semi-reflectivity in the fields. The obverse and reverse details are sharper than the EAC grade suggests (see below, and as confirmed by PCGS), with all the strands in Liberty's hair crisp and fully delineated and many of the leaves in the reverse wreath showing full veins. Obverse impression close to perfectly centered, only the denticulation along the lower right border is a tad soft. The reverse border was beveled by the planchet cutter, making the obverse flat and squared off and leaving the reverse with no denticulation from 3 to 10 o'clock. There is a small obverse dig in the extreme right field, other tinier marks are evident on both sides, as are a few light spots here and there around the peripheries. Obverse die state with a single set of clash marks behind Liberty's head and under the chin; reverse die state with a thin crack

through the tops of the letters TA in STATES into the field above the adjacent T. Breen Die State I-II, intermediate die state. EAC grade EF-40 and tied for second finest known in *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of Early United States Cents: 1793-1814* (2000); EAC grade EF-45 and listed as finest known in the 1991 Noyes reference. The CC#1 coin in *Breen's Encyclopedia* is an EF-45 discovered in an old New Hampshire farmhouse in 1994. One of several prominent 1796 Draped Bust cents in the Walter Collection that we are offering in this sale, this Condition Census S-100 is sure to see spirited bidding among advanced large cent enthusiasts.

PCGS# 1407.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection. Earlier ex Dr. George P. French, March 1929; B. Max Mehl's Fixed Price List of 1929, lot 133; T. James Clarke, 1944; B. Max Mehl, 1950; Dr. William H. Sheldon, April 1972; R.E. Nafitzger, Jr., February 1992; Eric Streiner; our (Stack's) 65th Anniversary Sale, October 2000, lot 65. The plate coin for the variety in the Noyes large cent reference.*

## Condition Census 1796 S-103 Draped Bust Cent Popular LIHERTY Variety



1029

**1796 Draped Bust Cent. S-103. Rarity-4+. LIHERTY. AU-53 BN (NGC).** Handsome golden-brown surfaces are warmly and evenly toned over devices that retain plenty of bold to sharp striking detail. Virtually devoid of denticulation on the obverse, although well centered on that side nonetheless, the reverse is fully denticulated and near-perfectly centered. Smooth in hand and otherwise free of significant identifiers, a faint reverse planchet flaw bisects the first letter T in STATES. A thin coating of carnauba wax may be present, which is known to have been applied to many of the cents once owned by Dr. Sheldon. Breen Die State I-II, intermediate die state with faint cracks at AMERICA and OF, but not at the letters NITED in UNITED. Graded

EAC EF-45 and ranked CC#4 by Del Bland, Noyes says EAC VF-35 and tied for CC#5. The Breen large cent encyclopedia uses the Bland census. The reverse of this coin is plated in *Early American Cents*.

PCGS# 35882. NGC ID: 223X.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex David Proskey; Henry C. Hines; Dr. William H. Sheldon; T. James Clarke, October 1954; R.E. "Ted" Naftzger, Jr.; Dorothy I. Paschal; R.E. "Ted" Naftzger, Jr., March 1978; Del Bland; Dr. Phil Ralls, May 1997; W.M. "Jack" Wadlington, via Bob Grellman and Chris Victor-McCawley, June 2005; Ira & Larry Goldberg's sale of the Dan Holmes Collection, Part I, September 2009, lot 175; Heritage's sale of the Adam Mervis Large Cent Collection, January 2014, lot 2568. The reverse is plated in Early American Cents.*

## The Sheldon-Naftzger-Walter 1796 S-106 Cent Tied for Finest Known



1030

**1796 Draped Bust Cent. S-106. Rarity-5-. Reverse of 1794. MS-62 BN (PCGS).** Both sides of this magnificent large cent exhibit a pleasing blend of olive-copper and golden-brown patina. Some original mint gloss shows on both sides, especially the obverse. Sharply struck in all areas save for at the obverse border, which is devoid of denticulation, the central design elements are particularly noteworthy due to the crispness of detail that they display. The lines of Liberty's bodice are razor sharp, and some of the leaves in the wreath on the reverse show their inner veins. Full reverse denticulation shows. The obverse is microgranular, although the reverse is smoother and harder. A tiny mark in the right obverse field before Liberty's nose is the only significant blemish, and it is mentioned here solely as an identifying feature. Obverse die state appears perfect, light clash mark on the reverse from Liberty's bust through the letter O in OF. Breen

Die State II. The plate coin for the S-106 dies in the 1991 reference *United States Large Cents: 1793-1814* by William C. Noyes, this coin is tied for Condition Census #1 with one other example of this variety (the Sternberg-Clapp specimen that now resides in the collection of the American Numismatic Society). The EAC grade for both coins is AU-55 per the Condition Census listing in *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of Early United States Cents: 1793-1814* (2000). A fleeting bidding opportunity for the early large cent variety enthusiast who will accept nothing but the finest for their collection.

PCGS# 1404.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection. Earlier ex Stack's, privately, March 1959; C. Douglas Smith, September 1959; Dr. William H. Sheldon, April 1972; R.E. Naftzger, Jr., February 1992; Eric Streiner, May 1992; our (Stack's) 65th Anniversary Sale, October 2000, lot 67. The plate coin for the variety in the Noyes large cent reference.*

## Finest Known 1796 S-111 Draped Bust Cent

### Ex Lorin G. Parmelee, June 1890



1031

**1796 Draped Bust Cent. S-111. Rarity-5-. Reverse of 1794. AU-58+ (PCGS). CAC.** Warm medium golden-brown patina blankets both sides of this outstanding Draped Bust cent. The surfaces are overall smooth and hard, showing a trace of light friction but not porosity. Considerable mint “flash” remains in the fields. The strike is razor sharp on both sides, Liberty’s hair details full on the obverse and some of the leaves in the reverse wreath showing their inner veins. This outstanding specimen is a good 20 points finer than its nearest competitor in the census of S-111 cents, and it has even been cataloged as Mint State in the past. There is a small mint clip at the base of the reverse and a superficial planchet flaw within the leaves above the letter E in ONE to the border between the letter F in OF and the first A in AMERICA; both are as made and serve as useful identifying features. Obverse die with breaks from the border to the digit 9 in the date, branching into the adjacent 6 and continuing into the bust, with another die crack

from the tip of the bust to the border. Reverse die rust pits under the letter E in UNITED. Breen Die State V.EAC grade AU-55 and listed as the finest known for the S-111 dies in both the Noyes (1991) and Breen (2000) large cent references. The second finest known example is an EAC VF-30 (!). A gorgeous coin in all regards, and a significant condition rarity for both the issue and the die pairing, this impressive S-111 cent is sure to see spirited bidding among specialists.

PCGS# 1404.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection. Earlier ex New York Coin and Stamp's sale of the Lorin G. Parmelee Collection, June 1890, lot 732; J.F. Anger; unknown intermediary; Dr. William H. Sheldon; J.C. Morgenthau & Co.'s sale of the Howard R. Newcomb Collection, February 1945, lot 123; Charles M. Williams; Numismatic Gallery's sale of November 1950 (Charles Williams), lot 117; R.E. Naftzger, Jr., February 1992; Eric Streiner; our (Stack's) 65th Anniversary Sale, October 2000, lot 69. Obverse pictured in Early American Cents and Penny Whimsy; the plate coin for the variety in the Noyes large cent reference.*



## Extremely Rare and Famous 1796 NC-7 Draped Bust Cent Overstruck by a 1797 C-3b Half Cent Just Two in Private Hands



1032

**1796 Draped Bust Cent—Struck 65% Off Center, Cut Down and Overstruck by 1797 C-3b Half Cent Dies—NC-7. Rarity-8. EF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS).** This famous rarity has been the object of considerable debate among early copper enthusiasts regarding the order of striking, i.e. whether the initial impression came from the half cent or cent dies. PCGS has certified this coin as a 1797 C-3b half cent (coin #35113), the insert stating: “O/S by 1796 NC-7.” Since its discovery in 1994, however, the general consensus has been that this coin started as a 1796 Draped Bust cent that as struck 65% off center, the planchet subsequently cut down and overstruck by 1797 C-3b half cent dies. Indeed, this is how John Whitney Walter collected this coin, and it is how it is listed in the census of known examples in *Walter Breen’s Encyclopedia of Early United States Cents: 1793-1814* (2000) and on the *PCGS CoinFacts* website. This coin has also been cataloged as a 1796 NC-7 Draped Bust cent in our (Bowers and Merena’s) Herman Halpern Collection sale of March 1995, and in our (Stack’s) subsequent offering of the John Whitney Walter Collection of Coins of 1796 (May 1999). We reprint here (with minor edits and updates) our cataloging from the May 1999 Walter Collection offering here, along with a significant accompanying article by John Landis that makes a strong case for the manner in which this intriguing coin was produced. A dramatically off centered overstrike by a 1797 Lettered Edge half cent (Breen-3a, Cohen-3b) using the 1796 NC-7 Cent as planchet stock. One of just three known NC-7s, one of which is impounded in the ANS Collection. The ANS coin, tooled on the obverse, condemned by Sheldon, rehabilitated by Breen, has been graded EAC Good-6. This coin is dark olive and brown in color. The surfaces are microgranular. The half cent overstrike was well centered and struck. The 1796 large cent undertype was originally struck off center on both sides by approximately 65% and this was probably why the cent was used as the planchet for the half cent. On the obverse of the half cent can be seen the base of the obverse of the NC-7 large cent, showing the cent’s full 1796 date, the lowest hair curl, Liberty’s bodice and her bosom. On the reverse of the half cent is the upper right portion of the large cent undertype, showing the topmost leaves of the wreath and [STA]TES OF from the cent’s legend. The close placement of the 6 in the cent’s date, the double leaf at top of right branch of the

wreath on the reverse, and the fact that the lowest of the double leaves is the longer of the two, all rule out any previously known 1796 large cent obverse for the front die (save 26) and point clearly to Reverse 143 of 1797 as the back die. The NC-7 variety was listed and described by George H. Clapp and Howard R. Newcomb in their monograph *The United States Cents of the Years 1795, 1796, 1797, and 1800* published by the American Numismatic Society in 1947. Clapp and Newcomb gave it their number 34 (20-BB) and described it as “Obv. New, Rev. S.1797.” They based their description and listing on the then single known example, which was owned by Clapp. Dr. Sheldon included the new variety in his *Early American Coppers* (1949) but delisted it in *Penny Whimsy* (1958) because the then unique Clapp specimen had been tooled on the obverse and Sheldon did not believe the obverse die was a new discovery. Sheldon wrote in 1958 that he had only included it in his 1949 listing out of deference to Clapp. There things stayed, at least publicly, with NC-7 removed, until late 1994/early 1995, when the presently offered coin was consigned unattributed to Bowers and Merena as a 1796 half cent error. (We note that the late Walter Breen had already decided that the CN-34 in the ANS was a new combination and that Sheldon’s condemnation of it had been incorrect.) The Bowers and Merena cataloger correctly attributed the large cent reverse die as S-143 of 1797 and the obverse as the die of Clapp-Newcomb 34, Sheldon’s old 26-BB. To confirm the attribution, the coin was brought to the ANS and compared side by side to the discovery coin CN-34 that was there from the Clapp Collection. The comparison proved the accuracy of the attribution, as well as the authenticity of the Clapp coin, even though its obverse was tooled. Since then, only one other 1796 NC-7 cent has been confirmed, bringing the census of known examples to three:

1- **PCGS EF Details—Environmental Damage.** Ex our (Bowers and Merena’s) Herman Halpern Collection sale, March 1995, lot 2307; our (Stack’s) sale of the John Whitney Walter Collection of the Coins of 1796, May 1999, lot 1758. **The present example**, unattributed when consigned to Bowers and Merena in October 1994, the attribution determined by March Borckardt and confirmed by Denis Loring and Dr. John Kleeberg.

2 - **EAC Good-6.** John P. Kennedy; George H. Clapp, March 1928, discovered in the Kennedy Collection and described by Clapp in *The Numismatist*, Vol. XLI, 1928, p. 315; B. Max Mehl, privately; "Colonel" E.H.R. Green; Burdette G. Johnson (St. Louis Stamp & Coin Co.), April 1946; George H. Clapp; ANS Collection.

3 - **EAC AG-3.** Purchased attributed by Rod Burress, 1999; Daniel W. Holmes, Jr., 1999. In summary, this is one of just two collectable examples of this Rarity-8 1796 NC-7, a coin that combines both great rarity and importance for numismatic history. There is some disagreement in the copper community over how this coin was actually struck. Many believe that the 1796 NC-7 cent came first and that the 1797 half cent is struck over the cent, as described here. Others believe that the large cent is struck over the half cent. Simply looking at the coin, even under high magnification, does not completely answer the question of which came first, the half cent or the cent. For example, Breen noted that it was not possible to figure out whether the 1796 S-115 cent or the 1797 half cent came first on the piece Frank Stewart found when his men demolished the first mint building site (published 1916 in *The Numismatist*). Luckily for numismatics, Ron Landis of the Gallery Mint Museum consented to try an experiment. With the present coin before him as a guide, and using dies of his own making, Ron struck sample coins both ways. First, he struck 1796 large cent dies off center onto a planchet, then cut the off center struck large cent down to half cent planchet size. He then lettered the edge with a half cent legend, and then used the off center strike as a planchet for his 1797 half cent dies. Next, he struck a centered, edge lettered 1797 half cent and then using that coin as a planchet struck it off center with the 1796 large cent dies he had made. Finally, Ron placed one each of his sample coins alongside this NC-7 and compared them. There was no question any more as to which came first. The large cent was seen to have been struck first, off center, and this "spoiled cent" (as Breen called them) was used as a planchet for the 1797 half cent. Mr. Walter emailed EAC Region 8 in February with the news about Ron's experiments and we reproduce excerpts from his communication here. He wrote: *"Having worked in a metalworking shop on and off most of my life, and still having a pretty fair metal shop of my own (minus the lathe which I had to give up for lack of room), which includes among other good stuff, a 20 ton metal punch for punching out chassis and control panels, I always felt that it would not be possible to produce this coin with as much of the Half Cent's detail remaining, if the Half Cent didn't come last. My thanks to all of you out there who have waxed eloquently on this subject for the past four years. In this case, it was back to basics that won the battle. The die sequencers still have their day in court, but not on this issue. It's easy to see why the NC-7 variety is so rare. It's the 'trauma' that the off striking of the Large Cent puts on the Large Cent dies when it was off struck so badly; the die pair probably broke soon, or right after that off strike. When I talked to Ron about this fact, he said that the steel available to him is far better than the steel that was available to the early Mint for making dies. Also, my past research through the early Mint's records suggests that the Mint wasn't too expert at annealing its dies. This explains why there were so many dies used to strike early coinage, 92 dies (46 obverse & 46 reverse) were used to strike the small amount of 1796 dated coins; they just kept breaking. Ron said he was very careful in making the overstrike so that he would not break his Large Cent dies. Ron feels that the Mint used an automatic coin feeder to make coins and is still trying to replicate one that could have been used back in 1796."* Ron Landis' description of how he made his "NC-7" copies, along with photographs of each coinage produce as it progressed from large cent to half cent, follows. Also an example of a half cent overstruck with the large cent dies, for comparison. Recreating the 1797 Half Cent Over NC-7 Spoiled Cent By Ron Landis A few years back, I had the pleasure of viewing the most important collection of 1796 coins ever assembled. This collection goes beyond just every denomination, which is difficult enough to begin with, but is composed of Finest or Among the Finest examples of every known die marriage save one of that date. I had just begun reproducing a 14 piece set of 1796 coins, and having completed the first piece of the set, the Quarter Dollar, was showing it for the first time at the Denver ANA convention. Our bourse table was set up just a few steps away from John Whitney

Walter's exhibit, so I found myself hunched over the collection many times a day, trying to keep drool off the cases. In a short time, I had the honor of meeting John [Whitney Walter], who generously brought his collection to display at the convention. I was impressed by his genuine love of numismatics and his willingness to share information about his collection. John stood close by his exhibition several times throughout each day, to answer questions about the coins it contained. The subject of conversation found its way to a most intriguing coin in his collection, which was actually a 1797 Half Cent. It was in his 1796 Collection because it also showed an off center impression of a 1796 Draped Bust Cent of the extremely rare NC-7 variety. John pointed out to me that this coin had been under debate for quite some time as to what came first, the Cent or the Half Cent. My first impression looking at it through the showcase was that the Cent was struck off center over the Half Cent. Intrigued by this puzzle, I offered to try to reproduce this coin both ways when I had both sets of die types in place. Since first viewing the coin, I found a large photograph of it on the cover of *Error Scope*, and hung it on my bulletin board to look at occasionally. After a while, I really felt as though I could reproduce the same characteristics both ways, and would just produce a few sets that could be passed around among numismatists for comparison analysis. When John consigned his 1796 set to Stack's, he asked the firm to send me the 1796 NC-7 for study. I was convinced the coin had the answer to how it was made and which came first, and I was especially interested in what clues the edge might hold. Within a few minutes of examining the coin, I found one very convincing clue that I had previously overlooked from the two dimensional photograph I was used to seeing. Around the perimeter of this coin in the field of the Cent impression is a definite raised portion which is the upsetting caused created when the lettered edge was applied. If the Cent strike had come second, this area should be completely flat to the edge of the coin, because common practice then was to edge letter the planchet before striking. Therefore, the Cent impression must have been struck before the planchet was cut out and the edge lettered. I might add that the upsetting on this coin is not so subtle that it cannot be seen with the naked eye, once you know what you're looking at. This was not uncommon in 1797. Many of the Half Cents of that year were struck from spoiled Cent stock or from cut down Talbot, Allum & Lee tokens. With Half Cents being struck from a large amount of salvaged off center Cents, it is also a good indication that a mechanical feed system was in place at this time, but that is another research topic. Under a microscope, I also noticed a few other clues that further convinced me the Half Cent planchet was cut from a spoiled Cent. On the reverse, the leaves in the wreath of the Cent curl slightly around the edge of the coin, indicating this was the side that went through the hole of the cutting die, leaving the sharp edge of the planchet on the obverse. In my opinion, this is why the upsetting is more prominent on the obverse. I also made one other observation that is not so convincing, but should be pointed out. The edge lettering on the thick portion of the planchet runs straight and true, but then suddenly runs off the edge through the Cent portion and opposing area, showing the planchet was thinner in this area and ran into the area of least resistance, namely, the two opposing corners of the edge dies, forming a beveled edge in this area, cutting off half the lettering. We see this effect at the Gallery Mint Museum whenever we run a planchet that is too thin for a given set of edge dies. This in itself is not uncommon on 1796 Half Cents. Walter Breen speculates this was caused by warped dies and partially due to too thin a planchet. I question the warped die theory, since all edge dies must be a rather substantial piece of steel and the Half Cent edge dies are somewhat short as edge dies go. My experience leads me to believe that what little warping might occur in the hardening of such a piece of steel would not cause such a radical effect on a planchet. We went ahead and tried to reproduce the NC-7 using two different methods (see the examples illustrated here). Although there are many other variables that come into play, basically, we were able to reproduce the same clarity of both impressions using both methods, a feature on the original that makes this coin's striking sequence so difficult to figure out. We were also able to keep most of the coins we struck very round, another confusing feature of the original. Not all of them displayed this sort of balance,



however. In both methods, we came up with examples that displayed characteristics of each strike sequence. Of the 31 Cent over Half Cent pieces we produced every one showed flat fields all the way off the edge, sometimes showing remnants of the Half Cent date flattened out, sometimes bulging out in that area, but never showing a ghost of the Half cent's bust over the Cent's bust. Only two pieces made this way showed very slight remnants of the Half Cent's dentils, a characteristic visible on the original coin. We made 24 other examples using a method of cutting the planchet from a pre-manufactured "spoiled Cent" and we found results that resembled the appearance of the original coin. In all cases, the upsetting was clearly visible as on the original. Our rimming was a little heavier, so the final strike shows more dentils than can be seen on the original, but nevertheless the copies made this way show dentils consistently. Also, on many of the pieces created this way the slight impression of the Half Cent bust is visible on the high points of the Cent bust, a diagnostic on the original not visible on any of the copies made using the other sequence (i.e., Cent over Half Cent). It has been suggested that the off center strike

that first occurred may have been the reason why the NC-7 die did not last long. Although this is certainly not a good thing for dies to go through, it is something that all dies endure at one time or another when a mechanical planchet feeder is in use. A good solid die, properly hardened and tempered, should be able to take this kind of abuse. If the die did break on this strike, it is more likely due to a hidden fracture in that particular bit of steel. Our dies managed to survive all right even though we hit them full strength over 100 consecutive times. I enjoyed the challenge and thrill of being able to spend some time with this coin and to try to figure out this technical puzzle. This is how I get my kicks and is what makes error coins so interesting.

PCGS# 35113. NGC ID: 2U6H.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection. Earlier from our (Bowers and Merena's) Herrman Halpern Collection sale, March 1995, lot 2307; our (Stack's) sale of the John Whitney Walter Collection of the Coins of 1796, May 1999, lot 1758. This coin was unattributed when consigned to Bowers and Merena in October 1994, the attribution determined by March Borckardt and confirmed by Denis Loring and Dr. John Kleeberg.*



**RECREATING THE 1797 HALF CENT OVER NC-7 SPOILED CENT**

**METHOD 1: Half Cent over "Spoiled Cent"**



*Off-center "Spoiled Cent"*

*Planchet cut from "Spoiled Cent"*

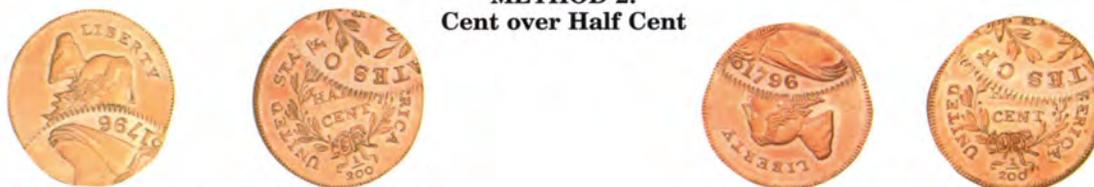
*Waste after cutting Half Cent from "Spoiled Cent"*



*Planchet cut from "Spoiled Cent" and rimmed*

*Finished product Half Cent struck over "Spoiled Cent" stock*

**METHOD 2:  
Cent over Half Cent**



*Cent dies struck over Half Cent*

*Cent over Half Cent cut & rimmed*

## Beautiful Glossy Brown 1797 S-135 Cent



1033

**1797 Draped Bust Cent. S-135. Rarity-3+. Reverse of 1797, Stems to Wreath. MS-64 BN (PCGS). CAC. OGH.** This piece boasts lovely eye appeal with original glossy brown patina to overall smooth, satiny features. The strike is rather well centered for the type, and it is sharp in all areas save for on the reverse at the bottom of the wreath. A few trivial carbon flecks are hardly worth mentioning given the impressive appearance of this piece. Worthy of the strongest bids.

This marriage represents the first of two uses for the obverse die, which is readily identifiable by a few key features: the upper serif of the letter B in LIBERTY is missing; the stand of the letter R in the same word nearly touches the highest wave of Liberty's hair; and the right top of

the second digit 7 in the date touches the drapery. The reverse die of S-135 makes its only appearance in the Draped Bust Cent series, and it exhibits a leaf arrangement of 16 left, 19 right combined with six berries on each branch of the wreath. Additionally, there is a small die defect (as struck) from the top of the letter C in AMERICA to the rim. A particularly popular variety for advanced type purposes, S-135 is relatively obtainable in Mint State due to the Nichols Find. We stress the word ““relatively”” here since, when viewed in the wider context of numismatics, any Mint State Draped Bust cent is a scarce coin indeed.

PCGS# 1422. NGC ID: 2242.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier from (Bowers and Merena's) Baltimore Auction of March 2010, lot 122.*

## Condition Census 1798 S-161 Cent

### Ex Wurtzbach—Naftzger—Holmes—Mervis



1034

**1798 Draped Bust Cent. S-161. Rarity-2-. Style I Hair. MS-63 BN (NGC).** An exceptional Draped Bust cent irrespective of variety, this beautiful Choice example ranks high in the Condition Census for the Sheldon-161 dies. Glossy medium copper surfaces reveal subtle pale gold and powder blue undertones as the coin dips into a light. The strike is nicely centered, both sides exhibiting uniformly denticulated borders, and the obverse is sharply struck with crisp delineation to Liberty's hair tresses and the drapery folds. The reverse is a tad soft overall with evidence of light die swell, although all features are bold and the design is fully appreciable. A loupe reveals mostly small, well scattered marks that are easily overlooked by the unaided eye, the only worthwhile identifying feature a shallow nick in the right obverse field before Liberty's neck. Breen Die State IV.

The EAC grade for this coin in both the Bland census and the Breen large cent encyclopedia is AU-55, and it is tied for third finest known from the S-161 dies in both listings. Grellman's grade and ranking is the same. Although this is a readily obtainable die marriage in an absolute sense, the present example numbers among the finest known and is seemingly earmarked for inclusion in another highly regarded large cent cabinet.

PCGS# 36047. NGC ID: 2244.

*Ex Carl Wurtzbach; Virgil M. Brand; Emanuel Taylor, October 1960; Ira & Larry Goldberg's sale of the R.E. Naftzger, Jr. Collection, September 2008, lot 175; Ira & Larry Goldberg's sale of the Dan Holmes Collection, September 2009, lot 295; Heritage's sale of the Adam Mervis Large Cent Collection, January 2014, lot 2657.*

## Condition Census 1799/8 Large Cent



1035

**1799/8 Draped Bust Cent. S-188. Rarity-4. EF Details—Rim Repaired (PCGS).** This is a handsome, pleasingly original example of the key date 1799/8 Draped Bust cent. Dusky olive-copper surfaces are hard and tight with no porosity and just a few inconsequential marks scattered about. Otherwise boldly defined, the strike is trivially off center to 9 o'clock on the obverse. There is no denticulation along the left border on that side, the right border with bolder denticles than those seen on the reverse. The PCGS qualifier concerns evidence of edge filing along the right obverse border. Breen Die State II.

This is a key date issue in an absolute sense, and the most famous in the entire large cent series except for the various issues dated 1793. Although Mint records indicate that 904,585 large cents were delivered during calendar year 1799, the vast majority of those coins struck from 1798-dated dies. The actual mintage of the 1799-dated issue is unknown, although presumably limited given the rarity of examples in numismatic hands.

Sheldon-188 is the more readily obtainable of the two known die marriages of the 1799/8 cent. Bland, Noyes and the Breen encyclopedia (2000) are all in agreement that the finest known example of this variety is an EAC AU-50. Seven coins in various EAC VF grades comprise much of the remaining Condition Census. The coin offered here is graded EAC VF-25 by both Bland and the Breen encyclopedia and is ranked as CC#5 by the former, tied for CC#3 in the latter. Noyes grades this piece EAC VF-20 and ranks it as tied for CC#6.

PCGS# 1446. NGC ID: 2247.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Dr. William H. Sheldon, 1936; Morton Stack; unknown intermediaries; Harmer Rooke's sale of August 1970, lot 200; William T. Anton, Jr.; Joe Flynn Rare Coins; John R. "Bob" Grellman, July 1976; Denis W. Loring, March 1985; Superior's sale of the Jack H. Robinson Collection, January 1989, lot 395; Denis W. Loring, June 1991; Dr. Eugene Sherman; our (Bowers and Merena') sale of October 2000, lot 119; Heritage's sale of the Walter J. Husak Collection, February 2008, lot 2191; Jon A. Boka. Collector envelope with attribution and provenance notes included.*

## Condition Census 1800/79 Cent

### Ex Hines-Clarke-Sheldon



1036

**1800/79 Draped Bust Cent. S-194. Rarity-3-. Style II Hair. MS-62 BN (NGC).** An impressively sharp example of this dramatic overdate. The complexion is overall glossy, showcasing the absence of notable abrasions or appreciable friction throughout. Deep steel blue tones dominate the patina, with underlying pinkish color highlighting the wreath on the reverse. Magnified inspection will reveal traces of microporosity to the obverse though this is entirely invisible to the naked eye. The dies are now in a late state, showing intense clashmarks beneath Liberty's chin and at the right obverse border, in addition to a rim beak above CA in AMERICA.

It undoubtedly ranks among the finest survivors of this variety, sitting comfortably in the Condition Censuses of both Del Bland and Bill Noyes. Noyes graded it AU-55 and placed it in 5th place on his

population listing. Dell Bland viewed it even more favorably, assigning it an EAC grade of MS-60 in Breen's large cent *Encyclopedia* (2000), which placed it in 5th place and tied it with three other examples at that grade. Recognized by such Early Copper luminaries as Henry Hines, T. James Clarke, and Dr. William H. Sheldon himself and certainly poised for inclusion in another advanced collection.

PCGS# 1455. NGC ID: 2U57.

NGC Census: 2; 2 finer through MS-64 BN.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Henry C. Hines; T. James Clarke; Dr. William H. Sheldon; C. Douglas Smith (8/14/1957); Abe Kosoff; R.E. Naftzger, Jr., privately in February 1992; Eric Streiner; Jay Parrino; Superior Galleries' sale of the Dr. Juan XII Suros Collection, February 1999, lot 11; Heritage's sale of the Eugene H. Gardner Collection, June 2014, lot 30022.*

## Bold 1800 S-197 Draped Bust Cent

### Likely Condition Census for the Popular Q Variety



1037

**1800 Draped Bust Cent. S-197. Rarity-1. MS-61 BN (PCGS).** A significant offering for the early copper variety specialist, both sides of this coin are boldly to sharply defined from a well executed strike. The obverse is a bit dusky in appearance with even antique copper patina. The reverse exhibits mottled gray-brown toning with glints of original pinkish-red color peering from the protected areas around the devices. Otherwise very smooth for the assigned grade, dull marks on Liberty's cheek and at the top of the throat are mentioned solely for identification purposes. Sheldon-197 is the popular Q Variety of the 1800 cent, so-named because of a prominent die chip that bisects the

first 0 in the date, giving that digit the appearance of a Q. Several other die chips are scattered about on that side, and all known examples also display a V-shaped break at the letters IB in LIBERTY. According to the listing in the 2000 book *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of Early United States Cents: 1793-1814*, a number of Mint State and Choice AU coins (EAC grades) comprise the Condition Census for this variety. The present example is not included in that list, although it likely qualifies based on the amount of detail remaining and the overall pleasing surfaces. Worthy of serious bidder consideration.

PCGS# 36179. NGC ID: 2248.

From Superior's Fred Neggen Estate Auction Sale, February 1976, lot 1455.

## Condition Census 1800 S-205 Cent



1038

**1800 Draped Bust Cent. S-205. Rarity-4. Unc Details—Altered Surfaces (PCGS).** This is a smartly impressed, boldly to sharply defined example that ranks high in the Condition Census for the 1800 S-205 dies. Hard and smooth surfaces are free of porosity and significant marks, the in hand appearance superior for the assigned grade. Curiously glossy in texture from an old cleaning, yet retoned quite nicely in even medium brown patina. Breen Die State III.

In his cataloging for Ira & Larry Goldbergs' sale of the Dan Holmes Collection, Part I, Bob Grellman assigns this coin an EAC grade of AU-50+. Called EAC MS-60 in the Bland and Breen encyclopedia

(2000) listings, and tied for CC#3 in both censuses. Noyes says EAC AU-50, choice, and tied for CC#4.

PCGS# 1449. NGC ID: 2248.

From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Thomas L. Elder, 1932; Wayte Raymond, 1933; Dr. William H. Sheldon, November 1948; Judge Thomas L. Gaskill; New Netherlands Coin Co., November 1956; Dorothy I. Paschal; Dr. William H. Sheldon, 1956; C. Douglas Smith, 1971; Superior's sale of the Robinson. S. Brown, Jr. Collection, September 1986, lot 299; Anthony Terranova; Stack's; Andrew M. Hain; our (Stack's) sale of the Hain Family Collection, January 2002, lot 742; Chris McCawley, November 2007; Ira & Larry Goldbergs' sale of the Dan Holmes Collection, Part I, September 2009, lot 388. Goldbergs lot tag and collector envelopes with attribution and provenance notes included.



## Mint State 1802 S-232 Cent



1039

**1802 Draped Bust Cent. S-232. Rarity-1. MS-63 BN (PCGS).** This handsome cent is predominantly toned in rich antique copper and steel-brown. The reverse, however, retains glints of original pinkish-rose color in the center and around the periphery. Satiny in texture with considerable gloss, both sides also offer bold to sharp striking detail and a pleasingly smooth appearance. Faint carbon spots on the

obverse before the word LIBERTY and on the reverse between the words OF and AMERICA are mentioned solely as identifying features. Likely a newcomer to the Condition Census for this die marriage of the 1802 cent, this coin is sure to appeal to astute bidders.

PCGS# 36305. NGC ID: 224E.

*Ex private East Coast collection. Collector envelope with attribution and provenance notes included.*

## Uncommonly Sharp 1803 S-253 Cent



1040

**1803 Draped Bust Cent. S-253. Rarity-2. Small Date, Small Fraction. AU Details—Altered Surfaces (PCGS).** There is plenty of sharp striking detail on both sides of this rather appealing early large cent. The obverse, in fact, is near-fully defined throughout with a uniformly denticulated border and crisp delineation to Liberty's hair strands and the drapery folds. The reverse is also nicely centered on the planchet, the detail bold to sharp in all areas save for over the lower right portion of the wreath. A couple of tiny marks in the lower left obverse field and a few well scattered toning spots on both sides are the only mentionable blemishes. Hard and tight surfaces are quite smooth

overall, although we do note a curiously glossy texture that helps to explain the PCGS qualifier. Golden-brown toning. Breen Die State Condition Census for this relatively plentiful die marriage provided in the Breen large cent encyclopedia (2000) is populated with coins with EAC grades of MS-61 to EF-45. The present example has enough detail to qualify, but the surface preservation keeps it just beyond reach of CC. Still an above average S-253, and sure to find many willing buyers among advanced large cent enthusiasts.

PCGS# 1482. NGC ID: 224G.

*Acquired from American Heritage Mint at the February 2001 Long Beach Expo. Collector envelope with attribution and provenance notes included.*

## Rarely Offered 1803 Large Cent Large Date, Small Fraction Among the Finest Known



1041

**1803 Draped Bust Cent. S-264. Rarity-5+. Large Date, Small Fraction. EF Details—Scratch (PCGS).** With plenty of sharp definition remaining from a well centered, boldly executed strike, it is little wonder that this is one of the finest known survivors from this scarce and conditionally challenging die marriage. Both sides are a bit rough with light porosity, the obverse cleaned at one time, yet now nicely retined in warm olive-brown. The reverse is more original in appearance with marbled steel and medium copper patina. Relatively smooth in hand, the PCGS qualifier concerns a shallow, nearly horizontal scratch on the reverse below the word ONE in the denomination. Breen Die State II.

Sheldon-264 is the only known die marriage of the elusive Large Date, Small Fraction *Guide Book* variety of the 1803 Draped Bust

cent. The experts at *PCGS CoinFacts* estimate that just 75 examples are extant in all grades. The present example is graded EAC VF-20 by Grellman, EAC Fine-15 by Bland and the Breen encyclopedia (2000), the latter two ranking it as CC#5. The Noyes grade is also EAC Fine-15, but CC#7. Regardless of its exact EAC grade and Condition Census ranking, this is a significant coin for the early copper variety collector as S-264 is scarce in an absolute sense with the finest known example grading only EAC VF-25.

PCGS# 1497.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Herbert Schneider; Warren Schneider, May 1996; Henry T. Hettger; Ira & Larry Goldbergs' Pre-Long Beach Auction of September 2007, lot 2166. Collector envelope and tags with attribution and provenance notes included.*



## Key Date 1804 Draped Bust Cent Ex Adam Mervis Collection



1042

**1804 Draped Bust Cent. S-266, the only known dies. Rarity-2. AU Details—Improperly Cleaned (NGC).** There is plenty of sharp detail remaining on both sides of this key date Draped Bust cent. Curiously glossy in texture, yet retoned nicely in deep copper-rose, the surfaces are also devoid of sizeable handling marks or other blemishes. The strike is nicely centered within uniformly denticulated borders, the reverse rotated nearly 45 degrees counterclockwise from normal coin alignment. Sheldon-266 is the only known die marriage of the elusive

1804 cent, the mintage unknown but usually estimated at 96,500 pieces and derived from the final delivery of the year made on December 31. The remainder of the 756,838 large cents delivered during calendar year 1804 were undoubtedly coined from 1803-dated dies. Noyes Die State A.

PCGS# 36422. NGC ID: 224H.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier from Heritage's sale of the Adam Mervis Large Cent Collection, January 2014, lot 2824.*

## Rarely Offered Mint State 1806 Draped Bust Cent The D. Brent Pogue Specimen



1043

**1806 Draped Bust Cent. S-270, the only known dies. Rarity-1. MS-64 BN (PCGS).** Golden toning embraces both obverse and reverse, blended with deeper olive tones on the obverse, lighter and closer to original mint color on the reverse. Gem-quality cartwheel luster covers both sides, matching the eye appeal and surpassing the assigned technical grade. Some light hairlines and faint abrasions are seen on the obverse, most noticeable on the portrait though also affecting the right obverse field. No heavy marks are seen, however, and scrutiny finds just a little contact point on the raised rim above the letter E in UNITED. The reverse is particularly bright and smooth. A little speck sits on the surface at the lower left serif of the letter N in UNITED, another is seen at the right wreath stem. The die state is advanced, equivalent to Breen's Die State III, with a crack from the lowest curl to the rim left of the date and a short die crack extending from the rim into the right obverse field near 4 o'clock. The bulge left of the date has stolen some detail from the curl and softened the letters STAT in STATES opposite that area on the reverse. Die clash appears ill-defined near the profile, above and below the hair bow, and within the reverse wreath.

Under most circumstances an 1806 cent is not a coin that attracts attention. There is but one die variety of the year, just like 1804 and 1809, but this date has never shared those years' flashy reputation for rarity. Circulated specimens are common enough, dutifully found and dropped into slots in date collections or variety sets, and then rarely considered again. Only collectors attempting to build collections of high quality Mint State coins ever realize just how challenging

this issue can be. In the William Festus Morgan sale of 1932, which cataloged a collection built on the premise of quality, James Macallister devoted more space to the 1806 than any of the 1793s, 1799s, 1804s, or any other lot except for the Jefferson Head cent. Calling Morgan's 1806 "the finest 1806 cent we have ever seen," Macallister noted "the rarity of the cents of this year in Uncirculated condition has never been appreciated; we don't recall one that brought much over \$100 while 1793s which are common by comparison have brought up to \$1000." The coin Macallister was describing sold in Ira & Larry Goldberg's 2009 sale of the Dan Holmes Collection as PCGS MS-63 BN. As late as 2013, when the Paul Gerrie specimen sold, MS-63 BN was the highest grade ever assigned to an 1806 cent by PCGS. Husak's was PCGS AU-50, Rasmussen's was NGC AU-55, and Robbie Brown never owned one better than EF. Garrett and Eliasberg both owned circulated examples, and Norweb's was only Fine.

This piece appears to have evaded the ardent explorations of the copper cognoscenti for most of its existence, with no traceable auction history before 2008 and no appearance on either of the published censuses. Since acquired by D. Brent Pogue a decade ago, only one finer specimen has been offered, the Halpern-Naftzger-Reynolds specimen in PCGS MS-66 RB generally accorded finest known status. This piece's quality likely places it within the Condition Census as it is traditionally defined.

PCGS# 36436. NGC ID: 224L.

PCGS Population: just 1; 2 finer in all category (MS-66 RB finest).

*From Heritage's Long Beach Signature Auction of September 2008, lot 173; our sale of the D. Brent Pogue Collection, Part V, March 2017, lot 5126.*



## Lovely Choice Mint State 1806 Draped Bust Cent The Gardner Specimen



1044

**1806 Draped Bust Cent. S-270, the only known dies. Rarity-1. MS-63 BN (NGC). CAC.** A beautiful glossy example with the lightest faded rose color remaining to otherwise medium brown surfaces. Both sides are hard, tight and overall smooth. Well struck despite the advanced die state, Liberty's portrait is particularly noteworthy for the sharpness of detail that it displays. A few extremely faint carbon spots are scattered about on the obverse, although the only significant blemishes are several pin scratches at the letters TY in LIBERTY on the same side. Breen Die State IV. This is one of the top 12 to 15 examples of

this popular single die marriage issue. While Sheldon-270 is plentiful in an absolute sense, the lack of other die pairings means that 1806 is one of the scarcer dates in the Draped Bust large cent series. A superior example in all regards that will please advanced type collectors as well as early copper enthusiasts.

PCGS# 36436. NGC ID: 224L.

NGC Census: just 1; 0 finer in any category.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Chris Victor-McCawley; Heritage's ANA Sale of August 1997, lot 8145; Northeast Numismatics, September 1997; Heritage's sale of the Eugene H. Gardner Collection, June 2014, lot 30028.*

## Condition Census 1807 S-271 Comet

### Ex Smith (1906) - Earle (1912) - Atwater (1946)



1045

**1807 Draped Bust Cent. S-271. Rarity-1. Comet Variety. MS-63 BN (PCGS). Secure Holder.** An exceptionally preserved example of this popular Comet variety with a provenance stretching back over 110 years. The patina is a toned in olive brown with suggestions of navy surrounding the devices. Glints of orange mint luster remain on the reverse and illuminate areas of the wreath and legend. The surfaces are smooth and frosty, with just a small mark near Liberty's upper curl to serve as the only notable blemish throughout. A minor planchet defect at 8 o'clock is largely obscured by the PCGS holder but visible under determined inspection. Evidence of clashing is dramatic surrounding Liberty's portrait, and the eponymous Comet die flaws are now in a late intermediate state equivalent to Noyes Die State B-C. The eye appeal is strong and the overall technical quality is undoubtedly choice.

We first find this piece offered publicly in Samuel H. and Henry Chapman's sale of the Harlan P. Smith Collection in May 1906. Plated in lot 1111, it sold to George H. Earle for \$33, which was a bargain compared to the \$160 he paid for the 1792 Silver Center cent in lot 1315. Earle's Collection was later sold by Henry Chapman in June 1912 and was called by Chapman "the finest collection ever offered in this country." This Sheldon-271 was featured in lot 3443 and described as "Uncirculated. Minute nick under bow and also on edge. Sharp, bold impression. Steel color. The finest specimen of this rare variety known."

Noted numismatist George Clapp shared this sentiment, choosing it as his plate coin in his 1934 monograph on cents of 1804 to 1814.

It was more recently assigned an EAC grade of AU-50 in the Bland Census of Breen's large cent *Encyclopedia* (2000), tying for 9th place therein. Just 4 examples rank finer on the *PCGS Population Report*, asserting the truly elite status of this example. We last had the opportunity to handle this piece as part of our August 2012 Philadelphia ANA Auction, and we are delighted to once again be offering it in the City of Brotherly Love this August.

PCGS# 1531.

PCGS Population: 5; just 4 finer in this color designation.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex S.H. and Henry Chapman's sale of the Harlan P. Smith Collection, May 1906, Lot 1111; Henry Chapman's sale of the George H. Earle, Jr. Collection, June 1912, Lot 3443; Henry Chapman to William Cutler Atwater; B. Max Mehl's sale of the Atwater Collection, June 1946, Lot 38; Federal Coin Exchange's 1952 fixed price list; Federal Coin Exchange's 1954 ANA Sale, July 1954, Lot 1029; Federal Coin Exchange's 1957 ANA Sale, July 1957, Lot 127; unknown intermediaries; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of September 1992, Lot 1081; our (Stack's) Orlando Sale, January 2007, lot 31; our (Stack's) sale of the Samuel Bergard and S.S. New York Collections, July 2008, lot 1111; our June 2011 Baltimore auction, lot 280, our August 2012 Philadelphia ANA Auction, lot 11191. Plated in George Clapp's *The United States Cents of 1804 to 1814* (1934).*



## Highly Elusive 1807/6 S-272 Cent Tied for CC#6



1046

**1807/6 Draped Bust Cent. S-272. Rarity-5+. Small 7, Blunt 1. VF Details—Burnished (NGC).** Dark cooper-brown with light, uniform porosity to both sides. Struck slightly off center, although all devices are bold, and there is sharper detail remaining to the more protected features of Liberty's portrait. A few minor marks are scattered about, the most significant of which are in the reverse field above the letter E in CENT. Evidence to support the NGC qualifier of "Burnished" is lacking; a better descriptive in our opinion would be "Granular." Breen Die State II. Formerly certified Fine-15 by PCGS (1993), Del Bland grades this coin EAC Fine-15 and ranks it CC#6 for this scarce and

conditionally challenging die variety. Noyes and the Breen large cent encyclopedia also say EAC Fine-15 and tied for CC#6.

PCGS# 36439. NGC ID: 224N.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Overton Coin Co.'s sale of June 1960, lot 890; Ray Chatham; Dorothy I. Paschal; Ray Chatham; Del Bland, December 1977; Denis W. Loring, December 1977; C. Douglas Smith, March 1987; Superior's sale of the G. Lee Kuntz Collection, October 1991, lot 306; Chris Victor-McCawley; Bowers and Merena Galleries, privately, 1991; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Dr. John A. Van Arsdall Collection, January 1993, lot 234; Dr. John A. Van Arsdall; Evan Kopald; Heritage's sale of the Adam Mervis Large Cent Collection, January 2014, lot 2836.*

## Impressive Choice Mint State 1807/6 Cent

Ex Helfenstein—Dr. E. Yale Clark—Naftzger Collections



1047

**1807/6 Draped Bust Cent. S-273. Rarity-1. Large 7. MS-64 BN (PCGS).** Satiny golden-tan with deeper highlights on the design high points. No readily obvious marks assail the unassisted eye, and a careful examination under low magnification reveals much the same scenario. The strike is reasonably sharp in all quarters, although a hint of weakness can be seen in certain leaves in the reverse wreath. In sum, this is a lovely example of both the type and variety, solidly in the Condition Census for the latter, and sure to see spirited bidding among early copper enthusiasts. Breen Die State IV. According to the reference *Walter Breen Encyclopedia of Early United States Cents: 1793-1814* (2000), the obverse die for this variety was probably prepared

in 1805, its planned use in 1806 cancelled when the cent press broke down. The die was then overdated for use in 1807-dated production. The same reference assigns this coin an EAC grade of MS-61 and ranks it as tied for CC#3.

PCGS# 36442. NGC ID: 224N.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Charles R. Mathewson, 1955; Copley Coin Co.; Dorothy I. Paschal, January 1956; C. Douglas Smith; Lester Merkin's sale of the Louis Helfenstein Collection of Large Cents, August 1964, lot 41; Stack's; our (Stack's) sale of Dr. E. Yale Clarke Collection, October 1975; lot 71; R.E. "Ted" Naftzger, Jr., February 1992; Eric Streiner; our Philadelphia ANA Sale of August 2012, lot 11192. Lester Merkin and Stack's lot tags included.*



## Choice Mint State 1808 Classic Head Cent Sheldon-279



1048

**1808 Classic Head Cent. S-279. Rarity-1. MS-63 BN (PCGS).** Each side of this piece balances warm caramel hues with dark chocolate brown color beneath a dusting of pearlescent luster. The surfaces are overall smooth and untroubled, with just a few trivial marks across Liberty's cheek visible under magnification. Evidence of a late die state is apparent near the rims, though the design elements are bold and the eye appeal is delightfully strong.

This example represents the first year of the Classic Head series from dies made by John Reich, an accomplished German immigrant who did outstanding work in his era, most notably on various historical medals. His Capped Bust design initiated in 1807 on the half dollar is well known, as is the Classic Head motif inaugurated this year on the

cent and in 1809 on the half cent. The Classic Head cents present a challenge in terms of surface quality. Porosity and dullness are the rule, this extending through the end of the series in 1814. Supplies of copper became a problem, especially after the War of 1812 cut off shipments from England. The offered 1808 cent is ideal as an example of the variety and, probably even more likely in terms of bidding activity, as the first year of the design type.

PCGS# 1543. NGC ID: 224P.

PCGS Population: 10; 16 finer through MS-66 BN.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Chris Victor-McCawley, 1992; Superior Galleries' sale of September 1997, lot 75; Heritage's sale of August 2010, lot 3031.*

## Condition Rarity 1809 Classic Head Cent Impressive Provenance to 1913



1049

**1809 Classic Head Cent. S-280, the only known dies. Rarity-2. MS-64 BN (PCGS).** Rich steel-brown patina with glossy surfaces. Both sides are nicely centered in strike, peripheral weakness typical of the issue, the central devices pleasingly bold. There are no blemishes of note apart from a few wispy hairlines over the lower obverse and a small reverse spot above the letter T in CENT. Breen Die State VIII. This is the Sheldon (*Penny Whimsy*) plate coin, and the reverse is also pictured in *Early American Cents*. The 1809 is a single die marriage issue in the Classic Head cent series, the present example ranking among the finest known to PCGS. Del Bland grades it EAC MS-60 and

tied for CC#4, while Noyes calls it EAC AU-50 and tied for CC#7. An impressive provenance adds to this coin already tremendous appeal. Outstanding!

PCGS# 1546.

PCGS Population: 4; 0 finer in any category.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex S.H. Chapman's sale of the John P. Lyman Collection, November 1913, lot 432; Henry Chapman; Virgil M. Brand; Carl Wurtzbach; Dr. William H. Sheldon, April 1972; R.E. "Ted" Naf-tzger, Jr.; Early American Coppers sale of April 1989, lot 165; Del Bland; Chris Victor-McCawley; Dr. Robert J. Shalowitz; Tallarico Rare Coins; Dr. Robert Bye; our (Stack's) sale of May 1997, lot 386; Heritage's sale of the Eugene H. Gardner Collection, June 2014, lot 30029. Heritage lot tag included.*



## Finest Certified 1811/0 S-286 Cent Ex James A. Stack, Sr.



1050

**1811/0 Classic Head Cent. S-286. Rarity-3. MS-63 BN (NGC). CAC.** This lovely example exhibits dominant medium brown patina, although both sides retain considerable faded red color. The surfaces are microporous, especially the obverse, although this feature is easily overlooked by the unaided eye. Uncommonly well struck for the type, both sides exhibit bold to sharp definition within near-fully denticulated borders. Pleasingly smooth in hand, this is the finest certified 1811/0 cent, and its offering in this sale represents a significant find for both advanced type collectors and early copper enthusiasts. Breen Die State I. An important piece that was apparently unknown to large cent specialists until its appearance in our (1995) sale of the James A. Stack, Sr. Collection. It was subsequently used in the 50th anniversary edition of the *Guide Book* to represent the type at the top of page 85. This is a conditionally challenging variety, as are all in the Classic Head cent series of 1808 to 1814. Sheldon-286 was struck on copper planchets purchased from Matthew Boulton in Birmingham, England, this likely being the second variety of the date produced. The quality of this coin's

planchet is amazing in a survivor of this die pairing. R.W. Julian, one of America's top numismatic researchers, wrote in the November 1994 issue of *The Numismatist*: "This variety often is seen on dark, defective planchets, which probably came into contact with saltwater on the long trip from England. (Kegs of planchets usually were stored as ballast in the ships' hold.)...Unlike many of the other varieties of cents struck during this period, the 1811/0 overdate (Sheldon 286) is not known in strictly *Uncirculated condition*." The great Floyd Starr Collection, sold by us (Stack's) in 1984, contained no 1811/0; our (Stack's) Herman Halpern sale included an example in EAC AU-55. Clearly the present offering represents a fleeting bidding opportunity for the astute collector.

PCGS# 36490. NGC ID: 224V.

NGC Census: just 1; 0 finer in any category. There are no Mint State 1811/0 cents certified at PCGS.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier from (Stack's) sale of the James A. Stack, Sr. Collection, March 1995, lot 1656; Heritage's ANA Sale of July 1997, lot 5832; Heritage's Long Beach Signature Sale of May 2003, lot 5124; Heritage's Milwaukee ANA Signature Auction of August 2007, lot 1548; Heritage's Long Beach Signature Auction of September 2010, lot 3094.*

## Condition Rarity 1811 Cent



1051

**1811 Classic Head Cent. S-287. Rarity-2. MS-64 BN (NGC).** This glossy beauty is dressed in a blend of deep copper, reddish-brown and pale gold patina, the obverse the more vivid of the two sides. Both are smooth and satiny with no blemishes of note. The obverse is a bit tight to the right border, but otherwise we note full denticulation around both sides. All major design elements are boldly to sharply defined. With outstanding eye appeal, as well, this technically superior Classic Head cent has tremendous appeal for both high grade type and variety purposes. Breen Die State II-III, intermediate die state with faint bulges between the final digit 1 in the date and star 13 on the obverse and between the words OF and AMERICA on the reverse. There are, however, no clash marks evident within the wreath. There

are only two known die marriages of the 1811 cent, and they are easily distinguished because one is an overdate and the other a “perfect” date. Sheldon-287 is the “perfect” date, also identifiable by a prominent die scratch in the left obverse field from star 5 toward Liberty’s nose. Both varieties also employ different reverse dies, that used to strike S-287 without a defect in the field under the letter E in ONE and with the tip of the uppermost leaf in the wreath just past the final letter S in STATES. The Classic Head cent is a conditionally challenging type as a whole, Mint State survivors such as this rare irrespective of date or die pairing. Worthy of inclusion in the finest collection.

PCGS# 36496. NGC ID: 224U.

NGC Census: just 3; 0 finer in this category.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III.*

## Choice Mint State 1812 Classic Head Cent Sheldon S-288 Large Date Provenance to October 1878



1052

**1812 Classic Head Cent. S-288. Rarity-3. Large Date. MS-63 BN (PCGS). CAC.** An outstanding Classic Head cent for the most advanced specialist or type collector. Glossy and highly lustrous surfaces give this piece exceptional eye appeal. This is a very challenging type to find as nice as seen here and any such example is truly a pleasure to study. Both dies exhibit late state characteristics such as heavy flowlines in the fields and very weak denticles, where they remain at all. The excellent luster is largely due to the die state. Still, the detail in the motifs remains pleasantly sharp throughout. Medium to deep brown copper in the fields, with nuances of lilac and steel. Just into the Condition Census for the variety, it is given an EAC grade of MS-60 by Del Bland and ranked in 5th place.

A fine provenance back to the 1878 sale of the H.E. Jones Collection adds considerably to the appeal of this lovely coin. While the Jones sale is little recognized today, it included a few lovely early American Gems in copper and silver. From there, the coin passed through the hands

of several collectors widely recognized today for their quality coppers such as Thomas Cleneay in the 19th century and Herman Halpern, Wallace Lee and Paul Gerrie. It comes most recently from our August 2015 sale of selections from the magnificent Cardinal Collection, famous for high quality large cents as well as early dollars and other beautiful properties selected by a true connoisseur of the modern era.

PCGS# 36505. NGC ID: 224W.

PCGS Population: 3; just 1 finer in MS-66 BN (S-288 variety only).

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Scott & Co.'s sale of the H.E. Jones Collection, October 1878, lot 249; Edward Cogan; S.H. and H. Chapman's sale of the Thomas Cleneay Collection, December 1890, lot 1834; Charles Steigerwalt; Charles S. Mathewson, 1955; Copley Coin Co.; our (Stack's) sale of the L.S. Ruder Collection, September 1987, lot 410; our (Stack's) sale of the Herman Halpern Collection, March 1988, lot 275; Julian Leidman; Heritage's sale of the Robert G. Schick Collection, January 2002, lot 5356; McCawley & Grellman Auctions/Superior's sale of the Dr. Wallace Lee Collection, May 2003, lot 559; McCawley & Grellman Auctions/Superior's sale of the Paul Gerrie Collection, February 2013, lot 80; our sale of the Cardinal Collection, August 2015, lot 10029.*

## Near Mint 1813 Classic Head Cent Sheldon-293



1053

**1813 Classic Head Cent. S-293. Rarity-2. AU-58 BN (PCGS).** A medley of dark cocoa and rich caramel hues intermingle across each side of this wonderful specimen. The complexion is lightly glossy, though still shows considerable mint luster throughout the fields. The peripheries display a minor softness associated with a later die state but the central elements remain boldly defined and intricate. An attractive and ideally preserved example lacking in any noteworthy imperfections.

We first handled this piece in November 1985 as part of our sale of the Abe Kosoff Estate. We remarked that “of those achieving borderline Mint State Condition Census status, it is doubtful that any could exceed the outstanding appearance and overall quality of this specimen. Over 30 years later, this sentiment holds true. In fact, the catalog description from the 2013 sale of the Gerrie Collection notes that this coin was previous certified by PCGS as MS-62 BN, and we have no reason to doubt that optimistic assessment.

There are only two known die marriages of the 1813 issue, and they are readily distinguishable by looking at the spacing between the digit 3 in the date and star 13 on the obverse, as well as the position of the uppermost leaf in the reverse wreath relative to the closest letters in the legend. On Sheldon-293, as represented here, star 13 is close to the digit 3 in the date and the tip of the uppermost leaf is almost midway between the words STATES and OF.

PCGS# 36514. NGC ID: 224X.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer in MS-65 (S-293 variety only).

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Abe Kosoff; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Abe Kosoff Estate, November 1985, lot 138; Robert G. Schick, Heritage's 2002 January FUN Sale, lot 5359; Dr. Wallace Lee; Superior's sale of May 2003, lot 568; March Wells; McCawley & Grellman Auctions/Superior Galleries' sale of February 2009, lot 640; Paul Gerrie; Ira and Larry Goldberg's sale of the Gerrie Collection, February 2013, lot 82.*



## Choice Full Red 1818 Cent



1054

**1818 Matron Head Cent. N-10. Rarity-1. MS-64 RD (PCGS). OGH.** An exceptionally well preserved, breathtakingly beautiful example that will appeal to quality conscious type collectors as well as advanced large cent enthusiasts. Frosty mint orange surfaces with the barest hint of gray-brown iridescence. Well struck for the type, the central design elements are sharply to fully defined. A few scattered carbon spots are

noted for accuracy — seemingly the only impediments to a full Gem rating from PCGS. Noyes Die State B/B.

PCGS# 1602. NGC ID: 2253.

PCGS Population: just 3; 0 finer in the RD category.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier from Heritage's Signature Auction of October 2009, lot 84.*

## Another Exceptional 1818 N-10 Cent



1055

**1818 Matron Head Cent. N-10. Rarity-1. MS-64 RD (PCGS).** This is a lovely near-Gem, the surfaces frosty in texture with dominant mint red color. The lightest steel-brown iridescence is reserved for the high points, and both sides are fully Choice in quality with only a few scattered carbon spots, the most significant of which is on the reverse at the letter M in AMERICA. In his cataloging for this coin when offered as part of Ira & Larry Goldbergs' sale of the Ralls Collection in January 2014, Bob Grellman described it as, "An impressive cent, the 'reddest' 1818 N-10 your cataloger has seen in over 50 years of examining large cents." A gorgeous coin worthy of the strongest bids. Noyes Die State

B/B. Undoubtedly from the famous Randall Hoard, the source for most Mint State large cents dated 1816 to 1820 in numismatic circles. The hoard is believed to have contained about 15,000 Uncirculated cents from that narrow five-year period. The 1818 N-10 and 1820 N-13 are the two most plentiful varieties from that hoard, although few examples of either die marriage combine Choice Mint State quality and full Red color, as here. Outstanding!

PCGS# 36630.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Gordon Wrubel; Dr. Philip W. Ralls; Ira & Larry Goldbergs' sale of the Ralls Collection, January 2014, lot 716.*

## Outstanding 1821 N-2 Cent From the Boston Cornerstone Find of 1981



1056

**1821 Matron Head Cent. N-2. Rarity-1. MS-63 RB (PCGS).** An extraordinary coin, among the very finest known for this key date issue among middle date large cents. Rich orange mint color, barely faded in the fields but still essentially full with ample luster and modestly reflective tendencies. Scattered tiny spots are seen, more responsible for the RB designation than any actual brown, the most notable are under the letter F in OF on the reverse and atop Liberty's head on the obverse. The strike is excellent and shows generous detail on both sides. Only very minor evidence of handling is seen, including a minor horizontal nick under the letter C in CENT. The surfaces are lively and the eye appeal is outstanding. This piece is a treasure from Boston, off the market for long intervals and solidly in the Condition Census for the 1821 N-2 die pairing. About 1981, a building in Boston was renovated or razed, revealing a cornerstone from its initial construction in 1821. Within the cornerstone were no less than seven cents, placed inside when they were brand new and preserved ever since. All seven were sold in New England Rare Coin Galleries' sale of October 1981, lots 58 through 64, each graded Mint State and aside from some spotting retaining abundant mint color. As noted in Q.

David Bowers' *American Coin Treasures and Hoards*, where the Boston Cornerstone Find is described on pp. 96-97, "adding to their appeal was the appreciation of the 1821 cent as the second scarcest of the late [sic] date large cents." Most of the seven pieces have remained off the market since the 1981 NERCG sale and, indeed, the present example is making only its third auction appearance since its rediscovery in the Boston cornerstone. The 1991 Noyes census cites this coin as tied for CC#4, and Wright likewise names this coin among the four best of the variety. This date is well recognized as a challenge above EF, and those collectors lucky enough to have fully AU pieces in their cabinets are few in number. This lovely Choice Uncirculated example, with a storied past and most of its original color, would be a highlight in any large cent collection.

PCGS# 1622. NGC ID: 2258.

PCGS Population (both die marriages of the issue): just 2; with a further two finer in this category (MS-64 RB finest).

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Interred in a cornerstone in Boston in 1821, then rediscovered ca. 1981. Ex New England Rare Coin Galleries' sale of October 1981, lot 60; private collector; our (American Numismatic Rarities') Robert Michael Prescott Collection sale, January 2006, lot 35.*



## Important Gem 1839 Head of 1840 Large Cent Newcomb-8 Tied for Noyes CC #3



1057

**1839 Braided Hair Cent. N-8. Rarity-1. Head of 1840. MS-65 RB (PCGS).** An impressive example, and among the finest known for the die pair. Both sides exhibit a smooth, glossy texture with light-brown iridescence dominating the outward appearance. Considerable luster remains, however, the obverse with pretty light-orange color peering through the toning and the reverse exhibiting more subtle pinkish-rose undertones. Aside from the often-seen softness of detail here and there at the borders—which is very minor, in point of fact—the strike is well executed. Liberty's portrait on the obverse and the reverse wreath are particularly noteworthy for the crispness of delineation that they possess. As-struck flaws are not seen, and post-production blemishes are few in number and can be difficult to discern. For pedigree purposes, we offer a small carbon fleck at the obverse rim between stars 2 and 3, another near the denticles between stars 5 and

6 and a trio of faint spots at the reverse border outside the letter T in STATES. A beautiful coin that would serve with distinction in the finest collection of middle date large Cents.

Our research indicates that this coin was sold as lot 188 in Lester Merkin's 1964 sale of the renowned Louis Helfenstein Collection of Large Cents. The pedigree, in turn, confirms this coin as being tied for Condition Census #3 for the die marriage according to the list compiled by William C. Noyes in the 1991 book *United States Large Cents: 1816-1839*.

PCGS# 1818.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer through MS-66 RB.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Walter Breen; Lester Merkin's sale of the Louis Helfenstein Collection of Large Cents, August 1964, lot 188; our June 2010 Baltimore Auction, lot 152.*

## Lustrous Red 1840 N-8 Cent

### Exceptionally Rare with Full Red Surfaces



1058

**1840 Braided Hair Cent. N-8. Rarity-1. Large Date. MS-64 RD (PCGS).** Boldly lustrous mint orange surfaces exhibit wisps of rich rose-gold iridescence. Numerous tiny flecks come to light under low magnification, with the only readily visible fleck seen with the naked eye at a point in the field below Liberty's chin. The strike is bold throughout with fully rendered stars and central details. Late obverse state, dentils weak in places, flow lines adorn Liberty's neck, rim crumbling from 1 to 6 o'clock. Reverse from a middle state with some softness in the dentils and with no die lines through ERIC; these faded quickly from the die and are seen only in very early states. Noyes Die State C/B. The Braided Hair type, which began in the twilight of 1839, was the last major motif in the large cent series. However,

adjustments were made, and the earlier dates, as here, have the head smaller, more finely executed, and at a different angle in relation to the date. Newcomb-8 is one of 13 varieties for the 1840-dated issue. This beautiful near-Gem has not been rated by Noyes, Bland, or McCawley-Grellman. Mark Borckardt grades this specimen as MS-64 by EAC standards.

PCGS# 1822. NGC ID: 2266.

PCGS Population (all die marriages of the Large Date variety): just 1; 3 finer in this category (all MS-65 RD).

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier from Heritage's sale of the Burning Tree Collection, March 2009, lot 154; our sale of the Cardinal Collection Educational Foundation, January 2013, lot 13060.*

## Gem Full Red Uncirculated 1842 Large Cent



1059

**1842 Braided Hair Cent. N-6. Rarity-1. Large Date. MS-65 RD (NGC).** This lovely 1842 Large Date cent is a frosty and lustrous Gem with soft rose-orange color throughout. The strike is bold and the surfaces exhibit nothing more serious than a tiny reverse planchet flaw, as struck, in the field near the first S in STATES. Date numerals progressively lower from left to right in a "stair-step" alignment. The present specimen is the only RD example of the date certified by NGC within any grade. As choice for the grade as one could hope, and a coin that holds up admirably to careful magnified examination.

Forming a collection of Braided Hair large copper cents from 1839 to 1857 is an interesting way to start on a larger holding of this popular denomination. Using the basic varieties in the *Guide Book* is ideal. If you do this, here is a coin that will fill in one of the spaces in a deluxe manner.

PCGS# 1837. NGC ID: 2268.

NGC Census (all die marriages of the issue): just 1 in all grades with the RD color designation.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier from our Philadelphia ANA Sale of August 2012, lot 11196.*



# Gem Proof 1849 Braided Hair Cent

## Newcomb-18

### The Finest Certified Example



1060

**1849 Braided Hair Cent. N-18. Rarity-6. Proof-65+ RB (NGC). CAC.** We are delighted to once again be offering this incredible 1849 Proof cent, having offered it over nearly a decade ago in 2009. Accents of deep steel-blue are backlit by radiant peach and orange coloration across each side. The surfaces are nearly pristine, free from all but the most trivial imperfections under magnification. Sharply struck, as expected, and lightly reflective throughout the fields. A truly exceptional specimen.

The Newcomb-18 variety is a Proof-only variety and shares a reverse die with several other Proof issues. When Walter Breen wrote his study of Proof coins, he suggested that “there may be more than a dozen around in all,” and enumerated seven or eight examples. The more

recent and actively updated data kept by Denis Loring suggests that the number of N-18 specimens may be just a little higher. The present example is surely among the finest survivors from these dies, ranking as the numerically finest example certified at either NGC or PCGS. More recently this piece had been part of the renowned Adam Mervis Large Cent Collection, which further speaks to its superior quality and eye appeal.

PCGS# 1977. NGC ID: 226Y.

NGC Census: 1; none finer in any category.

*Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of January 2009, lot 84; our (Stack's) sale of July 2009, lot 187; Heritage's sale of the Adam Mervis Large Cent Collection, January 2014, lot 2326.*

## SMALL CENTS

## Desirable Gem 1856 Flying Eagle Cent Snow-3



1061

**1856 Flying Eagle Cent. Snow-3. Repunched 5, High Leaves. MS-65 (PCGS).** This is a captivating example displaying nearly the finest level of preservation known for the issue. The patina is a lovely marbling of dark bronze hues against lighter sandy-pearl coloration. Dramatic prooflike reflectivity glimmers in the fields, starkly contrasting the more richly frosted design elements. Impressively struck for the issue, with particular intricacy to the eagle's feathers on the obverse. A truly breathtaking rarity with just 3 coins graded finer.

Following the production of small-diameter patterns since 1850, by 1856 the desire to create a new format cent for circulation was at its height. The Mint in Philadelphia struck close to 1,000 examples

of James B. Longacre's Flying Eagle design type for distribution to important individuals. Specialist Rick Snow suggests that the Snow-3 variety offered here "makes up most or all of the 634 specimens originally distributed to Congress to help promote passage of the pending coinage bill." The presence of an 1856 Flying Eagle cent in one's collection announces that a major milestone has been accomplished, and this piece is among the most handsome of available representatives.

PCGS# 2013, NGC ID: B2CX.

PCGS Population: 13; 3 finer in MS-66.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Classic 1856 Flying Eagle Cent



1062

**1856 Flying Eagle Cent. Snow-3. Repunched 5, High Leaves. MS-63 (PCGS). OGH.** A handsome Choice example of this fabled rarity in the United States Mint's small cent series. Striking quality is superior by the standards of this die pair, both sides with razor sharp definition from the rims to the centers. Even the feathers on the eagle's breast are crisply delineated — a feature seldom seen on 1856 Flying Eagle cents of the Snow-3 variety. Warmly toned in somewhat dusky olivertan patina, the surfaces are smooth in hand and would likely have secured an even higher grade were it not for slightly subdued luster. A highlight of the ESM Collection that is seemingly earmarked for inclusion in another advanced cabinet.

A historically significant issue, the first year Flying Eagle cent was initially prepared as a pattern in late 1856 and early 1857 to illustrate the new small size cent in copper-nickel composition, which was envisioned as a replacement for the costly (to produce) large copper cents first struck in 1793. Later in 1857, and continuing through at least early 1860, the Mint struck additional examples. The later strikings were initially meant for distribution to Congressional leaders, Mint personnel and others in government posts, but by 1859, if not late 1858, Mint Director Colonel James Ross Snowden was striking 1856 Flying Eagle cents expressly for distribution to contemporary collectors who had become fascinated with the nation's first copper-nickel cent. According to Rick Snow (*A Guide Book of Flying Eagle and Indian Head Cents*, 2006), the 1856 Flying Eagle cent had become so popular during the late 1850s that prices soon reached \$2 per coin, sparking the nation's first coin-collecting boom.

Snow-3 is one of the scarcer die marriages of this issue, Rick Snow (*The Flying Eagle & Indian Cent Attribution Guide, 3rd Edition, Volume 1*, 2014) estimating that it accounts for only 20% of 1856 Flying Eagle

cent extant. The author provides an estimated mintage from these dies of 700 pieces, with approximately 500 coins surviving in all grades. Examples are usually certified as Mint State instead of Proof by the major third party grading services, as here, the strike often weak in the center of the obverse and/or around the reverse periphery and the fields satiny instead of semi-reflective. As previously stated, however, the present example is uncommonly well struck for the variety, most notably on the eagle's breast feathers in the center of the obverse.

Arguably the most numismatically desirable of the 1856 Flying Eagle cent die pairings, Snow-3 is believed to be the variety that comprised most or all of the 634 examples that the Mint originally prepared for distribution to Congressional leaders. These coins were meant to help promote passage of the pending coinage bill that would authorize regular issue production of the copper-nickel small cent. (This bill eventually became law as the Act of February 21, 1857.) Rick Snow also believes that the Mint used the Snow-3 dies for a simulated production run for regular issue copper-nickel small cent coinage. Given the circulation strike (as opposed to Proof) qualities of surviving examples, it is likely that all Snow-3 coins were struck at normal speed on a regular production press.

Far scarcer than its Snow-9 counterpart — the die variety used to strike most Proof 1856 Flying Eagle cents for sale to collectors circa 1858 to 1860 — Snow-3 is also highly desirable as the variety of this issue most closely linked with the adoption of the copper-nickel small cent as a viable replacement for the large copper cent. This is a fully original, aesthetically pleasing example that represents a significant find for the astute bidder.

PCGS# 2013. NGC ID: B2CX.

PCGS Population: 40; 51 finer (MS-66 finest).

From the ESM Collection.

## Premium Gem 1857 Flying Eagle Cent Tied for Finest at PCGS



1063

**1857 Flying Eagle Cent. MS-66 (PCGS). CAC.** A pearly and lustrous Gem Mint State 1857 Flying Eagle cent, the first year of this short-lived series intended for circulation. The fields are blanketed in a soft, satiny luster which contrasts the more frosty texture of the design elements. Golden-tan with pinkish suggestions and essential free from wear.

The first examples of this issue were released to the public on May 25, 1857, amid much excitement. At the Philadelphia Mint two facilities were set up in the yard to distribute them, and long lines

formed as citizens sought the new pieces. Over 17.4 million examples were eventually struck, and the current piece ranks among the finest survivors from that mintage. PCGS has certified just 22 coins at the present MS-66 grade and none rank finer at either of the top grading services, emphasizing the significance of this beautiful example.

PCGS# 2016. NGC ID: 2276.

PCGS Population: 22; none finer.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*



## Incredible Gem 1858/7 Flying Eagle Cent



1064

**1858/7 Flying Eagle Cent. Snow-1, FS-301. Large Letters, High Leaves. MS-65 (PCGS).** This is a magnificent representative of the elusive Snow-1 overdate with uniform frosty luster throughout. The obverse shows a blend of reddish-bronze and golden-tan hues, while the reverse glistens in warmer honey-gold tones. Bold at center, the peripheries show a trace of softness that is typical for the variety, and the eye appeal is truly delightful. This piece ranks among the finest survivors of this elusive variety, tied with just 9 others at PCGS and none finer.

It seems that the 1857 die was relapped, removing most of the date, but also reducing the relief of certain other features, most notably the tip

of the wing near the border. In addition to the diagnostic repunching of the date, a die chip is seen in the field above the first 8 that may have been caused by contact of the 1 in the four-digit date logotype with the working die (a thought advanced by small cent specialist Chris Pilliod). This variety is believed to have been discovered by Walter Breen circa 1957 and has seen increased popularity in recent years. It is now considered essential for completing a comprehensive Flying Eagle cent collection and demand is strong.

PCGS# 2022. NGC ID: 2277.

PCGS Population: 9; none finer.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## A Second Rare 1858/7 Overdate Flying Eagle Cent



1065

**1858/7 Flying Eagle Cent. Snow-1, FS-301. Large Letters, High Leaves. MS-64 (NGC).** We are delighted to be offering multiple examples of this premier rarity in the Flying Eagle cent series. Considered by specialists to be an integral party of a complete Flying Eagle Cent collection, the 1858/7 enjoys extremely strong demand in today's market. The problem as far as many collectors are concerned is

that there are nowhere near enough examples extant to meet current demand, to say nothing of future demand. Mint State survivors are genuinely scarce in an absolute sense, and they are decidedly rare from a market availability standpoint. Evenly patinated in a tannish-rose shade, with nary a distracting blemish to report, this is a lovely example of the issue and is sure to be well received.

NGC Census: 44; 6 finer (MS-66 finest).

## Eagerly Sought 1858/7 Flying Eagle Cent Premium Choice Uncirculated Quality



1066

**1858/7 Flying Eagle Cent. Snow-1, FS-301. Snow Die Stage A. Large Letters, High Leaves. MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** An impressive condition rarity for this scarce and highly desirable overdate. Both sides are attractively original with warm, even toning in a blend of golden-tan and pinkish-apricot. The strike is otherwise sharp, but we do note the typical (for the variety) softness of detail at the end of the eagle's tail and throughout the right half of the wreath. All known 1858/7 cents are weakly defined in these areas due to having been struck from skewed dies. Satiny in texture with a pleasingly smooth appearance in hand, this lovely example will delight variety enthusiasts as well as advanced Flying Eagle and Indian cent collectors.

The most significant variety in the brief Flying Eagle series of 1856 to 1858, the 1858/7 Snow-1 has its own listing in the popular "Red Book" and is often collected as an integral part of a complete set of this small

cent type. Snow Die Stage A, offered here, is the most desirable of the three known die states since it retains the most prominent remnants of the 7 underdigit. Indeed, a loupe reveals a nearly complete upper right corner of the 7 underdigit above and to the right of the second digit 8 in the date. An additional diagnostic of this variety is what appears to be a small die chip in the field above the space between the digits 85 in the date. Some numismatic scholars believe that this die chip is the remnant of the base of an errant 1. If so, the 1858/7 Snow-1 variety could be classified not only as an overdate, but also as a misplaced date. An elusive variety in all Mint State grades that is all but unobtainable as a Gem, the opportunity to acquire this premium quality Choice example deserves serious bidder consideration.

PCGS# 2022. NGC ID: 2277.

PCGS Population: 30; 34 finer (MS-65 finest).

From the *ESM Collection*.



## Extraordinary Gem 1858 Flying Eagle Cent Scarce Small Letters / High Leaves Variant



1067

**1858 Flying Eagle Cent. Small Letters, High Leaves (Style of 1857), Type I. MS-66 (PCGS).** This is a simply beautiful 1858 Flying Eagle cent with both sides exhibiting intense satin luster on vivid golden-tan surfaces. Tinges of rose iridescence are also evident on the obverse and are highly attractive. Fully struck from the rims to the centers with a virtually pristine appearance, this is a phenomenal condition rarity that will nicely represent the brief Flying Eagle cent series of 1856 to 1858.

The Small Letters, High Leaves (Style of 1857) is the least frequently encountered hub combination of the 1858 Flying Eagle cent. The

obverse may be the work of Assistant Engraver Anthony C. Paquet (per Rick Snow, 2014) and, in addition to the size of the letters in the legend, is distinguishable from the Large Letters type through subtle design differences in the eagle. The High Leaves reverse represents the original design of 1856 and 1857 with a higher relief. It would be lowered to extend working die life for the subsequent Low Leaves variant. A beautiful coin in its own right, specialists will also be enthused by the rare variant, and we expect strong competition for this lot.

PCGS Population: 13; 4 finer (all MS-66+).

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Condition Rarity 1858 Flying Eagle Cent Large Letters Obverse Hub Variety



1068

**1858 Flying Eagle Cent. Large Letters, Low Leaves, (Style of 1858), Type II. MS-66 (PCGS). CAC.** A glorious example aglow with satiny pinkish-tan luster. Direct lighting angles call forth modest semi-reflective tendencies in the fields that add further appeal, but not even the closest inspection with a loupe reveals a detracting blemish. Virtually pristine, in fact, with a razor sharp to full strike throughout. The second year 1858 Flying Eagle cent was produced in even greater numbers than the 1857, 24,600,000 vs. 17,450,000 circulation strikes. Both issues are of similar availability in numismatic circles, worn survivors plentiful and even Mint State coins readily obtainable in grades through MS-64. On the other hand, the type as a whole is scarce in MS-65 and rare any finer. This is one of the finest examples

of the 1858 Large Letters known to PCGS, and it is a coin that would do equally well in a high quality type set or specialized Flying Eagle and Indian cent collection. Although the two obverse hub varieties of the 1858 Flying Eagle cent are most easily distinguished by the size of the letters in the legend, in reality the design of the Large Letters differs markedly from that of its Small Letters successor. In addition to the lack of space between the letters AM in AMERICA, this variety is identifiable by the high relief design of the eagle with more rounded feathers and the tail raised markedly above the surrounding field area.

PCGS# 2019. NGC ID: 2277.

PCGS Population: 35; 4 finer (MS-67 finest).

*From the ESM Collection.*

# Breathtakingly Beautiful 1858 Flying Eagle Cent

## Small Letters Hub Variety

### PCGS MS-66



1069

**1858 Flying Eagle Cent. Small Letters, Low Leaves (Style of 1858), Type II. MS-66 (PCGS).** A gorgeous that would do equally well in a high quality type set or advanced Flying Eagle and Indian cent collection. Intense satin luster mingles with vivid pale tan patina, both sides also revealing subtle pink, apricot and powder-blue highlights as the coin dips into a light. The surfaces are expectably smooth for the assigned grade, and the strike is razor sharp over even the most intricate design elements. Impressive in all regards, this enchanting coin is sure to sell for a premium bid.

The second year 1858 Flying Eagle cent was produced in even greater numbers than the 1857, 24,600,000 vs. 17,450,000 circulation strikes. Both issues are of similar availability in numismatic circles, worn survivors plentiful and even Mint State coins readily obtainable in grades through MS-64. On the other hand, the type as a whole is scarce in MS-65 and rare any finer. This is one of the finest examples of

the 1858 Small Letters known to PCGS, its offering in the present sale representing a fleeting bidding opportunity for the quality-conscious numismatist.

Although the two obverse hub varieties of the 1858 Flying Eagle cent are most easily distinguished by the size of the letters in the legend, in reality the design of the Small Letters has been reworked in its entirety. In addition to spacing between the letters AM in AMERICA, this variety is distinguished from its Large Letters predecessor by shallower relief to the eagle with flatter feathers and the tail raised only minimally above the surrounding field area. Most circulation strikes of this variety are paired with the Type II Low Leaves Reverse hub, as here.

PCGS# 2020. NGC ID: 2279.

PCGS Population: 13; 4 finer (all MS-66+).

*From the ESM Collection.*

## Legendary Proof 1864 L on Ribbon Cent Rare and Seldom Offered



1070

**1864 Indian Cent. Bronze. L on Ribbon. Snow-PR2. Proof-63 RB (PCGS).** An attractive and highly desirable example of a famous rarity in the Proof small cent series. Fully impressed with razor sharp definition, the devices have a pleasant satin texture that contrasts with modest semi-reflective qualities in the fields. The surfaces exhibit even golden-orange color with only minimal fading to explain the RB color designation from PCGS. Pleasingly smooth in hand, and solidly in the Choice category, this coin would serve as a highlight in any Indian cent collection. The 1864 L on Ribbon in Proof format ranks as the foremost delicacy in the Indian cent series. *PCGS CoinFacts* estimates a population of just 30 to 35 pieces, while the standard numismatic reference *A Guide Book of United States Coins* suggests 20+ as the mintage. As a Proof 1864 with L is a classic rarity, no doubt some of the certification numbers include resubmissions. Remarkably, despite the tiny population, there are three known die varieties of 1864 L on Ribbon Proofs, designated by Rick Snow as PR1, PR2 and PR3 in the 3rd edition (2014) of his *Flying Eagle & Indian Cent Attribution Guide*. The variety most frequently seen is PR2, offered here, which has an extant population of 13 or 14 coins and appears to comprise more than half of the surviving supply. PR1 has a known population of just eight or nine specimens. The rarest variety is PR3, which is currently represented by a sole known example (as PR1 and PR3 are very similar, some coins now listed as PR1 may eventually be reassigned as PR3). The easiest way to distinguish between the three varieties is by the placement of the date digits with respect to the bust truncation and the dentils, although PR2 is further identified by a prominent die line at the rear of Liberty's jaw below the ear and heavy die lines on the reverse off the leaf tips at 8 o'clock. The presently offered specimen is a newcomer to Snow's census of PR2 examples. As information concerning these Proofs is not widely known we present the following: Snow-PR1. Original. 1 in date directly below the neck tip. No spine from curl. Snow: "The obverse die is polished somewhat unevenly, with more space between the denticles at 3:00 and 9:00 than at 12:00 and 6:00. The reverse die was used earlier to strike some 1864 (without L) bronze Proof cents. This is the original die pair." Snow-PR2. Restrike. Date is significantly to the right of the tip of the neck, with the left side of the 1 in the date being an obvious check point. A tiny spine (about 1.5 mm) extends downward to the left from the curl below the ear into Liberty's neck. The reverse seems to be from the same die used to strike the 1863 L on Ribbon pattern cents, but in a later state. Rick Snow and Q. David Bowers believe these were made for collectors in 1871; i.e., they are restrikes. (Cf. Norweb Collection,

Part I, 1987, lot 156.) John Dannreuther, who is currently compiling a master work on United States Proof coins from the early 19th century onward and who has made some remarkable discoveries, reports that Proof 1864 Small Motto two-cent pieces also exist in restrike form and suggests that they may have been struck around 1871. The following suggested scenario is from Q. David Bowers' 1996 study (before Snow-PR3 was discovered, now unique) and tells of the two main varieties — originals and restrikes: Late in the 1864 year when the new hub with L on ribbon was introduced into the cent series, Proofs produced at that time were made of the new style and routinely sold to collectors who ordered them. Such orders would have straggled in, for traditionally most Proof minor coins in a given year were sold early in the year. At the time, there was no numismatic interest in or knowledge of the hub change, and no coin collectors noticed that certain late-1864 bronze Proofs had the L on ribbon. For that reason, the mintage was small and simply limited to those needed to fill orders that came in. This is truly remarkable. Many years ago when Q. David Bowers began studying certain early coins in detail, including examining nearly all coin auction catalogs of the 19th century, he expected to see the variety with L listed. No such find! It seems that it was not until about 1871 that collectors were aware of the tiny L on ribbon and sought to buy 1864 Proof bronze cents with this feature, but specimens were few and far between. The solution was a simple one: A new obverse Proof die dated 1864 and with the L on ribbon was created, and additional Proofs were made. The evidence for this is provided by this die sequence in the words of Rick Snow, here lightly paraphrased and expanded: "Among Proof 1864 L Proof cents, the reverse of Die Pair 1 has been matched to the reverse of a regular no-L 1864 Proof bronze cent. Thus, Die Pair 1 can definitely be assigned "original Proof" status. A copper-nickel [pattern; Judd-358, Pollock-429] 1864 L cent I [Richard Snow] have in stock is also a Die Pair 1 coin and was probably struck in 1864." The aluminum strikings of the 1864 L cent (J-361, P-432) and the 1863 L cents in various metals (J-301, P-363 in bronze; J-302, P-365 in copper-nickel; J-403, P-367 in aluminum) are all paired with the same reverse used to create 1864 L Proof bronze cents from Die Pair 2, but these various patterns are from an earlier die state. This indicates that the 1863 with-L cents were struck before the Die Pair 2 1864 L bronze Proofs." However — and here is the telling part — this same reverse die can be found on 1869 aluminum strikings (J-671, P-747) and regular-issue Proof 1870 and 1871 bronze cents. The striking order of this reverse die — as observed from coins together at the same time for side-by-side

comparison — is as follows:”1863 L in bronze (Narrow Bust) - 1863 L in copper-nickel (Narrow Bust) - 1869 in aluminum - 1870 regular bronze Proof - 1871 regular bronze Proof (variety with 71 apart) - 1864 L regular bronze Proof - 1871 regular bronze Proof (variety with 71 numerals close).”This clearly shows that the Die Pair 2 Proof 1864 L cents were struck no earlier than 1871 and were made as restrikes for the collector market. It also shows that in 1871 the Mint was making up restrikes for numismatists.”This restriking activity from the 1871 era is not a revelation, as, for example, the so-called restrike Proof 1801,

1802, and 1803 silver dollars are believed to have been made around this time, and a glance at the Judd or Pollock books will reveal many unusual mulings and off-metal strikes. Of course, restrikes are avidly collected in their own right, and in some instances (such as Proof half cents of the 1830s and 1840s) rare varieties of restrikes sometimes bring higher prices than originals.

PCGS# 2280.

PCGS Population: 2; 8 finer in this category (Proof-66 RB finest).

From the John Whitney Walter Collection.

## Outstanding 1864 L on Ribbon Indian Cent PCGS MS-66 RD Among the Finest Certified



1071

**1864 Indian Cent. Bronze. L on Ribbon. Snow-5a, FS-2304. Repunched Date. MS-66 RD (PCGS).** A conditionally rare and aesthetically pleasing example of this eagerly sought Indian cent hub variety. Intensely lustrous surfaces are satiny in finish, the obverse dressed in pale rose iridescence while the reverse exhibits slightly bolder orange-apricot patina. Both sides are equally well struck with razor sharp, if not full definition in all areas. The L on Ribbon represents a redesign of the basic Indian cent motif by James Barton Longacre, who added his initial L to the lower ribbon between the last feather in the headdress and the adjacent hair curl. Numismatic scholars do not know either when the L on Ribbon type was placed into production or exactly how many pieces were produced. The total circulation strike

mintage of 1864 bronze cents is 39,233,714 pieces, with Rick Snow (*A Guide Book of Flying Eagle and Indian Head Cents*, 2006) providing an estimated mintage of 5 million coins for this variety given the scarcity of examples relative to those of its No L counterpart. With most survivors well worn and the typical Uncirculated example grading no finer than MS-64 RB this wholly lustrous, premium quality Gem represents a fleeting bidding opportunity for the quality conscious Indian cent enthusiast. The Snow-5a, FS-2304 attribution adds further interest, the most significant diagnostic of which is repunching at the top of the digits 18 in the date.

PCGS# 2081. NGC ID: 227M.

PCGS Population (all die variety of the issue): 6; 0 finer in this category.

From the *ESM* Collection.

## Phenomenal Gem Full Red 1865 Indian Cent Fancy 5



1072

**1865 Indian Cent. Fancy 5. MS-66 RD (PCGS). CAC. OGH—First Generation.** This is a simply outstanding example of both the type and issue that would serve as a highlight in the finest collection. Bathed in vivid golden-orange color, a blush of reddish-rose further enlivens the lower half of the reverse. The strike is razor sharp throughout, and satiny surfaces are so smooth as to be temptingly close to pristine. This second year bronze Indian cent issue has a mintage of 35,429,286 circulation strikes, a generous total that suggests that there was still a great need for new cents to rectify the coinage shortage in the East and

Midwest created by the withdrawal of gold, silver and copper-nickel coins that began early in the Civil War. As an issue the 1865 is readily obtainable in Mint State, although with the quality and eye appeal offered here it is a major condition rarity. As one of the finest examples known to PCGS, in fact, this lovely coin is sure to have no difficulty finding its way into another impressive Indian cent set.

PCGS# 2084. NGC ID: 227N.

PCGS Population: 14; 0 finer.

*From the ESM Collection.*

## Gem Red 1866 Indian Head Cent



1073

**1866 Indian Cent. MS-66 RD (PCGS). CAC.** A vibrant blend of tangerine and golden-amber iridescence dominates the complexion of this superior Gem. The fields are satiny and lightly prooflike, contrastingly subtly with the more frosty texture of the central devices. Well struck and virtually untouched, the technical merits of this piece are only matched by its incredible eye appeal that flourishes under a

light source. This piece is among the most pristine survivors known of the 1866 issue, tied for the finest certified by PCGS with only 7 other specimens. Ideal for PCGS Registry Set participants and advanced specialists of the Indian cent series.

PCGS# 2087. NGC ID: 227P.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Phenomenal Condition Rarity 1867 Indian Cent



1074

**1867 Indian Cent. MS-66 RD (NGC).** This breathtakingly beautiful Gem is bathed in satiny rose-red and autumn-orange luster, the surfaces nearly as bright and fresh as the day the coin emerged from the dies. The strike is full, the appearance virtually pristine, and the eye appeal nothing short of extraordinary. A semi-key date issue in this popular series, the 1867 was produced to the extent of just 9,821,000

pieces. With many examples redeemed and melted during the 1870s, survivors are scarce in circulated grades and rare in Mint State. With the typical Uncirculated coin Brown or Red and Brown in color, this fully lustrous, premium quality Red Gem is particularly desirable for an advanced Indian cent collection. Among the finest certified!

PCGS# 2090. NGC ID: 227R.

NGC Census: 3; 0 finer. The corresponding PCGS Population is only 1/0.

## Remarkable Choice Full Red 1867/67 Indian Cent All But Unknown with this Quality



1075

**1867/67 Indian Cent. Snow-1b, FS-301. Repunched Date. MS-64 RD (PCGS).** Lovely satin surfaces retain full mint color in a blend of pale rose and light orange shades. Sharply to full struck throughout with exceptionally well preserved surfaces that are nearly in the Gem Mint State category. A phenomenal condition rarity for this eagerly sought variety, there is much to recommend this beautiful example to advanced Indian cent enthusiasts.

First reported by our own Q. David Bowers in issue No. 5 of his *Empire Topics* (1959), the 1867/67 is now regarded as one of the top repunched date varieties in the Indian cent series. Repunching at the tops of the digits 67 in the date is so pronounced that this variety is attributable without the aid of a loupe. This variety is also elusive in all grades, a fact that is at least partly due to the scarcity of the circulation strike 1867 issue as a whole. Writing in the 2014 edition of his *Flying Eagle & Indian Cent Attribution Guide*, series expert Rick Snow has this to say about the rarity of full Red examples:

*“[The 1867/67] is virtually unknown in full red color. Planchets used for this variety typically exhibit a streaky woodgrain toning. This woodgrain look, while not unappealing, [condemns] the coin from the outset as never being able to be graded as a full red.”*

Combining absolute scarcity with condition rarity, this phenomenal example — a highlight of the ESM Collection — numbers among the finest 1867/67 cents known to PCGS and would serve as a focal point in any cabinet.

According to Snow, there are two die marriages of this variety. Snow-1b, represented here, was struck from a reverse die that developed a set of spindly cracks from the border between 6 o'clock and 6:30 to the left ribbon end and the adjacent arrow feather.

PCGS# 92090.

PCGS Population: 5; with a single MS-64+ RD finer. These are the only six grading events for this variety in the RD category at PCGS.

*From the ESM Collection.*

## Captivating Gem Full Red 1870 Indian Cent Among the Finest Certified



1076

**1870 Indian Cent. FS-901. Shallow N (a.k.a. Reverse of 1869). MS-66 RD (PCGS). CAC. OGH.** A Condition Census beauty with outstanding technical quality and eye appeal in an early bronze Indian cent. Bathed in a blend of light rose and golden-tan color, both sides are fully original with a virtually pristine satin texture. Smartly impressed and fully defined throughout. The Philadelphia Mint delivered 5,275,000 circulation strike cents in 1870, a smaller total when viewed in the wider context of the Indian series. The real reason for the scarcity of this date, however, is the Mint's wholesale redemption and melting of examples beginning in 1871. These redeemed coins had been stockpiled in bank reserves due to low commercial demand. In order to reduce the number of coins in circulation to a level that was more consistent with actual demand, the Act of March 3, 1871 required the Treasury to redeem all minor coinage in lots of no less than \$20. The law made clear that the redeemed coins were not to be replaced, new coinage limited to meeting actual demand. This stipulation explains the relatively low mintages for circulation strike cents from 1871

through 1879. During the same nine-year period, the Mint redeemed and melted more than 31,000,000 copper-nickel cents and 55,000,000 bronze cents. The present example was not only fortunate to escape destruction, but it has come down to the present day with virtually pristine surfaces that are as bright and fresh as the day it was struck. A delight to behold, and a find for the Indian cent enthusiast competing for top ranking on the PCGS Set Registry.

The Shallow N reverse hub variety of this issue is attributed to James Barton Longacre, the original designer of the Indian cent. Its replacement, the Bold N hub variety, was prepared by Chief Engraver William Barber and introduced in 1870. Even so, the Shallow N remained in use for circulation strikes for three more years. This variety is scarce for the 1870, 1871 and 1872 circulation strikes, most survivors which are Bold N examples.

PCGS# 2099. NGC ID: 227U.

PCGS Population: 7; with a single MS-66+ RD finer.

*From the ESM Collection.*

## Gem Full Red 1872 Cent

### A Leading Condition Rarity in the Indian Series



1077

**1872 Indian Cent. Bold N. MS-65 RD (PCGS).** A simply outstanding example of this scarce and conditionally challenging 1870s Indian cent. Exceptionally vivid rose-orange luster greets the viewer from the obverse, the reverse equally attractive in a lighter golden-orange hue. Both sides are equally well struck with razor sharp definition to even the most intricate design elements. Satiny in texture with a virtually pristine appearance, it is little wonder that this beautiful Gem ranks among the finest certified survivors of this key date issue.

One of the leading condition rarities in the Indian cent series, the 1872 boasts a relatively limited mintage of 4,042,000 circulation strikes. This figure can be explained by limited commercial demand for cents during the Reconstruction era. Pursuant to the Act of March 3, 1871, the Treasury redeemed and melted 5,635,999 bronze cents in 1872 (along

with 5,751,073 copper-nickel cents), thereby reducing banks' stocks of coins that were not needed in circulation. This redemption policy continued through 1881, many of the circulation strikes produced in 1872 meeting a similar fate in subsequent years. Since bank reserves were a primary source for Mint State examples for many classic U.S. Mint issues, it is little wonder that relatively few Uncirculated 1872 cents survived. When offered in Mint State at all, the 1872 is apt to be poorly struck with little to no original color. As a sharply defined, full red Gem, the significance of the present example can hardly be overstated.

PCGS# 2105. NGC ID: 227W.

PCGS Population: 18; 3 finer in this category (MS-66 RD finest).

*From the ESM Collection.*



## Gem Red 1872 Indian Cent Shallow N



1078

**1872 Indian Cent. Shallow N. MS-65 RD (PCGS).** This is a lustrous and glowing example with overall honey-gold coloration and a subtle ruby iridescence on the reverse. The reverse fields exhibit moderate prooflike reflectivity and work to contrast the frosty devices against a watery canvas. Free from distracting blemishes and undeniably original. Only 3 coins grade finer at PCGS and those sit just a point away at MS-66 RD.

One of the prime condition rarities of the Indian cent series is the 1872, including both the Shallow N and Bold N hub varieties, with

the Shallow N the rarer of the two. The original mintage of 4,042,000 pieces is relatively low for a circulation strike Indian cent, and the 1872 is actually a scarce coin in all grades. It was produced during an era when there was little to no contemporary numismatic interest in such coins, with few being saved and most circulating until worn out or lost. Among Mint State survivors, BN and RB color designations are the norm, with full Red examples, as here, rare and seldom offered.

PCGS# 210.

PCGS Population: 18; 3 finer through MS-66 RD.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Ever-Popular 1873 Doubled LIBERTY Indian Cent Rare Choice Mint State Preservation



1079

**1873 Indian Cent. Close 3. Snow-1b, FS-101. Doubled LIBERTY. MS-64 BN (PCGS).** A richly original, conditionally rare example of this fabled Indian cent variety. Satiny surfaces are boldly toned in a blend of antique copper, both sides also revealing more vivid cobalt blue undertones that are a bit more pronounced on the obverse. That side of the coin also retains blushes of original rose-orange color here and there around the periphery. Smooth and inviting with an overall sharp strike. One of the leading varieties in the popular and widely collected Indian cent series of 1859 to 1909, the 1873 Doubled LIBERTY was discovered by Walter Breen in 1957. Breen reported on his discovery the following year in an article entitled "Blundered Dies of Colonial and U.S. Coins" that appeared in issues No. 2 and 3

of Q. David Bowers and James F. Ruddy's *Empire Topics*. At that time the only confirmed example was the discovery specimen in Breen's personal collection. Thanks to the efforts of cherrypickers and other variety enthusiasts, approximately 300 examples of the 1873 Doubled LIBERTY are known in current numismatic circles, the vast majority of which are worn to one degree or another. Mint State coins remain rare with Rick Snow (2014) accounting for fewer than 20 such pieces. One of the leading highlights in the remarkable ESM Collection, this impressive near-Gem is sure to have no difficulty finding its way into another advanced Indian cent cabinet.

PCGS# 2115. NGC ID: 227X.

PCGS Population: 7; 0 finer in this category.

*From the ESM Collection. Earlier ex Chiro Collection.*

## Perennially Popular 1873 Doubled LIBERTY Cent Choice Mint State



1080

**1873 Indian Cent. Close 3. Snow-1a, FS-101. Doubled LIBERTY. MS-64 BN (PCGS).** A fantastic condition rarity to represent this visually dramatic, eagerly sought Indian cent variety. Richly toned in mottled steel-brown, golden-olive and deep rose, this coin retains plenty of original medium orange color around the reverse periphery. Sharply struck with a smooth and hard satin texture. A rare find and fleeting bidding opportunity for the advanced collector specializing in this popular small cent series. This is one of more famous and dramatic doubled dies in American numismatics. Examination of the word LIBERTY on the headband shows strong doubling, along with doubling to the eye, feathers and other features. Discovered by Walter Breen about 1957 and first published in *Empire Topics* in 1958, these have simply not turned up in large numbers, with Mint State coins particularly elusive. A single example with full mint Red in listed in

the *PCGS Population Report*, but by far the majority of survivors are circulated. Desirable in any Mint State grade and particularly so with the strong visual appeal offered here. Of the two known die pairings of the 1873 Doubled LIBERTY cent, Snow-1a is by far the rarer. Both share the same obverse, the reverse of Snow-1a identifiable by the lack of a die lump between the letter C in CENT and the wreath. The present example represents Snow Die Stage B with a crack from the border at 8:30 through the wreath to the border at 5 o'clock. Writing in the 2014 reference *The Flying Eagle & Indian Cent Attribution Guide, 3rd Edition, Volume 1: 1856-1877*, Rick Snow reports that the finest known example of Snow-1a is an AU-50. Obviously the author was not aware of this PCGS MS-64 BN, which is undoubtedly one of the finest known for the die variety.

PCGS# 2115. NGC ID: 227X.

PCGS Population: just 7; 0 finer in this category.

## Choice Mint State 1873 Indian Cent Doubled LIBERTY



1081

**1873 Indian Cent. Close 3. Snow-1, FS-101. Doubled LIBERTY. MS-63 RB (PCGS).** The wood grained patina of espresso and bronze hues is overlaid by a teal iridescence on the obverse of this Mint State rarity. A planchet flaw hangs from the left foot of the T in CENT but the surfaces are otherwise without notable blemishes. Examination of LIBERTY on Liberty's headband shows strong doubling, along with her eye, feathers and other features.

Discovered by Walter Breen about 1957 and first published in Empire

Topics in 1958, these have simply not turned up in large numbers, and mint state coins are quite scarce. A single example is known with full mint Red in the PCGS Population Report and by far the majority of survivors are circulated. The present piece ranks high among the surviving population, with only 9 examples certified at the MS-63 RB grade and 15 pieces finer through MS-65 RB.

PCGS# 2116. NGC ID: 227X.

PCGS Population: 9; 15 finer through MS-65 RB.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Exquisite MS-66 Red 1874 Indian Cent Tied for Finest Certified at PCGS



1082

**1874 Indian Cent. MS-66 RD (PCGS).** Lovely light orange surfaces retain full mint color throughout. Sharply struck over all but a few isolated design elements, the surfaces have a smooth satin texture that would accept nothing less than a premium Gem rating. The year 1874 saw a radical shift in the Mint's handling of earlier dated bronze cents which it had been redeeming since 1871. Rather than melt those coins and use the metal to strike new examples (as it had done from 1871 through 1873), the Mint began to reissue redeemed coins alongside newly struck pieces. Accordingly, the 1874 has a higher rate of survival than the bronze Indian cent issues of 1864 to 1873. Even so, this is a

conditionally challenging issue with few survivors from the mintage of 14,187,500 pieces grading finer than Choice Mint State. Full Red Gems such as this are seldom offered, and this coin is far more attractive than many identically graded pieces that we have handled recently. A highlight of the ESM Collection, and worthy of the strongest bids.

PCGS# 2120. NGC ID: 227Z.

PCGS Population: 13; 0 finer.

*From the ESM Collection.*

## Legendary Key Date 1877 Indian Cent Highly Significant PCGS MS-65 RD Grade



1083

**1877 Indian Cent. Snow-2. MS-65 RD (PCGS). OGH.** A remarkable coin in an 1877 Indian cent, this lovely Gem would serve as a highlight in the finest collection. Sharply struck with a lively satin texture, both sides retain full mint color in a vivid light orange. A few splashes of pale lilac-gray tinting are noted for accuracy, most of which are confined to the right obverse and reverse peripheries. Expertly preserved with a silky smooth texture, this is one of the most impressive examples of this key date issue that we have handled in recent years. Sure to see spirited bidding at auction.

With just 852,500 pieces produced, the 1877 has the lowest mintage among circulation strike Indian cents after only the final year 1909-S (309,000 struck). The 1877 is rarer than the 1909-S in all grades, however, because it was made during an era in which most collectors were content to obtain a Proof example. As a result, circulation strike 1877 cents were generally overlooked in their day, most finding their way into commercial channels, which generally meant several years of recycling between the Mint and banks. This recycling actually explains the low mintage for the circulation strike 1877.

Although popular during the Civil War and early Reconstruction eras when silver and gold coins had disappeared from circulation in the East and Midwest, by the 1870s large quantities of bronze cents had begun to accumulate in banks as public demand for them waned. Through the Act of March 3, 1871 Congress authorized the Mint to redeem these bronze cents (along with copper and nickel coins), melt them, and use the metal retrieved to strike new coins. In 1874 the Mint modified this practice by simply reissuing the redeemed coins alongside whatever newly struck examples were required to meet demand. In 1877, a depression year, the Philadelphia Mint redeemed an unusually large number of bronze cents — 9,908,148 coins (per Rick Snow, 2014) — and reissued 9,821,500 coins, largely meeting demand. Relatively few new coins were required, explaining the limited mintage for the circulation strike 1877 Indian cent.

This issue is eagerly sought in all grades, both circulated and Mint State, the present Gem a significant condition rarity that is sure to please even the most discerning numismatist.

PCGS# 2129. NGC ID: 2284.

PCGS Population: 23; 11 finer in this category (MS-66 RD finest).

*From the ESM Collection.*

## Gem Red 1877 Indian Cent Rarity



### 1084

**1877 Indian Cent. MS-65 RD (PCGS).** An impressive example of this famed rarity offering smooth and unblemished surfaces throughout. The obverse displays bright peach coloration with scattered tinges of amber near the border. Darker honey-gold and bronze tones marble on the reverse, accented by a crimson iridescence on the high points. The left obverse legend is slight weak, as is common for the issue, though the central elements are boldly pronounced.

Although the final year 1909-S has a lower mintage, the 1877 is the undisputed key issue in the circulation strike Indian cent series. In 1877, the Mint redeemed 9,908,148 earlier dated bronze cents, and later reissued 9,821,500 of these into circulation. This redistribution met most of the commercial demand, and very few new cents need

to be struck. The resulting mintage was a scant 852,500 pieces, most examples of which slipped quietly into circulation during an era when numismatic interest was almost exclusively focused on Proofs. The 1877 is particularly desirable in Mint State, at which level it is scarce in an absolute sense. With most Uncirculated survivors grading no finer than MS-64 RB, Gem Red examples such as that offered here are undeniably rare from a condition standpoint. This is one of the most important circulation strike 1877 cents that we have offered in recent sales, and is sure to see spirited bidding.

PCGS# 2129. NGC ID: 2284.

PCGS Population: 23; 11 finer through MS-66 RD.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*



## Scarce and Eagerly Sought 1888/7 Indian Cent Condition Census PCGS/CAC AU-58 Quality



1085

**1888/7 Indian Cent. Snow-1, FS-301. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** As one of the finest certified survivors of this elusive overdate, the desirability of this coin should be obvious to advanced Indian cent and variety enthusiasts. This is a boldly toned and handsome piece awash in even antique copper patina. Both sides retain overall sharp striking detail, a loupe readily revealing the diagnostic remnants of the 7 underdigit at the upper and lower left corners of the final digit 8 in the date. Smooth and inviting in hand, we encourage interested parties to enter strong bids for this rare and highly significant offering.

The 1888/7 is the leading variety in the Indian cent series of 1859 to 1909, examples enjoying strong collector demand at all levels of preservation. The discovery of this overdate was made in 1970 when

James F. Ruddy located two coins together in a cabinet drawer of a non-collector in Virginia. Despite extensive publicity in *Coin World* and *Numismatic News*, few additional examples initially came to light, although today the experts at *PCGS CoinFacts* estimate that 500 to 600 coins are known. Most are well worn with grades such as Good and VG typical. Mint State examples are so rare that they can be counted on one hand. As a premium quality Choice AU the coin offered here qualifies as Condition Census for the variety and is seemingly earmarked for inclusion in another highly regarded Indian cent collection.

PCGS# 2169. NGC ID: 228G.

PCGS Population: 5; 3 finer in all categories (MS-64 RB finest).

*From the ESM Collection.*

## Dramatic 1894/1894 Repunched Date Indian Cent A Remarkable Condition Rarity in PCGS/CAC MS-65 RD



1086

**1894/1894 Indian Cent. Snow-1, FS-301. Doubled Date. MS-65 RD (PCGS). CAC.** Breathtakingly beautiful surfaces retain full mint color in vivid gold and rose-orange shades. Intensely lustrous with a softly frosted texture, both sides are also sharply struck and carefully preserved. Along with the 1873 Doubled LIBERTY, 1867/67, 1897 1 in Neck, and 1888/7, the 1894/1894 is one of the top five varieties in the Indian cent series. It is also one of the most visually dramatic, the initial date punched too high with a slant to the right, its remnants bold and widely offset from the primary digits. According to Rick Snow (2014), a half roll of Gem Mint State examples was discovered

in the early 1990s. These coins are identifiable by the presence of one or more strikethroughs (as made) in the fields. With two such features evident in the left obverse field before Liberty's portrait, the present example likely traces its provenance to that find, which accounts for the majority of high grade survivors available to today's advanced Indian cent variety collectors. An outstanding condition rarity that is worthy of the strongest bids.

PCGS# 92189.

PCGS Population: 10; 3 finer (MS-66 RD finest).

*From the ESM Collection.*



## Perennially Popular Key Date 1909-S Indian Cent Extraordinary PCGS/CAC MS-66 RD Quality



1087

**1909-S Indian Cent. MS-66 RD (PCGS). CAC.** This is an exceptionally well preserved and attractive example of an eagerly sought key date issue. Satiny to softly frosted in texture, both sides are bathed in original deep gold color. The strike is bold to sharp throughout, and the surfaces are expectably smooth for the assigned grade. The second mintmarked cent in U.S. coinage history, the 1909-S boasts the lowest mintage in the Indian series with a mere 309,000 pieces produced. These coins were struck in January and February of that year, after which production was halted as the San Francisco Mint prepared to receive the first of the new Lincoln cent dies from Philadelphia. With

contemporary numismatic and other interest focused on the new cent design, and especially the controversy surrounding the designer's initials V.D.B., the 1909-S Indian cent was largely overlooked by speculators. Even so, enough Mint State examples were set aside to meet current demand in lower grades. As a premium quality full Red Gem, however, the present example is decidedly rare from a condition standpoint and represents a significant find for the advanced collector.

PCGS# 2240. NGC ID: 2298.

PCGS Population: 27; 4 finer in this category (MS-67 RD finest).

*From the ESM Collection. Earlier ex Richard.*

## Delightfully Original Red 1913-S Cent



1088

**1913-S Lincoln Cent. MS-66 RD (PCGS).** Beautiful satin surfaces are dressed in warm autumn-orange luster that speaks volumes about the originality of this example. Pink iridescence at the peripheries adds visual appeal. Sharp to full definition is evidence of this coin having been struck from a fresh pair of dies — a quality seldom noted for Mint State 1913-S cents. Scarce in an absolute sense due to a relatively limited mintage of 6,101,000 pieces, this San Francisco Mint issue is a significant strike and condition rarity even in MS-65 condition. As a

sharply struck, fully lustrous Premium Gem, as here, this is destined for the most dedicated Registry Set participant who demands nothing but the very best. For the Lincoln cent connoisseur, this represents a fleeting bidding opportunity to acquire a truly original example at the very highest of quality.

PCGS# 2467. NGC ID: 22BF.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*



## Superior Quality Gem Red 1921-S Cent



1089

**1921-S Lincoln Cent. MS-65 RD (PCGS).** Delightful golden-orange surfaces are fully lustrous with a much sharper strike than typically encountered for the issue. A relatively limited mintage of 15,274,000 pieces has made the 1921-S a popular Lincoln cent with collectors since the year of issue. Though Lincoln cent specialists are well aware, the casual bidder would be surprised by the relative dearth of Gem Red

examples of the 1921-S in today's market. This is a better produced, better preserved example than most that is sure to catch the eye of astute bidders, and is not an opportunity to missed.

PCGS# 2536. NGC ID: 22C7.

PCGS Population: 19; none finer.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Gem Red Proof 1938 Cent

### The Finest Known at Either Service



1090

**1938 Lincoln Cent. Proof-68 RD (NGC).** This exceptional Gem Proof is alive with fiery luster on its frosty motifs and deeply mirrored fields. The eye appeal is nothing shy of magnificent, and the surfaces reveal no blemishes or marks. Indeed, this Proof Lincoln cent verges on absolute perfection, and it is the single finest known at both NGC and PCGS. One of just 14,734 Proofs of the date struck in the third year of Proof coinage after the hiatus in such production that occurred

from 1917 to 1935. Lincoln cents have been one of the most collected issues in American numismatics from the start of the series in 1909 — how many of us cut their collecting teeth on Lincoln cents from circulation that we eagerly pressed into our blue Whitman folders? Absolutely choice throughout, and a coin that deserves special bidding attention, especially if you mean to own it!

PCGS# 3338, NGC ID: 22L4.

NGC Census: 1; none finer (at either service).

## TWO-CENT PIECES

## Stunning Gem 1864 Two-Cent Piece Large Motto



1091

**1864 Two-Cent Piece. Large Motto. MS-67 BN (PCGS). CAC.** This is a glorious example of one of the shortest-lived denominations in U.S. coinage history. Satiny and smooth surfaces exhibit dominant medium brown patina that is a bit bolder on the obverse. Direct lighting angles also call forth mottled highlights of pale gold, powder blue, champagne-apricot and pinkish-rose — highly attractive. Fully struck and expertly preserved, this is a virtually pristine Superb Gem that would do justice to the finest type set. The two-cent piece made its debut in 1864 at a time when gold and silver coinage had long since been absent from circulation in the Eastern and Midwestern states due to the economic turmoil and uncertainty brought about by the Civil War. Struck in bronze, the new denomination was not subject to hoarding and, as such, initially proved popular in commercial channels. Mintages were correspondingly high in 1864 and 1865, but with the end of the Civil War in the latter year, production fell off

rapidly through the series' end in 1873. The 1864 is the most plentiful date in this series, and as a first year issue it is understandably popular for type purposes. Most survivors of the year's Proof and circulation strike deliveries are examples of the Large Motto hub variety, which replaced its short-lived Small Motto predecessor that the Mint used to strike the first few Proofs and a limited number of circulation strikes (Walter Breen, 1988, says only "a few thousand"). Although plentiful in an absolute sense, the 1864 Large Motto is rare in the finest Mint State grades, as here. Indeed, this lovely Superb Gem is the single finest example known to PCGS in the BN category, and it is also the top plate coin in this category on the *PCGS CoinFacts* website. A lovely coin in all regards that will please even the most discerning numismatist.

PCGS# 3576. NGC ID: 22N9.

PCGS Population: 1; 0 finer in this category.

*From the Cardinal Collection Educational Foundation.*

## SILVER THREE-CENT PIECES

## Impressively Beautiful Gem 1856 Trime



1092

**1856 Silver Three-Cent Piece. MS-66 (PCGS).** An awe-inspiring example that is sure to sell for a very strong bid. Both sides are graced by cobalt and antique silver peripheries with predominantly brilliant centers. Satiny luster is smooth and vibrant throughout, and the strike is uncommonly full in an example of this challenging design type. Although the silver three-cent pieces produced from 1851 to 1853 were composed of 75% silver and 25% copper, a supplement to the Act of February 21, 1853 that Congress passed on March 3 brought the composition of this denomination in line with that of other subsidiary silver coins then in use. Accordingly, and beginning in 1854, silver three-cent pieces would be struck in a standard silver alloy of 90% silver, 10% copper through the series' end in 1873. In order to distinguish pieces struck in this revised composition, the Mint

revised the design slightly by raising the border of the star and adding two extra lines to further outline this device. This design, known in numismatics as the Type II silver three-cent piece, proved short lived and was replaced with the Type III design in 1859, which dropped one of the two extra outlines around the star. Due at least in part to its brevity, the Type II is the scarcest and most conditionally challenging of the silver three-cent designs. Precious few examples are as nicely preserved and visually appealing as the present Gem, and indeed, PCGS has certified but three coins as MS-66 and another three finer. Among the finest obtainable for both the issue and the type, this lovely trime is sure to captivate the eye of numerous eager bidders.

PCGS# 3672. NGC ID: 22Z5.

PCGS Population: 3; 3 finer (MS-67 finest).



## NICKEL FIVE-CENT PIECES

### Gem Ultra Cameo 1867 No Rays Nickel Among the Finest Certified



1093

**1867 Shield Nickel. No Rays. Proof-66 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** A delightful specimen that ranks among the finest certified for this popular transitional issue. Bright and untoned, the surfaces allow ready appreciation of stark cameo contrast between the fields and devices. Fully struck and virtually pristine, it is easy to admire this coin's exceptional technical quality and outstanding visual appeal. For the first year type collector that demands the utmost in Proof coinage, this premium Gem is sure to please. The simplified No Rays variant of the Shield nickel was put into production in February of 1867, the modification to the design intended to alleviate the striking problems that the Mint experienced with the new nickel five-cent piece upon its introduction the previous year. Indeed, the less cluttered design allowed mint employees to extend die life for circulation strikes to more than 10,000 coins, most examples also exhibiting overall bolder detail than their With Rays counterparts. Anticipating a change to the design to improve quality and extend working die life, Chief Coiner Snowden refrained from striking Proofs of the With Rays type for

inclusion in the year's silver and minor coin Proof sets. (Even so, a limited number of Proof 1867 Rays nickels were struck clandestinely; more information can be found above in our lot description for the PCGS Proof-66 Cameo specimen of that rare issue that we are also offering in this sale.) When regular issue Proof nickel five-cent piece production commenced in 1867, mint personnel did not record the number of coins struck, as was customary for Proof minor coinage during that era. Based on the number of coins extant, Q. David Bowers (2006) provides an approximate mintage of 850 to 1,100 pieces. Although certainly not in the same rarity class as its Proof 1867 With Rays counterpart, the Proof 1867 No Rays is a formidable condition rarity in grades above Proof-65, as here. The present example is also a significant strike rarity due to the strong cameo contrast evident on both sides. A beautiful coin in all regards that would serve as a highlight in the finest collection.

PCGS# 93821. NGC ID: 22PF.

NGC Census: 2; 1 finer in this category (Proof-67 Ultra Cameo).

## Noteworthy Gem Mint State 1880 Shield Nickel

### Rare Low-Mintage Issue



1094

**1880 Shield Nickel. MS-65 (PCGS). CAC.** A beautiful and rare Gem to represent this challenging circulation strike issue. This is a highly lustrous satin textured coin with delicate champagne-apricot overtones. Sharply struck over all design elements, to include the star centrials on the reverse, this smooth and attractive example comes highly recommended for inclusion in a top flight Shield nickel set.

The 1880 is the undisputed key date issue in the circulation strike Shield nickel series with only 16,000 pieces produced, a total so small that some readers might question why the Mint bothered to strike any at all. There was clearly no need for new nickel five-cent pieces in commerce that year, and there was already a precedent for Proof-only issues produced under similar circumstances in 1877 and 1878. It was precisely to avoid creating additional Proof-only rarities, however, that Mint Director Archibald Loudon Snowden ordered a small delivery of circulation strike nickels in 1880. This practice explains the similarly low mintage circulation strike dimes, quarters and half dollars of 1880, none of which were required to meet the actual needs of commerce.

According to R.W. Julian (as quoted in Q. David Bowers' *A Guide Book of Shield and Liberty Head Nickels*, 2006):

*"Snowden specifically asked the Mint Bureau and Treasury for permission to strike limited runs of nickels and three-cent pieces [in 1880] so that collectors of small means, and those needing coins for presents, could obtain them. Applicants were limited to two pieces each, however."*

Fortunately for today's collectors of more modest means, enough 1880 Proofs (mintage 3,955 pieces) have survived that high grade nickels of this date are obtainable with ease. For the advanced numismatist specializing in the Shield nickel series, however, a circulation strike 1880 will need to be acquired for their collection to be truly complete. As one of the finest certified survivors from an issue that is elusive in all grades, this remarkable Gem will play an important role in a PCGS Registry Set or any other collection in which it is included.

PCGS# 3810. NGC ID: 276E.

PCGS Population: just 7; with a mere two finer (both MS-66).

*From Heritage's sale of the James E. Blake Collection, August 2014, lot 3258.*



## Stunning Gem 1885 Liberty Head Nickel



1095

**1885 Liberty Head Nickel. MS-66+ (PCGS).** Breathtakingly beautiful and conditionally rare premium Gem quality for this leading rarity in the circulation strike Liberty Head nickel series. Highly lustrous satin to semi-reflective surfaces are dusted with pretty peach iridescence. Sharply to fully struck throughout, and expectably smooth for the assigned grade.

The 1885 is a low mintage issue with just 1,472,700 circulation strikes produced. Since contemporary numismatists largely ignored these coins in favor of their Proof counterparts, virtually the entire mintage slipped quietly into circulation, where most were worn out and eventually lost. Today the 1885 is scarce in circulated grades and rare even at the lower reaches of Mint State preservation. As an upper end MS-66, the coin offered here numbers among the finest certified, and it is sure to sell for a strong bid.

PCGS# 3846. NGC ID: 2773.

PCGS Population: 30; 4 finer (MS-67 finest).



# 1913 LIBERTY HEAD NICKEL

*The Dr. William Morton-Smith Specimen  
Ex Eliasberg*



*The Finest Known*



Lot 1096

1913 Liberty Head Nickel. Proof-66 (PCGS). CAC.



# The Finest Known 1913 Liberty Head Nickel

## The Dr. William Morton-Smith Specimen

### Super Proof-66 (PCGS). CAC.

### *Ex Eliasberg*



1096

**1913 Liberty Head Nickel. Proof-66 (PCGS). CAC.** By far the finest of only five struck, of which two are in museums. The Dr. William Morton-Smith/Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection specimen. The coin has a glittering mirror surface and is the only specimen with this characteristic. A small planchet lamination is at the rim.

This 1913 Liberty Head nickel has been widely acclaimed and has been seen by more people and has been featured in more exhibitions than any other. Writing about this coin in 1956 as part of its showcasing in his collection booklet or program for "An Exhibition of the World's Foremost Collection of United States Coins," Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. noted in part:

*"Apparently, only five specimens of the Liberty Head type were struck in 1913.... This is regarded as the finest Proof specimen."*

Of the five pieces struck, the Olsen coin (No. 4 in the registry below) is considered to be the second finest, with lustrous (not reflective) surfaces; over the years this has been graded from MS-60 to Proof-64. Or perhaps the Smithsonian coin (No. 3) is the second best (as Eric P. Newman considered it to be when he owned it), followed by the Walton coin (No. 2), and then, by a long distance, the worn, circulated McDermott coin (No. 5), now a showpiece in the American Numismatic Association Museum in Colorado Springs.

#### Numismatic History is Made

It was over two decades ago in 1996 when Dave Bowers had the privilege of cataloging the coin we offer here today, when it was sold as part of the Eliasberg Collection. The multi-page description concluded with:

*"THE WORLD IN WAIT-All eyes in the numismatic world will be awaiting who will be the next owner of the Louis E. Eliasberg,*

*Sr. specimen of the 1913 Liberty Head nickel, the finest known example of a dazzling rarity whose fame seems to increase as each year goes by."*

As auctioneer, Dave called out the starting bid, then took the coin up, and up some more, as several bidder paddles went into the air. In no time at all the prized nickel crossed the \$1 million mark, then beyond, setting a world record for a rare coin at auction. Excitement broke out with standing applause and camera flashes. For the next 10 to 15 minutes the room was up for grabs as everyone talked about this unique moment in coin auction history!

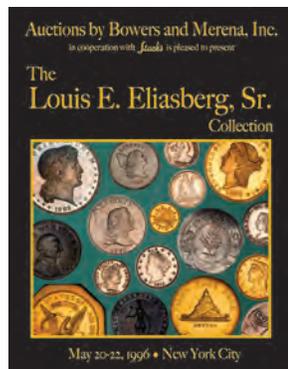
In the two plus decades since that time, rarities have become more appreciated than ever and have been featured at conventions and other events, often drawing crowds. In this venue, the 1913 Liberty Head nickel has always been a shining beacon. The offered example is the finest of the fine, the rarest of the rare. Its pedigree can be traced to some of the most important names in numismatics, including Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., who formed the only complete collection of United States coins by date and mintmark, and Col. E.H.R. Green, whose collection was one of the greatest ever formed. It is the ultimate 1913 Liberty Head nickel and may well be the most famous rare coin in existence.

#### Fame

This coin, pictured on the cover of the 2nd edition of *The 100 Greatest American Coins*, by Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth, is a national treasure. It is unique as to grade and pedigree. Likely, there is no more famous single coin in existence anywhere!

Perhaps the closest runner up in the famous rarity category is the 1804 silver dollar, of which 15 are known, divided between private collections and museums. While other American coins may be rarer, these two have had the lion's share of publicity over the years, far eclipsing whatever the third candidate for fame might be.

Today, Stack's Bowers Galleries is honored to again present the Eliasberg 1913 Liberty Head nickel at



public auction. It comes to us from the family of Dr. William Morton-Smith, an old-time collector whose numismatic interests were spurred by a remarkable discovery.

Dr. William Morton-Smith (Bill) hailed from an old-time Boston family whose passion for collecting goes back generations. As in any family, certain heirlooms pass down through the generations and in this particular circumstance, a beautiful antique Colonial desk was inherited by Bill. As he was combing through the desk discovering its many features, he came across a compartment that housed a coin collection consisting of colonial coins, half cents, large cents, a complete set of Proof Liberty Head nickels (without the 1913) and much more. These had once belonged to his grandfather. Bill was amazed that the coins had been in the desk all this time. He determined to learn all he could about them and add to the collection. He spent decades adding important rarities to the collection, which had been started generations before. A connoisseur at heart, he pursued other collectibles, all of which he enjoyed sharing with others.

### The Story of the 1913 Liberty Head Nickel

(For a more extensive history, see our supplement to the current catalog)

Five examples are known to exist, of which one (the presently offered Eliasberg coin) has deeply reflective Proof surfaces. The others have a more satiny finish, making this one outstanding among the five known not only for condition, but potentially for technical details of manufacture as well. Various stories have circulated concerning issuance of the 1913 nickels, but actual proof of the circumstances surrounding their leaving the Mint has never been documented. Theories include:

- (1) They were struck to exchange for coins needed for the Mint Collection.
- (2) A coiner at the Mint privately struck the pieces which years later found their way onto the numismatic market.
- (3) They were struck exclusively for a wealthy collector.

Regardless of the “why” of issue, under standard Mint practices of the period all that was necessary for those who were responsible for their striking was to pay the Proof and Medal Fund eight cents for each coin and walk out of the Mint building with them.

It seems that the person involved was likely Samuel W. Brown, an established coin collector who lived in Philadelphia and worked at the Mint. Or, perhaps someone else was involved. In any event, when the nickels first became known to the collecting community, it was Brown who had them.

It was 1919 before the 1913 Liberty Head nickel first reached print. By that time Brown lived in North Tonawanda, New York, a town near Niagara Falls, where at a later time, he served as mayor. Either he already had all five Liberty Head nickels, or he had heard of them and wanted to acquire them, but whatever the reason, he advertised in the December 1919 issue of *The Numismatist* to pay \$500 each for any such coins. In January 1920, he raised the ante to \$600. Dave Bowers believes that the owner, at least in part, was Stephen K. Nagy, Philadelphia dealer and son-in-law of old-time professional numismatist John W. Haseltine. In his career Nagy handled many prime rarities, including all 10 of the known 1884 trade dollars and all five of the 1885 trade dollars. His style was always to work behind the scenes, to be in the background.

The Brown advertisements attracted wide notice. Various people in the Treasury Department, including at the Mint, received *The Numismatist* and no doubt saw the listings. Perhaps one of them had a group of 1913 nickels and came forth with an offer. Whatever the circumstances, in August 1920 Brown startled the collecting community by displaying five pieces, nicely fitted in a leather case. Not even the most experienced collectors and dealers had ever seen such pieces before.

In 1923 the nickels seem to have been consigned (rather than sold) to August Wagner, a Philadelphia dealer in stamps at 31st and York Streets, an ideal “front man.” In *The Numismatist*, December 1923, Wagner advertised: “For Sale. Five (5)-Cent Liberty Head 1913 Coins. Proof. The only five-cent Liberty Head coins of this design and year in existence.” Wagner did not find a buyer, and in 1924 Nagy sold them to New York City dealer Wayne Raymond, who placed them with Col. Edward H.R. Green.

Green was the eccentric son of millionairess Hetty Green, popularly known as the “Witch of Wall Street.” After his mother passed away, Col. Green, as he became known, spent vast sums on his hobbies and interests. In time he could proudly point to such “collectibles” as a full-scale operating railroad in Texas, an antique whaling ship at harbor in Massachusetts, his own radio station, and vast collections of coins, stamps and paper money.



Eric P. Newman

After Green's death in 1936 it took eight armored trucks to haul his valuables to safekeeping. His estate was handled by the Chase Bank, New York City. The appraisal of the numismatic portion of his estate was done by F.C.C. Boyd of New York City in 1938 and 1939, and a value of \$1,240,299 was assigned.

As circumstances would have it, in St. Louis young Eric P. Newman, a numismatist and up-and-coming lawyer, desired to buy a piece of St. Louis currency from the Green estate, and wrote to inquire. For several years numismatists had been endeavoring to get

hold of the treasures in the Green collection, but their approaches must not have been right, or the bank wasn't ready, or there may have been other reasons, for all were rebuffed. Eric P. Newman's inquiry concerning the Green estate arrived at the right time. Over a period of time several shipments of coins and paper money were quietly purchased from the Green estate by Newman and local friend, coin dealer Burdette G. Johnson.

Then the 1913 Liberty Head nickels became available. At first Newman made an offer for just the two coins that he thought were the finest. However, in time a deal was struck whereas \$2,000 would be paid for all five examples. As Liberty Head nickels, dated 1913 or otherwise, were not among Newman's specialties, he dispersed them, one by one, with the finest quality piece being sold to Numismatic Gallery, who then sold it to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., of Baltimore in 1948. It thus became a showpiece in the greatest collection of United States coins ever formed — a cabinet complete with every date and mintmark from the 1793 half cent to the 1933 double eagle.

The finest 1913 Liberty Head nickel would remain in the Eliasberg Collection for decades, with ownership eventually transferring to Louis' son Richard, after the former's death in 1976. In May 1996, the nickel crossed the auction block with other portions of the collection, at which time it set a world's record for the highest price ever paid (to that time) for a United States coin at auction, bringing \$1,485,000. In the over two decades since this sale, this incredible rarity was treasured and cared for by multiple collectors before finally being acquired by Dr. William Morton-Smith, whose family has consigned it to the current sale.

After leaving the possession of Eric P. Newman, the other four 1913 Liberty Head nickels would wind their way through the hands of dealers and collectors that included kings and owners of department stores and professional sports teams. Two would eventually be donated to public institutions, one each to the National Coin Collection at the Smithsonian and to the American Numismatic Association Museum, leaving just three available to collectors.



## Roster of 1913 Liberty Head Nickels

(For more extensive pedigree information, see our supplement to the current sale)

### No. 1.

#### The Eliasberg/Dr. Morton-Smith Specimen

This is the finest 1913 Liberty Head nickel, graded Proof-66 by PCGS and awarded CAC approval. This is the specimen now offered at auction.

It seems to have been struck from Proof dies, but on an ordinary planchet. This example was selected by St. Louis numismatist and historian Eric P. Newman in 1942 as the one to keep from the group of five he purchased from the Col. Green estate. This and the Olsen coin, considered second finest, were the first two purchased by Newman, soon followed by the other three. Numismatic Gallery acquired this coin from Newman in 1948, and on December 14 of that year, Abe Kosoff, partner in the firm, offered it to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. The sale took place in early 1949.

This coin remained with Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., then after his passing went to his son, Richard A., who in 1996 consigned it to Auctions by Bowers and Merena. It sold for \$1,485,000, the first coin ever to cross the million-dollar barrier, a sensation. The buyer was Jay Parrino, who had made a splash by handling other rarities under his trade style, The Mint.

On July 29, 2003, a special reception was hosted by Steve Geppi and John Snyder of Diamond International Galleries, in their elegant facilities in Timonium, Maryland. This coin, by that time owned by Dwight Manley, had just been sold to Edward C. Lee, and this latest transaction was the subject of a special ceremony. Lee held it for nearly two years, then in June 2005 announced that title had been transferred to Legend Numismatics (co-owned by Laura Sperber), who earlier owned specimen no. 4. The coin went to Bruce Morelan and then to Ron Gillio. From Ron Gillio it was purchased by Dr. William Morton-Smith, who added it to his family's collection of rarities.

**Pedigree:** Samuel W. Brown and/or Stephen K. Nagy (1913-1920s); Stephen K. Nagy, likely on consignment for a time in 1923-1924 to August Wagner (early 1920s-1924); Wayte Raymond (1924); Col. E.H.R. Green (1924-1936), Green estate (1936-1941); Eric P. Newman (1941-1948); Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg trading as the Numismatic Gallery (1948-1949); Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. (1949-1976); Eliasberg estate to his son Richard A. Eliasberg (1976-1996); Bowers and Merena's sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, May 1996; Jay Parrino (1996-2001); Dwight Manley for the California Gold Marketing Group (2001-2003); Edward C. Lee (2003-2005); Bruce Morelan, Laura Sperber, and George Huang (Legend Numismatics) (2005-2007); Dr. William Morton-Smith (via Ron Gillio) (2007-2018). Million Dollar Nickels No. 3.

### No. 2.

#### The Walton Specimen

This and the McDermott coin (No. 5) are the only two pieces flatly struck at the ear of corn to the left of the ribbon bow on the reverse, perhaps indicating they were struck at a different time. This coin was deaccessioned by Eric P. Newman and was acquired by James F. Kelly, the Dayton jeweler and rare coin dealer. Kelly is thought to have sold it directly to Dr. Conway A. Bolt, Sr., although accounts are mixed. From there it was said by Bolt to have gone to the R.J. Reynolds family, although a spokesperson for that family—the Reynolds clan in the tobacco business—has no record of such a coin.

In actuality, the coin seems to have been traded or sold to George O. Walton, Roanoke, North Carolina, a collector and dealer who often obtained coins on consignment from others and sold them to customers by visiting them in person. Walton did not publicly acknowledge ownership of the nickel, but said that he had “access to the coin whenever he wanted to display it.” Walton had a fake made (by altering a 1910 nickel) for casual passing around and a real one which he kept as a personal treasure.

On March 9, 1962, Walton was killed in a head-on car crash while on his way to a coin show. A large number of coins were recovered intact and without damage by local police from the wrecked vehicle, although his watch and ring were nowhere to be found. The rarity-studded Walton estate collection was auctioned the next year by Stack's, but the 1913 nickel was not included as it was believed to be a fake. It was speculated that the real 1913 coin once owned by Walton had been sold by him to a private client, identity unknown, or, alternatively, that Walton never owned an original.

In 2003 Bowers and Merena Galleries offered \$1 million sight-unseen to buy the authentic Walton coin if it could be found. The coin had passed to Walton's sister, Melva W. Givens, then to others after she died in 1992. The owners took note of the excitement and brought the coin to Paul Montgomery of Bowers and Merena, assuming it was Walton's altered 1910 nickel. In due course the Walton specimen was re-examined by a group of experienced dealers (Montgomery, John Dannreuther, David Hall, Mark Borckardt, Fred Weinberg, and Jeff Garrett), who pronounced it to be genuine. The newly re-identified nickel was exhibited along with the other four specimens at the 2003 ANA Convention in Baltimore.

**Pedigree:** Samuel W. Brown and/or Stephen K. Nagy (1913-1920s); Stephen K. Nagy, likely on consignment for a time in 1923-1924 to August Wagner (early 1920s-1924); Wayte Raymond (1924); Col. E.H.R. Green (1924-1936); Green estate (1936-1941); Eric P. Newman (1941-1942); Burdette G. Johnson (1942); James F. Kelly (1942); Dr. Conway A. Bolt (1942-circa 1945); Private owner named Reynolds, said by some to be the R.J. Reynolds family, although a spokesperson for that family was unaware of any such connection); this connection is tenuous, was mentioned many times in the 1950s and early 1960s, but is unproved. (circa 1945-1946); George O. Walton (circa 1946-1962); Melva W. Givens (1962-1992); Givens estate heirs (1992-2013); auctioned by Heritage Auctions; Jeff Garrett and Larry Lee (2013-2018); Brothers Martin Burns and Ronald Firman, brokered through Philadelphia dealer Bob Paul of Bob Paul Rare Coins for a reported \$3-4 million (2018-date). Million Dollar Nickels No. 4.

### No. 3.

#### The Norweb Specimen

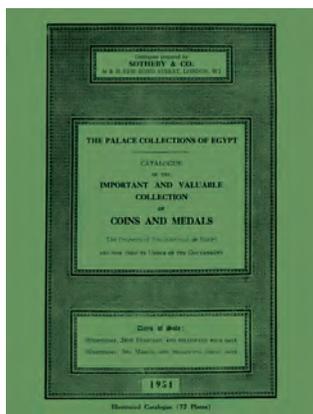
The third of the 1913 Liberty Head nickels is the Norweb Collection specimen donated to the Smithsonian Institution, where it is a showpiece.

At one time it was a highlight in the fantastic collection of rare coins formed by His Majesty, King Farouk of Egypt. His reign began in 1936 and was notable for its incompetence, waste, and personal aggrandizement. Farouk was an avid buyer of numismatic rarities (and other collectibles) in the 1940s and at the time was the best customer of several American dealers. Numismatic Gallery sold sections of several major collections to Farouk, including patterns from F.C.C. Boyd and also a 1913 Liberty Head nickel.

On July 26, 1952, Farouk was overthrown by a military junta under Gamal Abdul Nasser and went into exile (where he continued to spend lavishly, but not on collectibles). The military government took over his possessions, and in 1953 announced they would be auctioned. The sale took place in Cairo in early 1954 under the direction of Sotheby's London office. A group of Americans decided to attend, including Abe Kosoff, Sol Kaplan, Ambassador and Mrs. R. Henry Norweb, Hans M.F. Schulman, John J. Pittman, James P. Randall, Robert Schermerhorn, Paul Wittlin, Gaston DiBello, and Maurice Storck, and members of some of their families. The 1913 Liberty Head nickel was included as part of a date collection of nickels, as Lot 1695, without any particular notice being made of it. Mrs. Norweb wanted to buy the 1913 and made this known to her fellow countrymen. The American contingent of bidders persuaded the auctioneer for Sotheby's, Mr. Levy, to extract it from the group and offer it separately, which was done, as Lot 1695A.



King Farouk and the 1954 catalog that offered his 1913 Liberty Head nickel.



The lot was won by Sol Kaplan, who transferred it to Abe Kosoff, from whom it went to Mrs. Norweb, who wished to buy the coin but did not want to attract attention.

In the 1970s the Norweb family, owner of the Farouk 1913 Liberty Head nickel, made several important gifts to numismatic institutions, including a 1787 Brasher doubloon and many other coins to the American Numismatic Society, New York. In 1977, to celebrate the year of their 50th wedding anniversary in 1978, Ambassador and Mrs. R. Henry Norweb decided to donate the 1913 Liberty Head nickel to the National Coin Collection at the Smithsonian Institution.

Among the four nickels, other than the Eliasberg Proof, this was once considered to be the second or third finest known by some observers. However, while in Farouk's possession it was dipped and lacquered. Today it probably ranks as third or fourth, far above the fifth.

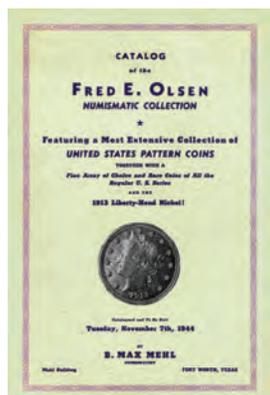
**Pedigree:** Samuel W. Brown and/or Stephen K. Nagy (1913-1920s); Stephen K. Nagy, likely on consignment for a time in 1923-1924 to August Wagner (early 1920s-1924); Wayte Raymond (1924); Col. E.H.R. Green (1924-1936); Green estate (1936-1941); Eric P. Newman (1941-1942); F.C.C. Boyd (1942-1944); Numismatic Gallery (1944); King Farouk (1944-1952); Government of Egypt (1952-1954); Strategic partnership of Abe Kosoff and Sol Kaplan (1954); Emery May Holden Norweb (1954-1978); Smithsonian Institution (1978-date). *Million Dollar Nickels No. 1, there as the "Smithsonian Specimen."*

#### No. 4.

##### The Olsen Specimen

This particular coin went from Eric P. Newman and Burdette G. Johnson to coin dealer James F. Kelly. In 1944 it was offered in B. Max Mehl's catalog of the Fred Olsen sale, from which it was sold to King Farouk of Egypt, who found it to be redundant as he had acquired the Norweb coin (no. 3 above) and he did not wish to take possession of it. Over the next few years sales were attempted by various individuals but it was not until 1947, that Mehl was able to sell it by placing it in his catalog featuring the Will W. Neil Collection. The buyer

was Edwin A. Hydeman, owner of Weist's Department Store in York, Pennsylvania, who would own it for a quarter of a century. The coin subsequently went to World-Wide Coin Investments, Ltd. and then on to other owners, including Dr. Jerry Buss, owner of a Los Angeles sports team. It would eventually find a home in the Reed Hawn Collection (auctioned by Stack's in 1993) and the Greensboro Collection.



**Pedigree:** Samuel W. Brown and/or Stephen K. Nagy (1913-1920s); Stephen K. Nagy, likely on consignment for a time in 1923-1924 to August Wagner (early 1920s-1924); Wayte Raymond (1924); Col. E.H.R. Green (1924-1936); Green estate (1936-1941); Eric P. Newman (1941-1942); Burdette G. Johnson (1942); James F. Kelly (1942); Fred E. Olsen (1942-1944); collection auctioned by B. Max Mehl; King Farouk, most of this time in the possession of Mehl, to whom it was sent on consignment, finally to be sold in 1947 by listing it in the Will W. Neil Collection catalog (1944-1947); Edwin Hydeman (1947-1972); World-Wide Coin Investments (1972-1975); Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, Inc. (1974-1975, jointly with World-Wide); Possibly then to Continental Coin Co. (1975), with whom a transaction seems not to have been perfected.; World-Wide Coin Investments (1975-1977); Robert L. Hughes Enterprises, a subsidiary of A-Mark (1977); Superior Galleries (1977); Dr. Jerry Buss (1977-1985; auctioned by Superior Galleries); Reed Hawn (1985-1993; auctioned by Stack's); Bought by Dwight Manley for Spectrum Numismatics and a Nevada investor (1993-2002); Laura Sperber, Legend Numismatics (2002-2004); Donald W. Doyle, Jr., Blanchard & Co., Inc. (2004); Midwest collection (2004-2010; auctioned by Heritage Auctions); Greensboro Collection (2010-2014; auctioned by Heritage Auctions); unknown owner (2014-date). *Million Dollar Nickels No. 2, there as the "Hawn Specimen."*

#### No. 5.

##### The McDermott Specimen

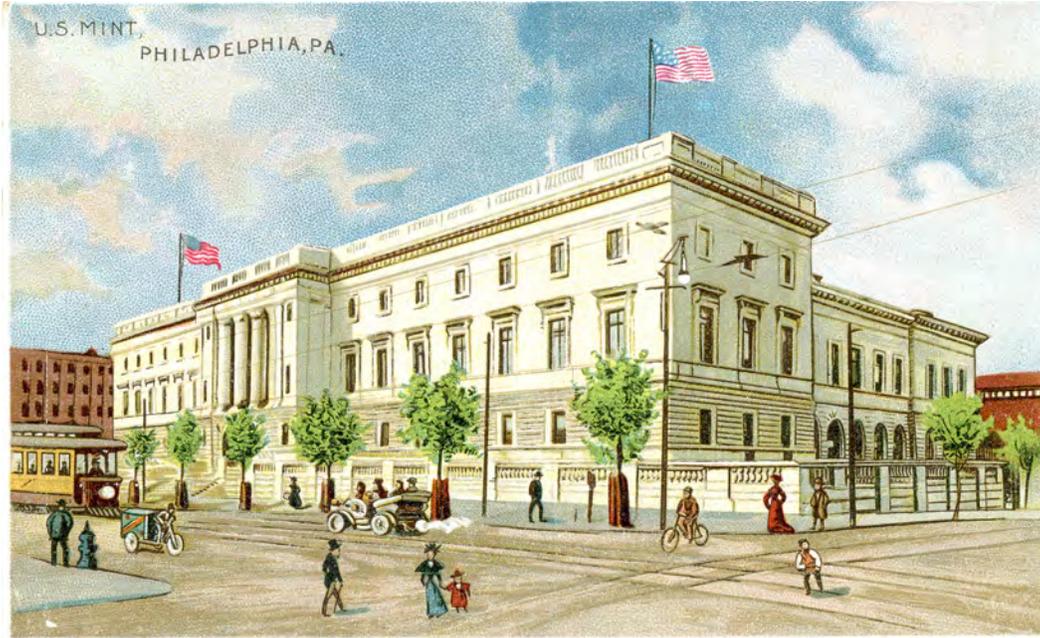
The fifth example, somewhat circulated due to being mixed with pocket change, is the nickel owned by J.V. McDermott. This and the Walton coin are the only two pieces flatly struck at the ear of corn to the left of the ribbon bow on the reverse, perhaps indicating they were struck at a different time from the other three pieces.

J.V. McDermott would carry the nickel in his pocket and pass it around at conventions, telling of its value and rarity. After McDermott died on September 29, 1966, his widow Betts consigned the 1913 nickel to Paramount International Coin Corporation. Sold at auction in 1967, with James F. Kelly at the podium, the coin went to Aubrey E. Bebee. Later, Aubrey and his wife Adeline, having retired from their highly successful rare coin business in Omaha, donated it to the ANA Money Museum in Colorado Springs, where it has been a prime drawing card ever since.

**Pedigree:** Samuel W. Brown and/or Stephen K. Nagy (1913-1920s); Stephen K. Nagy, likely on consignment for a time in 1923-1924 to August Wagner (early 1920s-1924); Wayte Raymond (1924); Col. E.H.R. Green (1924-1936); Green estate (1936-1941); Eric P. Newman (1941-1942); Burdette G. Johnson (1942); James F. Kelly (1942); J.V. McDermott (1942-1966); Elizabeth ("Betts") McDermott (1966-1967); Aubrey and Adeline Bebee (1967-1989); American Numismatic Association Money Museum (1989-date). *Million Dollar Nickels No. 5, there as the "ANA Specimen."*

PCGS# 3912. NGC ID: 278P.

Samuel W. Brown and/or Stephen K. Nagy (1913-1920s); Stephen K. Nagy, likely on consignment for a time in 1923-1924 to August Wagner (early 1920s-1924); Wayte Raymond (1924); Col. E.H.R. Green (1924-1936), Green estate (1936-1941); Eric P. Newman (1941-1948); Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg trading as the Numismatic Gallery (1948-1949); Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. (1949-1976); Eliasberg estate to his son Richard A. Eliasberg (1976-1996); Bowers and Merena's sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, May 1996; Jay Parrino (1996-2001); Dwight Manley for the California Gold Marketing Group (2001-2003); Edward C. Lee (2003-2005); Bruce Morelan, Laura Sperber, and George Huang (Legend Numismatics) (2005-2007); Dr. William Morton-Smith (via Ron Gillio) (2007-2018). *Million Dollar Nickels No. 3.*



United States Mint  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
circa 1908

## Prized 1916 Doubled Die Obverse Nickel



1097

**1916 Buffalo Nickel. FS-101. Doubled Die Obverse. EF-40 (PCGS). CAC. OGH.** The 1916 Doubled Die Obverse Buffalo nickel in high grades is one of the landmark rarities among lower denomination 20th century coins. This is an exceptionally well preserved, visually appealing example that will certainly catch the eye of astute bidders. Originally toned surfaces are veiled in a blend of dove gray, pale rose and medium orange patina. Boldly to sharply defined throughout with a pleasingly smooth appearance in hand. The rarity of this issue in all grades is attributed to the considerable time that elapsed between its creation and its discovery by collectors. The first published report of the 1916 Doubled Die Obverse appeared in the July 1962 edition of *The Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine*, and even then it was not until

the mid-1970s that most collectors took notice. Since then it has become known as the rarest blundered die variety in the Buffalo nickel series, handily eclipsing the 1917/8-D and, especially, the popular 1937-D 3-Legged. Estimates on the number of survivors range from a couple of hundred to perhaps 400 examples, the vast majority of which are in lower circulated grades. Clearly after several decades of diligent searching numismatists have discovered few examples of this variety, particularly in EF and higher grades. Advanced collectors, be they variety specialists or Buffalo nickel enthusiasts, are sure to compete vigorously for the chance to acquire this important rarity.

PCGS# 3931. NGC ID: 2TSS.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III.*

## Superb Gem 1918 Nickel None Finer at PCGS



1098

**1918 Buffalo Nickel. MS-67 (PCGS).** An extraordinary condition rarity from the early Buffalo nickel series. Vividly toned in a blend of antique gold, champagne-apricot and powder blue iridescence, both sides are further adorned with intense satin luster. Boldly to sharply struck and virtually pristine, this coin is eagerly awaiting inclusion in a top-ranked Buffalo nickel set on the PCGS Registry. With a generous mintage of 32,086,314 pieces from the Philadelphia Mint, one might suspect that the 1918 is among the more readily obtainable nickels from

its era. This is simply not true, for this issue is surprisingly scarce in the finer circulated and Mint Sate grades. Obviously attrition through circulation was uncommonly high, and the 1918 can be challenging to locate even in attractive Choice and Gem Uncirculated preservation. The coin offered here offers outstanding technical quality and eye appeal, and it represents a significant find for the astute Buffalo nickel enthusiast.

PCGS# 3937. NGC ID: 22RG.

PCGS Population: 10; 0 finer.



## Popular 1936 Brilliant Proof Nickel



1099

**1936 Buffalo Nickel. Brilliant Proof-68 (PCGS). CAC.** Razor sharp devices boldly contrast with watery, reflective fields on both sides of this virtually flawless specimen. Pale gold, ice-blue and brief tinges of rose toning add to the visual appeal. A truly remarkable example. The 1936 is the first Proof Buffalo nickel produced since 1916. Rarer than the only other Proof Buffalo nickel of its era — the 1937 — the

1936 has an original mintage of 4,420 pieces. Nearly two-thirds of the coins struck were made with a satin finish, though the number of Brilliant and Satin Proofs known for the date are about equal in today's numismatic marketplace. Many collectors choose to own one of each style.

PCGS# 3995. NGC ID: 278Y.  
PCGS Population: 9; none finer.

## The Finest Graded 1941-D Jefferson Nickel



1100

**1941-D Jefferson Nickel. MS-68 FS (PCGS).** As perfect as a specialist could hope to find, with radiant mint luster throughout and a towering strike for this issue. This super Gem boasts incredible eye appeal with delicate iridescent toning of violet and rose when closely examined. The surfaces are the key factor here, nudging close to absolute perfection with just a few minute signs of handling. For identification there is a

minute tick in front of Jefferson's chin. One of just two so graded by PCGS with none seen finer of this date and mint. Certain to delight the Registry set specialist.

PCGS# 84011. NGC ID: 22TH.  
PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

## HALF DIMES

## Extremely Rare 1800 LM-2 Half Dime The Second Finest Known



1101

**1800 Draped Bust Half Dime. LM-2. Rarity-7. AU-53 (PCGS).** An extraordinary example of this rare variety that is seldom encountered above Very Fine. This piece is fully untoned and brilliant, with notions of reflectivity apparent in the fields under certain conditions. The surfaces are overall smooth and nicely composed under scrutiny, exhibiting just trivial marks commensurate for the grade. Evidence of a fatigued die is apparent throughout, which signs of clashing most dramatic in the lower right obverse. Superlative technical merit is supported by overall pleasant eye appeal across this AU rarity, delivering a specimen that is surely fit for an impressive cabinet.

Discovered by Walter Breen and reported in *The Coin Collector's Journal* in 1958, the LM-2 variety is among the most elusive marriages of the entire half dime series. Just 7-10 specimens have been confirmed, many of which have been subject to some form of mishandling over the years. The present piece ranks as the second finest known of this exclusive population, ranking behind the colorfully toned example from Heritage's July 1988 sale that is now certified AU-58 by NGC. Half dime specialists will be sure to recognize the immense significance of this offering.

PCGS# 38602. NGC ID: 2326.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

*Ex our August 2017 ANA Auction, lot 2052.*



## Lustrous Mint State 1800 LIBEKTY Half Dime



1102

**1800 Draped Bust Half Dime. LM-3. Rarity-4. LIBEKTY. MS-62 (PCGS).** Generally bright silver with lustrous fields, faint golden overtones, and solid eye appeal for an early silver coin of this era. The strike is uncommonly bold, and especially noticeable on Liberty's curls where all but a couple near the ear are strongly defined. Similar on the reverse where the eagle's feathers are sharp on all but the upper right wing where opposite Liberty's bust. Predominantly smooth surfaces, as well. For identification purposes only we note a flurry of tiny marks on the inside of star 6 above Liberty's ribbon. Later die state with a few raised lumps on the obverse near the star 1, and a long line of broken

lumps up from the digit 8 in the date into Liberty's hair, these caused by some impact with the die that further damaged the reverse near the eagle's head and below the ribbon, that or the die simply sunk in that area as more and more coins were struck. The reverse die was rotated about 30 degrees counter clockwise when struck. An appealing and attractive coin that any type or variety specialist will be proud to own.

PCGS# 4265.

PCGS Population (both die marriages of the LIBEKTY variety): 4; 11 finer (MS-66 finest).

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier from our Philadelphia ANA Sale of August 2012, lot 11291.*

## Vividly Toned Choice AU 1800 Half Dime Popular LIBEKTY Variety



1103

**1800 Draped Bust Half Dime. LM-3. Rarity-4. LIBEKTY. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** This delightful half dime is splashed with mottled champagne-gold, powder blue, olive-gray and antique silver patina on the obverse. Similar colors adorn the reverse, although with a target-like distribution. Ample satin luster enhances the smooth-looking surfaces. The strike is bold for this challenging early U.S. Mint design type, and we anticipate keen bidder interest in this outstanding Choice AU Draped Bust half dime.

device punch used for the letter R in LIBERTY. Both LM-3 and LM-4 employ this obverse die, the latter a major rarity identifiable by the top three arrow heads in the eagle's talon of equal height. Although nowhere near as rare in an absolute sense, LM-3 is still a conditionally challenging variety that is seldom offered above the EF level. One of the finest examples that we have offered in recent sales, this outstanding coin will appeal to quality-conscious *Guide Book* and early half dime variety specialists.

PCGS# 38603. NGC ID: 2326.

PCGS Population (both die marriages of the LIBEKTY variety): 6; 16 finer (MS-66 finest).

Logan-McCloskey 3 is one of two die marriages for the popular LIBEKTY *Guide Book* variety, which takes its name from the broken

## Captivating Superb Gem 1832 LM-5 Half Dime



1104

**1832 Draped Bust Half Dime. LM-5. Rarity-1. MS-67 (PCGS). CAC.** A splendid example of the type, issue and die pairing, this vividly toned Superb Gem is sure to please even the most discerning numismatist. Dominant steel-olive patina greets the viewer from both sides, direct lighting calling forth even more spectacular undertones of pale gold, pink and powder blue. Boldly to sharply defined throughout with smooth and lustrous surfaces that give this coin legitimate claim to finest known status for the 1832 LM-5 variety.

Just under one million half dimes were coined in 1832, though some were certainly struck in the following year bearing the 1832 date given the frequent reuse of older but serviceable dies, especially among half dimes. The obverse die was first used for the LM-1 pairing, then LM-5, then lastly for the LM-7 marriage. This obverse can be discerned by

examining the position of stars 6 and 7; they are close together and star 6 is closer to the dentils than its neighbors. The reverse die is identifiable by the separated letters MERI the tail of the R above the base of the second I in AMERICA. This die was used only twice: initially with the LM-4 pairing and ultimately with this die combination. While not an especially rare die combination, specimens can be obtained with some patience up to Gem Mint State but above that high preservation level this variety is decidedly challenging, as with the issue as a whole. For a discriminating type collector or specialist in early silver coinage, few specimens can compare to this exquisite jewel.

PCGS# 4279. NGC ID: 232E.

PCGS Population (all die marriages of the issue): 9; 3 finer (MS-68+ finest).

*Ex Legend Numismatics, February 2012; Heritage's sale of the Eugene H. Gardner Collection, June 2014, lot 30182.*

## Remarkable Semi-Prooflike 1829 Half Dime

### Scarce LM-9 Die Marriage



1105

#### 1829 Capped Bust Half Dime. LM-9. Rarity-5. MS-67 ★ (NGC).

This is a simply gorgeous Capped Bust half dime that ranks among the finest known survivors of the scarce 1829 LM-9 variety. Both sides are fully untoned with bright silver white surfaces and a bold semi-prooflike finish. The obverse field, in particular, is noticeably reflective. Razor sharp in strike and virtually pristine, this glorious Superb Gem will appeal to advanced type collectors and early half dime variety specialists.

The first half dime struck since 1805 and the first issue in the Capped Bust series, the 1829 is very popular for type purposes. Fortunately, enough examples were set aside at the time of production or otherwise managed to survive without seeing commercial use that acquiring an Uncirculated coin in grades through MS-64 should prove relatively easy under normal market conditions. Gems in MS-65 are scarce,

however, while in the finest Mint State grades the conditionally challenging nature of the 1829 comes to the fore. This Superb Gem coin offers exceptional quality for both the type and the issue, and the ★ designation for superior eye appeal (likely attributed to the aforementioned semi-prooflike finish) provides additional appeal. Logan-McCloskey 9 ranks among the scarcest of the 18 known die marriages of this issue, with examples particularly elusive in grades above EF. Both dies were used in other pairings, the obverse identifiable by minor doubling to the ball of the digit 9 in the date. The reverse is easier to attribute due to the presence of the serif of an errant C between the letters CA in AMERICA.

PCGS# 4276. NGC ID: 232B.

NGC Census (all die marriages of the issue): 6, only one of which has been given a ★ designation for superior eye appeal; 0 finer in this category.

## Among Finest Known 1841-O Half Dime



1106

**1841-O Liberty Seated Half Dime. V-4. MS-67+ (NGC).** Brilliant satin white surfaces with only the barest wisps of the very lightest blue and pale rose along the periphery and by the date, providing ample visual interest for the advanced half dime specialist. There is light clashing evident on the obverse, especially along Liberty's left arm. The 815,000 half dimes struck at New Orleans in 1841 represent a small dip in the mintage figures for the denomination from the previous two years. The V-4 obverse is well defined with a full head, shield and toe, compared to some of the earlier Valentine varieties where these features are not nearly as well struck up. The reverse is a different story and reveals the significant die rust that was no doubt caused by the

muggy Southern climate, as well as an extensive series of die cracks that define the V-4 variety, all of which lend considerable interest to this early Southern issue. The 1841-O half dimes promptly entered circulation in the South and remained there for decades. While the issue is only moderately scarce in the circulated grade levels and can be located without much difficulty, the story changes dramatically at Mint State where at best two dozen are thought extant. Gem examples are excessively rare and are intensely desirable. The present coin lies firmly at the top of the mountain and unlikely to be surpassed anytime soon.

PCGS# 4329. NGC ID: 232Z.

NGC Census: 1; none finer.

## DIMES

## Handsome Mint State 1797 Dime



1107

**1797 Draped Bust Dime. JR-1. Rarity-4. 16 Stars. MS-62 (PCGS).** Deep antique silver surfaces display satiny mint luster and are graced with brilliant cobalt and lilac-rose at more direct angles in a light. The quality of strike is far superior to that typically seen for a Small Eagle Draped Bust dime, with bold details at the centers as well as delightfully crisp denticles throughout. A bisecting obverse die crack from border to border through the bottom of Liberty's bust and along the top of the date is noted. This crack is diagnostic of the variety, and it is seen here in its earlier state before causing extensive sinking of the die in the date area.

The second year 1797 is the rarer and more conditionally challenging of just two issues in the Draped Bust, Small Eagle dime series. Although Mint records report that 25,261 dimes were delivered during the calendar year 1797, it is likely that some of those coins were struck from 1796-dated dies. The mintage of 1797-dated examples, therefore, is almost certainly less than that reported. With the first year 1796 satisfying what little contemporary interest there was in setting aside examples of the new nation's initial dime production, fewer high grade

examples of the 1797 have come down to the present day. In fact, there are probably no more than 300 examples of this issue extant in all grades, and the vast majority are circulated to one degree or another.

The two die marriages that make up the 1797-dated issue are easily distinguished by looking at the number of stars on the obverse (both share the same reverse). JR-1, represented here, is the 16 stars variety and was likely struck first since the Mint later defaulted to using just 13 stars to represent the original colonies as opposed to trying to add a new star every time another state joined the Union. Although a bit more plentiful in Mint State than its JR-2 counterpart, JR-1 is very rare at the Choice Uncirculated level, even more so than current certified population data might suggest. Many resubmissions are likely included therein, and the authors of the 2015 reference *Bust Dime Variety Attribution Guide* (Winston Zack, Louis Scuderi, Michael Sherrill) account for only six or so Uncirculated survivors. An important find, discerning type collectors and early dime variety enthusiasts are sure to compete vigorously for the honor of securing this coin.

PCGS# 4462.

PCGS Population: 4; 4 finer (MS-66 finest),

## Bold and Brilliant Mint State 1800 Dime



1108

**1800 Draped Bust Dime, JR-2. Rarity-4+. MS-60 (NGC).** Uncommon Mint State preservation for both the issue and the type, this is one of the most significant 1800 dimes that we have offered in recent sales. Satiny surfaces also reveal modest, yet appreciable semi-reflective qualities in the obverse field as the coin dips into a light. Wisps of light champagne-apricot iridescence deny full brilliance, although most viewing angles present a silver white coin. The strike is bold within fully, if not quite uniformly denticulated borders. Far smoother in hand than one might expect for the assigned grade, this impressive piece comes highly recommended for inclusion in an advanced type or variety set.

The Heraldic Eagle reverse was born out of necessity as the tradition of adding a star to the reverse with each new state compelled a redesign once Tennessee was admitted as the 16th state in 1796. Mint Director Elias Boudinot instructed Chief Engraver Robert Scot to fix the number of stars at 13 to recognize the original colonies. In 1798 Scot introduced the Heraldic Eagle reverse based on the Great Seal of the United States while retaining the Draped Bust obverse. Because

there is no mark of value, many of the reverse dies were originally used to strike gold quarter eagles since both denominations share a similar planchet diameter. The Heraldic Eagle dimes were produced until 1807 and were struck in respectable quantities. Weak strikes, die clashing and adjustment marks are frequent occurrences with this series, especially for the later issues where softly impressed details are the norm. Sharply struck examples are infrequently seen and are avidly sought.

Popular as a turn-of-the-century issue, the 1800 was produced using two known die combinations, both of which share the same obverse. JR-1 and JR-2 are of roughly equal scarcity in terms of total number of coins extant, the typical survivor of which is in the middle to higher circulated grades (read: Fine to EF). In Mint State this date as a whole is rare, the present example numbering among the finest available to today's advanced collectors.

PCGS# 4470. NGC ID: 236H.

NGC Census (both die marriages of the issue): 1; 4 finer (MS-65 finest).

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III.*

# Significant 1804 Dime Rarity Among the Finest Known The JR Plate Coin Ex Parmelee-Bareford-Lovejoy



1109

**1804 Draped Bust Dime. JR-1. Rarity-5. 13 Stars Reverse. AU-55 Details—Scratched (ANACS).** This significant rarity has passed through the hands of the most noted scholars of the early dime series and its importance has only swelled since its earliest auction appearance nearly 130 years ago. The surfaces are overall pearlescent silver with accents of champagne-gold and bronze iridescence. Traces of violet saturate the borders, working to emphasize the remaining luster at center. An old pair of parallel pinscratches passes diagonally across Liberty's portrait, an inconvenient but familiar feature that has graced this piece since at least 1890. In spite of this, the complexion remains relatively pleasing, showcasing an exceptional sharpness superior to most survivors of this issue. Liberty's hair is intricately defined and the eagle's feathers are impressively sculpted on the reverse.

When offered as part of the Lorin G. Parmelee Collection in June of 1890, the catalogers of the New York Stamp and Coin Co. (David Proskey and Harlan P. Smith) described this piece as "exceeding any specimen we have seen; very rare." It sold for \$85, more than twice what the Proof 1804 eagle brought (\$31) just five lots earlier. We first had the pleasure of handling this rarity in our (Stack's) sale of the Harold S. Bareford Collection in October 1981. In addition to an 1804 dollar, this collection featured specialized sets of half dimes and dimes, among which this piece was a noteworthy highlight. Offered in lot 149, we called it "About Uncirculated" and "one of the finest extant."

It is perhaps its appearance in our (Stack's) sale of the Allen F. Lovejoy Reference Collection of United States Dimes (October 1990) that is

most significant to specialists. By that time this piece had already been immortalized as the plate coin for the variety in the standard reference for the series published by the John Reich Collectors Society, the "JR" book (1984). Lovejoy was one of the authors of this reference and the majority of the coins in his collection served as plate coins for this reference and would be guiding collectors in the pursuit of rare varieties for generations to come. We described this piece in lot 26 of the Lovejoy sale as "About Uncirculated...one of the two or three finest known specimens." Almost 30 years later, this assessment remains true.

PCGS# 38766.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex New York Coin and Stamp Co.'s sale of the Lorin G. Parmelee Collection, June 1890, lot 819; J.C. Morgenthau's sale of the Howard R. Newcomb Collection, February 1945, lot 523; Norman Shultz' sale of January 1949, lot 1023; our (Stack's) sale of the Harold Bareford Collection, October 1981, lot 149; our (Stack's) sale of the Allen F. Lovejoy Collection, October 1990, lot 26; RARCOA's Numisma '95 sale of the Waldo Bolen Collection, November 1995, lot 2018; our (American Numismatic Rarities') sale the Jewell Collection March 2005, lot 1595; Heritage's sale of August 2007, lot 1620; Heritage's sale of April 2013, lot 4176; our Chicago ANA sale of August 2013, lot 4062. Noted dime specialist Ed Price also owned this piece at one time, along with the Pittman-Pogue specimen and the James A. Stack example, both currently certified AU-55 (PCGS). This is the plate coin for the 1804 JR-1 variety in the 1984 book *Early United States Dimes: 1794-1837* by the John Reich Collectors Society.*

# The “Forgotten” Eliasberg 1804 14-Star Reverse Dime

## Ex 1907 David S. Wilson Sale

### Finest Certified by PCGS



1110

**1804 Draped Bust Dime. JR-2. Rarity-5. 14-Star Reverse. AU-58 (PCGS).** The rarer of the two varieties of this equally rare date, long acclaimed as “unknown in Mint State,” though the quality of this specimen and a recently discovered example challenge that assertion.

The obverse shows strong luster and intact cartwheel, while the reverse is frosty and more subtly lustrous. Overall gold surfaces exhibit deep amber with traces of violet and blue clinging to the obverse border. The reverse transitions from silver-gray in the northwest quadrant to deep amber and gold in the southwest. The left periphery of both sides is a bit softly struck, as always seen on examples of this die marriage, suggesting axial misalignment of the dies, but the centers are well detailed. The surfaces are virtually free of marks and choice. The obverse die was a veteran of the 1804 JR-1 dime marriage, the reverse was previously muled to a quarter eagle obverse. This would be the last appearance of each of these two dies, and the obverse likely survived only a short interval beyond this coin. A substantial bisecting die crack emerges from the rim above star 13, delicately at first, crosses Liberty’s chin and gains prominence at her cheek, and then travels through the hair to the left base of the letter B in LIBERTY. Another die crack runs through the upright of the letter T and meets the first at Liberty’s temple, while another originates at the rim outside of star 10 and continues toward the nose. An additional crack runs into Liberty’s cleavage. While this piece, in our estimate, is accurately graded, the visual appeal is superb and its desirability cannot be topped.

Cataloged by S. Hudson Chapman in the important 1907 sale of the David S. Wilson Collection as:

*“Extremely fine. Mint luster. Shows the border of the beads inside of rim around one-half obverse, which is more than usual. This border is the same as on the dollar. One of the finest specimens known. Extremely rare. Plate VIII.”*

How this piece came to reside in the Eliasberg Collection is a mystery. Page 53 of the Clapp family notebook, depicted in our (Bowers and Merena’s) 1996 Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection catalog, lists the early dimes in the collection of J.M. Clapp. While one 1804 appears (the 13-Star Reverse sold as lot 1052 in our 1996 Louis E. Eliasberg,

Sr. sale), this coin does not. Our (Stack’s) 1954 Anderson-Dupont sale mentions under lot 1528, a low grade specimen of this variety, “none in the Eliasberg collection,” so this coin must have been acquired after that date.

In cataloging this piece for our May 2015 sale of the D. Brent Pogue Collection, Part I, John Kraljevich reflects that,

*“[I] may have been the first numismatist outside of the Eliasberg family to have seen this coin in decades. Tasked with cataloging the family’s world gold coins, I came to know Richard Eliasberg well and visited regularly. As additional small groups of world coins were discovered in the family holdings, usually relatively minor pieces, I would go to Baltimore to view them and help with appraisals. On one visit, Mr. Eliasberg showed me this coin, asking if it was anything special. I offered that it was the best 1804 dime I’d ever seen and probably one of the best extant.”*

After it reappeared and sold at auction in 2007, this hunch was confirmed: it was the finest 1804 dime known. Dime expert Ed Price acquired it soon after and he wrote:

*“This is easily the finest 1804 dime of either variety that I have seen or heard of. I was a little surprised that this coin did not grade as Uncirculated. In any case, it is clearly finer than any others I am aware of.”*

The authors of the JR book called this variety a “major rarity in high grade; unknown in Mint State.” The R.L. Miles coin (Stack’s, 1969) was the best they recorded, graded EF-45.

Since the 2008 Ed Price sale, a newly discovered specimen has been graded MS-63 by NGC, making it the sole Mint State coin graded by either service. This Eliasberg piece is the finest graded by PCGS by five points and is probably the second finest known.

PCGS# 38767. NGC ID: 236P

PCGS Population (JR-2 variety only): just 1; 0 finer.

*Ex David S. Wilson Collection, before 1906; S. Hudson Chapman’s sale of the David S. Wilson Collection, March 1907, lot 694; Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, before 1976; Richard A. Eliasberg, by descent; Heritage’s sale of January 2007, lot 861; Ed Price Collection; Heritage’s sale of the Ed Price Collection, July 2008, lot 1443; our (Stack’s Bowers)/Sotheby’s sale of the D. Brent Pogue Collection, Part I, May 2015, lot 1046.*



## Historic 1804 JR-2 14 Stars Reverse Dime Ex Miles-Robison-Lovejoy The JR Plate Coin



1111

**1804 Draped Bust Dime. JR-2. Rarity-5. 14 Stars on Reverse. AU Details—Scratched. Net EF-40 (ANACS). OH.** This is the plate coin from *Early United States Dimes 1796 - 1837*, and comes with an illustrious pedigree. There is a scratch which allows for ready identification of this piece, from the 11th obverse star down to the 4, crossing Liberty's bust. The surfaces are otherwise nice for the grade, and show attractive yellow-gold toning with splashes of deep blue near the rims and into the fields. The strike is sharp although the obverse die appears to be misaligned, as the stars and dentils on the left are shallow but very sharp on the right, typical of this die variety. Flashes of luster reside in the fields when examined under a light. The surfaces are satin smooth on Liberty's face and neck, with most of her hair undisturbed as well. On the reverse the strike is average but all the stars and clouds are brought up well. On balance this is an attractive coin that has one moderate fault. The 1804 dime is highly coveted and has been in strong collector demand for decades.

This die variety is quite unusual. The reverse die shows two features that had not been seen generally since 1798. On the star pattern above the eagle, the stars are aligned in straight lines, the star cross pattern, which was also used on the original Great Seal of our country. When John Smith Gardner designed the Heraldic Eagle reverse dies, he initially laid the stars in over the eagle's head in straight lines, but at

angles, to fit as many as he could into the space below the clouds. By 1798 Robert Scot was the chief engraver and apparently continued using the star cross pattern above the eagle. At some point in 1798, Scot discovered that the stars would look much better if arranged in two arcs with single stars flanking the eagle's head. Most of the dies that exhibit the star cross pattern were engraved from 1796 to 1798, and were used and replaced by 1799, except for this blundered die. Perhaps it was noticed that the star count was in error with 14 stars and the die was shelved for emergencies. By 1804 the need arose — apparently, as this 14 star reverse was first used on 1804 quarter eagles, then again on the JR-2 variety dimes. The dimes were the same diameter as the quarter eagles and thus die sharing was somewhat common for the Heraldic Eagle reverse of the two denominations. This type of die sharing is unknown on other denominations despite the possibility existing (eagles to half dollars).

PCGS# 4474. NGC ID: 236N.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex our (Stack's) sale of the R. L. Miles Collection, April 1969, lot 606; our (Stack's) sale of the Robison Collection, February 1982, lot 985; our (Stack's) sale of the Allen F. Lovejoy Collection, October 1990, lot 27; and our (American Numismatic Rarities') Richard Jewell Collection sale, March 2005, lot 1596; our August 2013 ANA Auction, lot 4063. The plate coin for the 1804 JR-2 variety in the 1984 book *Early United States Dimes: 1796-1837* by the John Reich Collectors Society.*

## Extraordinary Gem Mint State 1820 Dime



1112

**1820 Capped Bust Dime. JR-11. Rarity-3. Small 0. MS-66 (PCGS).** An enchanting, premium quality Gem that would do justice to the finest type set or advanced early dime variety collection. Semi-prooflike in finish, the fields are noticeably reflective and form a lovely backdrop to satiny devices. Striking detail is razor sharp to full in virtually all areas, and the surfaces are so smooth as to border on pristine. Wisps of iridescent champagne-gold toning drift over both sides and further enhance this coin's already memorable appearance. The United States Mint produced 942,587 dimes during calendar year 1820, its most generous output for the denomination up to that point in time. Given that 1820-dated examples are relatively plentiful in numismatic circles (2,500 to 3,750 survivors in all grades, per Winston Zack et al, 2015), it seems likely that most of the coins struck that year were from 1820-dated dies. JR-11 is one of the more frequently encountered die marriages of the issue, although the Wide Border Capped Bust dime

as a type is conditionally challenging with even low end Uncirculated coins scarce. As a premium quality Gem, the beautiful coin offered here is a significant condition rarity that is sure to please even the most discerning numismatist. There is some confusion over the assignment of individual die marriages of the 1820 dime to the Large 0 and Small 0 *Guide Book* varieties. PCGS groups the JR-2, JR-3, JR-4, JR-5, JR-6, JR-7, JR-10, JR-11 and JR-12 die marriages under the Small 0 classification and the JR-8, JR-9 and JR-13 varieties under the Large 0 classification. (JR-1 is the STATESOFAMERICA *Guide Book* variety). According to Winston Zack, Louis Scuderi and Michael Sherrill in the 2015 reference *Bust Dime Variety Identification Guide* (2015), however, "JR-11, JR-12 and JR-13 are the final large 0 varieties." An interesting situation for the early dime variety enthusiast to ponder.

PCGS# 4493. NGC ID: 236X.

PCGS Population (all die marriages of the Small 0 variety): 1; 2 finer (both MS-67).

## Finest Certified 1823/2 Capped Bust Dime



1113

**1823/2 Capped Bust Dime. JR-3. Rarity-2. Large Es. MS-66+ ★ (NGC).** An extraordinary example of both the type and variety that would do justice to the finest numismatic cabinet. Brilliant apart from subtle pale apricot peripheral highlights, the reverse is universally satiny in texture while the obverse is semi-prooflike in finish. Both sides are sharply to fully struck over all but a few isolated high points. Expertly preserved and all but pristine, this is a gorgeous Gem worthy of the strongest bids. Mint records indicate a modest mintage of 440,000 dimes during calendar year 1823. Three die marriages are known for examples bearing this date, using two obverse dies that are both 1823/2 overdates. JR-3, offered here, represents the only use

of this particular obverse die, paired here with the Large Es reverse. While none of the die varieties of this issue are rare in an absolute sense, the Wide Border Capped Bust dime as a design type is a significant condition rarity in the finest Mint State grades, as here. In fact, this is the single finest 1823/2 dime of any variety known to PCGS and NGC, its offering in this sale representing a fleeting bidding opportunity for the numismatist that will accept nothing but the best for their collection.

PCGS# 4499. NGC ID: 2372.

NGC Census (all die marriages of the issue): just 1; 0 finer. PCGS has yet to certify an 1823/2 dime above the MS-66 level.

## Gem Proof 1837 No Stars Dime

### Ex Eugene H. Gardner

### The Fortin Plate Coin



1114

**1837 Liberty Seated Dime. Liberty Seated. No Stars. Fortin-101. Rarity-7. Proof-65 (PCGS). CAC.** The initial complexion of this gorgeous No Stars Gem is dominated by dove gray tones and mottled olive patina. However, a quick tilt reveals a vibrant iridescence of turquoise, bronze, and citrus hues that hug the borders and halo the devices throughout, growing boundlessly more radiant under a light source. The definition to Liberty's hair, profile and drapery is profound, echoed by the full veining of the wreath on the opposite face. Wonderfully reflective, the fields remain smooth and icy in balance with the more heavily frosted design elements, suggesting an underlying cameo contrast beneath the translucent toning. A truly extraordinary specimen.

One of the classic U.S. Mint designs of the 19th century, the Liberty Seated motif would eventually be used at one point or another on all silver denominations from the half dime through the silver dollar. It made its debut on the dime in 1837 with a delivery of 682,500 circulation

strikes from the Philadelphia Mint, as well as a small number of Proofs. A refreshingly uncluttered design that allows the eye to focus on the most significant device, the No Stars type was destined to remain in production for just two years, and only at the New Orleans Mint in 1838. While the circulation strike 1837 is obtainable with patience in grades through MS-65, its Proof counterpart is a major numismatic rarity. The exact number of pieces produced is unknown, the Mint not recording yearly Proof mintages during the 1830s, but it is likely that fewer than 30 distinct specimens are known, perhaps even fewer than 25 coins. A beautiful specimen in all regards, this Choice Proof would make an equally impressive addition to a specimen type set or Liberty Seated dime collection.

PCGS# 4718. NGC ID: 23BN.

PCGS Population: 3; just a single piece finer at Proof-66.

*Ex Joseph O'Connor, privately in December 2005; Heritage's sale of the Eugene H. Gardner Collection, June 2014, lot 30285. The Fortin plate coin for the variety.*

# Elusive Gem Proof 1849 Liberty Seated Dime

## One of Four Specimens Confirmed

### Tied for Finest Known

#### Ex Floyd T Starr



1115

**1849 Liberty Seated Dime. Fortin-107. Rarity-7+. Proof-66 (PCGS). CAC. OGH.** This is one of the rarest and most desirable coins in this sale, and that is saying a lot given the significance of our offerings in this year's ANA Auction. Also a beautiful coin, both sides are dressed in a blend of lavender-gray and olive-charcoal patina. Direct lighting calls forth iridescent undertones of antique gold, cobalt blue and salmon pink that are both more vivid and varied on the obverse. The strike is razor sharp throughout, and the fields offer appreciable reflectivity as the surfaces rotate under a light. Expertly preserved, visually appealing and undeniably rare, this coin would serve as a highlight in the finest collection of Proof Liberty Seated coinage.

Struck at a time before the United States Mint began marketing Proof coins to collectors on a wider scale, the 1849 Liberty Seated dime is a major rarity in this format. For each year during the 1840s, the Mint produced only a few Proof sets for official purposes or distribution to the few numismatists active in the Northeast during that decade. Mintages were not recorded, so it is impossible for us to know exactly how many Proof 1849 dimes were coined. Given the paltry number of survivors (see below), we believe that no more than 10 specimens were produced. Perhaps not surprisingly, auction appearances for this issue are few and far between, a fact that underscores the fleeting bidding opportunity that this lot represents.

All known Proof 1849 dimes were struck from an obverse die that had long been considered an 1849/8 overdate. On the website [seateddimevarieties.com](http://seateddimevarieties.com), Liberty Seated dime specialist Gerry Fortin calls this attribution into question: "In 1849, the mint changed the logotype from the large dates of 1847 and 1848 to the smaller date punch found on 1849 dies. Acknowledging this fact, it is difficult to justify that the date on the 1849 obverse die would be an 1849/8 overdate given the large date punch of 1848. If one examines the date positions of the 1849 proof die against that of the 1848 dies, with the larger date punch, it is immediately evident that the 1849/8 overdate theory should be seriously questioned." In our opinion Fortin is correct, and we believe that the obverse die of this issue is a Repunched Date, not an overdate.

We are able to trace this jewel back over 75 years to J.C. Morgenthau's sale of January 1943. It appeared in lot 443 and was called "Brilliant proof. Ex[tremely] rare" and garnered a top bid of \$26 which was remarkable for the era. The winning bidder was none other than famed

Proof specialist Floyd T. Starr, in whose collection this piece would reside for the following five decades. We had the privilege of selling Starr's legendary collection over the course of two sales, dispersing his incredible cabinet of half cents and large cents in Stack's sale of June 1984, and later handling his gold, silver, and minor coinage in Stack's sale of October 1992. It was the October 1992 auction in which we next see this piece offered, catalogued in lot 366 as a "Gem Brilliant Proof" having "virtually flawless fields." In the three decades since, it has seemingly been handled privately, emphasizing the present public offering as a truly significant event for Liberty seated Dime specialists.

We have been able to positively confirm the existence of just four Proof 1849 dimes:

1 - **PCGS Proof-66.** Ex J.C. Morgenthau's sale of January 1943, lot 443; our (Stack's) sale of the Floyd T. Starr Collection, October 1992, lot 366. *The present example.*

2 - **PCGS Proof-66.** Ex our (Stack's) sale of the James A. Stack, Sr. Collection, January 1990, lot 86; Heritage's sale of the Phil Kaufman Collection of Early Seated Proof Sets, Part III, April 2008, lot 2389; Heritage's sale of the Greensboro Collection, Part I, October 2012, lot 3948; Bill Nagle, October 2012; Heritage's sale of the Eugene H. Gardner Collection, June 2014, lot 30289.

3 - **NGC Proof-65.** Ex our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, May 1996, lot 1137; Heritage's sale of the Lark Collection, March 2006, lot 458; Heritage's Rosemont Signature Auction of August 2013, lot 5562.

4 - **PCGS Proof-64.** Ex Hollinbeck Stamp & Coin Co., lot 130, date of sale not recorded; David W. Akers' sale of the John Jay Pittman Collection, Part I, October 1997, lot 602; David Lawrence's sale of the Richmond Collection, Part III, March 2005, lot 1243; Heritage's New York Signature Auction of June 2005, lot 5378; Simpson Collection; Legend Rare Coin Auctions' Regency Auction VIII, July 2014, lot 71; Heritage's FUN Signature Auction of January 2015, lot 4070.

PCGS# 4736. NGC ID: 23C5.

PCGS Population: just 2; 0 finer.

*From J.C. Morgenthau's sale of January 1943, lot 443; our (Stack's) sale of the Floyd T. Starr Collection, October 1992, lot 366.*

## Rare Mint State 1861-S Liberty Seated Dime



1116

**1861-S Liberty Seated Dime. Fortin-101. Rarity-5+. MS-62 (PCGS).** A beautiful and original example of this San Francisco rarity. Soft, satiny luster glows beneath the delicate patina of olive and slate-grey tones. Just a touch of light rub shows on the obverse, and the reverse is left impressively preserved under inspection. The strike is sharp for the issue, providing Liberty's portrait with an intricate facial expression and leaving the wreath boldly defined. Handsome and without a single distracting imperfection.

Though produced to a moderate quantity of 172,500 pieces, the 1861-S dime is considerably scarce due to the extensive role this issue played in the flourishing commerce of the American West. It ranks as the most

challenging San Francisco Mint dime of the 1860s and is incredibly rare in Mint State with just about 10 Uncirculated survivors known. The present piece is a relative newcomer to this limited census, having last been offered as part of our (Stack's) sale of the Hall Park McCullough Estate in November 1967 over 50 years ago. With just 4 pieces certified finer at PCGS, it is a significant representative of this issue that will surely appeal to advanced Liberty Seated dime specialists and PCGS Registry Set participants.

PCGS# 4634. NGC ID: 239G.

PCGS Population: 3; 4 finer through MS-66.

*From the William B. Martin Collection. Earlier ex our (Stack's) sale of the Hall Park McCullough Estate, November 1967, lot 282.*

## Exceptional Superb Gem 1895 Dime



1117

**1895 Barber Dime. MS-67 (PCGS). CAC.** Fully struck with vibrant luster, the surfaces are as nice as would be expected at the Superb Gem grade level. The gentle soft silvery gray is framed by vivid splashes of blue, especially among the lettering on the obverse. With a mintage of a mere 690,000 pieces, the 1895 Barber dime is the only issue produced at the Philadelphia Mint with a production figure below 1 million coins, making it one of the most desirable issues of the entire series. Coming on the heels of a major economic panic just two years prior, the 1895 issue slipped quietly into circulation with little fanfare. The numismatists of the era were content to order a Proof example of the issue and largely ignored the coins that did enter circulation. By the time interest in the Barber series began to pick up, by far the vast majority of examples that remained had seen extensive use in trade, so

much so that even coins at the very lowest levels of preservation can prove challenging to locate, a situation no doubt exacerbated by the mass silver meltings in the early 1980s. Fortunately, a small number of uncirculated examples have managed to escape the rigors of commercial use, but even there primarily at the lower to middle Mint State levels. While perhaps a couple hundred uncirculated examples may survive, PCGS suggests that only 60 or so coins may still exist at or above the Gem level, with the lion's share clustered around MS-65 level. The delicate toning combined with the exceptional strike serves to confirm the CAC label for superior eye appeal. For the Barber specialist seeking the very pinnacle of perfection.

PCGS# 4806. NGC ID: 23DV.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (both MS-67+).



## Perennially Popular 1916-D Mercury Dime



1118

**1916-D Mercury Dime. MS-62 FB (PCGS).** An attractive and highly desirable Mint State example of this fabled key date issue in the Mercury dime series. Satiny surfaces are untuned apart from wisps of iridescent gold that are largely confined to the peripheries. The strike is full not only in the centers — to confirm the Full Bands designation from PCGS — but also at the borders, where all peripheral devices are distinct from the rims. Pleasingly smooth in appearance for the assigned numeric grade, and sure to catch the eye of the astute bidder. With only 264,000 pieces produced, the 1916-D has the lowest mintage and is the undisputed key date issue in the circulation strike Mercury dime series. The entire mintage was released in November 1916, after which the Denver Mint received orders from Mint Director F.J.H. von Engelken to suspend dime coinage and concentrate on quarters. The Treasury Department had placed orders with the Mint

director for four million quarters, and the Denver Mint duly complied striking new examples of the outgoing Barber type. Indeed, the total mintage of the 1916-D Barber quarter reached 6,540,800 pieces, one of the more respectable totals in its series. By the time the Denver Mint resumed coinage of dimes, 1917-dated dies had arrived and the facility set about striking examples of the 1917-D. Scarce in all but the lowest circulated grades, the 1916-D Mercury dime is particularly desirable in Mint State, as here. Such pieces are often sharply struck, and they always display the textured satin finish that is characteristic of the 1916 hub from which the dies were produced. Expertly produced and nicely preserved, the coin offered here would serve as a highlight in even the finest Mercury dime set.

PCGS# 4907. NGC ID: 23GY.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection.*

## Tantalizing 1919 Doubled Die Obverse Mercury Dime Among Finest Known



1119

**1919 Mercury Dime. FS-101. DDO. EF-40 (PCGS).** A remarkable coin in all aspects, it reveals only minimal signs of its time in daily use, the smooth even gray toning presents a perfect backdrop for the pronounced doubling on the motto. The end of World War I saw a general increase in the production of minor coinage, including the dime. A more than respectable 35,740,000 dimes were struck at Philadelphia using 521 obverse dies and 343 reverse dies. Up until recently, little attention was paid to the 1919 Mercury dime until a remarkable discovery of a dramatic doubled die obverse within the past several years changed all that. Although originally found in the 1980s by New York state collector Scott Kerr, he placed his specimen aside in his "Neat Box" as an anomaly with the notation "1919 IN GOD WE TRUST doubling???" on the coin's holder and it went unpublished for decades. When Kerr sold his Neat Box to fellow collector Jeffrey Sam in January 2015, Sam went through the coins and once again uncovered the 1919 dime. He then began posting images of the coin online which attracted the immediate attention of variety and error specialists. Tom DeLorey referred the Kerr-Sam specimen to Bill Fivaz

who confirmed it not only as a doubled die but the earliest in the entire Mercury dime series and has since assigned it the attribution number FS-101. The new discovery was published on February 24, 2015 in *Coin World* and collectors everywhere soon checked their holdings.

It remains a mystery as to how such an eye-catching doubled die could remain hidden for so long. The doubling is prominent only on the motto IN GOD WE TRUST but is readily visible especially at the letters N in IN, GOD, and RUST in TRUST. The doubling occurred when a complete design was hubbed over an incomplete design during preparation of a working obverse die, in much the same manner as the famed 1916 FS-101 Doubled Die Obverse Buffalo nickel. Since then, less than 20 certification events are recorded at both of the major services, all in circulated grades - remarkably not a single Mint State or even AU example has so far turned up. Here is a rare chance to acquire one of the most important Mercury dime discoveries in many years.

PCGS# 545047.

PCGS Population: 11 in all grades; only 1 finer (EF-45).



## Gem Full Bands 1945 Mercury Dime An Infamous Strike Rarity



1120

**1945 Roosevelt Dime. MS-65 FB (PCGS).** A flashy and brilliant example of this unassuming 20th Century rarity showing just the faintest golden tinge across each side. The critical central bands on the reverse are conveniently accented by a swath of snow-white patina, emphasizing the superior sharpness to that region. Die polish lines are dramatic throughout the obverse fields, imparting a mildly prooflike complexion. A beautiful and exceptionally rendered little jewel.

The 1945 is one of the prime strike rarities not only in the Mercury dime series, but also in the entire historical U.S. coinage family. With a staggering mintage of 159,130,000 pieces — one of the highest for

this type — it should come as no surprise to read that this issue is very common in an absolute sense. This even includes Mint State survivors without a Full Bands designation. In all grades within the Full Bands category, however, the 1945 is a major rarity. The acquisition of a Gem Mint State coin has long been regarded as the crowning achievement of the most advanced Mercury dime collectors. PCGS has certified just 19 coins finer than the present specimen up through MS-67+ FB.

PCGS# 5057. NGC ID: 23KE.

PCGS Population: 38; 19 finer through MS-67+ FB

*From the Anne Kate Collection. Earlier ex Stokely Collection.*

## Incredible MS-68 FB 1949 Dime The Sole Finest at PCGS



1121

**1949 Roosevelt Dime. MS-68 FB (PCGS).** This is a formidable rarity for the Roosevelt collector, representing the sole finest certified example seen by PCGS, and the highest grade recognized by either of the top grading services. The obverse is painted in rich bands of colorful iridescence that intensify at the right border, showing a blend of teal, violet, and magenta hues. The reverse remains virtually brilliant, save for a slight dusting of olive patina visible under scrutiny.

Perfectly executed and essentially untouched, the present piece simply cannot be improved upon. It is among the very finest survivors of a mintage of 30.9 million coins and is the ultimate treasure for the *PCGS Registry Set* participant.

PCGS# 85091. NGC ID: 23KU.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## TWENTY-CENT PIECES

## Outstanding Choice Proof 1877 Twenty Cents



1122

**1877 Twenty-Cent Piece. BF-1. Rarity-3. Proof-64 (PCGS).** Swaths of sapphire and violet iridescence accent the overall golden and tangerine patina of this near-Gem. The fields are glassy and reflective, suspending bold and richly frosted central devices. A few light wisps are seen in the obverse fields but the surfaces are otherwise impressively clean. An attractive and original example.

With only 510 coins struck, all of which were Proofs, the 1877 has the lowest mintage and is the scarcest date in the twenty-cent series of 1875 to 1878. A large portion of the original mintage is thought to be melted after going unsold to collectors, resulting in an even more scant net-mintage of about 350 pieces.

PCGS# 5305, NGC ID: 27H4.

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 QUARTER DOLLARS
 

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 Choice Mint State 1805 Quarter  
 Browning-3


1123

**1805 Draped Bust Quarter. B-3. Rarity-2. MS-63 (PCGS).** Bright silver gray surfaces exhibit champagne and rose highlights, with robust cartwheel luster in abundance; the reverse is deeper gold in places. Evenly struck from clashed and cracked dies, with elements of each on both sides.

More than 120,000 quarters were struck in 1805, paid out by the Mint “whenever desired by the depositors, or not particularly objected to,” according to Mint Director Robert Patterson’s April 2, 1807, letter to President Jefferson, written on the 15th anniversary of the original legislation authorizing the U.S. Mint. Though the mintage for quarters ballooned in 1805, they were given to banks and commercial entities that immediately put them into circulation. With the import/export cycle no longer as easy or as profitable, most were spent and remained on the American mainland. Of the five die marriages of 1805 quarters,

one die marriage is confirmed to have just a single Mint State survivor, and another has none at all. Browning-3 was a bit more fortunate, with somewhere on the order of a half dozen Mint State specimens extant according to the Rea-Koenings-Haroutunian census.

We note that just ten 1805 quarters have been graded finer than the present MS-63 example by PCGS. The in-hand appeal of this lustrous specimen is substantial, with a solidly original appearance in our opinion and superb all-around quality within the grade. Type coins of this era are not often seen with this much eye appeal, even in Mint State. This one should elicit a strong round of bidding activity.

PCGS# 5313. NGC ID: 23RC.

PCGS Population: 11; 10 finer through MS-65.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Jim McGuigan, May 2006; our sale of the MHS Collection, November 2011, lot 2025.*

## Choice Mint State 1825/4/(2) Quarter Browning-2



1124

**1825/4/(2) Capped Bust Quarter. B-2. Rarity-2. MS-63 (NGC).** A flashy and pearlescent silver example with golden overtones throughout. The luster is soft and satiny, displaying traces of prooflike reflectivity on the reverse. Sharply struck and free from notable abrasions.

The quarters of 1825 are exciting to study, rich with die states and full of particular interest to those who enjoy overdates. Three unused obverse dies for the quarter made in 1822 were overdated to become 1824 obverse dies. Of those three, one was able to strike every quarter dollar ordered by the Mint's depositors in 1824; the other two 1824/2 obverses were shelved. They remained in storage until 1825, when both

were again overdated and put into use, creating the 1825/4/2 overdate that is found on both obverse 1 of 1825 (Browning-1) and obverse 2 (Browning-2 and Browning-3). The remains of both overdates are easily seen here under magnification, and some traces may even be seen with the naked eye. This variety was long called the 1825/3 variety, while the other 1825 obverse (B-1) was called 1825/2. Recent study has resolved the question of what lies under the 5 digit with finality, ending decades of disagreements in terminology. According to Breen, this die was first called an "1825/4" by W. Elliot Woodward in July 1884.

PCGS# 5336. NGC ID: 23RS.

NGC Census: 20; 28 finer through MS-66.

## Condition Rarity 1828 Capped Bust Quarter



1125

**1828 Capped Bust Quarter. B-1. Rarity-1. MS-64 (NGC).** A handsome piece with wisps of rose and pearl gray toning to a base of warm silver-olive patina. This is an uncommonly well produced coin by early U.S. Mint standards, both sides boldly to sharply defined within uniformly denticulated borders. Both sides are exceptionally smooth in appearance and readily identify this coin as a conditionally rare survivor of this underrated type. The early (read: pre-1838) quarter series are among the most challenging to collect in all of U.S. numismatics. For starters, virtually all issues of the Draped Bust and Capped Bust types were produced in limited numbers, the only year that saw a seven-figure mintage being 1835 when 1,952,000 coins were struck. During the earliest decades of U.S. Mint operations silver coinage was not achieved on government account but, rather, at the request of bullion depositors who ordered specific denominations

for their bullion. Since the half dollar was the most popular silver denomination with contemporary bullion dealers, it is little wonder that few quarters were produced. During calendar year 1828, in fact, the Mint delivered just 102,000 examples of this denomination. When we further consider that the virtual lack of contemporary numismatic interest in these coins left the survival of Mint State examples almost entirely to chance, it is little wonder that high quality Capped Bust quarters of any date are elusive in today's market. Of the four known die marriages of the 1828 quarter Browning-1, offered here, accounts for the vast majority of survivors. This variety combines an obverse with repunching stars 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13 with a reverse on which the letter I in PLURIBUS is centered under the right side of the upright of the second letter T in STATES.

PCGS# 5342. NGC ID: 23RV.

NGC Census (all die varieties of the issue): 17; 6 finer in this category (MS-67 ★ finest).

## Near Gem 1831 Quarter



1126

**1831 Capped Bust Quarter. B-5, FS-301. Repunched Date. Large Letters. MS-64+ (PCGS).** A bloom of turquoise and golden iridescence surrounds a bulb of peach hues on the obverse of this stunning near-Gem. The reverse is more uniformly toned in a golden bronze hue with splashes of sapphire at the upper and lower borders. Liberty is sharply defined, showing incredible hair detail and bathed in satiny luster. The reverse fields are lightly prooflike and reflective, nicely framing the frosted eagle at center. Delightful to view in-hand, free from blemishes under inspection.

This popular issue is the first of the Reduced Diameter type in the Capped Bust quarter series and the first of the denomination struck since 1828. The introduction of new equipment allowed the Mint to produce coins of uniform diameter, with raised rims, and on thicker

planchets. Accordingly, William Kneass modified the basic Capped Bust motif introduced for the quarter in 1815 for use in producing this new reduced diameter coinage. Just shy of 400,000 1831 quarters, comprised of both the Large Letters and the Small Letters varieties. In addition to circulation strikes, the Philadelphia Mint struck a number of Proof quarters in 1831 of this revised type. The exact number coined went unrecorded and is otherwise unknown, though most of which were struck from the Browning-5 dies, as here. B-5 is readily identified from dramatic repunching of the date, with errant flags clearly protruding from the left side of the stands on each of the 1s. This piece is among the finest survivors of this issue, with only 5 coins certified finer by PCGS.

PCGS# 5349.

PCGS Population: 12; 5 finer.

## Gem Uncirculated 1834 Capped Bust Quarter



1127

**1834 Capped Bust Quarter. B-1. Rarity-1. O/F in OF. MS-65 (NGC).** This lovely quarter is dusted with iridescent champagne-gold obverse toning and, on the reverse, slightly bolder pewter gray patina. Both sides are highly lustrous with a smooth satin finish. It is fully struck, expertly preserved, and will be just right for inclusion in a high quality type or variety set.

The cornerstone of the second Philadelphia Mint building on Juniper and Chestnut streets was laid on July 4, 1829, by Mint Director Samuel Moore. At around the same time, the Mint, in its existing facility, introduced several technological improvements to its processes, chief among which was the close collar (a.k.a. "collar die") which simultaneously imparted reeding to the coins' edges (when desired) and gave them a uniform diameter during striking. The first coins produced using this innovation were the Capped Bust half dimes of 1829, a denomination not produced since 1805. The first chance to utilize the close collar for the quarter came in 1831, there being no examples of this denomination struck in 1829 or 1830.

To prepare the quarter for close collar production, Engraver William Kneass modified the existing Capped Bust design by John Reich to allow it to fit onto smaller planchets of uniform diameter. Kneass refined the portrait and eagle, removed the scroll upon which the Latin motto E PLURIBUS UNUM had been inscribed, and added a raised border around both sides. This type has since become known to numismatists as the Reduced Diameter, Reduced Size or, more informally, Small Size Capped Bust quarter. It was produced from 1831 through early 1838. Like its Large Diameter predecessor of 1815 to 1828, this type is among the more underrated in U.S. numismatics. Mint State examples of all issues are far scarcer than generally realized, and they are rare relative to demand. This Gem 1834 is of further interest due to repunching around the letters OF A in the legend, the reverse die previously used to strike the 1833 B-2 O/F in OF variety.

PCGS# 5353. NGC ID: 23RZ.

NGC Census (all die marriages of the issue): 10; 10 finer in this category (MS-67 finest).

## Exceedingly Rare Gem Uncirculated 1868-S Quarter



1128

**1868-S Liberty Seated Quarter. Briggs 1-A, the only known dies. MS-65 (NGC).** This overall sharply struck quarter is dusted with light champagne-gold iridescence. A few swirls of slightly warmer russet patina are evident around the peripheries, especially at the lower right reverse border. The satiny surfaces are smooth, appealing and solidly in the Gem category.

The 1868-S is one in a lineup of distinguished rarities among early San Francisco Mint quarters. As with the other issues in this group, the rarity of the 1868-S is due to a combination of a low mintage and a heavy rate of circulation. Only 96,000 pieces were produced, virtually all of which entered commerce at the time of delivery and remained

there until worn out or lost. The need for circulating coinage on the West Coast was certainly significant, but there was also essentially no numismatic demand for mintmarked coinage at the time and few contemporary Americans set aside an 1868-S quarter. We suspect that the few Mint State survivors known either survived by chance or represent Assay pieces that were not destroyed through the activities of the Commission. In any event, these are very rare, with Larry Briggs (1991) assigning a Rarity-6+ rating in Uncirculated condition. Among the finest certified and also the finest known, this impressive Gem will be a centerpiece in any numismatic cabinet.

PCGS# 5473. NGC ID: 23UG.

NGC Census: just 2; with a single MS-66 finer.

## Remarkable 1876-CC Liberty Seated Quarter



1129

**1876-CC Liberty Seated Quarter. MS-66+ (PCGS). CAC.** This expertly preserved Gem is fully struck throughout and will appeal to quality conscious bidders. Softly frosted luster blankets both sides, with the surfaces predominantly toned in a soft antique silver patina. Vivid outlines of olive-blue and copper-apricot frame most of the devices, with the colors more extensive and pronounced on the reverse. After

only the 1877-CC, the 1876-CC is the most readily obtainable Carson City Mint quarter in today's market and is popular for mintmarked type purposes. However it is still rare in the finest Mint State grades, as here. An impressive and important premium Gem that is sure to please.

PCGS# 5502. NGC ID: 23V3.

PCGS Population: just 1; 3 finer (MS-67+ finer).



## Superb Gem Proof 1883 Quarter



1130

**1883 Liberty Seated Quarter. Proof-68 Cameo (PCGS).** The present coin is a thoroughly magnificent example of this scarce issue with brilliant reflective fields and exceptionally frosty devices. The strike is impeccable on both sides, with sharp cameo contrast between the field and devices. The surfaces are nearly pristine and offer outstanding eye appeal. A great prize for the Seated Liberty Seated specialist. An eagerly sought date in the Motto Liberty Seated quarter series, the 1883 has a total mintage of a mere 15,439 pieces. Resources at the

time were focused on Morgan dollar production, and thus all minor silver coinage took a back seat. Fortunately, the Mint produced enough Proofs to satisfy collector demand and minted 1,039 examples in that format. Even so, in the very finest of grades, as here, this issue is certainly rare, and but a single example is rated higher in this category by PCGS at Proof-68+. The finest of the issue we have handled, and a coin that will attract strong bids in all directions.

PCGS# 85584. NGC ID: 23XF.

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (MS-68+) in this category.

## Desirable Mint State 1916 Standing Liberty Quarter



1131

**1916 Standing Liberty Quarter. MS-62 (PCGS).** A tinge of lavender and violet iridescence graces each side of this lovely Mint State specimen, introducing just a hint of color to the pearlescent surfaces. The luster is lively and uninterrupted throughout, varying between a fine satiny texture and a coarse mate-like texture in select areas. A trivial mark below IB of LIBERTY is apparent under a glass, though there is otherwise a vacuum of notable blemishes and the eye appeal is strong for the assigned grade.

Liberty quarter design was being adopted in late 1916 and a set of dies were prepared. Recall that Barber Quarters were issued in significant numbers in 1916 from both the Philadelphia and Denver mints. These new 1916 Standing Liberty Quarters were struck in the second half of December that year and all were released with the first batches of the new 1917 quarters in mid January by the Philadelphia Mint. Most entered circulation with little fanfare, and stayed there. Thankfully a few were saved by alert collectors as the first of their kind.

PCGS# 5704. NGC ID: 242Y.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Heritage's sale of January 2010, lot 2527.*

Mintage for this initial year of issue struggled to 52,000 pieces, a mere fraction of other prized rarities that are so well known today. Apparently the Philadelphia Mint received word of the new Standing

## Handsome Full Head 1918-D Quarter



1132

**1918-D Standing Liberty Quarter.** MS-66 FH (PCGS). Bold underlying luster supports a wealth of varied golden-pastel toning highlights. A sharp and appealing specimen with just a hint of weakness at two shield rivets, but with all the other design elements crisp and fully represented. One of the more underrated strike and condition rarities in the Standing Liberty quarter series of 1916 to 1930, the 1918-D entered the annals of numismatic history with a mintage of 7,380,000 pieces. A heavily circulated issue, survivors are scarce even in EF and AU grades. Mint State examples are also scarce by the standards of the

type, and most display average to poor striking detail. Writing in the 2007 edition of the book *Standing Liberty Quarters*, series specialist J.H. Cline estimates that only 3% of the original mintage emerged from the dies with Full Head definition. This smartly impressed beauty is certainly one of the best produced that we have ever handled, the fact that it is a premium quality Gem adding further to its already immense appeal for the advanced Standing Liberty quarter enthusiast.

PCGS# 5723. NGC ID: 2438.

PCGS Population: 28; 6 finer (MS-67 finest)

## Gem 1918-S Standing Liberty Quarter



1133

**1918-S Standing Liberty Quarter.** MS-66 FH (PCGS). An overall brilliant Gem with olive and bronze patina encircling the obverse border. The luster is uniform and satiny, cartwheeling over the fields and devices without disruption. Liberty's head is sharply sculpted, offering profile detail that is seldom seen on this issue. Thoroughly original and deeply attractive.

The mintage for the 1918-S came in at 11,072,000 pieces, of which perhaps as few as 100 pieces survive in Gem Mint State condition, and only 50 or so of those show Full Head detail. Noted Standing Liberty

quarter specialist J. Cline calls this date one of the toughest dates in the series to acquire in Gem Full Head form, and data from the certification services corroborates this statement. PCGS has graded only 11 pieces at the current MS-66 FH level and only 5 finer through MS-67 FH, asserting the present pieces as one of the finest survivors of the issue.

PCGS# 5725. NGC ID: 2439.

PCGS Population: 11; just 5 finer through MS-67 FH.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Choice Uncirculated 1918/7-S Quarter Condition Rarity



1134

**1918/7-S Standing Liberty Quarter. FS-101. MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** An exceptionally well preserved and attractive example of this challenging variety that is sure to catch the eye of astute collectors. Fully Choice in quality, both sides of this lovely example exhibit soft mint luster in a billowy frosty texture. Delicate golden-apricot toning is a bit more prevalent on the obverse. The strike is remarkably sharp for the variety, most design elements at least boldly defined and all three leaves on Liberty's head clear. As the only overdate and, indeed, major variety in the Standing Liberty quarter series of 1916 to 1930, the popularity of the 1918/7-S with specialists knows no bounds. This is a premium quality coin for both the variety and the assigned grade that is worthy of the strongest bids. The end of the First World War and the immediate post-War era saw a great need for circulating coinage in the booming economy of the United States. To supply enough working dies to all of the operational mints, the engraving department at the Philadelphia Mint undoubtedly went through periods of time when it was simultaneously producing dies for multiple years' production. One of those time periods was the end of 1917, when dies for both 1917- and 1918-dated coinage were being prepared. Researcher J.H. Cline presents this variety as a conventional repunched date, but more recent scholarship suggests that it is most likely a product of a hub

error. One obverse die for the Standing Liberty quarter received its first impression from a 1917-dated hub, but its second either purposely or inadvertently from a 1918-dated hub, creating the 1918/7 overdate. An S mintmark was applied and the die was shipped to the West Coast for use at the San Francisco Mint, where it struck an unknown, although presumably limited number of the 11,072,000 quarters struck in that facility during 1918. (The origins of another classic 20th century overdate — the 1918/7-D Buffalo nickel — are identical in both time and cause.) The 1918/7-S remained unknown to the numismatic community until 1937, the overdate making its first appearance in the *Standard Catalog* in 1942. The intervening 19 years between this overdate's production and its numismatic discovery were sufficient to see the wear, if not loss, of most examples through circulation. Indeed, survivors are highly elusive in all grades, and they are nothing short of rare in Mint State. Over the years our offerings for Uncirculated examples have been few and far between, and each has resulted in strong competition among astute bidders. We certainly anticipate the same greeting for this inviting piece.

PCGS# 5726. NGC ID: 243A.

PCGS Population: 27; 32 finer in this category (MS-66 finest).

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection.*

## A Remarkable Second Mint State 1918/7-S Quarter



1135

**1918/7-S Standing Liberty Quarter. FS-101. MS-63 (PCGS).** This is a wonderfully original example with speckled olive-rose toning to a base of light antique silver patina. Fully lustrous in a softly frosted texture, plenty of bold to sharp striking detail exists to further tempt the advanced Standing Liberty quarter enthusiast. Our multiple offerings in the present sale notwithstanding, the 1918/7-S is an elusive

variety in an absolute sense that is a significant condition rarity in all Mint State grades. This is a handsome and solid Choice Uncirculated coin that comes highly recommended for inclusion in an advanced collection.

PCGS# 5726.

PCGS Population: 27; 32 finer in this category (MS-66 finest).

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection.*

## A Third Example of a Legendary Overdate



1136

**1918/7-S Standing Liberty Quarter. FS-101. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** We are delighted to be offering multiple examples of this ever popular overdate Standing Liberty quarter. The present piece displays highly lustrous surfaces and is essentially brilliant apart from light golden peripheral toning on the obverse. The quality is so strong that a Mint

State grade seems warranted, though just a smidgen of wear at the centers does confirm the Choice AU assessment by PCGS. In any case, this is a very desirable coin, and is especially attractive at the assigned grade.

PCGS# 5726. NGC ID: 243A.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III.*

## Fully Struck Gem 1920-S Quarter



1137

**1920-S Standing Liberty Quarter. MS-65 FH (PCGS).** One of the key dates to the series and a difficult issue to find with the Full Head designation. Primarily brilliant, light golden undertones are visible on both sides as well as light russet on the reverse. Creamy satin luster spanning both sides and close examination finds no disturbances that warrant attention, not from handling or improper storage, and without question this is one of the finest seen of the date. It is a point of fact that most of these coins show varying degrees of die clashing in the fields, evidence of where the dies came together without a planchet to strike, thus imparting portions of their designs into the opposing

die. This common occurrence during the coinage process diminished die life, often required coinage to halt so the dies could be lapped or filed down lightly in order to remove these stray signs of clashing. The lapping process always removes part of the field of the die and actually reduces the depth of the devices in the die. A handsome and enticing example for the specialist, and a coin that will be well received by many eager bidders.

PCGS# 5739. NGC ID: 243G.

PCGS Population: 16; 10 finer (MS-66 finest).

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Radiant Gem 1926-S Standing Liberty Quarter



1138

**1926-S Standing Liberty Quarter. MS-65 FH (PCGS).** The luster of this piece is truly exceptional, offering a bright and flashy complexion that radiates under a light source. Sapphire and bronze iridescence accents the borders on each side, framing essentially brilliant centers and emphasizing the sharply struck central elements. The surfaces are free from observable blemishes and contribute to superior eye appeal in every respect.

The low survival rate of the 1926-S is somewhat of a mystery. In this year 1,716,000 quarters were struck at the Denver Mint and nearly 2/3rds more, 2,700,000 coins, were struck in San Francisco. However,

the 1926-D was saved in quantity but the 1926-S saw heavy circulation and few remain for today's collectors. A notorious strike rarity in a series replete with very challenging issues, the 1926-S is hardly ever offered with even above-average definition. As a no-questions Full Head with premium Gem-quality surfaces, this is an important example that ranks near the finest certified by PCGS. It is tied with 20 other coins at the MS-65 FH grade and only 12 rank finer through MS-66+ FH.

PCGS# 5759, NGC ID: 243T.

PCGS Population: 21; 12 finer through MS-66+ FH.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*



## Brilliant Near-Gem 1926-S Quarter



1139

**1926-S Standing Liberty Quarter. MS-64 FH (PCGS).** An additional high grade example from this challenging San Francisco issue. The luster here is frosty and uniform across all areas, dusted on the obverse by original olive patina. The complexion is bright and vibrant on the reverse, remaining platinum-white and untoned. Sharper than average for this issue and pleasing to examine in-hand. Only 2.7 million 1926-

S quarters were minted, one of the lower figures of the era. Relatively few were saved, making this a scarce issue today in finer Mint State grades. With the added distinction of a Full Head designation this is indeed a rarity.

PCGS# 5725. NGC ID: 243T.

PCGS Population: 20; 33 finer through MS-66+ FH.

*From the Anne Kate Collection. Earlier ex the William Walser Collection.*

## Incredible Gem 1929-D Quarter Nearly Finest Certified



1140

**1929-D Standing Liberty Quarter. MS-66 FH (PCGS).** A wonderfully originally specimen from this challenging issue with flashy luster and impressively untouched surfaces. The strike is essentially full, showing intricate head definition and nearly complete pronouncement to the shield rivets. The snow-white pearlescence that dominates is accompanied by the faintest apricot dusting that testifies to the overall premium surface quality.

This final-year Denver Mint issue in the Standing Liberty Quarter series is an overlooked rarity with Full Head striking detail. Only 2% of the original mintage of 1.3 million coins is believed to have been imparted

with such detail upon striking. When strike quality is considered in conjunction with overall preservation, the surviving population at the Gem level is dismal, and perhaps as few as 65 coins are available to collectors. This MS-66 FH example is among the very finest of this exclusive group, tied with only 14 other coins at the current grade and just 3 negligibly pieces finer in MS-66+.

PCGS# 5775. NGC ID: 2443.

PCGS Population: 15; just 3 finer in MS-66+ FH.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## HALF DOLLARS

## Historic 1794 Half Dollar

### Rare O-106 Die Pairing



1141

**1794 Flowing Hair Half Dollar. O-106, T-4. Rarity-6-. EF-40 (NGC).** A visually appealing example of the classic 1794 half dollar, the premier issue of this denomination struck in the fledgling United States Mint. Generally olive-gray surfaces reveal more vivid blue, lavender and orange-apricot undertones as the coin dips into a light. The strike is ideally centered within uniformly denticulated borders, all devices boldly defined and some of the more protected features quite sharp. Overall smooth in hand, close inspection reveals only a few wispy handling marks that are hardly worth mentioning. Tompkins Die Stage 1/1. The accepted mintage for this issue is just 23,464 pieces, the coins delivered in two batches: 5,300 pieces on December 1, 1794 and the remaining 18,164 coins on February 4, 1795. It is possible, however,

that some of the coins delivered on February 4 were from 1795-dated dies, the mintage of 23,464 pieces for the 1794-dated issue only an estimate. Far scarcer than the second year 1795, the 1794 is the more eagerly sought Flowing Hair half dollar among advanced collectors, which is also due to its status as the first issue of this denomination in U.S. coinage history. Overton-101 is the most frequently encountered of the 11 known die marriages, the remainder scarce to rare in numismatic circles. O-106, offered here, is in the former category, and like most varieties of the date it is unknown in any Mint State grade.

PCGS# 6051. NGC ID: 24E6.

*From The Des Moines Collection. Earlier from Heritage's sale of the Terry Brand Estate, Part VI, January 2018, lot 4846.*



## Condition Census 1795 Three Leaves Half Dollar

### Ex R.L. Miles, Jr.



1142

**1795/1795 Flowing Hair Half Dollar. O-111, T-19. Rarity-4+. Three Leaves. VF-30 (PCGS).** An important rarity for advanced specialists in the early half dollar series. The light dove-grey patina is accented by a faint golden iridescence that paints each side. The surfaces show gentle, uniform wear, with only an old mark near star 12 to be noted under scrutiny. Liberty's portrait is boldly defined, featuring intricate hair detail, profile features, and a sharp centering dot. The repunching of the date is dramatic and visible to the naked eye, echoed by a similar repunching to the B of LIBERTY. The diagnostic reverse crack is well formed, with a distinct shelf now developed between the upper and lower half of the die. Even so, traces of the breast feathers remain on the raised portion, speaking to the overall exceptional strike and superior preservation.

The 1795 Three Leaves variety has long been recognized as something significant among specialists. The rarity of this variety was acknowledged as early as March 1882, when an example was offered as part of the collection of Philadelphia dealer J. Colvin Randall in the sale cataloged by George Cogan and sold by Bangs & Co., both of New York City. Randall had been devising his own attribution system for early half dollars and had undertaken a massive amount of research on the series for the project. Cogan relays Randall's findings on the 1795 Three Leaves when cataloging his own example, noting for lot 115 that "Mr. Randall states that he has examined over 1,000 of this date and discovered only four of this variety, and knows of two others only. The rarest of the 1795 half dollars."

Though several ultra rare 1795 varieties have emerged in the 135 years since this assessment like the O-101 (R-7), O-123 (R-7), and the O-132 (R-8), the O-111 Three Leave remains incredibly elusive with only about 100 known in all grades. The present example falls into the lower end of the Condition Census, which is topped by the AU-58 (PCGS) Newman specimen. Following this is the AU Details—Cleaned (PCGS) example from the Meyer Collection, the EF-45 (PCGS) example from the (complete!) Chuck Link Collection, and a pair of EF-40 examples including the Queller specimen (NGC).

This piece is an old friend of our firm, having first appeared in our (Stack's) sale of May 1937 as part of the M.M.H. Consignment of "Most Unusual and Rare Colonial Coins." Accompanied by Sommer Island coinage, a pair of Continental dollars, Massachusetts Silver coinage and others, it was the only Federally-issued piece therein and called the "rarest 1795 half dollar." It was then offered in our March 1959 sale of the Pelletreau Collection before being sold by Stack's as part of the fabulous R.L. Miles, Jr. Collection in April 1969. This piece was last available publicly as in our Auction '85 sale and has since been held privately in an advanced cabinet of early half dollars. Appearing on the market now for the first time in over 30 years, this piece represents an irresistible opportunity for collectors approaching the early half dollar series by variety or *Red Book* type.

PCGS# 6053. NGC ID: 24E7.

PCGS Population: 3; 6 finer through AU-50.

*Ex Stack's sale of May 1937, lot 1371; Stack's sale of the Pelletreau Collection, March 1959, lot 723; Stack's sale of the R.L. Miles, Jr. Collection, April 1969, lot 1204; Stack's sale of September 1975, lot 226; Stack's Auction '85, July 1985, lot 1699.*

## Condition Census 1795 O-112 Half Dollar

### Popular Recut Date Variety



1143

**1795/1795 Flowing Hair Half Dollar. O-112, T-20. Rarity-4. Recut Date, Two Leaves. AU-55+ (NGC).** This is a gorgeous example of both the issue and type, its desirability further enhanced by the dramatic Recut Date attribution. Near-fully defined, and more so than typically seen even in Choice AU survivors of this type, both sides are expertly struck within boldly and uniformly denticulated borders. Ample satin luster remains, the surfaces overall smooth in hand. The entire package is dressed in rich steel gray patina that, at direct lighting angles, yields to more vivid undertones of reddish-gold, olive, and powder blue iridescence. A lovely example eagerly awaiting inclusion in an advanced cabinet.

Overton-112 is one of the two Recut Date varieties of the perennially popular 1795 Flowing Hair half dollar, the date sharply repunched low with the underdigits touching or extremely close to the denticles. Unlike O-113, which is mated with a Three Leaves reverse die, O-112 exhibits only two leaves on the inside of the wreath below both of the eagle's wings. Apart from the incredible Gem from the Lord St. Oswald Collection, the finest examples of this die marriage are a handful of AUs. The present example is ranked CC#3 in the Spring 2018 revision to Stephen J. Herrman's *Auction & Mail Bid Prices Realized for Bust Half Dollars: 1794-1839*.

PCGS# 39246. NGC ID: 24E7.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier from Heritage's CSNS Signature & Platinum Night Auction of April 2011, lot 5137. Collector envelope with attribution notation included.*

## Exceptional Mint State 1795 O-116 High Condition Census



1144

**1795 Flowing Hair Half Dollar. O-116, T-11. Rarity-4. MS-62 (PCGS).** This gorgeous Mint State specimen delivers a technical and aesthetic superiority that well exceeds the assigned grade. Each side glows with a frosty pearlescence, dusted in shades of apricot and gold. Satiny luster cartwheels across the fields at a tilt, showcasing remarkably pristine surfaces. The reverse is thinly veiled behind a weave of shallow adjustment marks most dense at the lower left border. The central elements remain nicely bold despite these adjustments, with select regions of peripheral softness to be noted. Characteristic die cracks and evidence of clashing on the obverse are now dramatic in this later state, and the letters of UNITED are clearly visible behind LIBERTY. Even the best image and most thorough description cannot convey how delightful this piece is to view in person. The 1795 half dollar is a perpetually sought-after issue by both type collectors and specialists. As a representative of the Flowing Hair type, it provides

a more available alternative to the elusive first-year issue of 1794, while providing half dollar specialists with 31 known die marriages to pursue. Of the approximately 317,844 1795 Flowing Hair half dollars struck, perhaps as few as 50 remain in Mint State. When considering examples of the O-116 variety, this Mint State population is dwindled down to just about 6 pieces. The unchallenged finest known O-116 is the MS-63+ (PCGS) Kaselitz specimen, behind which ranks a handful of examples tied at the MS-62 level including the present piece and the Eliasberg specimen. The current example is a newcomer to the Condition Census, having been off the radar of numismatists since its acquisition from Stack's in September 1986. A beautiful and important piece for half dollar specialists and PCGS Registry Set participants.

PCGS# 39232. NGC ID: 24E7.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer (O-116 variety only).

*Purchased privately from Stack's, September 1986.*

## The Norweb 1796 15 Stars Half Dollar Tied for Condition Census #3



1145

**1796 Draped Bust Half Dollar. Small Eagle. O-101, T-1. Rarity-5-. 15 Stars. MS-63 (NGC).** This phenomenal coin is fully prooflike in finish and, in fact, was cataloged as a “Proof” when offered in New Netherlands’ 1956 sale of the T. James Clarke Collection. Numismatic scholarship having advanced considerably since the 1950s, we now know that this coin does not qualify as a Proof in the strictest sense of the term. Even so, the fields are well mirrored, the strike is superior for a product of the early United States Mint and the surfaces have been preserved with a remarkable degree of care. Signs of contact are minimal and confined to a few minuscule abrasions and some even lighter hairlines that can be easily explained away as “cabinet friction” or a similar kind of numismatic handling. Of sizeable abrasions there is nothing to report, and the only significant blemish is a small swirl of variegated color in the upper right obverse field that represents a toning spot caused by a tiny piece of lint that still adheres to the coin’s surface in that area. This feature is the most suitable identifier we can find along with a minor planchet flaw (as made) at the reverse border between the words UNITED and STATES. Otherwise olive-gray in tone, with iridescent undertones of vivid pinkish-lilac and cobalt blue colors that come into view at more direct angles. A significant highlight of this sale, and a coin that would serve with distinction in any numismatic cabinet. Tompkins Die Stage 5/3.

The half dollars that the United States Mint delivered in 1797 differed from the previous issues for this denomination from 1794 and 1795. For in late 1796 Mint personnel adopted Robert Scot’s Draped Bust, Small Eagle design that had already been used in the production of 1795-dated silver dollars for use on the half dollar. The delivery of 1797 amounted to a mere 3,918 pieces, 1,934 or so examples having been struck from one of two 1796-dated obverse dies. Surprisingly for a denomination that otherwise proved extremely popular with contemporary bullion depositors, no more half dollars were ordered until 1801, at which time the Heraldic Eagle variant of the Draped Bust type became current. The Draped Bust, Small Eagle half dollar, therefore, became an instant numismatic rarity — a two-year type with a combined mintage of just 3,918 pieces. Survivors of both dates are scarce to rare in all grades, and they never fail to cause a stir among advanced collectors whenever the coins make an appearance at auction.

The 1796-dated half dollar delivery was achieved through the use of two obverse dies and a single reverse die in two marriages. Overton-101, offered here, is easy to distinguish from O-102 as the former variety exhibits only 15 stars around the obverse border. There are fewer than 100 different examples of the O-101 die marriage believed extant. The phenomenal Choice Mint State example that we offer here was once part of the fabulous Norweb Collection — as well as other important numismatic cabinets — and it is tied for Condition Census #3 for the die marriage with only two other MS-63s of which we are aware:

1 - **NGC MS-63.** Ex Waldo C. Newcomer; “Colonel” E.H.R. Green; T. James Clarke; New Netherlands’ 47th Sale (T. James Clarke), April 1956, lot 1195; our (Bowers and Merena’s sale of the Norweb Collection, November 1988, Part III, lot 3024; our (Bowers and Merena’s) sale of the Dennis Irving Long Collection, January 1990, lot 256; our (Stack’s) 65th Anniversary Sale, October 2000, lot 876; our (American Numismatic Rarities’) Frog Run Farm Collection sale, November-December 2004, lot 1236; our Baltimore Auction of November 2010, lot 1908. *The present example.*

2 - **NGC MS-63.** Ex our (Bowers and Merena’s) Four Landmark Collections Sale, March 1989, lot 1990; our (American Numismatic Rarities’) Allison Park Collection Sale, August 2004, lot 418; Heritage’s Long Beach Signature Auction of June 2005, lot 6209; Heritage’s sale of the Southwest Collection, February 2008, lot 528.

3 - **PCGS MS-63.** Ex Benjamin H. Collins, January 1896; J.M. Clapp; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942; Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.; our (Bowers and Merena’s) sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, August 1997, lot 1673; Heritage’s Denver, CO Signature & Platinum Night Auction of August 2006, lot 5222.

PCGS# 39261. NGC ID: 24E9.

*Ex Waldo C. Newcomer; “Colonel” E.H.R. Green; T. James Clarke; New Netherlands’ 47th Sale (T. James Clarke), April 1956, lot 1195; our (Bowers and Merena’s) sale of the Norweb Collection, November 1988, Part III, lot 3024; our (Bowers and Merena’s) sale of the Dennis Irving Long Collection, January 1990, lot 256; our (Stack’s) 65th Anniversary Sale, October 2000, lot 876; our (American Numismatic Rarities’) Frog Run Farm Collection sale, November-December 2004, lot 1236; our Baltimore Auction of November 2010, lot 1908.*



## A Second 1796 Half Dollar



1146

**1796 Draped Bust Half Dollar. Small Eagle. O-101, T-1. Rarity-5-. 15 Stars. Fine Details—Plugged, Repaired (NGC).** This is a boldly retoned example dressed in even charcoal-steel patina. Border denticulation is full, the strike nicely centered on the planchet. All devices are fully outlined and clear, not always as made (see below), and we even note some sharper detail in the more protected areas of Liberty's portrait and the eagle's plumage. The repair work is extensive, the surfaces extensively tooled, almost certainly to remove sizeable abrasions. A hole at the upper right obverse border has been plugged, which work required extensive re-engraving of many of the letters in

the word LIBERTY. Our multiple offerings in this sale notwithstanding, the Draped Bust, Small Eagle half dollar as a type is scarce in today's market. The present example is far from perfect, although it represents a significant bidding opportunity for the budget-minded collector. A more affordable alternative to the Choice Mint State 1796 O-101 offered above.

PCGS# 39261. NGC ID: 24E9.

*From Heritage's sale of the John Stimson, Sr. Collection, Part II, February 2008, lot 527; Heritage's FUN Signature Auction of January 2017, lot 5640; Heritage's Long Beach Signature Auction of June 2017, lot 3646; Heritage's Dallas Signature Auction of November 2017, lot 16747.*

## A Third 1796 Small Eagle Half Dollar Scarcer 16 Stars Variety



1147

**1796 Draped Bust Half Dollar. Small Eagle. O-102, T-2. Rarity-5. 16 Stars. VG-10 (PCGS). CAC.** A lovely example of this challenging type, this coin presents exceptionally well for having seen considerable circulation. We find no difficulty appreciating the major design elements. All are well outlined, in fact, and we even note some bolder definition in the more protected areas of Liberty's portrait and the eagle's plumage. A few old, dull abrasions are easily overlooked, although they proved extremely useful in identifying this coin's past auction appearances. Nicely toned throughout, the reverse in silver-apricot and dove gray and the obverse with more vivid golden-orange and sea green highlights around the periphery. All in all, this is a strong VG example that is sure to have no difficulty finding its way into an advanced type collection or early half dollar set. Tompkins Die Stage 1/1.

We are pleased to be offering an example of each of the major varieties in the brief Draped Bust, Small Eagle half dollar series of 1796 to 1797 in this sale: 1796 15 Stars; 1796 16 Stars; and 1797. The present example, which for the grade is as nice as any that we have ever handled for this type, represents the scarcer of the two 1796-dated die pairings, and also the only one of the three *Guide Book* varieties with 16 stars around the obverse periphery. The 1796 O-102 is also the second rarest die pairing of the type, trailing just behind the 1797 O-102. An endearing coin that will ring great joy to its next owner.

PCGS# 6058. NGC ID: 24EA.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier from (Stack's) sale of the Laurence H. Gardner Collection from the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, March 2005, lot 167; our (American Numismatic Rarities') William H. LaBelle, Sr. Collection sale, July 2005, lot 1147; Ira and Larry Goldberg's Pre-Long Beach Auction of September 2005, lot 1706; our (Bowers and Merena's) Orlando Rarities Sale of January 2010, lot 353; Heritage's Houston Signature Auction of December 2010, lot 3613.*



## Significant 1797 Half Dollar Rarity Ex Ten Eyck-Newcomer-Green-Clarke



1148

**1797 Draped Bust Half Dollar. O-101a, T-1. Rarity-4+. AU Details—Improperly Cleaned (NGC).** This piece is a truly significant opportunity for half dollar specialists, offering a combination of rarity and provenance that is seldom encountered. The surfaces exhibit Condition Census sharpness, with just a trace of friction across the highest points. A blend of bronze, olive, and navy hues dominate the patina, while glints of dove-grey reveal themselves in select areas. Any indications of the suggested cleaning are trivial and the eye appeal remains strong. The right obverse stars show an isolated softness that is typical of the variety, which is also echoed correspondingly at AMERICA on the reverse. The balance of the design elements are sharply defined, even in light of this late die state, equivalent to Tompkins Die Stage 4/4. The reverse die is now shattered, showing a network of cracks radiating from the eagle through the legends to the rim. Evidence of planchet adjustment at Liberty's hair and pair of small marks at star 9 allow for convenient plate-matching and pedigree tracing as this piece undoubtedly passes into future significant cabinets. We can trace the first appearance of this example back nearly a century to May 1922, when it was offered as part of B. Max Mehl's legendary sale of the James Ten Eyck Collection. This auction was among the most noteworthy numismatic events of the era, featuring, among other rarities, an 1804 dollar and two Brasher doubloons. The present

1797 half dollar was plated in lot 433 with a grade of "Practically uncirculated." Mehl noted that "only the highest points show slight circulation or probably cabinet friction." and that it was "one of the finest specimens of this date that I have ever handled." "This piece seemingly drew the attention of several noteworthy numismatists, passing through the hands of Waldo Newcomer and "Colonel" E.H.R. Green after the Mehl auction and eventually wound up in the famed collection of T. James Clarke. Clarke was more widely known for his impressive taste in large cents, though his cabinet of early half dollars included many finest known and condition census examples. Upon his death, the Clarke estate was consigned by Clarke's widow to New Netherlands Coin Company's 47th Sale of April 1956, where this piece was called "just about Uncirculated" in lot 1196. We first handled this piece almost a decade ago as part of our March 2010 Baltimore auction and are pleased to be offering this important rarity once again.

PCGS# 6060. NGC ID: 24EC.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex B. Max Mehl's sale of the James Ten Eyck Collection, May 1922, lot 433; Waldo Newcomer; "Colonel" E.H.R. Green; New Netherland's sale of the T. James Clarke Collection, April, 1956, lot 1196; Heritage's sale of January 2007, lot 957; our (Bowers and Merena's) Baltimore Auction of March 2010, lot 808; our (Stack's) Nashville Sale of May 2010, lot 4145; our (Bowers and Merena's) Boston Rarities Sale of August 2010, lot 515; Heritage's sale of January 2011, lot 5542.*

## Condition Census 1802 Half Dollar



1149

**1802 Draped Bust Half Dollar. O-101, T-1. Rarity-3. AU-55 (PCGS).** Swaths of rich mint luster, particularly on the reverse, billow from the protected regions of this impressive rarity. The surfaces are silvery and pearlescent, accented by tinges of peach and violet that deepen at the borders. Nicely bold, showing notions of peripheral softness that are typical of the variety, though the centers remain sharp. A beautiful and technically superior piece.

Just one pair of dies was employed to strike the entire 1802 issue, recycling the reverse die from the 1801 O-102 variety. With 29,890 coins struck, this issue has the lowest mintage of the Draped Bust, Heraldic Eagle type and is a key date along with the 1801. The Condition Census is topped by two Mint State examples, including the MS-62 (PCGS) Pogue specimen, followed by a half dozen pieces down through the lower AU grades. An astounding Choice AU example like the current piece falls comfortably within the top 6 or so specimens and is a significant find for half dollar collectors.

PCGS# 6065. NGC ID: 24EE.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Heritage's sale of April 2013, lot 4260.*

# Magnificent Choice 1806 Half Dollar

## Rare Prime Die State

### The Finest Known



1150

**1806 Draped Bust Half Dollar. O-123'. Rarity-6. Pointed 6, Stem Through Claw. MS-64 (PCGS).** The present specimen is an extraordinary representative of the Draped Bust, Heraldic Eagle half dollar, irrespective of die pairing. However, with the added considerations of die variety and die state, this piece becomes a monumental rarity that cannot be overlooked. A faint splash of golden peach iridescence accents the centers of each side, framed by deeper shades of bronze and sapphire at the borders. The complexion is dramatically prooflike, courtesy of reflective and mirrored fields that surround the more satiny design elements. This marriage represents the fourth employment of this obverse die, having been earlier used in the O-124, O-128, and O-130 pairings. Signs of refinishing are apparent in the recesses of Liberty's hair, and the overall sharpness remains superb. The strike on the reverse exceeds that of any other example from these dies, with full pronouncement to the astral array, the eagle's head, and the ribbon, which are typically soft or non-existent. Evidence of striking through debris, likely grease, is seen near the right border, though this goes largely unnoticed to the naked eye. Just the smallest, trivial ticks are visible under magnification, leaving the eye appeal undisturbed and truly astonishing.

This early die state is notably scarcer than the later, cracked state (O-123, R-5-) with an arcing break from TED through STATES. The PCGS holder does not indicate that this is the prime die state (O-123'), though the dies are explicitly without cracks and virtually perfect. As a new entrant to the Condition Censuses of both the overall die marriage and the die state, this piece redefines our perception of finest known in each case. When compared against the scant population of prime examples it easily ranks above all known pieces, shining as the only Mint State specimen and far outweighing the sole AU-58 (PCGS) that sits in second place. Beneath that lies the AU Details—Cleaned (NGC) coin from our March 2018 sale of the Sutton Court Collection and the population then falls to the EF level, with the Jules Reiver coin (VF-25 NGC) at the lower end. When placed in the context of the overall die marriage it still remains impressive, tying for finest known alongside the MS-64 (NGC) Newman specimen. This jewel is being offered at public auction now for the first time in at least four decades, having been handled by Chicago dealer Ed Milas in the 1970s and traded privately since. Advanced specialists in the early half dollar series will be sure to pay close attention to this irresistible near-Gem.

PCGS# 39329. NGC ID: 24EJ.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer (O-123 variety)

*Ex Ed Milas of RARCOA, privately in the 1970s.*

# Exceedingly Rare Proof 1836 Half Dollar

## 50/00 Lettered Edge

### One of Only Seven Examples Confirmed

### The Breen Plate Coin



1151

**1836 Capped Bust Half Dollar. Lettered Edge. O-116. Rarity-7 as a Proof. 50/00. Proof-64 (PCGS). CAC.** Writing in the 1989 edition of his encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial proof coins, the late Walter Breen accounts for four die marriages of the Proof 1836 Lettered Edge Capped Bust Half Dollar. Of the four varieties, two are of perhaps the greatest interest to advanced Bust half dollar enthusiasts: the 1836/1336 O-108; and the 50/00 O-116 blundered reverse, a Proof example of which is being offered in this lot. All Proof 1836 Lettered Edge half dollars are rare coins regardless of individual die marriage. This is in keeping with the rarity of pre-1858 United States Mint Proof coins as a group, such pieces having been produced in very limited numbers, mostly for presentation or similar special purposes. In the specific case of the Proof 1836 Lettered Edge half dollar, a small number of coins appear to have been requested at various different times during the year, explaining the existence of several different die marriages. Obviously Mint employees, when tasked with striking a few Proof half dollars of this date, simply grabbed whatever dies came most readily to hand, prepared them for Proof coinage and delivered the small number of specimens requested. Our research indicates that there are no more than 15-20 Proof 1836 Lettered Edge half dollars extant of all die marriages. The Proof O-116 50/00 variety being showcased in this lot is an important rarity with only seven specimens positively known to exist:

1 - **NGC Proof-67.** Ex Henry Chapman's sale of the George H. Earle Collection, June 1912, lot 2957; John H. Clapp; Clapp estate, 1942; Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, April 1997, lot 1906; Superior's Salt Lake City ANA Sale, March 2001, lot 284; our (Bowers and Merena's) Milwaukee Rarities Sale, August 2007, lot 688.

2- **NGC Proof-66.** Ex "Colonel" E.H.R. Green; Green estate; partnership of Eric P. Newman and Burdette G. Johnson, doing business as St. Louis Stamp & Coin Co.; Eric P. Newman, acquired for \$40.00; Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society; Heritage's sale of the Eric P. Newman Collection, Part II, November 2013, lot 33461.

3 - **PCGS Proof-65.** Ex our (Stack's) Northern Bay Collection sale, May 2006, lot 4323; Heritage's Dallas Signature Coin Auction, October

2006, lot 1155; Heritage's sale of the Greensboro Collection, Part II, January 2013, lot 5640. This coin is certified with coin #6221, which is now used to denote the Proof 1836 Lettered Edge Half Dollar as an issue and not the specific 50/00 variety, although the 50/00 attribution is also noted on the coin's insert.

4 - **PCGS Proof-64.** Ex Kreisberg-Schulman's S.W. Freeman Sale, May 1958, lot 1655; Empire Coin Company; Lester Merkin's sale of September 1967, lot 256; Superior's Hoagy Carmichael and Wayne Miller Collections sale, February 1986, lot 2414; Superior's Baltimore '93 Auction, July 1993, lot 415; Heritage's ANA Sale of July 1997, lot 6353; our (Stack's) sale of the Hain Family Collection, January 2002, lot 1433; our (Stack's) sale of the George "Buddy" Byers Collection of U.S. Half Dollars, October 2006, lot 1092; our Baltimore Auction of March 2011, lot 1965. *The present example*, and also the plate coin for the Proof 1836 Lettered Edge half dollar as an issue in the 1989 book *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins: 1722-1989*.

5 - **PCGS Proof-64.** Ex New Netherlands Sale #45, April 1995, lot 795; R.J. Lathrop; Elliot Landau; New Netherlands Sale #52, December 1958, lot 565; our (Bowers and Merena's) Pennsylvania Cabinet sale, January 1999, lot 1136.

6 - **"Brilliant Gem Proof"** Ex our (Stack's) sale of the Reed Hawn Collection, August 1973, lot 115; our (Stack's) sale of the Dr. George F. Oviedo, Jr. Collection of U.S. Half Dollars, September 1985, lot 825; our (Bowers and Merena's) Spring Quartette Sale, March 1992, lot 2563.

7 - **"Proof-60 to 63."** Ex R. Coulton Davis; John W. Haseltine; New Netherlands, August 1954; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Norweb Collection, November 1988, lot 3115.

An eighth possible Proof 1836 O-116 half dollar is the impaired specimen that Walter Breen owned circa 1956, although the provenance and whereabouts of that piece are unknown. The coin that we are offering in this lot represents an important bidding opportunity for the advanced proof Half Dollar collector. This piece is lightly patinated in a blend of pale-silver and iridescent olive-apricot toning, the latter color increasing dramatically in vividness and vibrancy as the coin

dips into a light. The strike is impressive for a Proof half dollar of this die marriage, a couple of examples of which are a bit softly defined in isolated areas (for example, the Pennsylvania Cabinet and Hawn-Oviedo specimens listed above). On this piece, the detail is razor sharp throughout with the denticles crisp and the devices essentially full apart from extremely minor lack of detail confined to star 6 on the obverse and the top of the digit 5 in the denomination on the reverse. A uniformly mirrored finish shines forth powerfully as the coin rotates under a light, and a few wispy hairlines are easily overlooked. There are few readily provenance markers, although a minuscule toning spot at the reverse border near the upper left corner of the first letter S in STATES did help us when plate matching this coin to earlier auction appearances. Of the utmost rarity and desirability, and eagerly awaiting inclusion in the finest specialized cabinet. The present piece is tied with the Proof-64 (PCGS) Pennsylvania Cabinet specimen as one of only two examples awarded the coveted green sticker by CAC, testifying to the exceptional vibrancy that is apparent throughout. The O-116 die marriage is attributable by repunching on star 12 on the obverse

and, of course, the readily evident reverse blunder with the digit 5 in the denomination punched over a misplaced 0. Remnants of the underdigit are clearly evident to the left of the 5. This die marriage was later used to strike what must have been a large number of circulation strikes, examples of which are readily obtainable in the context of the Capped Bust half dollar series. The Proofs, of course, are very rare and seldom offered. The most recent offering of a Proof O-116 featured the Proof-65 (PCGS) Northern Bay-Greensboro specimen which realized \$76,375, stressing the strong demand for this issue in today's market.

PCGS# 6228.

*Ex Kreisberg-Schulman's S.W. Freeman Sale, May 1958, lot 1655; Empire Coin Company; Lester Merkin's sale of September 1967, lot 256; Superior's Hoagy Carmichael and Wayne Miller Collections sale, February 1986, lot 2414; Superior's Baltimore '93 Auction, July 1993, lot 415; Heritage's ANA Sale of July 1997, lot 6353; our (Stack's) sale of the Hain Family Collection, January 2002, lot 1433; our (Stack's) sale of the George "Buddy" Byers Collection of U.S. Half Dollars, October 2006, lot 1092; our Baltimore Auction of March 2011, lot 1965. The plate coin for the Proof 1836 Lettered Edge half dollar as an issue in the 1989 book Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins: 1722-1989.*

## Impressive Gem 1873 Arrows Half Dollar



1152

**1873 Liberty Seated Half Dollar. Arrows. WB-106. Large Arrows. MS-65 (PCGS).** Smooth and lustrous surfaces are accented by nicely blended hues of blue and gold on both sides with brighter highlights at the peripheries. Well struck with nice definition of most fine details. The With Arrows half dollars of 1873 and 1874 are quite scarce in gem grades; indeed this is one of just 20 graded at this level or finer by PCGS, topping out at "just" MS-66. Since examples at this grade level

are often purchased for type sets it is useful to mention that among all date and mintmark varieties of 1873 and 1874 Arrows half dollars, just 15 coins have been graded finer by PCGS, so there are a very limited number to go around. As a solidly graded Gem of a popular type coin, you can expect to see spirited bidding when this one crosses the block.

PCGS# 6343. NGC ID: 24L7.

PCGS Population: 16; 4 finer (MS-66 finest).

## Superb Gem Proof 1892 Half Dollar



1153

**1892 Barber Half Dollar. Proof-67 (NGC). CAC.** A breathtakingly beautiful specimen, both sides exhibit a pronounced cameo finish from the dies that goes unmentioned on the old style NGC insert. The devices are not only heavily frosted, but they possess razor sharp striking detail over even the most intricate features. Deeply mirrored in the fields, with enchanting golden-copper and powder blue peripheral toning around brilliant centers. The highest mintage Proof Barber half dollar, the first year 1892 was produced to the extent of

1,245 pieces to meet particularly strong contemporary demand that the Mint anticipated in connection with the launching of the new dime, quarter and half dollar designs that year. A favorite with type collectors for decades, the Proof 1892 is readily obtainable in lower grades but scarce to rare above the Choice level. This premium quality Superb Gem, deeply cameoed in finish to boot, is sure to sell for an exceptionally strong bid.

PCGS# 6539. NGC ID: 24NU.

NGC Census: 15; 2 finer in this category (both Proof-68).

## Beautiful Gem Mint State 1897-S Half Dollar Among the Finest Known to PCGS



1154

**1897-S Barber Half Dollar. MS-66 (PCGS). CAC.** An extraordinary premium Gem from an issue that can be elusive even in circulated grades. This is a lovely coin in all regards, both sides with a razor sharp strike and bountiful satin to softly frosted luster. The surfaces are smooth and attractive beneath a dusting of iridescent pinkish-silver and olive-gray patina. As a rule, the New Orleans and San Francisco mint issues in the Barber half dollar series of 1892 to 1915 saw extensive commercial use since their respective year of issue, the typical survivor

in numismatic hands a well worn coin in AG, Good or VG. With a limited mintage of 933,900 pieces, the 1897-S is scarcer than most issues in this group, even in worn condition. In Mint State the 1897-S is nothing short of rare, the few coins extant at that level likely set aside by contemporary numismatists. Exceptionally well preserved with eye appeal to spare, this upper end MS-66 is among the finest certified and would do justice to even the most advanced cabinet. Outstanding!

PCGS# 6479. NGC ID: 24M2.

PCGS Population: 3; 6 finer (MS-67+ finest).

## Gem 1917-D Walking Liberty Half Dollar Obverse Mintmark



1155

**1917-D Walking Liberty Half Dollar. Obverse Mintmark. MS-66 (PCGS).** This radiant Gem is as beautiful as it is pristine, showcasing a subtle patina of bronze, sapphire, and gold around the brilliance remaining at center. The reverse is dominated by pleasing dove-grey surfaces, with a complementary blend of olive-green and amber iridescence flooding the recessed areas. Very sharply rendered, with copious mint luster and a lovely matte-like texture in the fields. magnified inspection fails to expose a single noteworthy blemish and the eye appeal is exceptional.

The 1917-D Obverse Mintmark variety has the lowest mintage figure of any of the mintmarked varieties of the date. It is scarce in owner Mint State grades and rare in Gem and above. The present piece represents the finest quality of the issue seen by PCGS, tied with only 5 others at MS-66 and none ranked finer.

PCGS# 6570. NGC ID: 24PR.

PCGS Population: 6; none finer.

## Choice Mint State 1917-S Obverse Mintmark Half Dollar



1156

**1917-S Walking Liberty Half Dollar. Obverse Mintmark. MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** A lovely near-Gem in all regards, both sides are minimally toned in wisps of pale silver and gold iridescence. Most viewing angles reveal a brilliant coin, in fact, the surfaces allowing ready appreciation of full mint luster. The strike is bold to sharp throughout, and the appearance is expectably smooth for the assigned grade. Although the 1917-D Obverse has a lower mintage (765,400 vs. 952,000 pieces), the 1917-S Obverse is the rarest of the second year issues

in the Walking Liberty half dollar series. Few examples were kept from entering circulation and Mint State survivors are scarce to rare in all grades. In terms of total number of Uncirculated coins believed extant, in fact, the 1917-S Obverse is the rarest Walking Liberty half dollar after only the 1921-S, 1919-S, 1919-D, 1921-D and 1920-D. Nearly in the full Gem category, this premium quality example represents an important bidding opportunity for the advanced collector.

PCGS# 6572. NGC ID: 24PT.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection.*

## Radiant Gem 1917-S Walking Liberty Half Dollar Reverse Mintmark



1157

**1917-S Walking Liberty Half Dollar. Reverse Mintmark. MS-65 (PCGS). CAC.** This is an exceptionally beautiful example of this scarce issue bathed in a medley of gold and pinkish iridescence. The luster is uniform and matte-like, remaining fully composed across the exposed regions. A trio of individual edge reeds floats in the right obverse field, representing the only notable imperfection throughout. Choice for the grade and absolutely enamoring to view in-hand.

The conditionally challenged 1917-S Reverse Mintmark issue is a much rarer Walker in the finer Mint State grades than a sizeable

mintage of 5.5 million pieces might imply. This is a second-year issue in its series, which means that it benefited from neither the first-year status of the 1916-dated issues nor the more advanced numismatic activity of the 1940s, both of which scenarios resulted in the saving of greater numbers of Mint State coins. Scarce even in MS-64, the extant population of the 1917-S Reverse in Gem dwindles down to less than 100 distinct survivors. PCGS has certified just 14 coins finer than the present example.

PCGS# 6573. NGC ID: 24PU.

PCGS Population: 50; just 14 finer through MS-66+.

## Toned Gem 1918-D Walking Liberty Half Dollar



1158

**1918-D Walking Liberty Half Dollar. MS-65 (PCGS).** A perfect blend of exceptional preservation and rich color makes this piece a stunning example to experience in-hand. The centers remain pearlescent and silvery, though the borders are painted by deepening autumnal hues that include orange, amber, magenta, and olive green. Uniformly lustrous and satiny, the surfaces remain smooth and unblemished to inspection and uphold full Gem quality. Only 5 coins rank finer at PCGS through MS-66.

Produced during the final year of World War I when the United States' economy was still strong due to the nation's participation in that conflict, the 1918-D had a generous mintage of 3.8 million pieces. The demands of commerce were great, however, and the vast majority

of examples entered circulation at the time of issue and remained there until heavily worn or lost. The result is that the 1918-D is now numbered among the rarer Walking Liberty half dollars even in lower Mint State grades. The typical Uncirculated survivor is limited in grade by subdued luster, excessive surface abrasions and/or soft striking detail in and around the centers. Writing in the 2008 book *Ccollecting & Investing Strategies for Walking Liberty Half Dollars*, specialist Jeff Ambio ranks the 1918-D as the third rarest issue in this series at and above the MS-65 grade level.

PCGS# 6575. NGC ID: 24PW.

PCGS Population: 27; 5 finer through MS-66.

From the Anne Kate Collection.

## Scarce Gem 1918-S Walking Liberty Half Dollar



1159

**1918-S Walking Liberty Half Dollar.** MS-65 (PCGS). CAC. OGH. Faintly prooflike in complexion, the luster across this Gem vacillates between satiny and frosty in different regions. The surfaces are generally pearly and platinum-white, though the reverse is accented by swaths of honey-gold patina that paints the peripheries. Untroubled my marks of any consequence and delightfully enticing to view in-hand.

Although the mintage for the 1918-s was seemingly plentiful at over 10 million pieces, examples are surprisingly scarce in higher Mint State grades. With the United States' economy in full swing during the final

year of World War I, the pressing need for new coinage in the avenues of commerce precluded most 1918-S half dollars from remaining Uncirculated. Hence, this is a Condition Rarity at the Gem level and a coin that should be pursued by any serious specialist who needs an example for their collection. Finer examples are virtually unobtainable above the Gem level of this date and mint, with only 6 pieces certified finer by PCGS.

PCGS# 6576. NGC ID: 24PX.

PCGS Population: 31; 6 finer through MS-67.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Near Gem 1919-D Walking Liberty Half Dollar



1160

**1919-D Walking Liberty Half Dollar.** MS-64 (PCGS). A subtle medley of pinkish and lavender tones blankets the lustrous facade of this important near Gem. The fields show a fine satin texture that remains entirely undisturbed by friction and softly cartwheels at a tilt. Sharper than average, the central elements are nicely defined for the issue and Liberty's head shows good detail to her temple region.

In Mint State this is the third rarest issue of its type, surpassed by only the 1921-S and 1919-S. However, it is a severe strike rarity, with most Uncirculated examples flatly struck in the centers and limited to grades well below Gem. From a mintage of just 1,165,000 pieces, this is a significant piece that is sure to appeal to astute Walking Liberty half dollar enthusiasts. Just 19 coins rank finer at PCGS through MS-66.

PCGS# 6578. NGC ID: 24PZ.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Gem 1919-S Walking Liberty Half Dollar



1161

**1919-S Walking Liberty Half Dollar.** MS-65 (PCGS). CAC. A flashy and pearlescent example of this scarce San Francisco issue. Overall brilliant, a faint golden iridescence graces each side and testifies to undeniable originality. The surfaces themselves are uniformly lustrous and essentially untouched, maintaining full composure under magnification.

A key date Walking Liberty half dollar even in circulated grades, the 1919-S has a mintage of just 1,552,000 pieces. In Mint State it is the second rarest issue of the type after the 1921-S (per Jeff Ambio,

*Collecting & Investing Strategies for Walking Liberty Half Dollars*, 2008). Most survivors grade no finer than MS-64 due to impaired luster, numerous wispy abrasions and excessive softness of strike in the prime focal areas. Strong bids are encouraged for the present lot, as it may be quite some time before another 1919-S half dollar with such solid technical quality and strong eye appeal becomes available.

PCGS# 6579. NGC ID: 24R2.

PCGS Population: 38; 15 finer through MS-65+.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Key Date 1921 Walking Liberty Half



1162

**1921 Walking Liberty Half Dollar.** MS-64 (PCGS). A faint iridescence of olive and golden tones overlays the surfaces of this radiant jewel. The fields on each side show traces of clashing and subsequent die polishing, resulting in an extraordinarily satiny complexion. Undoubtedly original and approaching full Gem preservation in many respects.

One of the most popular and eagerly sought issues in the entire Walking Liberty half dollar series, the 1921 has the second lowest mintage of the type at just 246,000 pieces. Writing in the 2008 book *Collecting & Investing Strategies for Walking Liberty Half Dollars*, Jeff Ambio ranks this issue seventh in overall Mint State rarity.

PCGS# 6583. NGC ID: 24R6.

## Extraordinary 1936 Half Dollar in Proof-68 Tied for Highest Graded



1163

**1936 Walking Liberty Half Dollar. Proof-68 (NGC).** This is a breathtakingly beautiful Superb Gem that is tied with one other Proof-68 at PCGS for finest certified honors among survivors of this key date Walking Liberty half dollar issue. Ringed in rich reddish-copper, golden-orange and medium olive peripheral toning, the obverse is lighter in the center with a dusting of silver gray iridescence. The reverse is even more vividly and extensively toned in similar, yet more varied colors that extend far more deeply into the center of the coin. Fully struck throughout with a universally brilliant finish from the dies, this enchanting specimen is sure to have no difficulty finding its way into a top ranked Walking Liberty half dollar set on the

NGC Registry. The first Proof half dollar struck in the United States Mint since 1915, and the first of the Walking Liberty design type, the popularity of the 1936 with today's collectors knows no bounds. This is also the key date issue among Proof Walkers, the mintage of 3,901 pieces lower than that of the other six issues in this brief Proof series. Eagerly sought at all levels of preservation, the 1936 is a monumental condition rarity above the Proof-67 level, there being just one example in Proof-68 certified at both PCGS and NGC, and none finer at either service. A fleeting bidding opportunity that is sure to result in fierce competition among advanced collectors.

PCGS# 6636. NGC ID: 27V4.

NGC Census: just 1; 0 finer. The corresponding PCGS Population is also 1/0.

## Phenomenal Ultra Cameo Proof 1950 Half Dollar Rarity



1164

**1950 Franklin Half Dollar. Proof-65 ★ Ultra Cameo (NGC).** This breathtakingly beautiful Gem offers exceptional striking quality and surface preservation for this challenging Proof Franklin half dollar issue. Untoned throughout, both sides exhibit an uncommon degree of field to device contrast that readily upholds the validity of the coveted Ultra Cameo designation from NGC. Silky smooth in appearance with eye appeal to spare, this gorgeous specimen would serve as a highlight in the finest specialized collection. The 1950 is not only the first Proof half dollar of this type, but it is also the most challenging to collect. The mintage of 51,386 Proofs is the lowest in this series, and most survivors show considerable evidence of having been poorly made

or carelessly handled. According to Rick Tomaska in the 2002 edition of *The Complete Guide to Franklin Half Dollars*, "Glue spots, the use of overused dies, poor packaging, improper handling, all conspire to make high quality examples of this date extremely scarce or rare." The present example is an undeniable rarity in the Ultra Cameo category, and it is also possessed of virtually pristine surfaces. Advanced Franklin half dollar enthusiasts would be wise to take full advantage of the fleeting bidding opportunity that this lot represents.

PCGS# 96691. NGC ID: 27VA.

NGC Census: 13; just two of which include a ★ designation for superior eye appeal; 5 finer in this category (Proof-67 Ultra Cameo finest).

*From the Rosie Collection.*

## Extraordinary 1950 Franklin Half Dollar None Finer at PCGS



1165

**1950 Franklin Half Dollar. MS-67+ FBL (PCGS).** Breathtakingly beautiful surfaces are wonderfully original with the most vivid cobalt blue, salmon pink and orange-gold toning ringing much of the obverse periphery. Otherwise brilliant apart from pale milky-gold overtones, both sides are highly lustrous with full mint frost. Razor sharp striking detail and a virtually pristine appearance are also strong suits for this impressive condition rarity. The Philadelphia Mint's third contribution to the circulation strike Franklin half dollar series, the 1950 has a generous mintage of 7,742,123 pieces. Attractively toned Uncirculated

survivors, as here, are scarce by the standards of the type, primarily because the Treasury Department did not issue any Mint Sets in 1950. As a Superb Gem with the coveted Full Bell Lines designation from PCGS, the present example is also decidedly rare from a condition standpoint. A find for the advanced Franklin half dollar enthusiast that is sure to sell for a premium bid.

PCGS# 86656. NGC ID: 24SW.

PCGS Population: just 2; 0 finer.

*From the Rosie Collection.*



## Significant Gem Cameo Proof 1951 Half Dollar Among the Finest Known to PCGS



1166

**1951 Franklin Half Dollar. Proof-67 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** A delightful specimen with delicate silvery tinting to virtually pristine surfaces. Both sides possess an uncommon degree or field to device contrast in a Proof Franklin half dollar of this date — an attribute that is sure to catch the eye of astute collectors. The second Proof issue of its type, the 1951 was produced to the extent of 57,500 pieces. After only the first year 1950, this issue is the rarest in the Proof Franklin half dollar series. Like their 1950 predecessors, Proofs of this date are typically encountered with shallow mirrors in the fields — the present example is superior in this regard. Additionally, the cellophane sleeves that the Mint used to package 1951 Proof sets was quite abrasive. Most

coins that remained in the original packaging for an appreciable period of time have become hairlined to the point that they are confined to lower grades through Proof-64. Finally, Deep/Ultra Cameo-finish specimens of the Proof 1951 are nearly as rare as those of the Proof 1950, the latter issue highly regarded as a strike rarity in this regard. Add all of this together and the significance of this exquisite Superb Gem should be obvious to all bidders. Indeed, this is a coin that would serve as a highlight in even the finest Franklin half dollar set.

PCGS# 96692. NGC ID: 27VB.

PCGS Population: 2; with a single Proof-67+ Deep Cameo finer in this category.

*From the Rosie Collection.*

## Breathtakingly Beautiful Proof 1952 Half Dollar Rare Ultra Cameo



1167

**1952 Franklin Half Dollar. Proof-66 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** An enchanting Proof Franklin half dollar irrespective of date, this is a truly remarkable coin in an example of the third year 1952 issue. Not only are the fields deeply mirrored, but the devices are softly frosted and stand out with marked cameo contrast. Untoned throughout and expertly preserved, this coin would serve as a highlight in the finest collection of Franklin half dollars or modern U.S. Mint Proof coinage. The Philadelphia Mint produced 81,980 Proof half dollars in 1952. Quality control was superior to that observed for the Proof 1950 and 1951 issues, most examples displaying deeply mirrored fields from

having been coined from fresh dies. Additionally, the earlier problems with glue stains due to careless packaging are also gone. Yet even so, the Proof 1952 is still a significant strike and condition rarity in the finest Deep/Ultra Cameo grades. Given that we have offered precious few examples of this issue that are even remotely comparable to this breathtaking beauty, the strongest bids are clearly in order here.

PCGS# 96693. NGC ID: 27VC.

NGC Census: 7; just 2 finer in this category (Proof-67 Ultra Cameo finest).

*From the Rosie Collection.*

## Superb Deep Cameo Proof 1952 Half Dollar Among the Finest Certified



1168

**1953 Franklin Half Dollar. Proof-67 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** An exceptionally well produced and preserved example of this conditionally challenging Proof issue. Untoned silver white surfaces are deeply cameoed in finish with strong contrast between frosty devices and mirrored fields. Fully struck, as befits the method of manufacture, and virtually pristine in all regards. The 1953 is the first Proof half dollar of the Franklin design type with a mintage in excess of 100,000 coins. Of the 128,800 pieces produced, the vast majority are

either universally brilliant or, to a far lesser extent, modestly cameoed in finish. Deep Cameo specimens have always been rare, especially in grades that approach the zenith of numismatic perfection. One of several truly impressive Proof Franklin halves that we are offering in this sale, this delightful Superb Gem is sure to see spirited bidding among astute collectors.

PCGS# 96694. NGC ID: 27VD.

PCGS Population: 15; 2 finer in this category (Proof-68 Deep Cameo finest).

*From the Rosie Collection.*

## Remarkable Strike Rarity 1953-S Half Dollar



1169

**1953-S Franklin Half Dollar. MS-65 FBL. (PCGS).** This FBL Gem Franklin half dollar offers outstanding quality and eye appeal. Dusted with delicate iridescent gold toning, both sides are highly lustrous with an intense satin to softly frosted texture. The remarkably full strike is sure to result in a strong realized price as the 1953-S is the rarest half dollar of this type with Full Bell Lines detail, and by a wide margin. Even in Choice Mint State such pieces are elusive, while in Gem

Uncirculated, as here, examples are usually encountered only once in a very long while. One of our most significant Franklin half dollar offerings in recent memory, this coin comes highly recommended for inclusion in an advanced set of this underrated 20th century series.

PCGS# 86666. NGC ID: 24T8.

PCGS Population: 23; 4 finer in this category (MS-66 FBL finest).

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*



## Virtually Pristine Ultra Cameo Proof 1961 Half Dollar



1170

**1961 Franklin Half Dollar. Proof-69 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** Gorgeous snow white surfaces are fully untoned with stark field to device contrast. Silky smooth in texture and, indeed, virtually pristine, this outstanding specimen belongs in the finest Proof Franklin half dollar set. The 1961 ranks alongside the 1962 and 1963 as one of the highest mintage Proofs of this type. While survivors of this 3,028,244-piece issue are certainly plentiful in an absolute sense, precious few can compare to the present Superb Gem in terms of quality or eye appeal.

Indeed, the Proof 1961 is equally as rare as the Proof 1960 with a Deep/Ultra Cameo finish, this despite the fact that the latter issue has a mintage that is only about one third that of the Proof 1961. With surface preservation that approaches perfection, the coin offered here represents what could very well be a once in a lifetime find for the quality conscious Proof Franklin half dollar specialist. Outstanding!

PCGS# 96702. NGC ID: 24TZ.

NGC Census: just 7; 0 finer in this category.

*From the Rosie Collection.*

## Exceptional Proof-69 Ultra Cameo 1962 Half Dollar



1171

**1962 Franklin Half Dollar. Proof-69 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** With strong field to device contrast, virtually pristine surfaces and eye appeal to spare, this untuned specimen would make an impressive addition to the finest Proof type or date set. From a mintage of 3,218,019 pieces, the most generous in the Proof Franklin half dollar series. While the 1962 is widely regarded as a "type issue" among Proof Franklins, astute collectors are aware that Deep/Ultra Cameo examples are scarce in an

absolute sense. In the finest grades, as here, such pieces are nothing short of rare. Remarkable quality and eye appeal that is sure to result in strong bidder competition.

PCGS# 96703. NGC ID: 27VK.

NGC Census: 35; 0 finer in this category.

*From the Rosie Collection.*

## Condition Census 1963 Proof Half Dollar



1172

**1963 Franklin Half Dollar. Proof-69 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** Among the finest certified for this final year Proof Franklin half dollar issue, this is a truly outstanding Superb Gem that really needs to be seen to be fully appreciated. Both sides are brilliant without even the lightest toning in evidence. Instead, one's eye is allowed to focus on extraordinary cameo contrast between frosty devices and deeply mirrored fields. Essentially pristine with a silky smooth appearance,

to boot, even the most discerning numismatist will be impressed with this lovely specimen. From a generous mintage of 3,075,645 Proofs, survivors of which are seldom as well produced or preserved as offered here.

PCGS# 96704. NGC ID: 27VL.

PCGS Population: 20; 0 finer.

*From the Rosie Collection. Earlier ex RRL.*



## Phenomenal Strike and Condition Rarity

### 1964 FS-401 Kennedy Half Dollar

#### Popular Accented Hair Variety



1173

**1964 Kennedy Half Dollar. FS-401. Type I, Accented Hair. Proof-68 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** This delightful Proof is virtually pristine with untuned silver white surfaces. The finish is decidedly cameoed with bold contrast between frosty devices and deeply mirrored fields. Of the 3,950,762 Proofs that the Philadelphia Mint struck for the first year 1964 Kennedy half dollar, Rick Tomaska (*A Guide Book of Franklin & Kennedy Half Dollars*, 2011) estimates that only about 100,000 coins are of the Accented Hair variety. According to that author, this brief type was terminated after Jacqueline Kennedy inspected the new half dollars bearing her husband's portrait at the request of Mint personnel. The former First Lady objected to some of the finer hair details and recommended changes, which eventually resulted in the revised Type II design. The easiest way to differentiate between the Type I and Type II designs is to look at the hair strands directly above Kennedy's ear:

on the Accented Hair variety two prominent strands in this area form a V shape that is not seen on Type II examples. Additionally, the Type I variety has a weak or broken lower left serif on the letter I in LIBERTY, as well as slight pitting and rounded edges to the shield on the eagle's breast on the reverse. Scarce in an absolute sense, the Type I Accented Hair is particularly challenging to locate in Gem and higher grades due to the prevalence of hairlines and milky spots on surviving examples. As well, most examples in numismatic hands are universally brilliant in finish and lack the stark cameo contrast offered here. Obviously a premium quality specimen, this beautiful coin is sure to appeal to discerning collectors.

PCGS# 96801. NGC ID: 24WG.

PCGS Population: 18; with a single Proof-69 Deep Cameo finer in this category.

*From the Rosie Collection.*

## Finest Certified Ultra Cameo 1967 SMS Half Dollar



1174

**1967 Kennedy Half Dollar. SMS. MS-69 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** An enchanting specimen with an uncommon degree of field to device contrast for a Special Mint State Kennedy half dollar of the 1965 to 1967 era. Untoned silver white surfaces are fully struck, virtually pristine, and a delight to behold. The Special Mint Sets of these years were produced in lieu of traditional Proof sets, the federal government wrongly blaming numismatists for a nationwide shortage of circulation coins. Virtually all of the 1,863,344 SMS half dollars produced in 1967 are universally brilliant with prooflike surfaces, a finish achieved

without overpolishing the dies as had been done for the 1965 and 1966 SMS issues. While the 1967 SMS comes closest to true Proof status of these three issues, examples rarely display enough field to device contrast to warrant a Deep/Ultra Cameo designation from the leading third party certification services. An impressive strike rarity, as such, the coin offered here is also a remarkable condition rarity that ranks as the single finest certified example in its category. Outstanding!

PCGS# 96847. NGC ID: 24WJ.

Combined PCGS and NGC Population: just 1; 0 finer in this category.

*From the Rosie Collection.*



## SILVER DOLLARS

### Desirable 1794 Flowing Hair Dollar The George H. Earle-T. James Clarke Specimen



1175

**1794 Flowing Hair Silver Dollar. BB-1, B-1, the only known dies. Rarity-4. AU Details—Repaired (NGC).** Few entries in the series of coins struck by the United States Mint hold a place of higher esteem or greater historical interest than the 1794 dollar. Desirable even when decrepit, attractive even when worn, specimens of this rarity are eagerly sought after and cherished in *any* condition, and are even more prized when they are found in minimally worn condition. When the official monetary system of the United States was established by the Mint Act of April 1792, the new nation's coins would be based off of the copper cent, the silver dollar, and the gold eagle. Because the coiner and assayer could not put up the very steep surety bond required for minting precious metal, it was not until later on in 1794 that silver coins were finally struck. As one of the signature denominations of the new nation, the silver dollar was intended to make a striking impact wherever it would see use. Loosely based upon the Liberty Head design by Joseph Wright for the copper cent and most likely insisted upon by Thomas Jefferson and David Rittenhouse, Chief Engraver Robert Scot created designs for a Flowing Hair obverse and a reverse that featured a naturalistic eagle within a wreath. Using a press suited for cents and half dollars, an estimated 2,000 examples of the new dollars were struck from a single pair of dies in early October 1794. Of these, only 1,758 pieces were considered suitable for circulation and were officially delivered by the coiner on October 15. The remaining 242 coins were deemed to be too weakly struck and were instead set aside for possible use as planchets — a few 1795 dollars are in fact known with 1794 undertypes. The press was found to be impractical for strong impressions for the large dollars and even though a significant mintage was hoped for in 1794, production was halted after this initial batch until a more appropriate press could be employed. The new dollars immediately entered circulation and started to appear in newspaper accounts by December. Recent scholarly efforts have pulled together a census of 134 individual specimens, providing the basis for a total estimate of between 140 and 150 coins. The coin offered here traces its numismatic provenance back to 1891, and has passed through the hands of several well known collections. Over the years it has been

improved upon and repaired, a fairly common occurrence for an issue that is scarce in an absolute sense and rare with fully original, problem free surfaces. In the case of the present piece, evidence of corrosion has been lightly chased away, a planchet defect through the letter R in LIBERTY has been repaired, as has a rim bruise over letter TE in STATES. A more recent cleaning has brightened the piece considerably, and in doing so has made the strong details throughout more readily appreciable. The overall surface appearance is of bold steel gray patina with some dusky blue highlights outlining some of the reverse devices. The overall definition is much stronger than typically encountered in a survivor of this issue, a feature that will certainly not be lost on collectors who have been seeking a respectable example of this challenging issue. Areas of weakness are surprisingly few, virtually limited to the first digit of the date and the first few stars on the left side of the obverse, an area typically found weak on extant 1794 dollars. The central devices are nicely rendered, and the overall eye appeal — the vital question when talking about a coin with some repair — is actually quite positive. Adjustment marks (as made) are evident extending up from the lower obverse border through the date and the first four stars, but are absent elsewhere. BB Die State II. The ownership of a 1794 silver dollar has always been considered a high point for any collector. Over the years relatively few specimens have appeared on the market. Against this backdrop, the present specimen remains a very desirable property. 1794 dollars are one of the great desiderata of modern American numismatics. The “first” of anything is in great demand, and perhaps there is nothing more associated with the United States than the almighty dollar. We can only imagine the excitement the winning bidder will enjoy upon adding this to his or her collection.

PCGS# 39972.

*Ex S.H. and H. Chapman's sale of the A. Bridgman, Jr. Esq. Collection, November 1891, lot 689; Henry Chapman's sale of the George H. Earle Collection, June 1912, lot 2668; later, Ira Reed; New Netherlands' sale of the T. James Clarke Collection, November 1956, lot 608; Heritage's Philadelphia Signature Auction of August 2012, lot 5171.*

# Legendary 1794 Flowing Hair Dollar

## America's First Silver Dollar

### Ex Chambers (1866) and Ralston (1882)



1176

**1794 Flowing Hair Silver Dollar. BB-1, B-1, the only known dies. Rarity-4. VF Details—Repaired (NGC).** The 1794 Flowing Hair dollar is hailed by numismatists as one of the most important coinage issues of the United States Mint. From the \$10 million Specimen-66 (PCGS) Cardinal-Morelan example down to heavily circulated pieces in Fine and lesser conditions, each and every survivor of this significant mintage represents a monumental milestone in the political and economic timeline of America. They carry with them a narrative that speaks of progress and achievement in the face of adversity and the unknown. It initiated a dynasty of silver dollar coinage that would continue to be struck for our country over the next 140 years. While several issues struck in that timespan have gained considerable fanfare for their rarity like the 1804, 1836 Gobrecht, 1870-S, and 1895, none of which carry the significance of the very first issue like the dollars of 1794.

This piece shows strong definition for the issue, with full pronouncement to Liberty's portrait and impressive sharpness to the left obverse stars. The complexion is overall glossy and smooth to the naked eye, though evidence of tooling becomes apparent under magnification at Liberty's throat and in the adjacent obverse field. Toned in a medley of dark olive and steel-grey tones, it is a pleasing representative of this rarity that just a limited few numismatists will ever come to own.

This example is traceable back over 150 years to 1866, when it was offered in W. Elliot Woodward's sale of the Robert B. Chambers Collection. The sale took place from February 27th through March 1st in New York City and featured an impressive selection of U.S. Colonials, Patterns, and Washington medals, in addition to Federal

coinage. Offered in lot 214, this piece was noted to be "in excellent condition, may be called fine for this date; extremely rare." It was purchased for \$31.50 by J. Grier Ralston, a Professor from Norristown, Pennsylvania, just a few miles northwest of Philadelphia. Ralston was evidently assembling an impressive cabinet and acquired a number of remarkable lots from the sale including a 1796 quarter for \$1.10, an 1839 Gobrecht dollar for \$21.50.

Two years after his death, Professor Ralston's collection was sold by Woodward in October of 1882 with this 1794 dollar featured in lot 53. Interestingly, the paragraph introducing Ralston's silver dollars notes that they were:

*...much tarnished on the reverse though contact with the purple velvet with which his cabinet was lined. This tarnish may be instantly removed by dipping the coin in a moderately strong solution of cyanide potassium...This restores proofs and uncirculated coins to their original brilliancy. Cyanide of potassium is a most deadly poison, and in its use the greatest caution must be exercised.*

This piece was called "unusually good, fine for the date." with Woodward noting that "so good a dollar of 1794 is but seldom offered for sale; *extremely rare.*" We are unaware of who purchased this from the Ralston collection, and this piece seemingly vanishes off the radar of U.S. numismatics for the next 130 years!

PCGS# 6851.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex W. Elliot Woodward's sale of the Robert B. Chambers Collection, February 1866, lot 217; W. Elliot Woodward's sale of the Ralston Collection, October 1882, lot 53; Heritage's sale of January 2012, lot 3282.*

## Significant 1795 Flowing Hair Dollar BB-14 Two Leaves



1177

**1795 Flowing Hair Silver Dollar. BB-14, B-4. Rarity-3. Two Leaves. AU Details—Scratches (NGC).** Satiny, somewhat glossy-textured surfaces are adorned with pretty, yet questionable toning in a golden-apricot color. Both sides are boldly defined from a well-centered strike, there being none but light wear to report. Wispy hairlines and a few pinscratches are noted for the obverse, but the outstanding sharpness contributes to overall positive eye appeal.

While not a major rarity in an absolute sense, the B-14 die variety of the 1795 Flowing Hair Dollar is seldom offered any finer than EF. BB-14 represents one of several varieties with the two-leaves reverse and the Head of '94 obverse. This die marriage is often called the "Hidden Star" variety for the unusual placement of star 15 beneath the tip of Liberty's bust, a unique characteristic among Flowing Hair dollar dies and an easy identifier of the die.

PCGS# 6853.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex our sale of November 2010, lot 2193.*

## Choice EF 1795 Draped Bust Dollar

### BB-51 Off-Center Bust

### CAC Gold Sticker



1178

**1795 Draped Bust Silver Dollar. BB-51, B-14. Rarity-2. EF-45 (PCGS). CAC—Gold Label. OGH.** This piece represents a coalescence of immense desirability, appealing to both type collectors and advanced early dollar specialists. The surfaces are undoubtedly Choice, appearing almost prooflike under a light source and exhibiting copious satiny luster. Liberty is sharply defined on the obverse, showing sharp hair and profile detail and just the lightest friction across the high points. The eagle's breast is slight soft, as is typical, though the feathers and wreath are intricate and frosty. A planchet flaw near star 11 goes largely unnoticed, accompanied by fainter inconsistencies in the metal of the left field. Still, the complexion is smooth and without distractions of any sort, displaying immensely strong eye appeal and pearlescent lilac-gold coloration throughout. It is the only 1795 Draped Bust dollar of any variety to have been awarded a Gold sticker by CAC, emphasizing the truly superior merits of this jewel. While the Gold sticker indicates that it would still be considered premium at the AU-50 level, the coin certainly speaks for itself regardless of the holder that it is in. In fact, the Old Green PCGS holder notes the coin number as 6858, which more recently has been specified to designate only the Centered Bust varieties, while coin number 96858 is now used to designate Off-Center Bust examples like the present piece.

Two different die combinations were used for the 1795 Draped Bust dollar. The die pair believed to have been struck first is the so-called Off-Center Bust variety, BB-51, which features Liberty appearing too far to the left from the center, a position used only on this die pair. This positioning was corrected to a more aesthetically pleasing centered location on the second variety, the BB-52 pair. The precise number struck and timing of each variety is unclear. Mint records from the time are not as thorough as scholars would like and much of what can be determined is conjecture. The commonly cited mintage figure of 42,738 is believed to be only a portion of the overall total for the 1795 Draped Bust dollar. Bowers posits that somewhere in the vicinity of 100,000 coins were produced of both BB-51 and BB-52 and that while the first deliveries likely took place in October, the later deliveries could have extended into 1796. In fact, the reverse die used for BB-52 was used as late as 1798, lending credence to this being the later of the two varieties. BB-51 is the more plentiful of the two die marriages of this issue, and Bowers suggests that 1,400 to 2,000 coins are extant in all grades. With the typical survivor grading VF, however, even EF and AU coins are scarce in an absolute sense, and rare relative to the demand for them in today's numismatic hobby.

PCGS# 96858. NGC ID: 24X2.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Heritage's sale of the Hamilton Collection, August 2016, lot 4162.*

## Alluring AU 1795 Draped Bust Dollar



1179

**1795 Draped Bust Silver Dollar. BB-52, B-15. Rarity-2. BB Die State IV. Centered Bust. AU-53 (PCGS).** Showing only the most minimal traces of use in commerce at the very highest points, the overall light silvery gray color transitions smoothly into light charcoal toning with hints of iridescence, while the reverse is a wonderful medium silver-gray with even surfaces. There are thin non-intrusive adjustment marks below the eagle, a common feature on the early large silver coinage of America when overweight planchets would be filed down to statutory tolerances. The short-lived Draped Bust, Small Eagle silver dollars have been popular for generations and never cease to impress.

Scot's Draped Bust made its first appearance in 1795, replacing the earlier Flowing Hair type. Two obverse dies were paired with the Small Eagle reverse, the first of which placed Liberty's bust too far to the left. To correct this imbalance, the second die centers the bust with Liberty's topmost hair curl is directly under the E in LIBERTY. Almost every example of the BB-52 has a prominent and distinctive die chip in Liberty's hair towards her ribbon, a tell-tale marker for this variety. Problem-free and crisply struck, an excellent example that early dollar specialists and type collectors alike will find more than appealing.

PCGS# 39995.

## Significant Mint State 1796 Draped Bust Dollar Among the Finest Known for the BB-61 Die Pairing



1180

**1796 Draped Bust Silver Dollar. BB-61, B-4. Rarity-3. Small Date, Large Letters. Unc Details—Artificial Toning (NGC).** This is an endearing coin with rather attractive toning in iridescent golden-rose, silver-gray and steel blue that is more vivid on the obverse. The reverse, in fact, is nearly brilliant and displays only light silver-gray overtones. Satiny mint luster is full throughout, both sides also modestly semi-reflective in the fields. The strike is nicely centered and well executed, the borders fully denticulated and most design elements sharply to fully defined. Only in the center of the reverse do we see mentionable lack of detail, and it is minor and confined to the eagle's breast and left leg. On the other hand, the eagle's head is full with a clear eye, and all leaves in the surrounding branches are crisp. Crisp early die state, corresponding to BB Die State II, which is the usually seen die state for this variety. Bowers-Borckardt 61 is the most readily obtainable of the six known die marriages of the 1796 Draped Bust dollar, and it is also

one of two that corresponds to the Small Date, Large Letters *Guide Book* variety (the other is the exceedingly rare BB-64). The Small Eagle design as a type is scarce, however, and high grade examples such as this are rare in an absolute sense and very rare from a market availability standpoint. The present example was once a key component of the famous Type Collection assembled by Norman Stack, and it is included in the list of "Notable Specimens" for the BB-61 variety in the 2013 edition of Q. David Bowers' *Encyclopedia of United States Silver Dollars: 1794-1804*. Far more desirable than the NGC-certified grade might suggest, both aesthetically and numismatically, this coin is sure to sell for a strong bid.

PCGS# 6860.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection. Earlier ex Norman Stack Type Collection; our (Stack's) sale of the John Whitney Walter Collection of the Coins of 1796, May 1999, lot 1782; our (Stack's) 70th Anniversary Sale, October 2005, lot 1403. Pictured in the famous book United States Type Coins by Norman Stack.*

## Impressively Sharp 1796 Draped Bust Dollar

### BB-61 Small Date, Large Letters



1181

**1796 Draped Bust Silver Dollar. BB-61, B-4. Rarity-3. Small Date, Large Letters. Genuine—Cleaning (PCGS). AU Details.** The viewer of this pleasing Small Eagle example is immediately confronted with exceptional definition to each side. Liberty shows strong face and hair detail while considerable breast feathers are prominent on the reverse. The complexion is overall smooth and glossy from the noted cleaning, though it remains free from appreciable circulation wear. A thin mark passes between the first two digits of the date, and a similar pincscratch should be noted in the field between STATES and OF. The navy blue and olive patina is balanced with golden overtones for a satisfying aesthetic that improves under a light source.

BB-61 is the most readily obtainable of the six known die marriages of the 1796 silver dollar. It is one of only two Small Date, Large Letters *Guide Book* varieties, the other being BB-64, a major rarity with only a handful of coins known. However, at the AU level and above, BB-61 is especially scarce with an estimated 15 to 30 survivors. With ample remaining detail and a pleasing appearance relative to the stated qualifier, the present offering has much to offer.

PCGS# 40000.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Ira and Larry Goldberg's sale of the Dr. Hesselberg Collection, September 2011, lot 5023.*

## Handsome Choice EF 1796 Silver Dollar

### Large Date, Small Letters



1182

**1796 Draped Bust Silver Dollar. BB-65, B-5. Rarity-4. Large Date, Small Letters. EF-45 (NGC).** This is a richly original example toned in a nicely blended dove gray, lavender-gray and olive-russet patina. Vivid gold, blue and lilac undertones are reserved both for the obverse and for direct lighting angles. Boldly to sharply defined within uniformly denticulated borders, the surfaces are also noteworthy for their predominantly smooth appearance in hand. BB Die State IV. The Bowers-Borckardt 65 attribution corresponds to the Large Date,

Small Letters *Guide Book* variety of the 1796 dollar. After BB-61, this is the most frequently encountered die marriage of the issue in today's market, making it popular with type collectors seeking an example of the challenging Draped Bust, Small Eagle design. Most survivors are in lower grades, suggestive of widespread commercial use, and this premium Choice EF also has the distinction of fully original surfaces. A find for the discerning collector, and worthy of a solid bid.

PCGS# 6861. NGC ID: 24X3.

## Minimally Circulated 1797 Silver Dollar



1183

**1797 Draped Bust Silver Dollar. BB-73, B-1. Rarity-3. Stars 9x7, Large Letters. AU-50 (PCGS).** This handsome Draped Bust dollar is toned in a blend of dove-gray and lavender-gray shades. Ample sharpness of strike is noted for both sides, and the reverse eagle is particularly impressive in this regard. With a well centered strike and freedom from outwardly distracting abrasions, there is much to recommend this coin for inclusion in a high grade circulated type set. BB Die State I. Bowers-Borckardt 73 is the sole die marriage associated with the Stars 9x7, Large Letters *Guide Book* variety of the 1797 silver dollar, and it is the median scarcity among the three known die

pairings of the issue. Plentiful in an absolute sense, at least by early dollar standards, Q. David Bowers (2013) estimates that 1,300 to 2,100 BB-73 dollars are extant in all grades. Most grade no finer than VF, however, although the persistent collector should have little difficulty locating a pleasing EF. At and above the AU level the conditionally challenging nature of this die variety comes readily to the fore, the present example among the finest available to today's quality conscious numismatists.

PCGS# 6863.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier from our (Bowers and Merena) Baltimore Auction of November 2010, lot 2201.*



## Bold AU 1798 Small Eagle Dollar 15 Stars



1184

**1798 Draped Bust Silver Dollar. Small Eagle. BB-81, B-2. Rarity-3. 15 Stars on Obverse. AU-50 (PCGS). OGH.** The dominate lavender-grey patina of this Small Eagle dollar is adorned with touches of gold and peach across the high points and at the borders. Considerable mint luster remains in the protected areas, surrounding the devices with a frosty brilliance. Liberty is intricately sculpted and lifelike on the obverse, with detailed hair and profile features free from any distracting abrasions. The fields are similarly smooth and without blemishes, leaving just a thin planchet flaw near D of UNITED as a convenient pedigree marker. Notably bold denticles point to truly choice preservation for the assigned grade, nearly approaching the Condition Census of the variety.

The BB-81 variety is one of just two Small Eagle varieties for 1798, representing the last issue of the type. The reverse die showed impressive stamina in the hands of the Mint workers, having been paired with six different obverses throughout employments in 1795, 1796, 1797, and, finally, 1798. We first handled this particular example over 10 years ago as part of our (Stack's) sale of the Samuel Bergard and S.S. New York Collections in July of 2008. Offered in lot 4539 we called it "a sharp and appealing example of this moderately scarce variety...truly exceptional for the grade and date combination."

PCGS# 6868.

PCGS Population: 2; 10 finer through MS-62+.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex our (Stack's) sale of the Samuel Bergard and S.S. New York Collections, July 2008, lot 4539; our (Stack's) sale of the Entlich, White Oak, Gross & St. Andre Collections, March 2009, lot 5298; Freedom Collection; our August 2013 Chicago ANA Auction, lot 4325.*

Choice EF 1798 Small Eagle Dollar  
13 Stars  
Ex Hesselgesser



1185

**1798 Draped Bust Silver Dollar. Small Eagle. BB-82, B-1. Rarity-3. 13 Stars on Obverse. EF-45 (PCGS). CAC.** A delightfully original specimen that becomes increasingly more desirable the closer it is scrutinized. An apricot patina uniformly dusts the surfaces, though is backlit by a violet and tangerine iridescence that shimmers under a light source. There is a faint streak of darker toning that bisects the reverse but rest assured that this is not the product granularity or a surface disturbance of any sort. Swaths of satiny luster surround the design elements and testify to the truly superior preservation exhibited throughout. Boldly struck and offering strong eye appeal for the assigned grade.

From the final year of the Draped Bust, Small Eagle die combination, 327,536 silver dollars were reported struck in 1798, but the majority of those pieces were no doubt of the Large or Heraldic Eagle reverse type which is considerably more plentiful than the type offered here. One of two varieties of the type and date, the other with 15 obverse stars. Typically found at EF-40 or lower on the grading scale, we note that just 26 grading events have occurred for the 13 Stars design type in the PCGS Population Report, with only 27 grading finer. Of those, just two examples have been called Mint State.

PCGS# 40006.

PCGS Population: 3; just 6 finer through MS-63 (BB-82 variety only).

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Ira and Larry Goldberg's sale of the Dr. Hesselgesser Collection, September 2011, lot 5032.*

## Delectable Mint State 1799/8 Dollar



1186

**1799/8 Draped Bust Silver Dollar. BB-141, B-3. Rarity-3. 15 Stars. MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** The smooth steel gray fields are ringed with vivid areas of iridescent blue that adds an additional level appeal to an already premium quality specimen. Hints of light silver peek out on the obverse fields, while the soft underlying lustrous surfaces on the reverse serve to accentuate the delicate web of die cracks particular to this die pair. A visual feast that adds considerable interest to this already desirable variety. The 1799/8 silver dollar with the intriguing 15 Stars reverse is a fascinating, if not bizarre, story of the early Philadelphia Mint's attempts at covering up engraving blunders as well as their recycling of older dies. When this obverse was originally cut, it bore a 1798 date but for unknown reasons was not put into immediate use. It was then brought out of storage and recut with a 1799 date but left behind clear evidence of the earlier date. While overdates are hardly unusual, the reverse die is the opposite story and tells a tale of improvisation and adaptation. When the die cutter was engraving the arc of stars above the eagle's head on the reverse, he placed a top row of seven stars, then a second row of six stars, then flanked the

eagle with two additional stars, one on either side. At some point, the engraver realized that this resulted in 15 stars and not the intended 13. In an attempt to cover up the two extraneous stars, the die cutter drastically enlarged the leftmost and rightmost clouds, creating a rather unbalanced and very distinct composition unique to this die pairing. While the intent was admirable, the cover-up was not completely successful since clear traces of the two stars can still be seen upon close inspection. The 1799-dated silver dollars were struck in significant quantities, with some nearly 400,000 coins struck from 22 known die pairs, three of which bear the 1799/8 overdate. Bowers and Borckardt estimate that 700 to perhaps as many as 1,200 examples of the BB-141 die marriage are known today, making this variety relatively accessible to collectors and enthusiasts. However, most specimens are found at the higher circulated levels of preservation, with comparatively few Mint State examples to satisfy the demand for this very popular type.

PCGS# 40064.

PCGS Population: 9; 6 finer (MS-64 finest).

*From The Des Moines Collection. Earlier ex Ira & Larry Goldberg's September 2011 sale of the Dr. Robert Hesselgesser Collection, lot 5072.*

## Popular Choice AU 1799/8 Silver Dollar



1187

**1799/8 Draped Bust Silver Dollar. BB-141, B-3. Rarity-3. 15 Stars. AU-58 (PCGS).** The satiny and smooth surfaces of this silver dollar are beautifully toned in silver-lilac and golden-apricot iridescence. The features are boldly to sharply defined from a nicely centered, well executed strike. 1799 was a very busy year at the Philadelphia Mint for silver dollar production. Some 400,000 coins were struck from 22 die pairs that year, three of which bear the 1799/8 overdate. The most fascinating and popular of these overdate varieties is the BB-141 combination, which has quite a tale to tell. The obverse die bearing the 1798 date was prepared but was not used, so the date was recut to 1799, though remnants of the 8 remain visible. In addition, the BB-141's reverse die is a study in diecutter improvisation and adaptation. When the engraver was entering the stars, he elected to put one arc of seven stars, then a second arc of six stars, then flanked the eagle with two

more stars, rendering 15 stars all told on the reverse, two too many. Realizing this and because die steel was at a premium, the diecutter tried to correct the mistake by drastically enlarging the leftmost and rightmost clouds attempting to cover up the extraneous stars. This adaptation did not fully hide the two stars so that they remain partially visible. The die nonetheless entered service and a sizable quantity of silver dollars were made with this die pairing. Thanks in no small part to speculators buying up as many silver dollars and selling them overseas at a profit, perhaps between 700 and 1,200 pieces survive, mostly in the middle to higher circulated grade levels. This die pair becomes a notable condition rarity at the AU level and above. The expert preservation and original patina of the offered coin make this a desirable example for discriminating silver dollar connoisseurs.

PCGS# 6883. NGC ID: 24X8.

PCGS Population: 12; 19 finer (MS-64 finest).

## Impressive AU 1799/8 15 Stars Dollar



1188

**1799/8 Draped Bust Silver Dollar. BB-141, B-3. Rarity-3. 15 Stars. AU-55 (PCGS).** Expertly preserved and bathed in light silvery gray, the peripheries provide hints of a darker undertone. Well centered and equally well struck with minimal weakness, this specimen provides an excellent vehicle with which to explore this intriguing variety.

Created out of necessity to correct (haphazardly, as it turned out) the accidental inclusion of two extra stars on the reverse, the 15 Stars Reverse silver dollar has been a coveted variety ever since it was first popularized in the mid to late nineteenth century. The variety was first elevated in interest through the work of Philadelphia collector J. Colvin Randall, who frequently bought and sold individual coins and collections for years. He assembled a large enough collection of quarters, half dollars, and dollars by variety that he was able to arrange them in a "Type Table," the first of its kind in American numismatics. He partnered with fellow collector and friend John W. Hazeltine to publish the type table, but unbeknownst to Randall, in 1881 Hazeltine

released it under the title, *Catalogue of John W. Hazeltine's TYPE TABLE*, completely omitting Randall's name, a name that persists to this day. The Randall-Hazeltine type table records the first instance of this variety, which it described under Hazeltine-3: "obv. same as No. 1; rev. 15 stars, 2 of them entirely concealed by the clouds on extreme right and left, the points just barely emerging." While Randall's name has unfortunately not been given the credit he is due, the Type Table's numbering system was adopted by Bolender in his landmark work on early silver dollars, thus Hazeltine-3 became Bolender-3. Today better known as Bowers-Borckardt 141, while somewhat scarce in lower states of preservation, the variety is conditionally scarce starting at the AU level and above. With the beautiful even patination providing additional focus, this is a desirable example for discriminating silver dollar connoisseurs.

PCGS# 6883. NGC ID: 24X8.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III.*

## Beautifully Toned Mint State 1800 AMERICA I Dollar Condition Census



1189

**1800 Draped Bust Silver Dollar. BB-192, B-19a. Rarity-2. AMERICA I. MS-61 (PCGS).** Rare in any Mint State grade with PCGS in their *Population Report* noting a total of three grading events of this important variety. Furthermore, the coin itself is quite pleasing with fiery russet and silver gray toning that is graced by teal blue and reddish-gold accents near the rims. The strike is bold on the obverse stars, although some of Liberty's curls are a trifle soft, similar on the reverse where the peripheral lettering and devices are crisp, but a few of the wing feathers near the shield are not fully struck up. This is the likely outcome given the later die state, noted by the die cracks visible when studied. Free of both adjustment marks and post-production blemishes, the fields and devices are pleasing for their quality with superior eye appeal for the assigned grade. These early Draped Bust dollars are quite difficult to find in Uncirculated condition, and have

always been popular with collectors for their large size and dramatic presence. BB Die State III.

The obverse die was only used in this die pairing, while the reverse, with its diagnostic die scratch, was used twice. All known examples from this reverse die show this strong die scratch after the final letter A in AMERICA, which has the appearance of an errant I at the end of that word, hence the AMERICA I designation. The variety itself is not particularly rare in an absolute sense, but in Mint State these are truly prized and of Condition Census quality.

PCGS# 40082.

PCGS Population (BB-192 AMERICA I variety only): just 1; 2 finer (both MS-63).

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Chris Napolitano; Ira & Larry Goldberg's sale of the Dr. Robert Hesselgesser Collection, September 2011, lot 5114; Ira & Larry Goldberg's Pre-Long Beach Sale of May 2012, lot 1307; our Americana Sale of January 2013, lot 13215.*



## The Thaler-Hesselgesser Specimen of the 1802/1 BB-232 Dollar Among the Finest Known



1190

**1802/1 Draped Bust Silver Dollar. BB-232, B-4. Rarity-4. Narrow Date. AU-55 (PCGS).** Superb frosty luster on pleasing light golden-gray surfaces, the obverse devices further enhanced by wisps of coppery toning. Sharp and very attractive with lovely eye appeal. A trio of Choice AU coins make up the lower reaches of Q. David Bowers' list of "Notable Specimens" for this variety in the 2013 edition of his *Encyclopedia of United States Silver Dollars: 1794-1804*. The present example is included on that list, along with the Cardinal Collection

and Miller specimens. A condition rarity par excellence for this challenging die marriage of the 1802-dated silver dollar issue. BB Die State II, the usual state with a short die crack (as made) from the end of Liberty's bust to star 13.

PCGS# 40092.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier from our (American Numismatic Rarities') sale of the Thaler Collection, March 2006, lot 1074; Ira & Larry Goldbergs' sale of the Dr. Hesselgesser Collection, September 2011, lot 5125.*

## Extraordinary Gem Mint State 1802 Dollar Among Finest Known



1191

**1802 Draped Bust Silver Dollar. BB-241, B-6. Rarity-1. Narrow Date. MS-65 (NGC).** A visually spectacular coin with splendid toned surfaces, the overall soft golden hues are punctuated by delightful steel blue highlights especially along the periphery. The overall bold and well-centered strike is highlighted by vibrant satiny lustrous surfaces. The weakened outline of Liberty's neck and roughly re-engraved circular curl in Liberty's hair closest to her bow on the obverse combined with the two parallel cracks join the wingtip at left to the rim including one that crosses the P in PLURIBUS on the reverse make this a classic example of Die State III. Free of any adjustment marks that are often found on early silver dollars, it would be a difficult task indeed to find a more visually appealing example of this early dollar. As with many of the production figures from the early days of the Mint, there is some question regarding precisely how many coins were produced of a specific date in a calendar year. This is the case with the 1802 Draped Bust dollars, where the reported mintage of 41,650 pieces coined in 1802 is certainly lower than the quantity of 1802-dated dollars actually produced. Bowers and Borckardt in their 2013 book, *The Encyclopedia of United States Silver Dollars: 1793-1804*, estimate that the number of silver dollars that were struck using 1802-dated dies is likely closer to 80,000 pieces struck in 1802 and 1803, based on the number of known surviving specimens. Even though seven different die pairings for the 1802/1 overdate have been so far identified, only two die marriages

for the normal date have so far been identified with any certainty. The distinctive obverse die used in the BB-241 pairing is characterized by the missing right foot of the T in LIBERTY which is readily apparent in all die states and diagnostic; this obverse die was only used for this die pair. The BB-241 die marriage is far and away the most available of the entire issue with an estimated 1,500 to 2,750 extant specimens primarily in the Very Fine to Extremely Fine grade range, though with only about 50 to 70 Mint State pieces known. Even though a number of notable Mint State specimens are listed in the Bowers-Borckardt encyclopedia including a few at the MS-65 preservation level, this coin does not appear to be found among that roster. Because some of the sales were held in the days prior to grading and certification services, positive identification may not be completely possible with certainty. Because of its comparative availability, the BB-241 variety has long been popular with collectors at all levels not only to represent the 1802 issue but even among type collectors seeking just one example of the Draped Bust design. With an overall paucity of Gem examples of any early silver dollar issue combined with its considerable eye appeal, it would be a difficult task indeed to find a more visually appealing example.

PCGS# 6895. NGC ID: 24XB.

NGC Census: 5 (for all Normal Date die marriages); none finer.

*Ex from our sale of the Doug Kaselitz Collection, July 2015 Baltimore, lot 5199.*

# Classic 1836 Name on Base Gobrecht Dollar

## Die Alignment I

### From the December 1836 Issue



1192

**1836 Gobrecht Silver Dollar. Name on Base. Judd-60 Original, Pollock-65. Rarity-1. Dannreuther Reverse Die State e. Silver. Plain Edge. Die Alignment I. Proof-61 (PCGS). OGH.** A richly toned and aesthetically appealing example of this scarce and enigmatic silver dollar issue. Both sides are evenly patinated in charcoal-copper, the toning iridescent in quality to allow ready appreciation of more vivid blue, gold and pale pink undertones as the coin rotates under a light. The finish is appreciably reflective, and the strike is full with razor sharp definition to even the most intricate design elements. Wispy hairlines account for the PCGS grade, although they are rather well concealed by the toning, the in hand appearance smooth and appealing. Premium quality at the Proof-61 level, and worthy of a strong bid, as such.

The historic 1836 Name on Base Gobrecht dollar is the first issue of this denomination produced for circulation since 1804 (from 1803-dated dies). The Mint used only a single pair of dies to strike 1,000 examples in December 1836, the coins delivered in two batches: 400 pieces for distribution to the public and 600 for distribution into commercial channels through local Philadelphia banks. Mint personnel

experienced considerable difficulty in production of this issue. Either the feed fingers for the planchets were improperly designed, or the coiners used feed fingers intended for half dollar production. In either case, the feed fingers kept slamming into the reverse die during coinage, forcing Mint personnel to deliberately rotate the dies and adjust the feed mechanism in an effort to solve the problem. This tinkering explains the three different die alignments for originals of this variety (I, II and IV), as well as the tiny nicks seen around the reverse rim through the various die states. Dannreuther Reverse Die State e, represented here, is the latest known die state for Die Alignment I examples, all additional coins from the December 1836 delivery struck in either Die Alignment II or IV. As the most frequently encountered Gobrecht dollar in today's market, the popularity of the 1836 Name on Base issue for advanced type purposes knows no bounds. Survivors from the paltry mintage of 1,000 pieces are understandably scarce in an absolute sense, and they are rare relative to the demand that they enjoy.

PCGS# 11225.

## A Remarkable Second Original Gobrecht Dollar



1193

**1836 Gobrecht Silver Dollar. Name on Base. Judd-60 Original, Pollock-65. Rarity-1. Dannreuther Reverse Die State a. Silver. Plain Edge. Die Alignment I. Proof-58 (PCGS).** A second opportunity for the advanced type collector or silver dollar specialist to acquire an example of this scarce and challenging type. This is a lightly toned coin, both sides veiled in smoky silver-gray with hints of pale gold iridescence evident as the surfaces dip into a light. Direct viewing

angles also reveal plenty of semi-reflective brilliance in the fields, especially in the protected areas around the devices. The strike is sharply executed with virtually all design elements fully defined. Obviously set aside after only short stint in commercial channels, this inviting piece will certainly catch the eye of astute bidders.

PCGS# 11225.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III.*

## Vividly Toned 1839 Gobrecht Dollar Judd-104 Restrike in Die Alignment III



1194

**1839 Gobrecht Silver Dollar. Name Removed. Judd-104 Restrike, Pollock-116. Rarity-3. Dannreuther Reverse Die State III. Silver. Reeded Edge. Die Alignment III. Proof-63 (PCGS).** A gorgeous example of this classic and rare date in the early silver dollar series. Both sides are attractively toned with the most vivid cobalt blue and champagne-apricot iridescence evident as the surfaces dip into a light. Otherwise warmly patinated in steel-lilac and olive-copper, both sides are fully struck with strong reflectivity in the fields. Solid Choice Proof quality that will appeal equally to advanced type collectors, silver dollar enthusiasts and specialists in Liberty Seated coinage. Die Alignment III confirms this coin as a restrike of the 1839 Gobrecht dollar. Originals in Die Alignment IV were struck in December

1839, likely as a trial run for circulation strike Liberty Seated dollar production that began in January of the following year. With only 300 pieces produced, original 1839 Gobrecht dollars were rare in their own day, which explains the demand from contemporary numismatists that prompted Mint personnel to produce the restrikes. The first of the latter were almost certainly delivered during Mint Director James Ross Snowden's tenure in the late 1850s, with additional pieces undoubtedly struck during one or both of Mint Director Henry R. Linderman's terms (1867 to 1869 and 1873 to 1878). In Dannreuther Reverse Die State d, the present example represents the latest known die state for the Judd-104 attribution, and it is a strong contender for having been struck during one of Linderman's terms.

PCGS# 11446.



## Choice Mint State 1848 Liberty Seated Dollar Condition Census



1195

**1848 Liberty Seated Silver Dollar. OC-2. Rarity-2. MS-63+ (PCGS).**

A lustrous and original example of this key date issue, displaying a dynamic patina of peach and violet hues. This coloration is backlit by vibrant satiny luster, contributing to a prooflike reflectivity most dramatic on the reverse. Well struck and undisturbed by notable friction or blemishes. Beautiful to examine under a light source.

The production run of just 15,000 pieces makes the 1848 the lowest mintage Liberty Seated dollar from the 1840s. Once again, the limited supply of domestically mined silver is the prime culprit for the

Philadelphia Mint's paltry issue of dollars. With so few coins struck, the 1848 is scarce in circulated grades, and the low mintage, key date status of the date results in strong demand from specialists. Mint State survivors are highly elusive and, when offered at all, are apt to grade no finer than MS-62. This piece is among the finest known of the issue, with just 3 coins graded finer by PCGS. Fully Choice in quality, this is a significant example that will be right at home in an advanced Liberty Seated dollar set.

PCGS# 6935. NGC ID: 24YK.

PCGS Population: 1; 3 finer through MS-66.

## Incredible Near-Gem 1854 Seated Dollar Elusive in All Mint State Grades



1196

**1854 Liberty Seated Silver Dollar. OC-1. Rarity-3+. MS-64+ (PCGS).** A sharply struck and visually engaging rarity from the challenging No Motto Liberty Seated dollar series. The strike is remarkably full with even the more intricate design elements crisp. The toning bespeaks to the undeniable originality of the coin with visually engaging sandy-gold patina and speckled russet around the devices. Uniform satin luster is noted for both sides, the texture of which is smooth enough to evoke thoughts of a Gem rating.

A pivotal issue in the Liberty Seated series, the 1854 is likely the first date of this type that served primarily in the export trade. The 33,140 circulation strikes produced were made primarily from bullion obtained from Mexico. Since the Act of February 21, 1853 did not reduce the weight of the silver dollar, the bullion value of these coins continued to exceed their face value. (The Act solved this problem for the smaller denomination silver coins by reducing their weight and

making them subsidiary in reaction to rising silver prices brought about by the California Gold Rush.) Obtained at a premium from brokers on the West Coast, the vast majority of 1854 silver dollars were shipped to China by merchants in exchange for goods such as tea and silk. These exported coins were almost all subsequently melted, thereby explaining the elusiveness of survivors in numismatic circles, and in all grades. Mint State examples are particularly rare and usually appear at auction only once in a very long while. PCGS has certified just 27 examples across all Mint State grades, the bulk of those at MS-63 or below. Clearly we anticipate strong competition for this piece among astute collectors specializing in both Liberty Seated coinage and silver dollars.

PCGS# 6942. NGC ID: 24YT.

PCGS Population: 1; 3 finer (MS-66 finest).

*From The Des Moines Collection.*



## Rare Mint State 1855 Liberty Seated Dollar



1197

**1855 Liberty Seated Silver Dollar. OC-1. Rarity-3+. MS-62 (PCGS).** A brilliant and highly lustrous example of this elusive No Motto Liberty Seated dollar issue. Satiny in finish with a typical strike in a circulation strike dollar of this date, both sides are softly defined in isolated areas, yet suitably bold overall. The in hand appearance is smoother than one might expect for the assigned grade, and the eye appeal is strong. This piece approaches the finest survivors of this low-mintage issue, with just 11 certified by PCGS at MS-62 and only 8 finer through MS-64+.

An increase in silver prices during the California Gold Rush era led to the reduction in weight for the half dime, dime, quarter and half dollar through the Act of February 21, 1853. The silver dollar was

not included in this act, however, since examples ceased to circulate domestically after the 1840s. The circulation strike issues of the mid to late 1850s were used primarily in export trade, and these coins can be seen as predecessors to the specialized trade dollar introduced in 1873. With most of the 26,000 circulation strikes produced melted or otherwise lost overseas, this issue is understandably elusive in today's market. Even worn survivors are scarce, while in Mint State the 1855 is nothing short of rare. One of our finest offerings for the issue in recent memory, the significance of this coin for advanced date purposes can hardly be overstated.

PCGS# 6943. NGC ID: 24YU.

PCGS Population: 11; 8 finer through MS-64+.

## Highly Elusive Mint State 1855 Silver Dollar



1198

**1855 Liberty Seated Silver Dollar. OC-1. Rarity-3+. MS-61 (PCGS).** Satiny in texture and otherwise brilliant, both sides of this significant Liberty Seated dollar reveal subtle iridescent golden overtones as the surfaces rotate under a light. Striking detail is bold to sharp throughout, and the in hand appearance is uncommonly smooth for the assigned grade. The 1855 is comparable in rarity to the 1854, the circulation strike mintage of the former issue limited to 26,000 pieces. Struck at the request of bullion depositors, silver dollars from the mid to late 1850s were used in export trade, primarily to Liverpool,

England or China. Only 300 or so examples of the 1855 are believed extant (per Osburn and Cushing, 2018), most of which returned to the United States from Europe in payment for goods. Mint State survivors are in the distinct minority, and they represent coins that avoided commercial use almost purely as a matter of rare chance. This is one of the leading highlights of the extensive Liberty Seated dollar offerings in this sale.

PCGS# 6943. NGC ID: 24YU.

PCGS Population: 4; 20 finer (MS-64+ finest).

*From The Des Moines Collection.*

## Choice Mint State 1856 Silver Dollar Among the Finest Certified



1199

**1856 Liberty Seated Silver Dollar. OC-1. Rarity-2. MS-63 (PCGS).** This lightly patinated, golden-tinged example offers full mint luster in a soft satin texture. The strike is sharp to full throughout — an uncommon attribute in a circulation strike Liberty Seated dollar from the 1850s — and the surfaces are exceptionally well preserved for both the type and issue. The Philadelphia Mint produced 63,500 silver dollars in 1856 at the request of bullion depositors, the vast majority of which were used in export trade to Europe or, more likely, China.

Few returned, the extant population for this issue just 600 or so coins in all grades (per Osburn and Cushing, 2018). Mint State examples are more rumored than real as far as most collectors are concerned, this being one of the finest known to PCGS. A highly significant offering for the advanced numismatist specializing in silver dollars or Liberty Seated coinage.

PCGS# 6944. NGC ID: 24YV.

PCGS Population: 6; 3 finer (all MS-64).

*From The Des Moines Collection.*

## Exceedingly Rare Mint State 1859-S Dollar



1200

**1859-S Liberty Seated Silver Dollar. OC-1. Rarity-2. Repunched Date. MS-63 (NGC).** This is a wonderfully original example that ranks among the finest known survivors of this conditionally challenging, key date issue. Awash in warm lavender and blue-gray patina, both sides reveal iridescent undertones of gold, blue and pink as the surfaces dip into a light. Sharply struck throughout, and a delight to behold, this coin is sure to see spirited bidding among advanced collectors. Alone among San Francisco Mint Liberty Seated dollars of the No Motto type, the 1859-S is an isolated issue most examples of which were produced for a single purpose. Of the 20,000 pieces struck in total, the first 15,000 coins delivered were intended solely for export. Indeed, the San Francisco-based firm of Bolton, Barren & Co. acquired 8,985 of these coins for use in the China trade. Those examples that went overseas — 75% of the mintage — were invariably lost through melting. Fortunately for today's collectors, the additional 5,000 pieces

making up the total mintage were retained stateside and released into circulation on the West Coast. Survivors of that delivery — and they are few — are usually well worn, often impaired, and constitute the majority of 1859-S silver dollars obtainable by today's collectors. Given the manner in which this issue was distributed, combined with a lack of contemporary numismatic demand, it should come as no surprise to read that the 1859-S is a formidable rarity in Mint State. Surviving almost certainly as a matter of chance, this high Condition Census example is fully Choice in quality, visually appealing, and would serve with distinction in the finest collection of Liberty Seated coinage and/or silver dollars.

PCGS# 6948. NGC ID: 24YZ.

NGC Census: 5; with a single MS-65 finer.

*From The Des Moines Collection.*

## Richly Toned Gem Proof 1872 Silver Dollar



1201

**1872 Liberty Seated Silver Dollar. Proof-65 (PCGS).** This is an exquisite example of both the type and issue that really needs to be seen to be fully appreciated. Both sides are fully original with dominant olive-russet, golden-copper and pewter gray patina. Direct lighting, however, calls forth outstanding undertones of iridescent red, pink, gold, lilac and blue colors. Appreciably reflective in finish, especially in the fields, with a remarkably smooth appearance for a Proof silver dollar of this design type. The 1872 is one of the more frequently

encountered Proofs in the Liberty Seated dollar series, the mintage a relatively hefty 950 pieces. Even so, survivors are scarcer than the number struck might indicate, many examples likely remaining unsold and melted in the Mint after the Act of February 12, 1873 abolished the standard silver dollar. Among the survivors, few are as expertly preserved and attractively original as this handsome Gem.

PCGS# 7020. NGC ID: 252U.

PCGS Population: 22; 3 finer in this category (Proof-66 finest).

## Mint State 1872-CC Dollar A Formidable Rarity



1202

**1872-CC Liberty Seated Silver Dollar. OC-1, the only known dies. Rarity-3+. MS-62 (NGC).** As one of the few Uncirculated survivors of this elusive Carson City Mint issue, this handsome coin stands tall among the extensive Liberty Seated dollar offerings in this sale. Predominantly light silver gray in appearance, both sides also reveal blushes of pale rose and gold iridescence as the surfaces rotate under a light. The strike is well executed with bold to sharp detail over most design elements and, although wispy hairlines are noted, the in hand appearance is uncommonly smooth for the assigned grade. The Carson City Mint produced only 3,150 silver dollars in 1872. Repeating a standard scenario for early gold and silver issues from this coinage facility, the 1872-CC dollars were routinely released into

local and regional commerce. Probably some were shipped to China, where there was a great appetite for silver metal. In his cataloging for our August 2012 sale of the Battle Born Collection, Carson City Mint expert Rusty Goe estimates that 250 to 300 exist today in all grades, with 65 to 85 in EF to AU and only 16 to 19 in Mint State. Although the latter figure seems somewhat generous at first blush, locating an Uncirculated 1872-CC dollar in today's market at any grade level is another matter. Such offerings are rare, which fact confirms the fleeting opportunity that this lot represents.

PCGS# 6969. NGC ID: 24ZK.

NGC Census: 1; 6 finer (MS-65 finest).

*From The Des Moines Collection.*

## Classic 1873-CC Liberty Seated Dollar Rarity



1203

**1873-CC Liberty Seated Silver Dollar. OC-1, the only known dies. Rarity-4+. EF-40 (PCGS).** This is a high grade example of a well known key date issue that is highly elusive at all levels of preservation. It will make a great addition to a high grade Liberty Seated Collection. Both sides retain plenty of bold to sharp striking detail that is most impressive on the central devices, including Liberty's portrait on the obverse and the eagle on the reverse. Quite appealing for a lightly circulated CC-Mint Liberty Seated dollar, direct lighting reveals a somewhat glossy texture and lavender and reddish-apricot undertones that point to an old cleaning. Overall, the surfaces display silver and dove gray patina that provides nice eye appeal. A find for advanced collectors of Liberty Seated or Carson City Mint coinage, and sure to see spirited bidding at auction.

Although the 1871-CC has a lower mintage (1,376 vs. 2,300 pieces), the final year 1873-CC is the rarest of the four Carson City Mint Liberty Seated dollars. The entire mintage was achieved in just two deliveries: 1,000 coins in January and 1,300 pieces in February. It is presumed that although 2,300 were struck, most were melted. Based upon the ratio of surviving pieces, Dave Bowers, working with R.W. Julian in *Silver Dollars and Trade Dollars of the United States: A Complete Encyclopedia*, 1993, estimated that no more than 1,000 reached the channels of circulation, and the number may have been closer to 750.

As is the case with 1871-CC, the desirability of the 1873-CC was recognized at an early date, and quite a few were taken from circulation. Otherwise, the coin would be on the "rarest of the rare" list today. As it is, there are very few 1873-CC dollars to be had in any grade, and a great deal of patience is often required to locate one. Various contributors to *The Gobrecht Journal* have voiced their opinions concerning the rarity of this issue. In March 1977, Ron Severa called this the rarest Liberty Seated dollar in Extremely Fine grade, except for the 1870-S. In July 1982, Donald Vettel noted that the 1873-CC is extremely rare, and that fewer than 50 are known. In March 1983, Weimar W. White wrote that no coins were known in MS-65 grade, fewer than five existed in the MS-60 range, and that totally fewer than 40 pieces were known. In July 1984, John Kroon suggested that 40 to 60 coins survive in various grades. Writing in the 2018 reference *Liberty Seated Dollars: A Register of Die Varieties*, Dick Osburn and Brian Cushing offer a much more generous estimate of only 100 or so coins extant in all grades. Facts are scarce and the resubmission of expensive and rare coins such as the 1873-CC dollar to third-party services tends to inflate estimates.

PCGS# 6972. NGC ID: 24ZN.

PCGS Population: 10; 31 finer, only three of which are Mint State (MS-65 finest).

*From the Midwest Cabinet.*



## A Second 1873-CC Liberty Seated Dollar



1204

**1873-CC Liberty Seated Silver Dollar. OC-1, the only known dies. Rarity-4+. VF-25 (NGC).** This is a remarkable second offering for the elusive 1873-CC, one of the rarest of all silver dollar issues irrespective of type. Generally untoned, otherwise silver gray surfaces reveal only the lightest pale gold iridescence at isolated viewing angles. The amount

of remaining detail is commensurate with the assigned grade, all major design elements bold. One of just 100 or so survivors from a paltry mintage of 2,300 pieces, this coin is sure to see spirited bidding among advanced Liberty Seated dollar and Carson City Mint enthusiasts.

PCGS# 6972. NGC ID: 24ZN.

*From The Des Moines Collection.*

## Outstanding Prooflike Gem 1879-CC Silver Dollar



1205

**1879-CC Morgan Silver Dollar. Clear CC. MS-65 PL (PCGS).** his delightful 1879-CC Morgan dollar is bright and brilliant with the silver white appearance that Morgan dollar collectors find so appealing. The fields are reflective, while the devices are set apart with both a bold strike and satin texture. This lovely coin will appeal to advanced Morgan dollar collectors and Carson City Mint specialists alike.

After a promising start with 2,212,000 coins struck in 1878, Morgan dollar production at the Carson City Mint fell off markedly in 1879. Only 756,000 pieces were produced in the latter year, and mintages would continue to fall through 1881. Despite its proximity to Nevada's rich silver mines, the Carson City Mint was forced to play second fiddle as much of the bullion mined was sent instead to the more distant San Francisco Mint for coinage. There was so little bullion on hand at the Carson City Mint throughout 1879, in fact, the presses were still for much of the year. In our August 2013 sale of the Battle Born Collection,

Rusty Goe reported that Superintendent Crawford received orders from his superiors in Washington, D.C. to cease coinage operations in April and lay off workers. The presses in Carson City remained idle until August, after which only 210,000 additional silver dollars were struck before the end of 1879. When added to the 546,000 coins struck prior to the Mint's cessation of operations in April, the total mintage for the 1879-CC amounted to just 756,000 coins, as previously stated.

With a far smaller percentage of the mintage finding its way into numismatic hands through the various GSA sales of the 1970s, the 1879-CC is rarer than the lower mintage 1880-CC, 1881-CC and 1885-CC in Mint State. This issue, in fact, is the rarest Carson City Mint Morgan dollar of the 1878 to 1885 era. Particularly desirable as a Gem Prooflike example, the present offering is sure to attract the notice of astute bidders.

PCGS# 7087. NGC ID: 253T.

PCGS Population: 9; 2 finer (both MS-65+) in this category.

## Condition Rarity 1880-CC Silver Dollar



1206

**1880-CC Morgan Silver Dollar. MS-67 (NGC).** An exquisite Superb Gem, both sides are fully frosted in finish with a brilliant snow white appearance. The strike is razor sharp throughout, a feature not always seen on 1880-CC dollars of the Reverse of 1879 hub variety. Silky smooth in texture and all but pristine, this delightful coin will please even the most discerning Carson City Mint and/or Morgan dollar enthusiast. As a Carson City Mint issue with a low mintage of 495,000 pieces (net after melting), the 1880-CC Morgan dollar has always been popular with collectors. Thanks to the widespread distribution of examples during the 1950s, early to mid 1960s and, especially,

through the various GSA sales of the 1970s, the 1880-CC is readily obtainable in Mint State. Most such pieces are of the Reverse of 1879 hub variety, as here, and most grade no finer than MS-65. Even so, the persistent collector should be able to obtain an MS-66 without too much difficulty. Superb Gems in MS-67 and MS-67+, however, are another matter entirely. This issue, as are all Carson City Mint Morgan dollars, is a significant condition rarity in the grade offered here, a fact that is sure to result in spirited bidding for this lot.

PCGS# 7100. NGC ID: 2542.

NGC Census: 27; 2 finer in this category (MS-67+ ★ finest).

*From The Des Moines Collection.*

## Impressive Gem Proof 1884 Morgan Dollar



1207

**1884 Morgan Silver Dollar. Proof-66 (PCGS).** CAC. Antique silver surfaces display vivid cobalt and golden-rose highlights, especially at the peripheries of this delightful Premium Gem Proof. The razor sharp strike, lively mint finish and pristine surfaces validate the Proof-66 designation from PCGS. Survivors from a mintage of 875 Proof silver dollars of the date are largely confined to lower grades through

Proof-64. Not only is the present example very well preserved, but its originality and vivid toning define it as one of the most desirable examples we have offered in recent sales. Sure to sell for a strong premium to a quality-conscious collector.

PCGS# 7319. NGC ID: 272B.

PCGS Population: 6; 7 finer (Proof-68 finest).



## Elusive Mint State 1884-S Morgan Dollar



1208

**1884-S Morgan Silver Dollar. MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** This is an incredibly attractive Morgan dollar regardless of date and mint, though this superior eye appeal becomes even more significant in the context of the coveted 1884-S issue. The fields are considerably prooflike and watery, nicely contrasting the more satiny design elements. Light friction and a few tiny bagmarks show under magnification, though the complexion remains smooth and without distractions to the naked eye.

The 1884-S is one of the most famous condition rarities in the Morgan dollar series. Though 3.2 million pieces were struck, the vast majority were spent and spent again in local commerce, and today the typical grade may be EF or AU, with many survivors well below those grades. The scarcity and value of this issue increases exponentially in Mint State, where it becomes a significant challenge for even the advanced Morgan specialist.

PCGS# 7156. NGC ID: 254P.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Heritage's sale of October 2009, lot 977.*

## Exceedingly Rare DPL 1884-S Morgan Dollar



1209

**1884-S Morgan Silver Dollar. MS-60 DPL (NGC).** A phenomenal strike and condition rarity for this well known key date issue. Brilliant surfaces exhibit deep reflectivity to the finish, the fields most impressive in this regard. Boldly to sharply struck with a bright and attractive appearance. The 1884-S has long been recognized as a leading rarity in the Mint State Morgan dollar series. Not because the issue has a limited mintage, however, for a delivery of 3,200,000 pieces is respectable, if not overly generous, for a silver dollar of this design type. Rather, the 1884-S suffered a much higher rate of attrition through circulation that many other Morgan dollar issues. Indeed, worn examples are plentiful and can be obtained with relative ease in grades through AU. Not so with Mint State coins, the rarity of

which might also be partially attributable to the destruction of many undistributed bags pursuant to the terms of the 1918 Pittman Act. The offering of any Mint State 1884-S is an important occasion for the advanced Morgan dollar collector, the present example of even greater rarity and significance due to the DPL designation assigned by NGC. A mere two coins have been graded with that designation for the issue, this example, and one finer MS-61. With so few coins certified in this category, this coin represents a fleeting bidding opportunity for the advanced Morgan dollar collector.

PCGS# 97157. NGC ID: 254P.

NGC Census: 1; 1 finer (MS-61).

## Virtually Pristine 1886 Morgan Dollar



1210

**1886 Morgan Silver Dollar. MS-68 (NGC).** An extraordinary condition rarity in an 1886 silver dollar, this brilliant Superb Gem allows ready appreciation of frosty cartwheel luster. The strike is razor sharp throughout, and the surfaces are expectably smooth for the assigned grade. At 19,963,000 circulation strikes produced, the 1886 boasts the highest mintage for a silver dollar of any design type produced up to that point in time. Thanks to the release of large numbers of examples from government storage throughout much of

the early to mid-20th century, the 1886 is one of the most common Morgan dollars in Mint State. As with so many issues in this series, however, MS-68 is the grade level at which the word “rare” becomes applicable for the 1886. Among the finest certified examples, this virtually pristine beauty would do justice to any high quality type or date set.

PCGS# 7166. NGC ID: DDB6.

NGC Census: 28; 3 finer in this category (all MS-68+).

*From the Rosie Collection.*

## Lustrous High Grade 1886-O Morgan Silver Dollar



1211

**1886-O Morgan Silver Dollar. MS-64 (PCGS). CAC. OGH.** Long known to be a condition rarity in any grade above Choice Mint State-63, this splendid Mint State-64 coin will attract considerable attention as so few are known any finer than the example offered here. The strike is sharper than average with some definition in the fine curls over Liberty's ear and the eagle's breast feathers are well defined, especially so for this date. Examination of the surfaces finds little more than scattered contact from bag handling, and none of the marks are

that deep or detracting. Foremost upon examination is the abundance of mint luster, a feature seldom found on this date and mint. The 1886-O became an exception for this series as there were no large quantities of bags of this date and mint found in the Treasury holdings, obviously a couple of bags were found, but most of the coins were of modest mint state grades. This outstanding quality example would serve with distinction in the very finest of cabinets.

PCGS# 7168. NGC ID: 254W.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III.*



## Premium Quality 1886-S Morgan Dollar



1212

**1886-S Morgan Silver Dollar.** MS-66+ (PCGS). CAC. A truly outstanding Premium Gem example with stunning cartwheel luster and stark white, brilliant surfaces. An exceptionally clean and visually striking specimen with moderate contrast between devices and fields

as well. A superb example of this date that is scarce so nice. Just five pieces have been graded finer by PCGS. A terrific piece for the advanced Morgan dollar collector.

PCGS# 7170. NGC ID: 254X.

PCGS Population: 7; 5 finer (MS-67 finest).

## Key Date 1889-CC Morgan Dollar Scarce and Desirable Mint State Quality



1213

**1889-CC Morgan Silver Dollar.** MS-62 (PCGS). An attractive Brilliant Uncirculated example of this key date entry in the Carson City Mint Morgan dollar series. Untoned silver white surfaces are fully struck with a soft satin texture to the devices. The fields are modestly reflective in finish, a feature best appreciated when the coin is observed with the aid of a strong light source. Uncommonly smooth for the assigned grade, and nearly in the Choice Mint State category, this lovely piece is sure to catch the eye of advanced Morgan dollar and Carson City Mint enthusiasts. Although it does not have the lowest mintage among CC-Mint Morgan dollars — that honor goes to the 1885-CC with 228,000 pieces produced — the 1889-CC is the rarest Carson City silver dollar of this type. In addition to a small mintage of 350,000 coins, the 1889-CC suffered an unusually high rate of attrition. While issues such as the 1881-CC, 1882-CC and 1883-CC survived in large numbers in federal storage, only a few 1,000-coin bags of the

1889-CC emerged from government vaults in the decades leading up to the 1960s. By the time the Treasury Department stopped paying out silver dollars in 1964 only a single 1889-CC remained to be dispersed in the GSA sales of 1972 to 1980. What happened to most examples is unknown, although it is likely that much of the mintage was melted, probably as part of the 270,232,722 silver dollars destroyed pursuant to the terms of the 1918 Pittman Act. Given the scarcity of circulated survivors, which are scarcer than those of the 1893-S, the 1889-CC does not appear to have been released into circulation to any great extent. Mint State coins are rare by Morgan dollar standards. We anticipate strong competition for the present example as it finds its way into a new collection.

PCGS# 7190. NGC ID: 2559.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III.*

## Key Date 1889-CC Morgan Dollar



1214

**1889-CC Morgan Silver Dollar. AU-58 (PCGS).** A lovely Choice AU to represent this fabled key date issue among Carson City Mint Morgan dollars. Razor sharp striking detail is virtually full, the surfaces also retaining nearly complete mint luster in a lively satin to softly frosted texture. Bright, brilliant and beautiful, this coin is sure to catch the

eye of advanced Morgan dollar and/Carson City Mint collectors. The rarest of the Carson City Mint silver dollars of the ever-popular Morgan design type, and particularly elusive in Mint State, the 1889-CC enjoys strong numismatic demand in the finest circulated grades, as here.

PCGS# 7190. NGC ID: 2559.

## A Second Near-Mint 1889-CC Dollar



1215

**1889-CC Morgan Silver Dollar. AU-58 (NGC).** A wonderful second opportunity for the Morgan dollar and/or Carson City Mint enthusiast to acquire a nearly Uncirculated example of the key date 1889-CC. Minimally toned in pale golden iridescence, most viewing angles

present a brilliant coin. Both sides are near-fully lustrous with a pleasing satin to softly frosted finish. Sharply defined in virtually all areas, and uncommonly smooth for the assigned grade, this is an outstanding example that is sure to catch the eye of advanced collectors.

PCGS# 7190. NGC ID: 2559.

## Legendary Mint State 1892-S Morgan Dollar



1216

**1892-S Morgan Silver Dollar. MS-61 (PCGS).** This lovely and highly significant coin is sharply struck overall, the central high points a bit soft, yet with emerging to bold detail at the hair curls over Liberty's ear and on the eagle's breast. Satiny surfaces are fully lustrous with delicate champagne-gold highlights that are more prevalent on the reverse. The in hand appearance is uncommonly smooth for the assigned grade, especially on Liberty's cheek and in the obverse field. A premium quality coin for the assigned grade that would serve as a highlight in even the finest silver dollar set. The 1892-S is one of those issues that makes the Morgan dollar series both interesting to study and challenging to collect. On the one hand, well worn survivors in grades such as Good and VG are readily obtainable, this despite a relatively limited mintage of 1,200,000 pieces. Conversely, the 1892-S is one of the rarest issues of its type in Mint State. We suspect that a significant portion of the mintage was placed into commercial channels during the final years of the 19th century or, at the latest, early in the 20th century. Most coins remained in circulation for many

years, explaining the sizeable population of well worn survivors in numismatic circles. According to Q. David Bowers (*Silver Dollars & Trade Dollars of the United States: A Complete Encyclopedia*, 1993), at least one original bag was paid out by the San Francisco Mint during the 1920s. Those coins also avoided numismatic circles and, released later than most worn survivors, they probably account for many of the finer circulated examples in EF and AU. The rest of the mintage was almost certainly included among the 270,232,722 silver dollars that the federal government melted pursuant to the terms of the 1918 Pittman Act. As far as numismatic scholars know, this issue was not included in the silver dollar releases from the San Francisco Mint during the 1940s or 1950s, nor was it represented in the Treasury Department releases of 1962 to 1964. Today, the rarity of the 1892-S in Mint State is well known among Morgan dollar enthusiasts. With market appearances of such pieces few and far between, the opportunity to acquire this captivating rarity deserves serious consideration.

PCGS# 7218. NGC ID: 255P.

## Choice AU Key Date 1892-S Morgan Dollar



1217

**1892-S Morgan Silver Dollar. AU-58 (PCGS).** Virtually complete satin luster and overall full striking detail confirm this coin as a conditionally rare 1892-S Morgan dollar. Lightly toned in iridescent gold with eye appeal to spare. The legendary 1892-S is one of the rarest silver dollars of this type in Mint State. Very few examples remain at that level of preservation, and they are so costly as to be out of reach

for most buyers in today's market. We are happy to offer examples in both Mint State and Choice AU, as here, for discriminating collectors this auction. This is one of the nicest near-Mint pieces that we have handled in recent memory, and it is sure to have no difficulty finding its way into a high grade Morgan dollar set comprised mostly of Mint State coins.

PCGS# 7218. NGC ID: 255P.

## Historic 1893-CC Morgan Dollar Sharply Struck Choice Mint State Quality



1218

**1893-CC Morgan Silver Dollar. MS-64 (PCGS).** An impressive strike and condition rarity for this key date Morgan dollar issue from the fabled Nevada branch mint. Both sides are exceptionally well produced for an issue that is typically encountered with noticeably blunt high point detail. For this coin, the strike is sharp to full throughout. Overall smooth, minimally abraded surfaces are also a noteworthy departure for an issue that usually grades no finer than MS-63. Brilliant and highly lustrous, this lovely near-Gem is sure to sell for a premium

bid to an astute Morgan dollar collector. The 1893-CC is one of the most challenging Morgan dollars to locate in high grades and with strong eye appeal. For starters, this is a low mintage issue with just 677,000 pieces produced, and examples are scarce in an absolute sense. Additionally, many 1893-CC dollars are poorly struck in the centers, and most Mint State survivors are also heavily abraded. Indeed, this is one of the nicest MS-64s that we have handled in recent sales.

PCGS# 7222. NGC ID: 255S.

*From the Blue Ridge Mountains Portfolio.*

## Incredible Uncirculated 1893-S Morgan Dollar A Legendary Key Date to the Series



1219

**1893-S Morgan Silver Dollar. Unc Details—Cleaning (PCGS).** This is a truly extraordinary example of this challenging key date issue. The surfaces are largely untuned, bathed in the faintest champagne hue and showing an area of deeper bronze patina at the lower left rim on the obverse. A few light hairlines reveal themselves in the peripheries when viewed at certain angles, though the complexion remains overall attractive and untroubled by the noted cleaning. The strike is sharply executed, with richly frosted and intricate design elements at center framed by a subtle prooflike reflectivity in the fields.

This piece is a significant survivor from a low mintage of just 100,000 coins, and perhaps only 150 coins remain in Uncirculated condition. The majority of this issue was placed into circulation and fueled the economy of the American West, with many going on to be later melted. The few survivors now available to collectors are typically encountered in grades of VF and lower. PCGS has certified just 38 pieces in all Mint State grades combined, stressing the true scarcity Uncirculated examples like the present.

PCGS# 7226. NGC ID: 255U.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex Heritage's sale of October 2013, lot 4888.*

## Choice AU 1893-S Morgan Dollar



1220

**1893-S Morgan Silver Dollar. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Traces of gentle, uniform circulation are visible across the exposed regions of this lovely high grade rarity, accompanied by considerable blooms of mint luster surrounding the devices. The vibrant, frosty texture that remains in the fields testifies to the overall exceptional preservation. Largely brilliant save for a faint golden tinge that paints each side.

A legendary issue that ranks as the absolute rarity among circulation strike Morgan dollars, the 1893-S represents a particularly important find in virtually all grades. The mintage of 100,000 pieces was all but melted in the ensuing years, as precious few of these are known today. This piece is a particularly significant offering for Morgan specialists, as we are unable to any auction appearances of CAC-approved examples in grades above AU-55, stressing the true scarcity of premium quality survivors.

PCGS# 7226. NGC ID: 255U.

## Legendary 1893-S Morgan Dollar



1221

**1893-S Morgan Silver Dollar. AU-50 (PCGS).** A conditionally scarce, aesthetically pleasing example of this fabled silver dollar issue. Untoned apart from wisps of pale gold iridescence, both sides retain plenty of original luster that is best appreciated as the surfaces dip into a light. Boldly defined in all areas save for at the central high points, this minimally circulated 1893-S is sure to have no difficulty finding its way into an advanced Morgan dollar set. The most desirable circulation strike Morgan silver dollar, the 1893-S boasts the lowest mintage of its type with a mere 100,000 pieces produced. This is the rarest issue in

this series in Mint State, in fact, eclipsing even the famous condition rarity 1892-S. Most collectors have to settle for a well worn coin when it comes to the 1893-S and, indeed, thousands of coins are extant in lower grades through VF. About Uncirculated survivors such as this are scarce, especially relative to the demand that they enjoy among advanced collectors. Given the extreme rarity of Mint State pieces, the present example is sure to see spirited bidding at auction.

PCGS# 7226. NGC ID: 255U.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III.*

## Condition Rarity 1894-S Dollar



1222

**1894-S Morgan Silver Dollar. MS-66 (NGC). OH.** The 1894-S may be the most readily obtainable circulation strike silver dollar from the 1893 to 1895 era, but the issue still ranks among the key date Morgans from the San Francisco Mint. We offer here a conditionally rare premium Gem, both sides of which are bathed in intense mint frost. The strike is razor sharp to full over even the most intricate design elements. Virtually brilliant in the centers, the peripheries are adorned

with lovely iridescent toning in reddish-pink and cobalt blue. Among the finest certified, and eagerly awaiting inclusion in a high quality collection of America's favorite silver dollar series.

PCGS# 7232. NGC ID: 255X.

NGC Census: 8; 4 finer in this category (MS-67 finest).

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier from our sale of the Denny Kemp Collection, March 2011, lot 3712.*



# Superb Gem Proof 1895 Morgan Dollar

## The King of the Morgan Dollars

### Just 1 Certified Finer by PCGS



1223

**1895 Morgan Silver Dollar. Proof-67 (PCGS). CAC. OGH.** This is a magnificent opportunity for the Morgan dollar collector, not only as a representative of the most coveted issue in the series but also as one of the finest survivors of that issue. Undeniably original, the centers are dusted in a apricot patina and cradled by deeper violet and sapphire iridescence at the borders. These colors are backlit by considerable reflectivity that sparkles throughout the fields and glows under a light source. The devices contrast this flashy complexion with a heavily frosted texture and showcase untouched surfaces even atop the highest points. It is tied with just 4 other examples at the Proof-67 grade and only 1 coin ranks finer in this category at Proof-68. As the pinnacle if both the issue and the overall series, the desirability of this piece is undeniable.

As the sole Proof-only issue in the popular Morgan silver dollar series of 1878 to 1921, the 1895 has long enjoyed near-legendary status. Early generations of collectors were puzzled by an entry in Mint

records that showed a circulation strike delivery of 12,000 coins for this year, and many theories arose to explain why the only 1895-dated examples were of the 880-piece Proof issue. Some said the circulation strikes were never released and were subsequently melted as part of the 270,232,722 silver dollars destroyed under the terms of the 1918 Pittman Act. Others believed these coins were never struck at all and the 12,000-piece figure represented nothing more than a bookkeeping error on the part of Mint personnel. Modern numismatic scholarship, however, suggests that the 12,000-coin mintage reported for 1895 represents a bookkeeping adjustment by the Mint to account for a final delivery of 1894-dated silver dollars. In any event, every collector seeking to assemble complete a date and mint set of Morgan dollars must acquire a Proof for the 1895. Only the most advanced collectors, however, will recognize the opportunity offered in this example.

PCGS# 7330, NGC ID: 27ZR.

PCGS Population: 5; just 1 finer in Proof-68.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Proof-Only 1895 Morgan Dollar Rarity



1224

**1895 Morgan Silver Dollar. Proof-64 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** A beautiful Proof Morgan dollar irrespective of date, both sides exhibit delicate iridescent gold toning to fully impressed, boldly cameoed surfaces. Carefully preserved and virtually pristine, a wispy hairline in the left reverse field may be the only impediment to a full Gem grade. As the sole Proof-only issue in the popular Morgan silver dollar series of 1878 to 1921, the 1895 has long enjoyed near-legendary status. Early generations of collectors were puzzled by an entry in Mint records that showed a circulation strike delivery of 12,000 coins for this year, and many theories arose to explain why the only 1895-dated examples were of the 880-piece Proof issue. Some said the circulation strikes were never released and were subsequently melted as part of the 270,232,722 silver dollars destroyed under the terms of the 1918 Pittman Act. Others believed these coins were never struck at all and

the 12,000-piece figure represented nothing more than a bookkeeping error on the part of Mint personnel. Modern numismatic scholarship, however, suggests that the 12,000-coin mintage reported for 1895 represents a bookkeeping adjustment by the Mint to account for a final delivery of 1894-dated silver dollars. In any event, collectors seeking to assemble complete date and mint sets of Morgan dollars must acquire a Proof for the 1895. An interesting and very curious aspect of Proof 1895 dollars is that research at the American Numismatic Association Headquarters found that five (!) different obverse dies were used to create the mintage of just 880 coins. With superior technical quality and a pleasing appearance, the coin offered here offers a particularly important bidding opportunity.

PCGS# 97330. NGC ID: 27ZR.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier from Heritage's Long Beach Signature Auction of September 2010, lot 4759.*



## Jaw-Dropping Gem Mint State 1895-O Morgan Dollar Just One Finer at PCGS



1225

**1895-O Morgan Silver Dollar. MS-66 (PCGS).** A legendary condition rarity among Morgan silver dollars, Gem examples of the 1895-O are more rumored than real in today's market. Fortunately for advanced specialists in this popular and widely collected series, this is just such a coin. A richly original piece, the reverse exhibits particularly bold toning with dominant antique copper that yields to even warmer charcoal-blue at the periphery. Direct lighting calls forth intense undertones of iridescent gold, blue and silver-russet that further enhance already memorable eye appeal. For the obverse, we note more irregular, mottled toning in olive-russet and, at the left and right borders, swirls of charcoal-blue. The in hand appearance is exceptionally smooth for this conditionally challenging issue, and even with the aid of a loupe both sides still present as virtually pristine. Superior luster and

striking qualities join exceptional surface preservation to establish the remarkable premium Gem as one of the finest 1895-O dollars available to today's discerning Morgan enthusiasts. Phenomenal! With a mere 450,000 coins struck the 1895-O boasts one of the lowest mintages among circulation strike Morgan dollars. Most examples were retained in federal vaults and melted later, although more than 100,000 pieces probably entered commercial channels and account for the typically encountered worn survivor in today's market. Mint State coins have always been elusive in numismatic circles, and when offered at all are apt to display poor striking quality and/or unattractive surfaces. The present offering clearly represents a fleeting bidding opportunity not to be overlooked.

PCGS# 7236. NGC ID: 255Y.

PCGS Population: just 3; with a single MS-67 finer.

## Desirable Mint State 1895-O Morgan Dollar



1226

**1895-O Morgan Silver Dollar. MS-62 (PCGS).** A fully blast-white and brilliant example showing uniform satiny luster. Liberty's cheek features just a touch of light friction but the surfaces are otherwise well composed and without distractions.

With a mere 450,000 coins struck the 1895-O boasts one of the lowest mintages among circulation strike Morgan dollars. Most examples were retained in federal vaults and melted later, although more than

100,000 pieces probably entered commercial channels and account for the typically encountered worn survivor in today's market. Mint State coins have always been elusive in numismatic circles, and when offered at all are apt to display poor striking quality and/or unattractive surfaces.

PCGS# 7236. NGC ID: 255Y.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III.*

## Impressive Strike and Condition Rarity 1896-O Dollar



1227

**1896-O Morgan Silver Dollar. MS-64 (PCGS).** An outstanding example of this challenging New Orleans Mint issue. The strike is truly remarkable in an 1896-O dollar, the detail razor sharp throughout to include crisp delineation between the hair curls over Liberty's ear and the eagle's breast feathers. Luster quality is also outstanding with a soft satin texture that is smooth enough to support the coveted Choice rating from PCGS. Untoned apart from the faintest notion of gold at the extreme peripheries, this gorgeous coin would serve as a highlight in even the finest Morgan dollar set. With a mintage figure of nearly

5 million pieces, examples up through Choice About Uncirculated can be obtained with minimal effort and expenditure. In spite of the liberal production figure, the vast majority of coins were subjected to circulation and relatively few pieces were hoarded in Treasury vaults. Choice Mint State pieces are relatively elusive in the marketplace, with true Gems remaining virtually unobtainable. The present MS-64 represents a significant find for the advanced collector specializing in America's favorite silver dollar series.

PCGS# 7242. NGC ID: 2563.

PCGS Population: 31; 3 finer (MS-66 finest).

## Incredible Gem Proof 1898 Morgan Dollar Deep Cameo



1228

**1898 Morgan Silver Dollar. Proof-67 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** A magnificent survivor from this limited Proof mintage, displaying pearlescent ivory-white centers and a blend of bronze and teal iridescence at the borders. The surfaces are virtually flawless, with Liberty's portrait rendered as if in marble, and the eagle's feathers essentially untouched. Rich, satiny luster blankets the devices, contrasting sharply with the watery and reflective fields. Breathtaking to view in-person and technically stunning.

Along with the 1896 and 1897, the 1898 is one of the most consistently well produced and attractive Proofs in the Morgan silver dollar series. A total of only 735 such proofs were struck, the vast majority of which are either lost, impaired, or rendered clearly inferior to the presently offered coin. This piece is among the finest known survivors, with only 6 coins graded higher by PCGS. For the advanced collector pursuing the most desirable representatives of the Morgan series or 19th Century type, this piece is an important opportunity.

PCGS# 97333. NGC ID: 27ZW.

PCGS Population: 14; just 6 finer through Proof-68+ Deep Cameo.



## Charming Superb Proof 1898 Morgan Dollar



1229

**1898 Morgan Silver Dollar. Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** A virtually pristine beauty that will have no difficulty finding its way into a high quality Proof type or date set. Dusted with mottled sandy-gold patina, both sides allow ready appreciation of bold field to device contrast that readily upholds the validity of the coveted Cameo designation from NGC. Fully struck from the rims to the centers, as befits the issue, with silky smooth surfaces that are sure to please even the most discerning collector. Along with the 1896 and 1897, the 1898 is one of the most

consistently well produced, well preserved, and attractive Proofs in the Morgan silver dollar series. Even so, few survivors from the mintage of 735 pieces have attained a Gem Cameo grade from the leading third party certification services. The present example is an important bidding opportunity not to be overlooked.

PCGS# 87333. NGC ID: 27ZW.

NGC Census: 3; 4 finer in this category (all Proof-68 Cameo).

*From The Des Moines Collection.*

## Dramatic 1901 VAM-3 Shifted Eagle Morgan Dollar Top 100 Variety



1230

**1901 Morgan Silver Dollar. VAM-3. Top 100 Variety. Doubled Die Reverse, Shifted Eagle. AU-58 (PCGS).** This is a brilliant, near-fully lustrous example of this popular, yet challenging variety. Boldly to sharply defined throughout, both sides exhibit ample evidence of a satiny finish from the dies. One of the most popular Morgan Dollar varieties, the 1901 VAM-3 exhibits pronounced doubling on the

reverse at the eagle's tail, legs and wings, hence its nickname "Shifted Eagle." Doubling is also seen along the bottoms of the olive branch and arrows. This variety is exceedingly rare in Mint State — the 1901 as an issue is also a well known rarity in Uncirculated condition — and we anticipate strong bidder competition for this flashy PCGS AU-58.

PCGS# 7302.

PCGS Population: 19; 5 finer (MS-62+ finest).

## Important Near Mint 1901 VAM-3 Morgan Dollar Shifted Eagle, Doubled Die Reverse Top 100 Variety



1231

**1901 Morgan Silver Dollar. VAM-3. Top 100 Variety. Shifted Eagle, Doubled Die Reverse. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Bright and brilliant, both sides of this piece allow ready appreciation of near-full luster. A lack of significant wear and freedom from all but a few wispy abrasions point to a very short stint in circulation for this lovely near-Mint example.

One of the most popular Morgan Dollar varieties, the 1901 VAM-3 exhibits pronounced doubling on the reverse as the eagle's tail, legs and wings, as well as along the bottoms of the olive branch and arrows. This variety is very rare in Mint State, a fact that speaks volumes about the importance of this PQ AU-58.

PCGS# 133965. NGC ID: 256J.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier ex our March 2010 Baltimore Auction, lot 3269.*

## An Impressive Third 1901 VAM-3



1232

**1901 Morgan Silver Dollar. VAM-3. Top 100 Variety. Doubled Die Reverse, Shifted Eagle. AU-58 (NGC).** Solid Condition Census quality is immediately evident in this bold, naked eye Morgan dollar VAM variety that is also published in the *Guidebook* and remains popular as such. Overall lustrous with much of the original satin finish remaining, both sides also retain sharp striking detail to most features. The "Shifted Eagle" variety, as written in the *Guidebook*, refers to the

bold die doubling on most reverse elements, including the tail feathers and eagle's beak. The 1901 issue as a whole is difficult to obtain in Mint State, and the VAM-3 variety is even more so. Indeed, at PCGS, only three examples are graded AU-58, as here, with a single MS-62 finer. Population data is unavailable for NGC, but we suspect a similar distribution. An important coin for the quality conscious variety collector.

## Premium Gem 1903-S Morgan Dollar Rare Key Date Issue



1233

**1903-S Morgan Silver Dollar. MS-66 (PCGS). CAC. OGH.** As a solidly graded Gem with nary a distracting abrasion in evidence, the coin we offer here is nothing short of rare from a condition standpoint. Satin-to-softly frosted luster is uncommonly vibrant for this often drab-looking issue, and it is fully appreciable in the absence of significant toning. Razor sharp in strike, and seemingly earmarked for inclusion in the finest Morgan Dollar set. PCGS has certified just 11 coins finer than the present piece, emphasizing the true conditionally challenged nature of this issue.

Elusive in all grades, the 1903-S Morgan Dollar has a limited mintage of just 1.2 million pieces. Many of those coins are believed to have been melted under the terms of the 1918 Pittman Act, with the result that Mint State survivors are particularly scarce in numismatic circles.

PCGS# 7288. NGC ID: 256T.

PCGS Population: 41; 11 finer through MS-67+.

*From the Collection of Thaddeus A. Tatum III. Earlier from our sale of the Denny Kemp Collection, March 2011 Baltimore, lot 3801.*

## Incredible Superb Gem 1921 Peace Dollar



1234

**1921 Peace Silver Dollar. High Relief. MS-67 (PCGS).** A pleasingly original example of DeFrancisci's beautiful Peace dollar, the only date struck in high relief for circulation. Boldly lustrous silver gray with soft highlights of gold and pale blue blended across the surface giving the piece a pearlescent aspect. The centers are lightly struck, as always, this precipitating a change in the design the following year. Well preserved and with significant eye appeal, this is certainly one of the nicest to

come on the market in recent times. Indeed, only seven examples certified by PCGS have risen to the Superb Gem level, and only two examples grade a half-step lower at MS-66+. It is clear that at the upper echelon of grades, the 1921 Peace dollar is quite rare, and Registry Set owners will most certainly be taking notice.

PCGS# 7356. NGC ID: 2U4E.

PCGS Population: 7; none finer.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Top-Pop 1922-D Condition Rarity



1235

**1922-D Peace Silver Dollar. MS-67 (PCGS).** A razor sharp Superb Gem with exceptionally well preserved surfaces. Silky smooth and satiny in texture, this brilliant beauty would serve with distinction in even the finest Peace dollar set. The 1922-D is the most common Denver Mint issue of this type in terms of total number of Mint State coins known. In keeping with the standards of the D-mint Peace dollar series, however, the typical 1922-D is heavily abraded and confined to

the MS-60 to MS-64 grade range. Even an MS-66 would be a significant find in today's market, while the MS-67 offered here represents a truly fleeing bidding opportunity for the discerning Peace dollar specialist. Only two other coins at PCGS share its top-pop status, and it is unlikely either will be offered in the near future.

PCGS# 7358. NGC ID: 257D.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Impressive Gem Uncirculated 1925-S Peace Dollar



1236

**1925-S Peace Silver Dollar. MS-65 (PCGS).** Offered is an exceptionally well produced and preserved 1925-S Peace dollar. Brilliant surfaces allow ready appreciation of vibrant satin to softly frosted luster and the texture is quite smooth for the issue. The strike is superior by comparison, overall detail is sharp and the central high points show significant boldness. This is a premium 1925-S silver dollar that would serve as a highlight in an advanced collection.

Trailing only the 1928-S, the 1925-S is the second rarest Peace dollar at or above the Gem Mint State grade level. Obtainable with ease in grades through MS-64, this changes significantly at MS-65. With most Uncirculated survivors limited in grade due to poor striking detail (especially on the top part of the eagle's wing), inferior luster and/or excessive abrasions, the present example is certainly a welcome departure from the norm. Outstanding!

PCGS# 7366. NGC ID: 257M.

PCGS Population: 42; none finer.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*



## Impressive Gem 1927 Peace Dollar



1237

**1927 Peace Silver Dollar. MS-66 (PCGS).** Satiny in texture with light golden overtones, this sharply struck and visually appealing example would serve with distinction in a high grade Peace dollar set. After only the 1928, the 1927 has the lowest mintage of any circulation strike issue in this series. Just 848,000 coins were struck, and Mint State survivors are scarce by the standards of the type. Roger Burdette in his *Guide Book of Peace Dollars* (2008) writes: "The 1927 issue is the rarest Philadelphia-minted coin in Uncirculated condition, although

the 1928 is often given this honor because of its very low total mintage. Coins in MS-63 are fairly common, but in MS-64 and higher, this coin is one of the rarer issues in the series." In Premium Gem, as here, it holds distinction as top-pop, a status shared with just fifteen other coins at PCGS. A significant find for the collector assembling a top flight Peace dollar set.

PCGS# 7370. NGC ID: 257S.

PCGS Population: 16; none finer.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Gem 1927-D Silver Dollar Low Mintage Condition Rarity



1238

**1927-D Peace Silver Dollar. MS-66 (PCGS).** A platinum-white brilliance dazzles across each side of this angelic Gem from the Denver Mint. The luster is satiny and uniform, accompanied by the faintest notions of pale golden patina that attest to the originality of this piece. Struck to a quantity of just 1.2 million coins, down substantially from the 2.3 million dollars struck in Denver the year before. Though this

issue is readily available in all grades up through MS-64, Premium Gem examples like the present piece are truly sparse. Solidly within the Condition Census of the issue, as PCGS has certified a single example finer at MS-66+.

PCGS# 7371.

PCGS Population: 13; 1 finer (MS-66+).

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Thoroughly Appealing High Grade 1928 Peace Dollar



1239

**1928 Peace Silver Dollar. MS-66 (PCGS).** A simply exquisite coin that must be seen to be fully appreciated, this premium Gem is better preserved with stronger eye appeal than the vast majority of the rest of the issue. Fully struck with vibrant satin luster on both sides and unquestionably original with bright peripheral gold, orange and lime green toning. A blush of pale golden-rose dominates the rest of the surfaces. Beautiful in all regards, and an important highlight of this sale, even amongst many other high grade Peace dollars.

With the lowest mintage (360,649 pieces) in the circulation strike Peace dollar series, the 1928 is eagerly sought at all levels of preservation.

Enough coins were saved, however, that locating a Mint State survivor in the 60 to 64 grade range will not prove all that difficult under normal market conditions. In MS-65, however, the conditionally challenging nature of this issue comes to the fore. Premium Gems in MS-65+ and MS-66 are nothing short of rare. Indeed, this is the finest 1928 Peace dollar that we have offered in recent memory, and it is a coin that is seemingly earmarked for inclusion in a high ranked set on the PCGS Registry.

PCGS# 7373. NGC ID: 257V.

PCGS Population: 18; 1 finer (MS-66+).

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Desirable Gem 1928-S Peace Dollar Just 3 Finer at PCGS



1240

**1928-S Peace Silver Dollar. MS-65 (PCGS). CAC. OGH.** The angelic, snowy white centers of this substantial rarity are adorned with the faintest bronze iridescence near the borders. Comprehensive and satiny, the luster blankets the fields and devices without interruption, showcasing the superior preservation and softly cartwheeling at a tilt. This piece sits among the finest survivors known from this mintage of 1.6 million coins, and PCGS has certified only 3 coins finer through MS-66.

After only the 1925-S, the 1928-S is the rarest issue of this type at the Gem Mint State grade level. While the 1928-S as an issue has much

better luster quality than the 1925-S, both often display poor striking detail with most examples blunt in the centers. Heavily abraded surfaces are also the norm for these conditionally challenging issues. These characteristics explain why the vast majority of 1928-S dollars extant grade no finer than MS-64. The offering of a certified MS-65, as here, represents a significant bidding opportunity in today's market and this coin is sure to sell for a strong bid.

PCGS# 7374. NGC ID: 257W.

PCGS Population: 61; just 3 finer through MS-66.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Superb Gem 1934 Peace Dollar None Finer at PCGS



1241

**1934 Peace Silver Dollar. MS-67 (PCGS). CAC.** The surfaces of this example are essentially perfect, displaying a complexion of soft luster and bold design elements without interruption. A warm golden iridescence glows from the central obverse before fading into subtle peach hues at the borders. The reverse is uniformly pearlescent and frosty, dusted in original patina in the peripheries. Overall, an inspirational specimen that triumphs most known examples of this penultimate issue.

The 1934 Peace dollar boasts the smallest mintage of any issue from the 1930s. Of the 954,057 dollars struck, only three coins have been awarded an MS-67 grade from PCGS and none ranks finer. This is truly the ultimate find for advanced Peace dollar specialists and *PCGS Registry Set* participants.

PCGS# 7375. NGC ID: 257X.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Stellar Gem Mint State Date 1934-S Peace Dollar



1242

**1934-S Peace Silver Dollar. MS-66 (PCGS).** Brilliant centers ease into vibrant pastel hues at the peripheries on this exceptionally well preserved and original Premium Gem with vibrant satin to softly frosted luster. The strike is impressive for a San Francisco Mint Peace dollar, being bold in most areas with emerging detail in the centers.

A low mintage date from this series with 1,011,000 pieces struck for circulation with most melted or circulated soon after the time of issue. In absolute terms the 1934-S is not the rarest date in high grade, but one of the rarest of the series. At the MS-66 level, there is but a single example finer at PCGS (MS-66+). Historically the 1934-S has been

considered to be one of the rarest coins in the Peace dollar collection to obtain in high grade, and for good reason, they are rare. With the absolute data of the Census and Population Reports, the rarest Gem Peace dollar is confirmed as the 1928-S, with the 1924-S and 1925-S also formidable rarities at the gem level. Obtaining an original Gem like the present coin would make for a cornerstone purchase of any advanced collection.

PCGS# 7377. NGC ID: 257Z.

PCGS Population: 30; 1 finer (MS-66+).

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## TRADE DOLLARS

## Exceptional Near-Gem 1873-CC Trade Dollar



1243

**1873-CC Trade Dollar. MS-64 (PCGS).** Stellar Choice Mint State preservation for this scarce and conditionally challenging first year trade dollar issue. Both sides are fully untoned with a brilliant, lustrous, satiny appearance. Sharply struck in virtually all areas, the surfaces are overall smooth and exceptionally well preserved to tempt the advanced trade dollar or Carson City Mint enthusiast. The United States trade dollar made its debut in 1873 with circulation strike coinage continuing on a yearly basis through 1878. Authorized by the Act of February 12, 1873, which also abolished the standard silver dollar, the trade dollar owes its existence to Comptroller of the Currency John Jay Knox, principal architect of that omnibus coinage act. During a visit to San Francisco in 1870, Knox became aware of the strong influence of the China trade in the economy of the California port city. That trade, in turn, was heavily dependent on Mexican dollars, which were not only far more plentiful than American silver dollars at the time, but were also more acceptable to Chinese merchants due to their slightly higher weight and greater silver content. The San Francisco Mint had actually produced 20,000 silver dollars in 1859 at the request of local merchants, and the coins proved successful in trade with the Orient despite their disadvantages relative to Mexican dollars. The experiment was not repeated until 1872, however, when the 1872-S dollar emerged with an even smaller mintage of 9,000 pieces. Philadelphia Mint Liberty Seated dollars were also widely exported to the Orient beginning in the early 1840s but, again, such pieces were not plentiful and enjoyed less favor with Chinese merchants than their Mexican counterparts. The trade dollar replaced the silver dollar in 1873 with the specific purpose of meeting the needs of commerce with the Orient. Indeed, the new denomination was authorized at

a weight standard of 420 grains (greater than the 412.5-grain silver dollar), intended to make the trade dollar more attractive in the eyes of Oriental merchants. Yearly mintages were also much higher than those of the Liberty Seated dollar, especially at those coinage facilities closest to the ports of embarkation (Carson City and, especially, San Francisco). The trade dollar became an instant success in its intended role. Perhaps surprisingly given its proximity to the silver mines of the Comstock Lode, the Carson City Mint's initial contribution to the trade dollar series is a modest 124,500-piece mintage for the 1873-CC. (Much of the silver from Nevada's mines was actually shipped to the San Francisco Mint for coinage.) Most examples were exported to China, as intended, where they circulated widely until their eventual destruction through melting. Shipments of trade dollars from the Orient to coin dealers in the United States that beginning in the 1950s contained very few examples of the 1873-CC, and most of the coins that were included were chopmarked. Limited quantities of 1873-CC trade dollars did remain stateside since the denomination enjoyed legal tender status within the United States until demonetized through the Act of July 22, 1876, and these account for the majority of circulated examples in numismatic circles. Contemporary numismatic interest in this denomination was virtually nil, however, and precious few examples of the 1873-CC were preserved in Mint State. In the finest Uncirculated grades, as here, the 1873-CC is actually one of the rarest issues of its type. This is a superior quality survivor in terms of both surface preservation and eye appeal, and it is sure to sell for a strong bid.

PCGS# 7032. NGC ID: 252X.

PCGS Population: just 5; with a single MS-65 finer.

## GOLD DOLLARS

## Virtually Pristine 1870 Gold Dollar



1244

**1870 Gold Dollar. MS-68 (NGC). CAC.** A virtually pristine, exceptionally attractive example of an issue that is scarce even in lower Mint State grades. Intensely lustrous surfaces are predominantly satiny in texture, although we do note decided semi-prooflike reflectivity in the reverse field. Striking detail is razor sharp from the rims to the centers, and the entire package is bathed in rich rose-orange patina. A delight to behold, and sure to have no difficulty finding its way into an advanced collection of classic U.S. Mint gold coinage. The mintage of 6,300 circulation strike 1870 gold dollars was produced during an era when gold coins were not seen in circulation in the East and Midwest. Although the low mintage issues of this type from the 1879 to 1889 era widely saved by contemporary numismatists and, perhaps, other

speculators, in the early 1870s whatever numismatic interest there was in the gold dollar was focused on yearly Proof coinage, itself extremely limited. As such, most of the few Mint State survivors of the 1870 were likely preserved solely as a matter of chance. Yet on the other hand, the virtually pristine condition of the premium quality Superb Gem offered here is strongly suggestive of early preservation by a skilled numismatist. Regardless of exactly how it managed to survive with such unblemished surfaces, this is an outstanding and exceedingly rare 1870 gold dollar that ranks as one of the finest certified for this challenging key date issue.

PCGS# 7569. NGC ID: 25D6.

NGC Census: just 3; 0 finer. The corresponding PCGS Population is just 1/0.

## Breathtakingly Beautiful 1880 Gold Dollar Among the Finest Known to PCGS



1245

**1880 Gold Dollar. MS-68 (PCGS). CAC.** A highly attractive, virtually pristine example that stands tall among survivors of this popular low mintage gold dollar issue. Silky smooth surfaces are bathed in a blend of satiny mint luster and vivid orange-gold patina. Fully struck, expertly preserved, and sure to please even the most discerning collector. The suspension of gold specie payments by Eastern and Midwestern banks early in the Civil War dealt the gold dollar a blow from which it basically never recovered. Mintages had started to diminish as early as 1854 when the return of silver coins to active circulation rendered the gold dollar increasingly obsolete as a circulating medium of exchange in the eastern part of the United States. A delivery of 1,361,355 pieces from the Philadelphia Mint in 1862 proved an aberration. The suspension of specie payments resulted in paltry yearly mintages through the balance of the 1860s and into the early 1870s. Minor upsurges in production were achieved at the Philadelphia Mint in 1873 and 1874 as the destruction of worn gold coins pursuant to the Act of February 12, 1873, provided bullion for new coins. Thereafter yearly mintages remained extremely limited until the gold dollar passed into coinage history in 1889. Not even in 1878, when the Mint stepped up gold coin production in anticipation of the resumption of specie payments on January 1, 1879, did gold dollar coinage increase. Clearly the usefulness of the gold dollar had passed, a situation summed up nicely by Mint Director James Pollock in his Annual Report of 1874: *"Whenever the specie basis shall have been reached, large coinage of the half and*

*quarter eagles, will be necessary, but the mints can manufacture the same as rapidly as would be required or the bullion could be supplied for the purpose."* We now have six different denominations of gold coin, which is a greater variety than is required. This being the case, and the three-dollar gold piece corresponding so nearly, as to weight, value, and size, with the quarter eagle, and rarely used, it should be discontinued. The gold dollar is not a convenient coin, on account of its small size, and it suffers more proportionately from abrasion than larger coins. Its issues should, therefore, be confined to actual demands for it by the depositors of bullion, and the requirements for change and retail transactions should be met with silver coin." There were obviously few calls for gold dollars in 1880, for the Philadelphia Mint produced only 1,600 pieces in circulation strike format, the lowest mintage among Philadelphia Mint gold dollars after the 1875 (just 400 coins struck). Even so, the 1880 is surprisingly obtainable in lower grades, and it is obvious that a large percentage of the mintage survived in the hands of speculators and/or numismatists. Virgil Brand, for one, is said to have owned hundreds of 1880 gold dollars. On the other hand, the 1880 remains rare in the finest Mint State grades, as here. Saving coins and saving them with expert numismatic care are two different things, and few 1880 gold dollars extant received the fine treatment accorded the offered gold dollar over the intervening 138 years.

PCGS# 7581. NGC ID: 253Y.

PCGS Population: 28; 2 finer (MS-69 finest).

## QUARTER EAGLES

## Astonishing Gem Mint State 1830 Quarter Eagle Finest Known



1246

**1830 Capped Head Left Quarter Eagle. BD-1. Rarity-4. MS-66 (PCGS). CAC.** A radiant jewel of a coin with bright lustrous yellow gold color and a bounteous cartwheel effect, all serving to accentuate the crisp even strike. The surfaces are almost entirely clear of any contact marks or abrasions, consistent with the assigned grade and confirmed by CAC. The dies at some point acquired patches of microscopic detritus that have imparted a slight textured feel in places, most notable in the fields around Star 1 on the obverse. This as-struck feature is only evident on the very finest of specimens and has been noted on the Garrett-Pogue specimen, as well.

The quarter eagle was never an especially denomination in commerce and was not nearly requested by bullion depositors at the Philadelphia Mint as much as its bigger sibling, the half eagle. Many half eagles and eagles were shipped overseas, often to end up being used as bullion for European coins, when production of the quarter eagle was suspended beginning in 1808. When production resumed in 1821, the denomination was produced mostly in small quantities throughout the 1820s and into the 1830s. In the meantime, the price of gold rose enough so that the intrinsic value of a quarter eagle was \$2.67, giving speculators a small but bankable profit when the coins were sold as bullion. Because American gold coins were already refined and of a known weight, they became easy targets for speculators. Even as the North Carolina and Georgia gold fields began producing in earnest, struck coin soon disappeared into the melting pots both domestically and abroad. This also impacted the statutory ratio of 15:1 gold to silver that had been set back in 1792. By 1830, the market ratio between gold and silver was roughly 15.9:1. The issue was taken up by Senator Nathan Sanford, chair of the Committee on Finance, when he presented his January 1830 Report on the Current Coins. Sanford noted that “the legal valuation of gold being too low, and that of silver too high” resulted in gold coins being melted or exported at their bullion value and referred additional examination to the Secretary of the Treasury. While this was under review, a nearly token quantity of 4,540 quarter eagles were struck, which went mostly to congressmen or simply entered circulation with no notice. Four years later, Congress passed the Coinage Act on June 27, 1834 which, among other things, set the ratio to 16:1 and the fine content of gold coins was reduced from 24.75 grains to 23.2 grains. Because the old tenor gold coins were heavier than the coins struck at the new statutory ratio and fineness, the few survivors ended up either at the Mint to be recoined or sold as bullion abroad. As a result of the bullion speculation, all gold issues struck prior to 1834 are at a minimum scarce.

The entire production of 1830 quarter eagles was accomplished with a single die pair with only a single die state showing no clashing or lapping, as is often found on earlier issues produced in larger quantities. Because the coins saw comparatively little use in circulation, the quarter eagles of this era that survived generally show little wear. Mishandling the dime-sized coins was rampant and made worse by the softness of the metal. While a small mark on an eagle may not be easily seen, on a quarter eagle this same defect is amplified. The 1830 quarter eagle is rare in all grade levels: between 80 and 100 specimens are believed to still remain in existence. These survivors run the gamut in terms of preservation, mostly from VF through AU. Mint State specimens are rare as a class, with only 13 certification events reported by PCGS, some of which are no doubt resubmissions. Auction appearances of Gem Mint State specimens are almost as rare as the coins themselves. This cataloger (ERS) has been able to trace three distinct MS-65 examples, but no sales of an MS-66 specimen prior to this sale:

**The Present Specimen.** MS-66 (PCGS).

**The Garrett-Pogue Specimen.** MS-65 (NGC). Our W. Elliot Woodward's sale of the William J. Jenks Collection, June 1883, lot 656, via George Massamore; T. Harrison Garrett Collection; T. Harrison Garrett to Robert and John Work Garrett, by descent, 1888; Robert Garrett interest to John Work Garrett, 1919; transfer completed 1921; John Work Garrett to the Johns Hopkins University, by gift, 1942; Bowers and Ruddy's sale of the Garrett Collection, March 1980, lot 749, to Martin Haber/NIAF; American Numismatic Rarities' sale of A Gentleman's Collection, June 2005, lot 1006.

**The Cardinal Collection Specimen.** MS-65 (NGC). Our (American Numismatic Rarities) sale of the Cardinal Collection, June 2005, lot 1006; Heritage Internet Auction 22021, February 2002, lot 11337 (unsold).

**The Richmond Collection Specimen.** MS-65 (NGC). David Lawrence Rare Coins sale of the Richmond Collection, Part I, July 2004, lot 1090. Seldom offered in any grade, the appearance of a Gem Mint State specimen will certainly attract considerable attention, especially for an offering as important as the present coin. Expect lively competition between early gold specialists and quarter eagle aficionados alike when this beautiful Gem crosses the block.

PCGS# 7670. NGC ID: BFW8.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

## Charming 1831 Quarter Eagle



1247

**1831 Capped Head Left Quarter Eagle. BD-1, The Only Known Dies. Rarity-4. AU-50 (NGC). OH.** Deep yellow gold with pleasing rose highlights at the periphery and an impressive degree of mint luster throughout. The strike is bold and the surface marks are at a minimum, especially for the assigned grade. One of the most challenging series to collect in all of U.S. numismatics, the Capped Head Left quarter eagle of 1821 to 1834 actually comprises two distinct types. The Reduced Diameter issues of 1829 to 1834 were struck in a close collar, whereas their predecessors of 1821 to 1827 were not. William Kneass prepared the dies for the Reduced Diameter issues, incorporating a number of modifications to accommodate the close collar. All dates of this type

are rare, the mintages limited due to the fact that the half eagle was the denomination of choice among contemporary gold bullion depositors. Even more relevant to rarity of this type is that most examples were melted after the Act of June 28, 1834 (effective date: July 1, 1834) reduced the weight of the quarter eagle from 4.37 grams to 4.18 grams. The 1831, of which only 4,520 circulation strikes were produced, has an extant population of fewer than 150 coins in all grades, perhaps no more than 125 pieces. A finer than average example of the date and grade, and a coin that will find a new home without much difficulty at all.

PCGS# 7671. NGC ID: BFWA.

*From the Anne Kate Collection.*

## Beautiful Choice Uncirculated 1834 Classic Head Quarter Eagle



1248

**1834 Classic Head Quarter Eagle. McCloskey-1. Small Head, Large Arrowheads. MS-64+ (PCGS).** Vivid golden-yellow patina and a decidedly prooflike finish provide outstanding visual appeal for this lovely Classic Head two-and-a-half. The fields are well mirrored and highly reflective, and they form a splendid backdrop to satiny, fully impressed devices. The level of surface preservation is just as impressive as the eye appeal, both sides overall smooth in appearance and temptingly close to a Gem Mint State rating. Given the brevity and conditionally challenging nature of this early gold series, this delightful quarter eagle is sure to have no difficulty finding its way into a high quality type set. Struck according to the precepts of the Act of June 28, 1834, this is a superior quality survivor of the first “new tenor” gold coinage. By diminishing the weight standard for the new quarter eagle to “fifty-eight grains pure gold, and sixty-four and a half grains of standard (i.e. alloyed) gold,” the quarter eagle’s intrinsic value in gold was, at last, the same as the value of two and a half dollars in American silver coins. It had been decades since gold and silver coins could circulate on equal footing, an imbalance that forced gold coins into a non-circulating role while American commerce was conducted with paper money, U.S. silver coins, and mostly worn-out foreign silver coins. The mintage of the 1834 Classic Head quarter eagle is 27

times greater than the mintage of 1833 old tenor quarter eagles, but rather than being exported or serving as bullion deposits in banks, the new coins actually circulated. Newspapers across the country excitedly reported seeing the new coins for the first time, publishing updates on mintage figures and hopeful editorials on what the “Gold Coinage Act” would mean for the American economy. Referred to by some as “Jackson Gold,” the new tenor coins started appearing beyond Philadelphia in the late summer of 1834. Throughout autumn, more than \$200,000 worth of gold coins were struck per week, consisting entirely of quarter eagles and half eagles, while the citizenry worried that too much of it was going to the banks and not enough into the pockets of common folk. Of course, the Mint delivered coined gold to those who deposited gold for coining, and most depositors were banks. Much of the gold deposited by the banks was pre-1834 products of the United States Mint, for which the Mint paid a premium, guaranteeing the rarity of those coins for modern collectors. “Old coinage, now in existence, will pass thus....the quarter eagle, \$2.66 3/4, this being the true value of the pure gold,” reported *The Knickerbocker: Or, New York Monthly Magazine* as new tenor gold coins started to appear in New York in August 1834.

PCGS# 7692. NGC ID: 25FS.

PCGS Population: 1; 7 finer (MS-66 finest).

## Gem 1873 Open 3 Quarter Eagle Among Finest Known



1249

**1873 Liberty Head Quarter Eagle. Open 3. MS-65+ (PCGS). CAC.**

A small jewel of a coin with rich yellow gold billows of luster framing the even satiny finish on the devices. The precise strike allows for the minutest aspects of this classic design to be readily appreciated by the most selective of gold aficionados. When production of quarter eagles began for 1873, the initial date logotype employed a 3 with the two loops terminated by large balls that closed in so close in the middle the digit could easily resemble an 8. The Chief Coiner raised concerns

early in the production cycle and soon thereafter, William Barber furnished a new logotype with significantly smaller terminal balls. A total of 178,025 quarter eagles were struck in 1873, of which 122,800 or roughly two-thirds bear the Open 3 date logotype. While the more available of the two types, locating a true Gem Mint State example can be a challenge. For those seeking among the very best examples, that search is over.

PCGS# 7817. NGC ID: 25KN.

PCGS Population: 1; 4 finer (all MS-66).

## Superb Gem Proof 1908 Quarter Eagle Among the Finest Known to PCGS



1250

**1908 Indian Quarter Eagle. Proof-67 (PCGS).** This charming and rare Superb Gem is an outstanding example of the Indian quarter eagle in Proof format. Fully struck with razor sharp definition throughout the design, both sides also offer rich honey-gold patina throughout. The delicate sand blast finish exhibit myriad sparkling facets upon close inspection with a loupe, but the surfaces reveal no “shiny spots” or other grade-limiting blemishes. Virtually pristine, in fact, this delightful coin would serve as a highlight in even the finest gold cabinet. Bela Lyon Pratt’s unique incuse Indian Head design made its debut on the quarter eagle and half eagle in 1908. Pratt’s attractive design was part of the era that noted numismatic researcher Roger Burdette has termed the “Renaissance of American Coinage.” The dawn of this era is closely associated with President Theodore Roosevelt, one of whose many causes was the improvement of the nation’s coinage designs. Indeed, Pratt had come to the attention of the president through a mutual friend, Dr. William Sturgis Bigelow, a physician who was also a passionate collector of Japanese art. The introduction of Pratt’s new

design coincided with the Mint’s use of a radically new finish in its production of Proof gold coinage. Whereas Proofs of the preceding Liberty head design had been produced using either a cameo or all-brilliant finish, the Proof 1908 Indian quarter eagle was prepared using the technique of sand blasting the surfaces after striking to provide a heavy, coarse-grain texture to the finish. In anticipation of strong sales linked to the debut of the new design type, the Philadelphia Mint struck a generous number (236 pieces) of Proof 1908 quarter eagles. While enough specimens were indeed ordered and preserved by the contemporary public to make the 1908 the most plentiful Proof Indian two-and-a-half in today’s market, the sand blast finish came as a shock to many and overall sales were disappointing. Probably at least one third of the original mintage was eventually melted as unsold. This expertly preserved Superb Gem numbers among the finest survivors known to PCGS, and it is a lovely example of both the type and Sand Blast Proof production methods.

PCGS# 7957. NGC ID: 289G.

PCGS Population: just 6; 0 finer.

## Gem Proof 1908 Indian Quarter Eagle



1251

**1908 Indian Quarter Eagle. Proof-66 (PCGS).** A thoroughly majestic specimen, there are few coins that match the artistry of the sandblast proof issues of the early 20th century. This piece offers a lovely complexion of golden-wheat hues accented by the faintest mottling of honey tones on both sides. The luster remains unbroken and intensely satiny throughout, courtesy of fine, sparkling facets endlessly blanketing each side. A powerful strike has rendered the devices pleasantly intricate while also instilling a thin wire rim along the right obverse and reverse borders. There is little to be improved upon regarding this wonderful piece, which is tied for fourth place in the PCGS CoinFacts Condition Census. In anticipation of strong

sales linked to the debut of the new sunken-relief design type, the Philadelphia Mint struck a generous number (236 pieces) of Proof 1908 quarter eagles. While enough specimens were indeed ordered and preserved by the contemporary public to make the 1908 the most plentiful Proof Indian two-and-a-half in today's market, the sand blast finish came as a shock to many and overall sales were disappointing. It is thought that at least one third of the original mintage was eventually melted as unsold. Now highly treasured and revered for both their rarity and beauty, Gems like the present piece are sure to cause excitement!

PCGS# 7957. NGC ID: 289G.

PCGS Population: 16; 8 finer (Proof-67 finest)

## Beautiful Gem Proof 1910 Quarter Eagle Lively Satin Finish



1252

**1910 Indian Quarter Eagle. Proof-65 (NGC).** Vivid golden-orange patina blankets both sides of this delectable Satin Proof. Fully struck throughout with an exceptionally smooth appearance given the delicate and easily marred surfaces. The 1910 is the second of only two Satin Proof issues in the Indian quarter eagle series, this finish introduced in 1909 in an effort to improve sales to contemporary collectors who did not like the Sandblast Proofs of 1908. In the end the new format proved just as unpopular (not easy to understand today, for the Satin Proof finish is widely admired now), the Mint returning

to a modified version of the Sandblast finish in 1911, which continued in use with subtle texture changes through the series' conclusion in 1915. The reported mintage of 682 pieces for the Proof 1910 bears no relation to the rarity of examples in today's market. With 150 to 200 coins extant either the majority of pieces produced were melted as unsold or the reported mintage is incorrect. Despite the scarcity of examples in an absolute sense, the 1910 is one of the more available Proof Indian quarter eagles and the present Gem is an ideal candidate for an advanced gold type set.

PCGS# 7959.

## Gem Sandblast Proof 1912 Quarter Eagle



1253

**1912 Indian Quarter Eagle. Proof-66 (PCGS). CAC.** This is a magnificent specimen, showing rich saffron gold surfaces and subtle powder blue accents. The complexion remains exceptionally vibrant and bright courtesy of a mesmerizing micro-faceted texture. Well struck and without observable defects, a small point of richer toning near the eye of the Native American will aid in tracing this lovely example through future cabinets.

The Mint experimented with numerous Proof finishes on the Indian gold coinage between 1908 and 1915. The vast majority of numismatists of the era preferred the brilliant finishes of previous years and were not excited about the Sand Blast finish used on Bela Lyon Pratt's design.

Throughout this period, many minor tweaks and adjustments were made to enhance their appeal. In 1912, the coins show a more reflective texture than previously, and as a result is considered among the most beautiful of the various finishes. Despite having the second highest reported mintage (197 coins), the 1912 Proof quarter eagle is one of the scarcest of the series, and this specimen is among the best extant. PCGS lists only 12 coins at the present Proof-66 grade with just 8 finer, though both of these figures undoubtedly included resubmissions.

PCGS# 7961. NGC ID: 289L.

PCGS Population: 12; 8 finer through Proof-67, though both of these figures undoubtedly include resubmissions.

## THREE-DOLLAR GOLD PIECES

## Lovely Gem Proof 1874 Three-Dollar Gold Highest Graded at PCGS



1254

**1874 Three-Dollar Gold Piece. Proof-66 Cameo (PCGS). CAC.** A dreamy specimen, both sides are veiled in blended medium rose, pale pink and golden-orange patina. The fields are deeply mirrored and form a splendid backdrop to satiny, smartly impressed devices. Silky smooth in texture, and nearly pristine, this coin will please even the most discerning gold collector. The 1874 three-dollar gold piece is a highly prized rarity in Proof format, with a reported mintage of just 20 specimens, a fact that has endeared this issue to several generations of enthusiastic gold specialists. The 2005 reference on this series by Q. David Bowers and Douglas Winter, *The United States \$3 Gold Pieces*

1854-1889, notes: "The Mint reported that only 20 Proofs were struck, a figure that seems to be verified by the paucity of available examples today." With an estimated 14 to 18 Proofs known, the Proof mintage of just 20 pieces seems to be "right on." We are immensely pleased to offer this splendid Gem Proof 1874 three for your consideration, not only because it is a beautiful coin with exquisite eye appeal, but also because it is the finest Proof example of the date certified by PCGS within any Proof designation!

PCGS# 88038. NGC ID: 28AG.

PCGS Population: just 1; 0 finer in any category.

## Highly Elusive Proof 1878 Three-Dollar Gold Piece



1255

**1878 Three-Dollar Gold Piece. Proof-64+ Deep Cameo (PCGS). CAC.** An exquisite example of this rare and seldom offered issue from the challenging three-dollar gold series. Fully defined with a softly frosted texture, the devices appear to float atop deep pools of reflectivity in the fields. The latter reveal the textured “orange peel” finish seen so often on late 19th century Proof gold coins from the United States Mint. Dressed in vivid light gold patina, this overall smooth and highly attractive near-Gem would serve as a highlight in the finest numismatic cabinet. While the circulation strike 1878 is easily the most plentiful three-dollar gold piece in numismatic circles, the associated Proof is a major numismatic rarity. The latter issue has a paltry mintage of just 20 pieces, all of which were delivered on February 9, 1878. On that date

the U.S. Mint Cabinet acquired its example as part of a complete 1878 Proof set, which is still part of the National Numismatic Collection in the Smithsonian Institution. Most examples appear to have been distributed into contemporary cabinets, but with so few coins struck to begin with survivors are elusive. Estimates on the number extant vary somewhat, with Q. David Bowers and Doug Winter (2015) accounting for just 10 to 12 coins and the experts at *PCGS CoinFacts* providing a slightly more liberal range of 14 to 16 pieces. In any event, this is a rare specimen that is sure to find its way into an advanced type set or specialized collection of classic Proof gold coinage.

PCGS# 98042. NGC ID: 28AL.

PCGS Population: 1; 4 finer in this category (Proof-66 Deep Cameo finest).

## Superb Cameo Proof 1884 \$3 Gold Among the Finest Certified



1256

**1884 Three-Dollar Gold Piece. Proof-67 Cameo (PCGS). CAC.** Gorgeous rose-orange patina blankets both sides of this silky smooth, virtually pristine specimen. The devices are fully defined, as befits the method of manufacture, and they possess a softly frosted texture that contrasts markedly with the reflective fields. Expertly preserved with simply outstanding eye appeal, Proof gold type and date collectors are sure to compete vigorously for the honor of acquiring this exquisite Superb Gem. Throughout the 1880s the mintage of Proof three-dollar gold pieces increased alongside contemporary numismatic demand,

the 1884 with a mintage of 106 pieces. This is the highest mintage for the denomination since 1861. Survivors are rare, nonetheless, the experts at *PCGS CoinFacts* allowing for just 65 to 75 coins extant in all grades. This beautiful example is among the finest that we have ever handled, and will occupy a prominent place in any numismatic cabinet.

PCGS# 88048. NGC ID: 28AT.

PCGS Population: just 2; 0 finer in this category.

## FOUR-DOLLAR GOLD PIECES

## Phenomenal 1879 Flowing Hair Stella

### PCGS/CAC Proof-66+ Cameo



1257

**1879 Four-Dollar Gold Stella. Flowing Hair. Judd-1635, Pollock-1833. Rarity-3. Gold. Reeded Edge. Proof-66+ Cameo (PCGS). CAC. Obv:** The Flowing Hair design by Charles E. Barber. Head of Liberty with flowing hair faces left with the date 1879 below. Liberty is wearing a coronet inscribed LIBERTY, and the inscription ★ 6 ★ G ★ .3 ★ S ★ .7 ★ C ★ 7 ★ G ★ R ★ A ★ M ★ S ★ encircles the border. **Rev:** Five-pointed star, or Stella, is inscribed with the denominations ONE STELLA and 400 CENTS. The Latin mottoes E PLURIBUS UNUM and DEO EST GLORIA are above and below the star, respectively. The legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is inscribed along the upper border, and another expression of the denomination FOUR DOL. is inscribed along the lower border.

A wonderfully original and exceptionally well preserved Gem, both sides exhibit lovely medium gold patina with a touch of pale rose evident as the surfaces rotate under a light. Faint planchet adjustment marks are present over the central devices, characteristic for the type since all known examples in standard gold alloy were struck on shaved half eagle planchets. The delicate mirror fields remain intact with scarcely any signs of handling. Bold cameo contrast is also a praiseworthy attribute, and it provides outstanding eye appeal for this endearing specimen.

The story of the rare and historic four-dollar gold Stellas of 1879 and 1880 begins with the desire in certain government circles to create an international coinage system that would be readily recognized and accepted throughout the world. Although it had surfaced earlier, this idea gained its greatest momentum in 1879 through the efforts of John A. Kasson, the United States' minister plenipotentiary to the Austro-Hungarian Empire and a former chairman of the Congressional Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures. Kasson urged the federal government to consider creation of a four-dollar gold coin as the basis for a new international monetary system. Why a four-dollar gold coin, one might ask, especially considering the widely accepted five-dollar half eagles and twenty-dollar double eagles already in international use? In Kasson's opinion, a four-dollar gold coin struck in the United States Mint would more closely approximate in value the more widely used and accepted gold coins of several European

countries, including Austria's 8 florins, the Dutch 8 florins, France's 20 francs, Italy's 20 lire and Spain's 20 pesetas.

Throwing his weight behind Kasson's proposal, serving chairman of the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures, Alexander H. Stephens, wrote to Secretary of the Treasury John Sherman requesting that the Mint prepare pattern four-dollar gold pieces for evaluation by Congress. The Mint eventually prepared two different proposed designs, a flowing hair motif by Charles E. Barber and a coiled hair design by George T. Morgan. The Barber Flowing Hair type was used to prepare only 25 (and possibly as few as 15) examples for distribution to Congressional leaders. Those coins are dated 1879 and, per traditional numismatic wisdom, were struck in a metric alloy of 85.71% gold, 4.29% silver and 10.00% copper.

Demand among Congressional and other government officials for examples of the proposed four-dollar gold Stella proved so great, however, that the Mint eventually prepared perhaps as many as 700 additional specimens in early 1880, still using the 1879-dated Flowing Hair dies. These pieces are struck in standard alloy of 90.00% gold, 10.00% copper on shaved half eagle planchets (per the website [us.patterns.com](http://us.patterns.com)) and, as with their predecessors produced in 1879, were used for presentation and other official purposes as well as for numismatists. Despite its popularity with Congressional leaders and other contemporary politicians, in the end the four-dollar gold Stella failed to gain authorization for regular issue production and the project ended.

As a "type coin," the 1879 Flowing Hair Stella is a significant numismatic rarity, even more so from a market availability standpoint given the strong demand among advanced collectors. For although technically a pattern (as the four-dollar gold denomination was never authorized for regular issue production), the Stella has long been collected as an integral part of a complete type set of classic United States Mint gold coinage. Its popularity is such that the denomination has been ranked 28th in the 2003 edition of the influential book *100 Greatest U.S. Coins* by Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth.

PCGS# 88057. NGC ID: 28AZ.

PCGS Population: 1; 7 finer in this category (all Proof-67 Cameo).



## HALF EAGLES

### Endearing Mint State 1795 Small Eagle \$5 Historic First Year of Issue



1258

**1795 Capped Bust Right Half Eagle. BD-3. Rarity-3+. Small Eagle. MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** Bathed in a warm orange gold glow, the fields shimmer with semi-reflectivity giving the devices an almost cameo-like effect, especially the bust. Unlike many half eagles of the period, the surfaces are blissfully free of any detracting marks or other serious abrasions. The striking is crisper than what is typically seen with early half eagles, with only just a hint of softness on the eagle's breast feathers. A fully defined and considerably attractive example that is sure to please even the most jaded of collector. As part of the Act of April 2, 1792, establishing the United States Mint and defining the nation's monetary system, gold coins in \$2 1/2, \$5, and \$10 denominations were also authorized. Part of the law also instituted a requirement that the Treasurer, Chief Coiner, and Assayer must post a personal surety bond of \$10,000 each before they could produce gold and silver coins. By any definition, this was an enormous sum of money for the era which could not be met. Consequently, the first coins struck at the newly opened Philadelphia Mint were half cents and large cents. Realizing the difficulties in coming up with the surety bonds, Congress reduced the requirements enough so that the production of silver coinage could commence. It would not be until 1795 that there was enough gold bullion on hand to begin production of gold coins, three years after the authorizing act was passed. The work of designing and engraving the new denominations fell to Robert Scot after Joseph Wright's term as engraver was cut short when he died in one of the annual yellow fever epidemics that plagued Philadelphia. The obverse of all three gold denominations bear a representation of Liberty facing right flanked by stars while wearing a cloth freedman's cap, with the legend LIBERTY above and the date below. The reverse features a delicate small eagle with spread wings holding a wreath in its beak while clutching a palm frond in its talons. The first delivery of the nation's first gold coins took place on July 31, 1795, when 744 half eagles were transferred to the Treasurer by the Chief Coiner. As is often the case, there were some

growing pains at the new mint, in particular with extending die life. The Bass-Dannreuther reference has identified 8 obverse dies dated 1795 and 9 reverse dies used in 12 separate combinations. Die reuse in the early days of the Mint was prevalent; a die would be kept in service until failure often regardless of the date engraved on it. While Mint records indicate that 8,707 half eagles were struck in calendar year 1795, it is widely believed that many more were actually struck bearing the 1795 date, possibly as many as 12,106 pieces. This was common practice in the early United States Mint, often making annual mintage figures a poor indicator of the actual number of coins struck for many issues. With this modest beginning, the half eagle entered circulation and quickly became popular in commerce, rapidly becoming the workhorse gold denomination in preference over the eagle and half eagle. The BD-3 variety is the most available of the known die marriages of the 1795 Small Eagle \$5. Some 2,000 to 3,000 coins are believed to have been struck using this die pair. That said, the mass meltings of gold coins that took place in the 1820s and 1830s took their toll on the issue, leaving a mere 200 or so specimens, primarily at the AU level. Interest in the 1795 half eagle is almost as old as numismatics in America beginning in the 1850s when Philadelphia collector and dealer J. Colvin Randall first described the different die varieties of the issue. Ever since then, the 1795 has remained in the forethought of early gold connoisseurs and type collectors alike. Conditionally challenging in Mint State, the population figures no doubt include resubmissions, somewhat inflating the number of uncirculated examples extant. Quite scarce from an absolute standpoint and especially desirable as one of the nation's first gold coins, a Mint State specimen with considerable eye appeal is bound to attract spirited bidding from all angles. Plan your strategy accordingly.

PCGS# 8066. NGC ID: 25ND.

PCGS Population (all die marriages of the issue): 28; 18 finer (MS-65 finest).

From *Heritage's September 2016 Signature sale of the Twelve Oaks Collection*, lot 14030.

## Desirable 1796/5 Half Eagle

### A Scarce Issue



1259

**1796/5 Capped Bust Right Half Eagle. BD-1, the only known dies. Rarity-4+. VG-10 (PCGS).** More affordable, yet technically sound quality for this scarce and challenging early gold design type. This is a handsome coin for the grade, both sides warmly patinated in golden-olive with a blush of pale rose at the upper reverse border. The strike is nicely centered on the planchet, the borders uniformly denticulated around devices that retain full outline definition. Wispy handling marks are commensurate with the assigned grade and, with the basic design fully appreciable, we anticipate keen interest in this coin among advanced gold type collectors who recognize the sharp price increase that the Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle five-dollar series experiences

as one progresses up the numismatic grading scale. BD Die State a/b. The second date in the United States Mint's premier half eagle series, the 1796 was produced using a single die marriage, the obverse a 1796/5 overdate. Federal records indicate that 6,196 half eagles were struck during calendar year 1796, although John W. Dannreuther (2006) estimates that only 1,057 to 2,000 coins were produced from the 1796-dated die pairing. Survivors are thought to number just 80 to 100 pieces in all grades (again, per Dannreuther), and they enjoy strong collector demand at all levels of preservation.

PCGS# 8067. NGC ID: BFWU.

*From Heritage's Long Beach Signature Auction of June 2015, lot 4233. Lot tag included.*

## Impressive Mint State 1800 Half Eagle



1260

**1800 Capped Bust Right Half Eagle. BD-2. Rarity-3+. Die State b/b. Blunt 1. MS-62 (PCGS).** With a pleasing medium gold coloration, the surfaces are devoid of any serious detractors or marks, offering an all-around visually compelling appearance. The obverse has subtle reflective almost semi-prooflike fields and lend contrast to the satiny surfaces of Liberty's bust. Generally well struck with complete denticulation, the fine details of the eagle's breast feathers and Liberty's hair are well defined and show only bare hints of weakness. The clashing that defines in Die State b/b is clearly visible under magnification, especially under LIBERTY. The Blunt 1 variety was produced with the single obverse die but 4 different reverse dies. Mintage figures are not precise for this issue. It is believed that somewhere between

15,000 and 30,000 half eagles were struck bearing the 1800 date. Of these, approximately between 7,500 and 12,500 were produced using the BD-2 die pair. Even though the extensive meltings of the 1820s and 1830s thinned out the numbers dramatically, this is one of the more available of the early Heraldic Eagle \$5 pieces and is sometimes regarded as a type coin, but by no definition can early American gold coinage be considered common. Here, less than 250 examples are thought extant and are eagerly pursued by knowledgeable collectors any time one crosses the block, especially a Mint State specimen that is as charming and appealing. Expect keen interest for this vibrant example.

PCGS# 8082. NGC ID: 25NW.



## Choice Mint State 1800 Half Eagle



1261

**1800 Capped Bust Right Half Eagle. BD-5. Rarity-3+. Blunt 1. MS-64 (PCGS).** A glorious example of both the type and die pairing that is sure to catch the eye of discerning gold enthusiasts. Lovely satin surfaces also reveal modest, yet appreciable semi-prooflike qualities in the fields as the surfaces dip into a light. The strike is essentially full by early U.S. Mint standards, all design elements at least boldly defined, and most with razor sharp detail. Aglow with vivid golden-yellow patina, and remarkably smooth for an issue that is usually offered no finer than MS-62, this impressive near-Gem is worthy of the strongest bids. BD Die State d/b. The approximate number of half eagles struck bearing the 1800 date is a moderately healthy 15,000 to 30,000 pieces spread out over five known die pairings from only two

obverse dies. The first die did not last long and was quickly replaced by a die employing a numeral punch that is missing the top serif, or flag, on the 1. This die would last for the rest of the issue. The BD-5 pair is one of the most available of these varieties and has long proven to be popular for type sets. The reverse die can be distinguished by the placement of the thirteenth star with its leftmost point touching the eagle's neck. Mint State survivors, while rare, are still comparatively available and always in high demand. Few are as well preserved as this, however, confirming the fleeting nature of this offering for the quality conscious collector.

PCGS# 8082. NGC ID: 25NW.

PCGS Population (all die marriages of the issue): just 8; with a mere two finer (MS-66 finest).

## Inviting Choice AU 1804 Half Eagle



1262

**1804 Capped Bust Right Half Eagle. BD-1. Rarity-4+. Small 8. AU-55 (NGC).** This handsome, richly toned example exhibits subtle rose undertones to dominant khaki-gold patina. Sharply defined in all but a few isolated areas, an overall smooth appearance is also a praiseworthy attribute for this desirable early half eagle. Wispy hairlines and a somewhat subdued appearance are noted for accuracy.

BD Die State b/b. Although BD-1 is one of the more available of the seven known die marriages of the 1804 half eagle, survivors are still scarce in an absolute sense. Only 70 to 90 coins are believed extant from an estimated mintage of 3,000 to 6,000 pieces from these dies (these figures per John W. Dannreuther, 2006), and this is a desirable Choice AU for both type and variety purposes.

PCGS# 8085.

## Pleasing Mint State 1806 \$5



1263

**1806 Capped Bust Right Half Eagle. BD-6. Rarity-2. Round-Top 6, Stars 7x6. MS-62 (PCGS).** Warm yellow gold toning with splashes of powdery fields showcase the blemish-free surfaces with just the barest hint of red toning. Peripheral luster especially on the reverse accentuate the focal points of this popular and elegant type. After a little more than ten years since introduction, the half eagle proved to be the most popular denomination in everyday use, both domestically and abroad. By then, prolonging die life was of great importance since die steel was scarce and expensive. Such was the case in 1806 when the half eagle production required five obverse dies and six reverse dies paired together in a total of six different combinations to produce the estimated total of 64,000 coins. It was only the final pair used - Bass-Dannreuther 6 - that proved to be resilient, striking the vast majority of the issue to the tune of nearly 50,000 pieces. The solution to poor die life was found by placing the obverse die to the anvil position on the base of the coining press, with the reverse die taking the role

of hammer die. By doing so, not only is the service life of the dies extended, but also the obverse die could impart a sharper impression, and innovation that proved to be instrumental in increasing production of the denomination in the coming years. Even with the larger mintage figures, when speculators started shipping coins overseas to make a small profit in the intrinsic value of the coins, large numbers of half eagles ended up in crucibles, leaving very few behind for posterity. The only one of the six obverse dies with a rounded top to the 6 in the date, the BD-6 is also one of the more readily available of the early half eagles for collectors. Today an estimated 600 to 900 pieces are thought to survive in numismatic channels, nearly a third of which are in Mint State. For the budget-minded enthusiast desiring an appealing example of an early half eagle but without sacrificing any quality. Sure to please.

PCGS# 8089. NGC ID: 25P5.

*From The Des Moines Collection.*

## Popular 1809/8 Half Eagle



1264

**1809/8 Capped Bust Left Half Eagle. BD-1, the only known dies. Rarity-3+. MS-61 (PCGS).** This is a vivid and attractive example, both sides exhibiting blushes of reddish-rose iridescence to otherwise golden-orange surfaces. Sharply defined from a well centered impression, both the satiny texture and uncommonly smooth appearance are superior relative to the assigned grade. BD Die State b/b. A popular variety with early gold type and variety collectors alike, the 1809 half eagle has traditionally been listed as an overdate,

although the underdigit may be an erroneously punched 9 and not an 8. In any event this issue is scarce, the only known die pairing probably accounting for only a percentage of the 33,875 half eagles struck during calendar year 1809 (the balance of the mintage likely comprised 1808-dated coins, probably of the BD-4 Wide 5 D variety). Premium quality in an MS-61 holder and strong eye appeal, this lovely piece is sure to see spirited bidding at auction.

PCGS# 8104. NGC ID: BFXK.



## Scarce 1810 Half Eagle Small Date, Tall 5



1265

**1810 Capped Bust Left Half Eagle. BD-1. Rarity-3+. Small Date, Tall 5. AU-53 (PCGS).** This is a handsome and richly toned early half eagle irrespective of type, issue or die pairing. Both sides exhibit dominant khaki-gold patina with vivid medium rose overtones that appear to drift toward the borders. The strike is nicely centered and boldly executed, the devices retaining overall sharp to full definition in the absence of all but the lightest rub. A bit subdued in appearance, yet with faint luster remnants in the more protected areas around the devices. BD Die State c/c. This coin is part of a special four-piece consignment to this sale that includes one example of each of the die

marriages known for the 1810 Capped Bust Left half eagle. BD-1 is the second most plentiful variety of the date, although it is far scarcer than the relatively common BD-4. Of the 100,287 or so half eagles produced from the four 1810-dated die combinations, John W. Dannreuther (2006) estimates that 20,000 to 30,000 were examples of the variety now known as BD-1. This is the Small Date, Tall 5 *Guide Book* variety of the issue, Dannreuther estimating that 150 to 225 coins are extant in all grades. This is an endearing AU that will appeal equally to early gold type and variety collectors.

PCGS# 507596.

*From the York Collection.*

## Highly Significant 1810 Half Eagle Scarce Small Date, Small 5 Variety



1266

**1810 Capped Bust Left Half Eagle. BD-2. Rarity-6. Small Date, Small 5. AU-50 (NGC). CAC. OH.** This is a beautiful About Uncirculated Capped Bust Left half eagle irrespective of date or variety, the fact that it is an example of a highly elusive die marriage sure to result in particularly spirited bidding among specialists. The surfaces are vivid and lustrous, both sides bathed in a blend of deep gold, reddish-orange and iridescent rose patina. Ample evidence of a satin to semi-prooflike finish remains, the fields particularly reflective when viewed with the aid of direct lighting. The strike is well balanced and ideally centered within uniformly denticulated borders, most design elements sharp and only the lightest rub evident over the high points. Pleasingly smooth in hand, and uncommonly so for a lightly circulated pre-1834 U.S. Mint gold coin, this piece is sure to have no difficulty finding its way into an advanced early half eagle collection. BD Die State b/b. This coin is part of a four-piece consignment to this sale that includes one example of each of the known die varieties of the 1810 half eagle — one of the few times that this has ever happened in numismatic auction

history. The present example is from the elusive BD-2 die marriage, which corresponds to the Small Date, Small 5 *Guide Book* variety of this issue. In the outstanding reference *Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties: A Study of Die States, 1794-1804* (2006), John W. Dannreuther believes that at least 100,287 half eagles were struck bearing the 1810 date. This is the mintage for the denomination for calendar year 1810, perhaps a few additional pieces being coined in 1811. Dannreuther's estimated mintage from the BD-2 dies is 2,000 to 4,000 coins, only 25 to 30 of which are believed extant in all grades. The present example is solidly in the Condition Census, ranking behind a couple of Mint State pieces and a few other AUs. A highlight of the early gold offerings in this sale, and a fleeting bidding opportunity for the advanced collector.

PCGS# 8105. NGC ID: BFXL.

NGC Census: 3; 2 finer (both MS-62).

*From the York Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of the James A. Stack, Sr. Collection, March 1995, lot 465; Heritage's sale of the Hutchinson Collection, January 2017, lot 5865.*



# Extraordinary Rarity 1810 Large Date, Small 5 Half Eagle

## The Pogue Specimen

### One of Only Three Known



1267

**1810 Capped Bust Left Half Eagle. BD-3. Rarity-8. Large Date, Small 5. VF-25 (PCGS).** The exceptional rarity and significance of the present coin is concealed in its degree of preservation. The surfaces are light yellow, with tiny marks over most of both sides. Despite the wear and handling, the eye appeal remains positive, and this coin exhibits better originality than most of this type in Very Fine. A shallow scrape from the field right of star 2 across Liberty's bust is the most significant flaw, although it also serves as a useful identifier. Overall, an engaging presentation of a great American rarity.

The reverse die state is later than the previous lot and later than the terminal state of Bass Dannreuther-2; this combination thus follows BD-2 in the emission sequence. A light crack connects the tops of UNITED and runs across the denomination, then joins all the letters of AMERICA, with the crack through AME traversing each letter along a diagonal path through its midpoint. An additional crack from the rim near the base of the reverse closely parallels the outline of the rightmost olive leaf before reaching the lowest claw of the talon at left. The substantial spalling eruption near the points of the top two olive leaves remains from the previous marriage of this die. The obverse appears perfect.

When assembling his superlative cabinet, D. Brent Pogue did not acquire many circulated coins, but the ones he did are some of its greatest rarities. Choice Mint State specimens of many of the rarest American coins simply have not survived. The 1810 Large Date, Small 5 half eagle is one such rarity. It is remarkable in any grade, with a total confirmed population of only three pieces, just two of which are in private hands. Even the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution, replete with gold rarities from the Lilly Collection, lacks this variety.

The finest 1810 Large Date, Small 5 half eagle is the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection coin, generally considered About Uncirculated but presently uncertified and impounded in the American Numismatic Association museum. That coin may have been the example that was offered in the January 1963 Federal Brand Enterprises Million Dollar Auction Sale. Another was offered the same month in the January 1963 Kreisberg-Schulman Golden Sale of the Century. Neither was illustrated, but assuming the attributions of those pieces are correct (an admitted leap of faith), the twin 1963 appearances represented the last examples of this variety to appear at auction for over a decade. The primary Bass coin was offered in both 1976 and 1977; Bass acquired

it from our (Bowers and Ruddy's) Fairfield Collection sale of October 1977. The Bass duplicate was purchased from Auction '80, part of a four-coin set of 1810 half eagle varieties assembled by George Gozan, and sold in our (Bowers and Merena's) October 1999 Bass II sale. It reappeared in the January 2012 Heritage sale and today resides in a Washington, D.C. collection. In 1999, the Bass duplicate was described as "brushed in a manner to simulate mint luster," a foible that precluded a numerical certified grade in 1999, though today the coin is certified VF-30 by PCGS.

Besides the two coins owned by Harry W. Bass, Jr., the Pogue specimen is the only other confirmed survivor from these dies. David W. Akers identified two appearances of this variety in well worn condition, one in B. Max Mehl's 1944 Belden Roach sale, the other in our (Stack's) 1955 Farish Baldenhofer sale. The first was graded Very Good, the second Fine. Another appearance, not cited by Akers, was lot 2384 in the March 1964 Kreisberg-Schulman Brand-Lichtenfels sale, graded "Fine to Very Fine." While none of these three offerings was illustrated, given the well circulated grade we suspect this example accounts for all three appearances. The two Mint State pieces on the *PCGS Population Report* are misattributions; no Mint State example of this variety has ever been seen or rumored. The sometimes-cited example in the Superior sale of February 2000 was misattributed and was not this variety.

With just two examples confirmed in private hands, and rumors of a third repaired coin that has not been certified, this is the key to completing a set of this design type by major variety, as listed by PCGS or the *Guide Book*. Just four coins are needed, two of them comparatively common, while the other two are very rare (the Small Date, Small 5) and extremely rare (the Large Date, Small 5). Only a select group of collectors have ever assembled a complete set of 1810 half eagles by variety, a feat that not even the great William H. Woodin or Waldo Newcomer was able to accomplish. This is a singular opportunity to join that rarified group of dedicated early gold connoisseurs.

PCGS# 507597.

PCGS Population : 1; 1 finer (VF-30).

*From the York Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) Americana Sale of January 2006, lot 3020, via Paul Nugget; our sale of the D. Brent Pogue Collection, Part III, February 2016, lot 3139. The plate coin for the issue on page 39 of the 1979 book, United States Gold Coins, An Analysis of Auction Records. Volume IV: Half Eagles 1795-1929, by David W. Akers.*

## Beautiful Mint State 1810 Half Eagle

### Large Date, Large 5 Variety



1268

**1810 Capped Bust Left Half Eagle. BD-4. Rarity-2. Large Date, Large 5. MS-60 (PCGS). OGH.** A superior example for the assigned grade, both sides exhibit full satin luster to predominantly golden yellow surfaces. Sharply defined over all but the highest elements of the design, a pleasingly smooth appearance is also worthy of a premium bid. Adjustment marks (as made) in the center of the reverse are so faint as to be easily overlooked by all but the most persistent viewer. BD Die State c/ Large Date, Large 5 *Guide Book* variety of the

1810 half eagle corresponds to the BD-4 attribution, making this an easily identifiable variety. It is also the most plentiful of the four known die marriages of the issue and, with more than 500 coins extant in all grades, the 1810 BD-4 is one of the most popular type candidates in the entire Capped Bust Left half eagle series of 1807 to 1812. The example offered here, worthy of the strongest bids, would do nicely in any Mint State set.

PCGS# 8108. NGC ID: BFXP.

*From the York Collection.*

## Lustrous 1811 Small 5 Half Eagle



1269

**1811 Capped Bust Left Half Eagle. BD-2. Rarity-3. Small 5. MS-62+ (PCGS).** This charming coin's overall deep sunflower gold color is punctuated with just the barest hints of rose highlights along the dentils. The frosty lustrous surfaces help to accentuate the crisply defined well centered strike. Thanks in part to its more modest face value, the half eagle was more practical for use in day to day commerce. Demand for the denomination from bullion depositors was such that for an 11 year period from 1809 through 1820, only half eagles were produced. However, by the 1820s the intrinsic value of the coins exceeded their stated value, causing the vast majority of the Mint's modest output of half eagles to be exported and eventually end up in the crucibles of European speculators and bullion dealers. Consequently all pre-1834 gold coins are scarce, if not outright rare by definition. The 99,581 half eagles produced in 1811 are no exception. Only two die marriages

were required to strike the entire production run, both of which share the same obverse die. The principal difference between these two die pairs is found on the reverse when comparing the size of the 5 in 5D. On the BD-2 die marriage, the digit 5 in the denomination 5 D is small, located under the lowermost arrow feather, and tilted sharply to the right. The Small 5 variety is the somewhat more available of the two pairings, though with an estimated 225 to 300 surviving pieces in all grades, this is still a far from common coin. The choice surfaces and overall excellent state of preservation makes this an especially desirable specimen for an advanced type collection of early gold.

PCGS# 8109. NGC ID: BFXR.

*From The Des Moines Collection. Earlier from our March 2017 Rarities Night sale, lot 3109.*

## Exceptional Choice Mint State 1823 Half Eagle

### Absolute and Condition Rarity



1270

**1823 Capped Head Left Half Eagle. BD-1, the only known dies. Rarity-4+. MS-64 (PCGS). OGH.** This is a breathtakingly beautiful example of one of the most challenging U.S. Mint gold types to collect. Vivid medium gold patina blankets both sides, the surfaces predominantly of a satin finish, yet with appreciable semi-reflective qualities in the fields. The strike is fairly well centered, the denticulation complete around both sides if a bit light along the upper left obverse and upper right reverse borders. The major design elements are mostly full, and none are less than sharp. Otherwise smooth enough to support a Gem Mint State rating, a few shallow scuffs in the obverse field are noted, the most significant of which is before Liberty's chin. The eye appeal of nothing short of extraordinary, and we anticipate that this prized early half eagle rarity will see spirited bidding at auction. BD Die State a/a. The Capped Head Left half eagle of 1813 to 1834 is one of the rarest types in U.S. numismatics. This may come as a surprise to readers who focus solely on the yearly mintages for this series, which are actually respectable by early U.S. Mint standards and, in some case at least, higher than those of the preceding Capped Bust Right and Left types. The rarity of this type is due to the wholesale destruction

through melting of thousands of old tenor gold coins after the Act of June 28, 1834 reduced the weight of the half eagle from 8.75 grams to 8.36 grams. In the case of the Capped Head Left series virtually the entire mintage of many issues went to the melting pot, leaving precious few survivors for today's numismatists. The 1823, of which 14,485 to 20,000 examples were produced from a single die marriage, has an extant population of just 80 to 100 pieces (per John W. Dannreuther, 2006). Such is the rarity of this type, however, that this estimated population actually defines the 1823 as one of the more available Capped Head Left half eagles in today's market. Scarce in an absolute sense, of course, and rarer as a date than the 1813, 1818 and 1820, the opportunity to acquire a high quality 1823 half eagle is worthy of serious consideration and strong bids. The only known variety of this issue was struck from Reverse F of the 1820-dated half eagle delivery. This is a workhorse die that also produced both varieties of the 1821, the legendary 1822 rarity, and the only known variety of the 1824.

PCGS# 8131. NGC ID: BFY4.

PCGS Population: just 6; with a mere two finer (MS-65 finest).

*From The Des Moines Collection.*

## Stunning Mint State 1846-O Half Eagle A Major Condition Rarity



1271

**1846-O Liberty Head Half Eagle. MS-61 (PCGS).** This is an exceptionally well preserved and original survivor of a scarce and challenging New Orleans Mint issue. Both sides retain nearly full mint luster. The devices are frosted in texture and the fields display the characteristic semi-reflective to slightly grainy finish of the issue. The strike is sharp to full over most features and there is handsome classic yellow gold patina throughout.

The 1846-O is one of the leading rarities among New Orleans Mint Liberty Head half eagles, with survivors even more elusive than those of the lower mintage 1845-O (58,000 vs. 41,000 pieces produced).

We believe that no more than 150 examples are extant in all grades, the vast majority of which are at the VF and EF levels. Writing in the 2006 edition of the book *Gold Coins of the New Orleans Mint: 1839-1909* Doug Winter allows for just 75 to 85 survivors, this estimate leading the author to rank the 1846-O as the fourth rarest of 16 New Orleans Mint Liberty Head half eagle issues. In any event the rarity of this issue is undeniable, especially in Mint State grades, as here. This is a significant opportunity for gold enthusiasts to acquire a superior quality example of this underrated issue.

PCGS# 8230. NGC ID: 25TK.

PCGS Population: 4; 3 finer (MS-62 finest).

## Finest PCGS-Certified 1850 Half Eagle



1272

**1850 Liberty Head Half Eagle. MS-63 (PCGS).** This is a vivid and highly appealing example that ranks among the finest 1850 half eagles that we have ever offered. The overall appearance is rich reddish-gold, with some faint blushes of pale yellow. The surfaces are satiny, pleasingly smooth and there is sharp striking detail over most design features. While the rarity of most early date Philadelphia Mint Liberty Head half eagles in Mint State is not widely recognized, the 1850 is particularly underrated, especially when compared to the more

popular mintmarked issues of its era. Only a handful of Uncirculated coins are known from a mintage of 64,491 pieces, and they appear at auction usually only once in a long while. Here is a significant bidding opportunity for collectors of classic U.S. Mint gold or for someone building a Registry Set.

PCGS# 8243. NGC ID: 25TY.

PCGS Population: just 1; 0 finer at this service. NGC reports two grading events in MS-65.

*Ex Pontchartrain Rarities, April 1993; our sale of the A.J. Vanderbilt Collection March 2018, lot 10338.*

## Phenomenal Mint State 1868 Half Eagle Tied for CC#1



1273

**1868 Liberty Head Half Eagle. MS-62 (PCGS).** An extraordinary condition rarity, this is one of the finest known examples of a key date half eagle issue that is scarce to rare even in circulated grades. Beautiful satin surfaces are bathed in reddish-rose patina that is particularly vivid on the reverse. Sharply to fully struck throughout with an exceptionally smooth appearance that is suggestive of a Choice Uncirculated grade. Outstanding! The 1868 is part of a run of rare low mintage circulation strike Liberty Head half eagles from the Philadelphia Mint that begins in 1862 during the darkest days of the Civil War. With the outcome of that conflict uncertain by the end of 1861, Eastern banks suspended gold specie payments in December. This resulted in the withdrawal of gold coins from circulation in the Northern and Midwestern states, although such pieces continued to see commercial use on the West Coast. With little bullion reaching the Philadelphia Mint, yearly circulation strike mintages remained small for the duration of the Civil War. Although many thought that Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, would soon be followed by a resumption of specie payments from banks, this did not happen. Instead, gold coins remained absent from circulation in the North and Midwest throughout the Reconstruction era, their place largely taken by paper bills. It was not until December

17, 1878, that the market achieved parity between gold and paper bills. This allowed gold specie payments to resume, and yearly mintages from the Philadelphia Mint increased significantly as a result. It is against this backdrop that the Philadelphia Mint struck just 5,700 circulation strike half eagles in 1868. Most of these coins were exported, although some likely saw circulation on the West Coast, thereby explaining the small number of mostly VF and EF survivors. Even more elusive are AU and Mint State coins, many of which were likely repatriated from foreign bank hoards beginning in the mid 20th century. The number of 1868 half eagles involved in these repatriations was small, however, and *PCGS CoinFacts* accounts for fewer than 100 coins extant in all grades from well worn to Uncirculated. This aesthetically pleasing Mint State example is tied with one other PCGS MS-62 at the top of the Condition Census for this challenging issues:

- 1 - **PCGS MS-62.** The present example.
- 2 - **PCGS MS-62.** Ex Heritage's Denver ANA Signature Auction of August 2017, lot 4138.

PCGS# 8315. NGC ID: 25W5.

PCGS Population: just 2; 0 finer. There are also no 1868 half eagles certified finer than MS-62 at NGC.

From *The Des Moines Collection*. The plate coin for the issue on the *PCGS CoinFacts* website.

## Stunning Choice AU 1871-CC Liberty \$5 Condition Census



1274

**1871-CC Liberty Head Half Eagle. Winter-1-A. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** The overall bold definition of the design elements as well as the good strike with only hints of softness atop the central elements as is normally found on the early coins from the Carson City Mint. On the reverse are faint traces of clashing around the eagle, displaying most conspicuously between the lower beak and left wing. With prominent satiny surfaces throughout, the devices are framed with luster, allowing the bright orange-gold color to shine through, with subtle light pink and bronze accents. A superb example of the issue with outstanding eye appeal.

While the first gold coinage from Carson City coined in their first year of operation in 1870 was little more than symbolic, production in 1871 was stepped up courtesy of bullion deposits totaling \$1,003,810, an increase of over 800% from the previous year. One obverse die and two reverse dies were employed to produce the 20,770 half eagles struck in 1871. The Winter 1-A reverse die was first used in 1870, then again in 1873, showing the Carson City Mint's resourcefulness in reusing still serviceable dies. The first batch of 6,100 half eagles were delivered by Coiner Granville Hosmer in January, then delivering the remaining balance of 14,670 pieces in the second half of the year. The use of gold and silver in the West was central to the local economy, especially in the more remote portions of Nevada and neighboring areas. Most of

the coins that came off the mint's presses went into immediate use and generally stayed in the region, rather than exported overseas. Because there were for all intents and purposes no numismatists in the region, high grade survivors are more by pure happenstance than by intention. The coins saw heavy commercial use and many show the telltale evidence of the rigors of circulation. By the time interest in mintmark collecting began to pick up in the late 1890s and beyond, these coins had already been in use for more than two decades. Rusty Goe estimated that perhaps only 1% of the total output remains in existence, or roughly 200 pieces. Bowers postulates that even that number might be on the high side. Unblemished examples of the 1871-CC half eagle are scarce and become a particular challenge in the upper AU preservation levels. PCGS has only certified two fully Mint State examples, the highest of which is MS-62. Consequently, there is considerable market pressure on the remaining AU examples, especially those with outstanding eye appeal, as CAC has confirmed here. An exceptional specimen that nears the top of the Condition Census and worthy of a strong bid.

PCGS# 8323. NGC ID: 25WD.

PCGS Population: 7; just 2 finer through MS-62.

*From the York Collection. Earlier from our March 2017 Baltimore Rarities Night sale, lot 3112.*



## Condition Census 1872-CC Half Eagle The Nevada Collection-Battle Born Specimen



1275

**1872-CC Liberty Head Half Eagle. AU-58 (PCGS).** Likely the finest known example this rare and conditionally challenging issue, this is the second time in six years that your cataloger (JLA) has had the opportunity to handle this, perhaps the most famous and desirable of all 1872-CC half eagles. This is not a well produced issue and this coin is the most sharply struck survivor known. Both sides exhibit excellent delineation to the finer elements of the design in most areas, with the troublesome central high points revealing an uncommon boldness of detail. Of particular note is the definition to the hair curls above and below Liberty's ear on the obverse, as well as the eagle's neck feathers in the center of the reverse. Soft, satiny luster mingles nicely with warm khaki-orange patina, both sides presenting a uniform appearance. A short, sharp clash mark at Liberty's throat from the eagle's wing on the reverse is noted, as struck and readily evident on many 1872-CC half eagles. There are few distracting abrasions, although we mention several light, wispy hairlines. A series of tiny marks in the left obverse field before Liberty's nose and forehead are valuable for provenance purposes. The 1872-CC (16,980 coins struck) is much rarer than the 1871-CC in all grades and is tied with the 1873-CC as the second rarest Carson City Mint half eagle in high grades after the 1878-CC. Unlike the 1870-CC, 1871-CC and 1873-CC, the 1872-CC is unknown in Mint State. At the top of the Condition Census for this very challenging issue, therefore, is a trio of AU-58s certified by PCGS. We have only been able to positive identify two of these grading events as representing different coins:

1 - **PCGS AU-58.** Ex our (Stack's) Public Auction Sale of May 1989, lot 394; Doug Winter and Lee Minshull, September 1998; Nevada Collection; our sale of the Battle Born Collection of Carson City Mint Coinage, August 2012, lot 11003. *The present example*, and the plate coin for the issue on page 30 of the 2001 book *Gold Coins of the Carson City Mint* by Douglas Winter and James L. Halperin.

2 - **PCGS AU-58.** Ex our (Bowers and Merena's) Denver ANA Auction, August 2006, lot 4241.

A trio of AU-58s are also listed at NGC, at least one of which might represent an early submission of one of the PCGS coins delineated above. Estimates on the number of 1872-CC half eagles extant in all grades vary among numismatic experts. Carson City Mint expert Rusty Goe provided an estimate of 125 to 150 coins in his cataloging for this coin when offered as part of our August 2012 Battle Born Collection sale. Q. David Bowers says 60 to 90 pieces, while the experts at *PCGS CoinFacts* states less specifically "less than 100 known." Rare in any event, especially so in the finest circulated grades, the inclusion of any 1872-CC half eagle is the sign of a significant numismatic cabinet.

PCGS# 8326. NGC ID: 25WG.

PCGS Population: just 3; 0 finer.

*From the York Collection. Earlier ex our (Stack's) Public Auction Sale of May 1989, lot 394; Doug Winter and Lee Minshull, September 1998; Nevada Collection; our sale of the Battle Born Collection of Carson City Mint Coinage, August 2012, lot 11003. The plate coin for the issue on page 30 of the 2001 book Gold Coins of the Carson City Mint by Douglas Winter and James L. Halperin.*

## Condition Census 1872-CC Liberty Head \$5



1276

**1872-CC Liberty Head Half Eagle. AU-55 (PCGS).** Offered is an impressive Choice AU 1872-CC half eagle, an issue that is highly elusive in all grades. Plenty of lively satin luster remains with much of the original finish intact, as well, in the protected areas around the devices. Sharply struck and with handsome honey-orange patina. Even the finest Carson City Mint gold collection would benefit greatly from inclusion of this impressive piece. Increased bullion deposits to the still young Carson City Mint helped spur gold coin production in 1872. In constant demand, the gold coins that rolled off the presses were eagerly absorbed into everyday commerce where they saw hard use. Such

was the case with the 16,980 half eagles produced in 1872 where the attrition rate was quite high. Rusty Goe estimates that roughly 125 to 150 exist in total, with not a single Uncirculated example among them. Harry W. Bass, Jr. was able to secure an AU-53 specimen. Prone to less than decent striking quality, sharply struck 1872-CC half eagles are scarce in any grade. Only 3 coins at PCGS grade finer, all AU-58, and it is unlikely that an opportunity to acquire one will present itself in the near future. Certain to draw numerous bidders at auction, be prepared to defend this one fiercely if you want to add it to your cabinet.

PCGS# 8326. NGC ID: 25WG.

PCGS Population: 8; 3 finer (all AU-58).

## Captivating Mint State 1873-CC Half Eagle Second Finest Known



1277

**1873-CC Liberty Head Half Eagle. MS-61 (PCGS).** Simply put, this coin is a rarity of the highest order: a Mint State example of the elusive 1873-CC half eagle. Uncommonly well struck for an early date gold coin from this rustic coinage facility, both sides exhibit otherwise full definition that wanes minimally only at the hair curls over Liberty's brow, the eagle's neck feathers, and the uppermost arrow feather. Luster is smooth and satiny, the reverse with a somewhat more billowy texture that includes some intermingled frost. Pleasant golden-orange patina throughout, a few swirls of faint reddish-copper iridescence in the left obverse field are mentioned solely as identifying features. We are pleased to be offering multiple Condition Census Carson City Mint half eagles in this sale, the present 1873-CC sure to have no difficulty finding its way into another highly regarded collection. The Nevada coinage facility delivered only 7,416 half eagles in 1873, the coins seeing immediate and extensive use in local commerce. Such was the fate of most Carson City Mint gold issues, most example of which eventually went to the melting pot after years of circulation. Among the early date half eagles, fortunate is the coin that was retrieved from commercial channels in later years, although for the 1873-CC few coins were so lucky. In his cataloging for our August 2012 sale of the fabulous Battle Born Collection, Carson City Mint expert Rusty Goe estimates that just 85 to 95 coins are extant in all grades. Q. David Bowers takes a more conservative view and allows for just 45 to 65 survivors. Both numismatists agree that only two Mint State coins are positively confirmed to exist:

1 - **PCGS MS-62.** Ex our (Stack's) ANA Auction of August 1976, lot 2998; Harry W. Bass, Jr.; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, Part II, October 1999, lot 1188; Jay Parrino's The Mint; Ira and Larry Goldberg's California Sale, October 2000, lot 915; Legend Numismatics and Chris Napolitano; Midwestern collection, via Doug Winter; Heritage's FUN Signature Sale of January 2003, lot 8618; Heritage's FUN Signature Coin Auction of January 2008, lot 3204; Heritage's FUN Signature and Platinum Night Auction of January 2011, lot 5118; Rusty Goe, January 2011; Battle Born Collection; our sale of the Battle Born Collection of Carson City Mint Gold Coinage, August 2012, lot 11004. The plate coin for the issue on the *PCGS CoinFacts* website.

2 - **PCGS MS-61.** Ex Charley Tuppen Collection; Eastern dealer; California dealer; Doug Winter; Nevada Collection, July 1997 (possibly Battle Born Collection, prior to acquisition of the PCGS MS-62 listed above). *The present example*, and the plate coin for the issue on page 33 of the 2001 book *Gold Coins of the Carson City Mint* by Douglas Winter and James L. Halperin.

A second MS-62 reported by NGC might be another submission of one of the coins listed above, in any event we have not been able to locate an auction appearance for an 1873-CC half eagle in an NGC MS-62 holder.

PCGS# 8331. NGC ID: 25WL.

PCGS Population: just two in all Mint State grades: MS-61 and MS-62. NGC reports a single grading event in Uncirculated condition at the MS-62 level.

*From the York Collection.*

## Important Choice AU 1874-CC Liberty Half Eagle



1278

**1874-CC Liberty Head Half Eagle. Winter-1-B. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** The underlying mint luster remains clearly visible around the devices especially along the peripheries where it casts a wonderful frosty halo on an even brilliant dark amber surface. The reverse is uniformly lustrous with exceptionally smooth fields for the assigned grade bereft of the typical abrasions that afflict this issue, serving to highlight the remarkably bold strike for a mint that still occasionally struggled to achieve consistency. The present example was struck from the obverse die that is readily identifiable by the presence of a prominent raised die mark on the bridge of Liberty's nose. Less obvious but an equally important die marker is a thin die scratch through the letter I in LIBERTY. On Winter reverse B, the CC mintmark is placed somewhat to the right with the second C over the junction of the letters VE in FIVE.

With a total of 21,198 pieces struck, Carson City produced more half eagles in 1874 than at either Philadelphia (with only 3,488 coins) or at San Francisco (with 16,000 coins). Carson City's output was almost exclusively used locally where the denomination served yeoman's duty

in daily commercial activity, rather than in international trade like many of the coins produced at Philadelphia and even San Francisco. Despite this, there is a very high attrition rate among Carson City half eagles, with at most around 1% remaining. The 1874-CC half eagle is the most accessible of the denomination from this decade with as many as 200 to 250 extant specimens. As with most issues from this storied Nevada facility, by far the vast majority of these coins are in the VF or EF grade levels, with significantly smaller amounts at the low end of the AU scale. At the Choice AU and above level, this issue is a widely recognized condition rarity, with only three Mint State grading events reported by PCGS. While there are 8 events noted at the AU-58 level by PCGS, it is almost certain that a couple of those are recertifications hoping to receive the vaunted MS designation. The CAC mark of superior eye appeal and quality helps lend credence to this coin's inclusion on the Condition Census. A remarkable coin worthy of a place of honor in an advanced Western gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8334. NGC ID: 25WP.

PCGS Population: 8; just 3 finer through MS-63+.

*From the York Collection.*

## Phenomenal Mint State 1875-CC Liberty \$5 One of Only Two Uncirculated Specimens



1279

**1875-CC Liberty Head Half Eagle. Winter-1-B. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** A radiant specimen where the dark orange-gold color transitions ever so lightly to an almost olive-gold patina towards the edges. Overall, the appearance is uncommonly even and smooth for the issue, free of the all-too-often seen abrasions and damage that are typically found on survivors of this issue. The obverse reveals shimmering fields interspersed with lovely areas of silky luster, while the reverse retains much of its satiny luster in the protected areas, allowing for the cartwheel effect to shine through. The striking quality is above normal for an otherwise softly struck issue, with only touches of weakness in Liberty's curls, and on the eagle's neck and upper portion of the shield. All in all, a premium quality specimen with superior eye appeal well-deserving of the CAC approbation.

The wealth of the Comstock Lode began to flow to the Mint in earnest in 1875. Not only was silver being extracted in huge quantities, a sizable amount of gold was also coming out of the famous Consolidated Virginia Mine; fully half of the government's \$1.5 million purchase of bullion in mid-1875 was gold. The focus on coining gold was on the double eagle in 1875 rather than the two smaller denominations, as well as large quantities of trade dollars. Care in striking appears to have not been much of a concern for half eagles, resulting in what Doug Winter calls "...one of the worst struck Carson City half eagles." Soft indistinct strikes are the norm in this year, thus making choice examples, as here, especially desirable. At least two different obverse and three different reverse dies paired in six different die marriages have been identified. Coiner William Hy Doane delivered 8,145 half

eagles in the first half of the year before he turned over the reins to Levi Dague in August. The final batch of 3,683 coins was delivered in December. Even with this almost desultory production run, Carson City still led production in half eagles for the year. These few coins entered circulation and remained there serving the monetary needs of the local economy for years.

In a series well known for condition rarities, the 1875-CC stands out as one of the most challenging. Mint State examples are extraordinarily elusive for this issue. Estimates vary as to the total number of extant specimens at the circulated level, from as few as 90 to as many as 150. All the experts agree that there are only two confirmed Mint State examples known. The finest known is a solitary MS-63 that we (Stack's) sold as part of the Morgan Collection of Branch Mint Gold in January 2007 and has not been publicly sold since. In the time since our Battle Born sale, no new Mint State examples have been reported. This is an opportunity almost as rare as the coin itself and will attract the eye of astute Carson City gold specialists everywhere. An important specimen that will require a robust bidding strategy to secure.

PCGS# 8337. NGC ID: 25WU.

Combined PCGS and NGC Population: 1; only 1 finer (an MS-63).

*From the York Collection. Earlier from our sale of the Battle Born Collection, August 2012, lot 11006. Earlier ex our (Stack's) sale of the Robison Collection of United States Gold Coins, February 1979, lot 498; our (Stack's) sale of the Reed Hawn Collection, October 1993, lot 995; Dr. Larry Cutler Collection; Doug Winter and Lee Minshull, November 1996; Bob Lecce and Larry Demerer, June 1997; and the Nevada Collection. The plate coin for the issue on page 36 of the 2001 book, Gold Coins of the Carson City Mint, by Douglas Winter and James L. Halperin.*

## One of the Finest Known 1876-CC Half Eagles



1280

**1876-CC Liberty Head Half Eagle. AU-58 (PCGS).** A truly memorable offering for the Carson City Mint gold enthusiast, we are pleased to present one of the finest 1876-CC half eagles extant. Vividly toned in a blend of deep orange and reddish-rose, both sides also display nearly complete luster in a satin to modestly semi-reflective finish. The strike is virtually full, especially by early Carson City Mint standards, and the eye appeal is nothing short of extraordinary. A few faint alloy spots on the reverse at the letter D in the denomination are the only useful identifying features for this carefully preserved example. Half eagle production at the Carson City Mint in 1876 amounted to just 6,887 pieces, the lowest output for this denomination at this historic frontier coinage facility. Widespread use in local commerce claimed most examples, survivors scarce to rare in all grades. Carson City Mint expert Rusty Goe (August 2012) estimates that only 135 to 160 coins are extant, the vast majority of which are well worn in one of

the four VF grades. Even solidly graded, aesthetically pleasing EFs are elusive in numismatic circles. At the top of the Condition Census is the phenomenal PCGS MS-66 that we sold as lot 11007 in our August 2012 auction sale of the fabulous Battle Born Collection of Carson City Mint Coinage. An NGC MS-61 is also known, followed by a trio of PCGS AU-58s that are tied for CC#3. This is a superior quality example even for the assigned grade, and it is eagerly awaiting inclusion in an advanced collection of Liberty Head half eagles and/or Carson City Mint gold.

PCGS# 8340. NGC ID: 25WX.

PCGS Population: just 3; with a single MS-66 finer.

*From the York Collection. Earlier ex Nevada Collection; Heritage's sale of the Twelve Oaks Collection, September 2016, lot 14101. The plate coin for the issue in the 2001 book Gold Coins of the Carson City Mint by Douglas Winter and James L. Halperin.*

## Delectable AU 1877-CC Half Eagle



1281

**1877-CC Liberty Head Half Eagle. Winter-1-B. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Beautiful in every regard, this coin is bathed in a brilliant sunflower yellow hue. Soft mint frost surrounds the devices, while the smooth and unmarred fields glow. There is outstanding crisp detail throughout with little evidence of any softness in the striking quality for which this mint is well known. A distinguished example from this famed Western mint.

For the first time in several years, the half eagle output at Carson City dipped below that of another minting facility, this time San Francisco. The dies for the branch mints that were prepared for the Carson City and San Francisco mints to produce the 1877 gold coinage all suffered a problem that prevented both facilities not be able to begin production immediately. The employees at the San Francisco Mint were able to resolve the issue and began coining gold starting in February. However, it would not be until April before the issue was resolved at Carson City and gold coins - at first just double eagles - would roll off the mint's presses. A single obverse die and a pair of reverse dies were used to coin all 8,680 half eagles, all in one single batch delivered by Coiner Levi Dague in August. The two reverse dies are distinguished

chiefly by the placement of the mintmark: On Winter 1-B, as here, the mintmark is level with the first C over the left side of the letter V in FIVE and the second C over the junction between the letters VE in the same word.

Unlike many of the gold coins struck at Carson City, maybe only half of the \$5 gold pieces struck actually circulated in the region, while the balance were shipped out of state. Although this issue is not found as severely abraded as other issues, the coins still saw heavy use and were not saved for posterity; therefore high grade examples remain as elusive as ever. Perhaps around 125 or so are still extant, almost all of which in the circulated grade levels, the majority of which fall in the VF to EF range. Lower end AU examples are scarce, but above that level, this is a challenging issue. The addition of a Choice AU example with exemplary eye appeal into an advanced Western gold cabinet is a noteworthy occasion.

PCGS# 8343. NGC ID: 25X2.

PCGS Population: 8; 7 finer through MS-62.

*From the York Collection. Earlier from our ANA Rarities Night sale, August 2016, lot 3264.*

## Remarkable Mint State 1879-CC Half Eagle A Formidable Condition Rarity



1282

**1879-CC Liberty Head Half Eagle. MS-61+ (NGC). CAC.** An exceptionally well preserved, fully Mint State example that ranks among the finest survivors of this scarce and conditionally challenging frontier era issue. The strike is razor sharp throughout, even the hair curls over Liberty's brow and the eagle's neck feathers crisp. Satiny luster flows over both sides, the surfaces bathed in vivid rose-orange patina that provides outstanding eye appeal. Smooth and inviting, certainly more so than one might expect given the assigned numeric grade, this premium quality coin is sure to sell for a strong bid. Due to outlandish railroad tariffs, by the late 1870s it was more profitable for Nevada miners to send their bullion for coinage to the San Francisco Mint as opposed to the nearby Carson City facility. Carson City Mint expert Rusty Goe (August 2012) states that, "By 1879, Nevada's miners

were already sending about 100 times as much of their gold to the San Francisco Mint than they were depositing in Carson City, and about 13 times as much silver." It is little wonder, therefore, that the Nevada branch mint produced so few gold coins of any denomination in 1879. The 1879-CC half eagle boasts a limited mintage of 17,281 pieces, and it is a scarce issue in an absolute sense. Rusty Goe provided for only 270 to 340 circulated survivors and just four to six Uncirculated coins in his cataloging for our August 2012 sale of the Battle Born Collection. Solidly in the Condition Census, this Mint State rarity would serve as a highlight in even the finest numismatic cabinet.

PCGS# 8349. NGC ID: 25X8.

NGC Census: just 2; 0 finer. PCGS reports two grading events at the MS-62 level, the finest at that service.  
*From the York Collection.*

## Seldom Offered Mint State 1880-CC Half Eagle



1283

**1880-CC Liberty Head Half Eagle. MS-61 (PCGS).** This is an exceptionally well preserved, highly attractive example of the conditionally challenging 1880-CC half eagle. A fully Uncirculated coin, both sides are sharply struck throughout and retain a bright, fresh mint finish that combines satin and semi-prooflike qualities. The fields, in particular, are noticeably reflective when observed with the aid of a strong light source. Handsome medium gold patina with tinges of pale pink and rose iridescence, to see this coin is to admire it for both its technical quality and visual appeal. The mintage for this issue is 51,107 pieces, a generous total for a pre-1890 Carson City Mint half eagle. It should come as no surprise to read, therefore,

that the 1880-CC is one of the more readily obtainable issues in this mintmarked gold series. On the other hand, the typical survivor is well worn, usually in VF or EF grades, and even in properly graded AU the 1880-CC can be difficult to locate. Mint State survivors are rare with Carson City Mint authority Rusty Goe (2012) estimating that only 20 to 30 are extant. This is one of the finest certified, a lovely coin destined for inclusion in an advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8352. NGC ID: 25XB.

PCGS Population: 4; 6 finer (MS-63 finest).

*From the York Collection.*



## Enticing Choice AU 1881-CC Half Eagle



1284

**1881-CC Liberty Head Half Eagle. Winter-1-A. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Drenched in a warm frosty glow the bright yellow gold color accentuates the uncommonly unmarred surfaces. Superior in all regards, the strike is precise and well executed and worthy of a close look with a loupe. Among the rarest of the Carson City half eagles and the rarest of those from the 1880s, only 13,886 coins were struck as compared to the more than 5.7 million struck at Philadelphia. A single pair of dies was employed for the entire run, managing to turn out 5,640 half eagles before the facility was shut down on April 1. When the doors finally reopened in November, mint personnel were able to coin an additional 8,246 examples of the denomination before the end of the year. The survival rate is a bit better than in previous years,

but not by much. Scarcely more than a hundred or so are thought to remain in numismatic circles presently, almost all of which are in lower degrees of preservation, generally clustered in and around the VF and EF mark. While there are several certification events reported at the AU-58 level, these numbers are possibly inflated due to resubmissions. Even in the higher grades this issue is known for less than stellar luster and surfaces; examples with remarkable eye appeal, such as is offered here, are very challenging to locate and are seldom available. An opportunity such as this should not be passed on lightly.

PCGS# 8356. NGC ID: 25XE.

PCGS Population: 13; 3 finer.

*From the York Collection.*

## Alluring Mint State 1882-CC Half Eagle



1285

**1882-CC Liberty Head Half Eagle. Winter-1-A. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Drenched in a warm medium-gold hue throughout, this coin exhibits rich lustrous surfaces with ample mint frost. The strike is bold and accurate with only the barest hints of any softness at liberty's hair. There is the faintest of clash marks visible on the reverse that connects the eagle's lower beak to the wing characteristic of most coins from this issue. Unlike the previous year, 1882 proved to be quite productive at Carson City. A modest increase in bullion coming out of the Comstock combined with a full uninterrupted year of operation allowed the mint to increase its output significantly. Striking quality improved, as well; the 82,817 pieces were struck from a single pair of dies, a different

story from just a decade earlier. Thanks in part to the more generous mintage figures, around 500 examples are believed to exist for present generations to appreciate. The 1882-CC half eagle is an issue that is actually moderately available at the AU level as compared to many earlier years. Mint State examples remain elusive, but prohibitively so, making this a broadly popular issue. An outstanding example that will draw the attention of gold type collectors, Carson City specialists, and aficionados of Western gold alike.

PCGS# 8359. NGC ID: 25XH.

PCGS Population: 13; 8 finer (MS-62+ finest).

*From the York Collection.*

## Extraordinary Gem Proof 1887 Half Eagle The W. F. Dunham Specimen



1286

**1887 Liberty Head Half Eagle. Proof-65 Cameo (PCGS). CAC.** The light “orange peel” effect of the brilliant deep honey gold surfaces are beautifully contrasted by the nicely frosted devices on this stunning Gem Proof coin. This combined with the superior razor sharp strike fully validates CAC’s affirmation of exceptional eye appeal. 1887 has long proven to be a stumbling block for collectors of not only the half eagle but also its bigger sibling, the Proof-only double eagle. In that year the San Francisco Mint was given the duty to strike half eagles for everyday use in commercial channels, while only Proof examples were produced at the main facility in Philadelphia. As was the usual procedure for the times, the entire Proof mintage of 87 pieces was struck early in the year and sold as in prior years. But unlike in earlier years, this tiny production run of Proof examples was not followed by a cursory mintage of regular circulation strikes, usually in an effort to prevent creation of a rarity. The reason for this is unclear, especially since 390,000 half eagles were coined the previous year there. What few Proof coins were produced seemed to have gotten little notice by the numismatic community, since less than half are thought extant. If that were not enough, some of these may have likely been unsold at the Mint and released into circulation, since quite a few are impaired Proofs. With the 1893 release of Augustus Heaton treatise, *Mint Marks*, attention was quickly paid to this extremely rare issue.

To this day, most surviving examples that are not impaired reside around the Choice Proof level, with only a few reaching the vaunted Gem Proof state. The present example is one such coin. When famed dealer B. Max Mehl sold this specimen in his June 1941 sale of the W. F. Dunham Collection, he described lot 2166 as: “Perfect brilliant proof. Only 87 specimens struck in all. Very likely less than half that number now exist, as those which come on the market are invariably coins that have been previously sold in other collections. I know of one specimen which sold at private sale for \$500.00 some eleven years ago. The last record in my Hale Sale, \$235. This is as beautiful a specimen of this rarity as I have ever seen. It has some wire edge on obverse. One of our really rare Half Eagles.” With no finer examples reported at either of the major certification services, Mehl’s description remains as accurate today as it was then. Always in very short supply but in constant demand by date collectors as well as advanced students of nineteenth century Proof gold coins, the opportunity to secure not only a shimmering example of the issue is almost as fleeting. For a coin solidly at the pinnacle for the issue and with an excellent provenance, this is especially true. An opportunity not to be missed.

PCGS# 88482. NGC ID: 28CR.

PCGS Population: 2; 0 finer in this category.

From B. Max Mehl’s June 1941 sale of the W. F. Dunham Collection, lot 2166. Lot tag included.

## Handsome Sand Blast Proof 1908 Indian Half Eagle Exceptional Gem Quality



1287

**1908 Indian Half Eagle. Proof-66 (PCGS).** This extremely attractive 1908 Sand Blast Proof half eagle is evenly bathed in bold olive-gold patina which produces a striking effect. The texture is of the sand blast type that is delicate and easily marred; this finish readily reveals “shiny spots” on lower quality coins, however, in the case of the present Gem, the surfaces are close to perfection. Full striking detail and handsome eye appeal round out an impressive list of attributes.

This issue introduced Bela Lyon Pratt's novel incuse design for the half eagle, as well as the sand blast style of Proofing. Undoubtedly anticipating record sales given the issue's historic nature, the Philadelphia Mint struck 167 Proof half eagles in 1908. The bold sand blast finish, with its deep color, proved unpopular with contemporary

collectors who had grown accustomed to the cameo, brilliant mirror Proofs of the Liberty gold coin era. The result is that some Proof 1908 half eagles failed to sell at the time of issue and were later destroyed in the Mint. Even so, with approximately 100 to 125 coins extant in all grades, this is the most readily obtainable Proof of the type in today's market. It is still rare in an absolute sense, of course, and very rare in the finest grades. Strong bids are recommended for the present offering, as it ranks among the best preserved and most attractively original survivors that we have ever had the privilege of bringing to auction.

PCGS# 8539. NGC ID: 28E3.

PCGS Population: 16; 3 finer (through Proof-67+)

## Ever-Popular Key Date 1909-O Half Eagle



1288

**1909-O Indian Half Eagle. AU-58 (NGC).** A handsome and highly desirable example of this low mintage entry in the Indian half eagle series. Pleasingly original surfaces exhibit light flint gray highlights to a base of warm honey-gold patina. The strike is sharp to full throughout, the all-important O mintmark clear and readily evident to the unaided eye. Closer inspection with a loupe reveals that the mintmark is repunched to the left, a feature seen on most known examples. Overall smooth in appearance, and uncommonly so for a lightly circulated half eagle of this conditionally challenging design type, this impressive near-Mint survivor is sure to have no difficulty finding its way into an advanced gold cabinet.

The eagerly sought 1909-O half eagle is not only the sole New Orleans Mint Indian half eagle, but it is also the only issue in the four popular Indian and Saint-Gaudens gold series of the early 20th century attributed to this Southern coinage facility. With a mere 34,200 pieces produced, the 1909-O is also the lowest mintage circulation strike of its type. Given that no other issue in this series has a smaller population of surviving examples, circulated and Mint State coins combined, the 1909-O enjoys strong collector demand at all levels of preservation. As a nicely preserved and aesthetically pleasing Choice AU, the coin offered here is worthy of the strongest bids.

PCGS# 8515. NGC ID: 25ZK.

## Important Key Date Indian Half Eagle



1289

**1909-O Indian Half Eagle. AU-58 (NGC).** A low mintage of 34,200 pieces makes the 1909-O half eagle an important, key issue in the Indian Head half eagle series. This example has a smooth appearance overall, and seems very near to Mint State. Only careful examination with the aid of a loupe reveals that some of the central high points show a slight degree of wear. Faint handling marks are also noted in the obverse and reverse fields, but these are likewise trivial and do

not distract the eye of the beholder. Extremely popular with gold enthusiasts, the 1909-O is the final New Orleans Mint half eagle, the only one of the Indian design type, and a key date issue with a mintage of just 34,200 pieces. In terms of total number of coins believed extant, in fact, the 1909-O is the rarest Indian half eagle. With examples eagerly sought at all levels of preservation, this premium AU is sure to see spirited bidding at auction.

PCGS# 8515. NGC ID: 25ZK.

## A Third 1909-O Half Eagle Popular Low Mintage New Orleans Mint Issue



1290

**1909-O Indian Half Eagle. AU-55 (PCGS).** A lovely example of this eagerly sought Indian half eagle issue. Both sides are bathed in light honey-gold patina, indirect lighting calling forth subtle olive undertones. Striking detail is virtually full with all design elements boldly to sharply defined and the all-important O mintmark crisp. Plenty of satiny mint luster remains to further uphold the validity of the desirable Choice AU grade assigned by PCGS.

Among the new gold designs for 20th century gold coins for the quarter eagle, half eagle, eagle, and double eagle, the 1909-O half eagle is the only New Orleans Mint variety. It has the lowest mintage of its type with only 34,200 pieces produced and is the rarest Indian half eagle in terms of total number of coins extant. Examples are highlights of any collection, and the handsome AU-55 offered here is destined to serve as such in an advanced cabinet.

PCGS# 8515.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection.*



## A Second 1909-O Half Eagle in PCGS AU-55



1291

**1909-O Indian Half Eagle. AU-55 (PCGS).** Advanced 20th century gold collectors have several opportunities in this sale to acquire a high grade, aesthetically pleasing example of the fabled 1909-O Indian half eagle. The present lot offers a lovely PCGS-certified Choice AU bathed in light, even, straw-gold patina. The O mintmark is bold and readily appreciable to the unaided eye, the balance of the design elements

sharply to fully defined. The mintmark is lightly repunched, as seen on many examples of this issue. Lustrous for the grade with a slightly granular texture, this is an endearing coin that would grace any gold cabinet with its presence.

PCGS# 8515. NGC ID: 25ZK.

*From The Des Moines Collection.*

## A Remarkable Fifth Choice AU 1909-O Half Eagle



1292

**1909-O Indian Half Eagle. AU-55 (NGC).** A remarkable fifth opportunity for the advanced 20th century gold enthusiast to acquire a Choice AU example of the key date 1909-O Indian half eagle. This coin is boldly to sharply defined over most design elements, the O mintmark a bit soft, yet fully outlined and discernible to the unaided

eye. Bathed in handsome honey-orange patina, direct lighting also calls forth appreciable remnants of satiny mint luster. Attractive in all regards and sure to elicit strong bids.

PCGS# 8515. NGC ID: 25ZK.

*From the Blue Ridge Mountains Portfolio.*

## EAGLES

## Classic 1795 Capped Bust Right Eagle



1293

**1795 Capped Bust Right Eagle. BD-1, Taraszka-1. Rarity-3+. 13 Leaves. AU Details—Improperly Cleaned (NGC).** A more affordable example of this historic first year issue in the United States Mint's ten-dollar gold eagle series. A sharp strike is among this coin's strong suits, the denticulation full around both sides and most design elements crisp. On the debit side we note a curiously bright golden-yellow appearance with scattered hairlines that explain the NGC qualifier. Undoubtedly the first of the five known die marriages produced for the 1795 eagle, BD-1 accounts for half to all of the 5,583 examples of

this denomination actually struck that year (per John W. Dannreuther, *Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties: A Study of Die States, 1795-1834*, 2006). Since it is also the most frequently encountered variety of the issue in numismatic circles, the 1795 BD-1 enjoys strong demand for type purposes at all levels of preservation. We caution bidders, however, that all pre-1834 U.S. gold coin issues and varieties are scarce to rare in an absolute sense, a fact that is sure to result in spirited bidding for the present example.

PCGS# 8551. NGC ID: 25ZU.

*From the Paisley Acres Collection.*

## Important AU 1797 BD-2 Heraldic Eagle Ten Unrecorded Die State



1294

**1797 Capped Bust Right Eagle. Heraldic Eagle. BD-2, Taraszka-8. Rarity-4+. AU-53 (NGC).** Warm, even medium gold patina greets the viewer from both sides of this handsome early eagle. The strike is uncommonly well executed by early U.S. Mint standards, both sides ideally centered within uniformly denticulated borders. All devices are boldly to sharply defined in the absence of all but light rub, and appreciable mint luster remains to further tempt the high quality early gold enthusiast. BD Die State b/a, without the die rust lump at the top of the second letter T in STATES. This die state combination is not included in the 2006 reference *Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties: A Study of Die State, 1795-1834* by John W. Dannreuther and Harry W. Bass, Jr.

Conceived as a foundational denomination, the \$10 gold piece or eagle was not especially popular in domestic commerce, where preference by bullion depositors was given to the half eagle. While the half eagle bore the brunt of daily use, eagles were struck in relatively small quantities. Despite this, the denomination proved to be desirable for international trade over bank notes which were almost always refused overseas. Fortunately, the coin's use abroad allowed the eagle to serve as a numismatic ambassador of sorts demonstrating the nascent country's desire to open up on the global commercial scene.

Widely regarded as one of the most dramatic and impressive of all the early gold coin designs, Robert Scot's Heraldic Eagle reverse made its debut in the second half of 1797. Based on the Great Seal of the United States, Scot's design has one remarkable difference and one that is often branded a heraldic error: the bundle of arrows were placed in the dexter (or right) claw - usually considered the more honorable position

in heraldry - rather than the olive branch, contrary to the placement on the Great Seal. It will likely never be known why Scot made this choice, whether this placement was a conscious decision or an honest oversight. Once the design was ready, Assistant Engraver John Smith Gardiner is now usually thought to have prepared the eagle punches used in 1797. The first reverse die with the new Heraldic reverse bears an eagle that has a strangely proportioned neck considerably thinner than would appear in nature. All told, 10,940 Heraldic Eagle coins were struck from one obverse die and three different reverse dies. Scholars of early gold coins will make note of the previously unrecorded die state combination exhibited here on the present piece. The Bass-Dannreuther reference only records States a/a and b/b, but notes that reverse State b "may be present for all states, thus this would be State a." As can be observed here, indeed this has turned out to not be the case as this specimen does not exhibit the tell-tale rust lump.

All early eagles are very rare as a rule and none may be considered truly common. The three known die marriages for the 1797 Large Eagle \$10 gold pieces are all of roughly equal scarcity, with perhaps the BD-3 being the somewhat more elusive of the trio. While an estimated 3,500 to 5,000 coins of this die combination are believed to have been struck, at most as few as 100 are thought to survive. Impressive in size and in its evocative design, the eye appeal along with the fascinating nature of the die state combination make this an especially attractive example of the first year of the Heraldic Eagle reverse. A certain showpiece for the next caretaker.

PCGS# 8559. NGC ID: 25ZY.

*Ex American Independence Collection.*

## 1797 Heraldic Eagle Ten Dollar Gold



1295

**1797 Capped Bust Right Eagle. Heraldic Eagle. BD-4, Taraszka-12. Rarity-4+. EF Details—Cleaned (PCGS).** Even light yellow gold surfaces are boldly detailed and have begun retoning with coppery-rose framing the devices and peripheries. Pleasingly smooth for an EF example, there is much to offer the budget minded collector seeking an example of the challenging Capped Bust Right eagle series. The reverse is nicely reflective and offers glimpses of original luster as well. Scattered light contact marks and abrasions are noted on the obverse, while the reverse is less affected by circulation—a common occurrence on early gold coins. The popular first year of the Heraldic Eagle type,

many or most 1797 Large Eagle \$10s were struck in 1798, after the 1798/7 eagles, a fact that can be discerned through studying the die states of each successive die marriage. Survivors from the United States Mint's premier eagle series are scarce in an absolute sense and always in demand for advanced gold type purposes; per John W. Dannreuther (*Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties: A Study of Die States, 1795-1834*, 2006) there are only an estimated 210-260 examples of the type known in all grades.

PCGS# 8559. NGC ID: 25ZY.

*From Mid-American Rare Coin Auction's Capitol City Sale, lot 1081, February 15-16, 1985.*

## Seldom Encountered 1799 Small Stars Eagle



1296

**1799 Capped Bust Right Eagle. BD-4, Taraszka-16. Rarity-7. Small Obverse Stars. AU-55 (PCGS). OGH.** Appealing and significant Choice AU quality for this highly elusive die marriage of the 1799 ten-dollar gold eagle. Warmly patinated in deep golden-olive, direct lighting calls forth lighter medium gold color. Sharply defined overall, as befits the assigned grade, a touch of glossiness to the obverse and light haziness on the reverse are mentioned for accuracy. BD Die State b/e. The old style PCGS insert uses coin #8562, which is now reserved for the Large Obverse Stars *Guide Book* variety of the 1799 eagle.

As the eagle's use in international trade increased, larger numbers of eagles were produced to satisfy the demand from bullion depositors. Exports abroad continued at a solid pace where they remained to eventually meet their fate in bullion speculators' crucibles. The exportation of eagles became so pervasive that eventually President Thomas Jefferson was compelled to suspend the production of the denomination in 1804 to encourage domestic use instead. It would not be until more than three decades later that the eagle would be resurrected.

By 1799, some 37,449 eagles were struck that year using a total of six obverse and six reverse dies in ten known die couplings: eight for the Small Stars variety and two for the Large Stars. Despite the uptick in

production, the early Mint was still working out some of the difficulties with prolonging die life. Because die steel was expensive, dies were often used as much as possible before they became completely unusable. Consequently, die pairings could often be very short-lived. The first four die marriages in 1799 all shared a common reverse die that proved to be somewhat harder than many. The same cannot be said for the four obverse dies matched to it, all of which failed in fairly rapid succession. It was not until BD-4 that the reverse die finally reached a point where it had to be withdrawn from use. An estimated 1,000 to 1,500 coins are believed to have been struck from this die pair before the reverse die was retired. These earliest of die pairs are quite rare; of the BD-4 pairing, Harry Bass, Jr. could only manage to obtain a single specimen for his core collection and only identified a solitary die state, though he theorized that at least two other die states may exist. All told, it is estimated that a scant 8 to 12 specimens are extant from the BD-4 die combination, making this among the most challenging of 1799 die pairs to locate. Seldom offered, here is an important offering of a challenging die pair that, combined with its considerable eye appeal, will no doubt prompt spirited bidding from early gold specialists of all stripes.

PCGS# 98562. NGC ID: 2625.

## Vividly Toned Mint State 1799 Eagle Scarce BD-6 Die Pairing



1297

**1799 Capped Bust Right Eagle. BD-6, Taraszka-18. Rarity-5. Small Obverse Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).** An exceptionally attractive early eagle, both sides exhibit mottled deep rose and lilac-blue peripheral toning around honey-gold centers. Lustrous and satiny with a bold strike in all areas save for where a concentration of light adjustment marks (as made) over the top of Liberty's portrait have interfered with the impression from the dies. We note only wispy handling that are easily overlooked at most viewing angles, the in hand appearance superior for the assigned grade. BD Die State d/a. A workhorse die, the obverse of BD-6 was previously used to strike 1799 eagles of the

BD-4 and BD-5 varieties. This is its final use, the die eventually failing in the area of a substantial break from the rim, through star 8, to the back of Liberty's cap. It is the breakup of this obverse die that almost certainly explains the scarcity of the 1799 BD-6 eagle in numismatic circles. John W. Dannreuther (2006) estimates that only 1,500 to 2,000 coins were struck from this die pairing, survivors numbering just 35 to 45 pieces in all grades. With Mint State Capped Bust Right eagles rare irrespective of date or die marriage, this handsome Brilliant Uncirculated example will appeal to advanced gold type and variety collectors.

PCGS# 98562.

## Popular 1800 Capped Bust Right Eagle



1298

**1800 Capped Bust Right Eagle. BD-1, Taraszka-23, the only known dies. Rarity-3+. AU Details—Cleaned (PCGS).** With sharp to full striking detail and relatively attractive medium gold patina, this more affordable early eagle is sure to find many willing buyers among advanced gold type collectors. The strike is well centered and nicely executed, the borders uniformly denticulated and only a few faint, barely perceptible adjustment marks (as made) evident in the center of the obverse and at the lower right border on the same side. Light hairlining and a somewhat glossy texture explain the PCGS qualifier. BD Die State c/e. This is a single die marriage issue in the Capped Bust Right eagle series, although a remarriage is known that was struck after examples of the scarce 1801 BD-1 variety. The present example, BD Die State c/e, represents that remarriage as the reverse exhibits

faint remnants of clashing along the border outside the letters STAT in STATES. These clashmarks are from the border denticles on the obverse, and they first appeared when this die was mated with obverse 1 of the 1801-dated issue. In this remarriage for the 1800 issue, the clashmarks are faint due to relapping of the die. The reason for this remarriage is the early and terminal breakup of the obverse die of the 1801 BD-1 variety, which also explains the scarcity of examples from that die pair. The 1800 eagle is among the more plentiful in its series, John W. Dannreuther (2006) accounting for 200 to 300 coins extant in all grades. It is a popular issue for type purposes, as well, the present example with much to offer the budget minded collector.

PCGS# 8563. NGC ID: BFYT.

*From the William B. Martin Collection.*

## Choice Mint State 1801 Capped Bust Right Eagle



1299

**1801 Capped Bust Right Eagle. BD-2, Taraszka-25. Rarity-2. MS-63 (PCGS).** This is a gorgeous Mint State survivor from this early \$10 issue showing vivid lemon-yellow coloration across each side. The fields are dramatically prooflike, especially on the reverse, contrasting the more frosty design elements. Fully struck, showing sharp definition to the denticles and obverse stars that is uncommon for the variety. Magnification shows only a few trivial marks around Liberty's jawline and throat, and the surfaces are otherwise very clean at this grade level. Overall displaying excellent mint frosting that compares favorably to similarly graded examples offered in recent years. An impressive and beautiful piece.

The reported mintage of eagles for calendar year 1801 is 44,344 pieces. Through the study of die states, however, numismatic scholars have determined that some 1800-dated coins were struck after those of the 1801 BD-1 variety (both share the same reverse). As such, the reported mintage for calendar year 1801 likely includes some coins dated 1800, and possibly also some dated 1799. With 600 to 800 coins believed extant from an estimated mintage of 30,000 to 40,000 pieces for the variety, in fact, 1801 BD-2 is actually the most plentiful early eagle die marriage. Mint State survivors are scarce, of course, as the demand for them is great among high quality type collectors and early gold enthusiasts. Strong bids are encouraged for bidders seeking to add this lovely MS-63 example to their holdings.

PCGS# 8564. NGC ID: 2627.

PCGS Population: 37; 39 finer through MS-65.

## Uncirculated 1801 Capped Bust \$10



1300

**1801 Capped Bust Right Eagle. BD-2, Taraszka-25. Rarity-2. Unc Details—Cleaned (NGC).** A highly satisfying example of this desirable rarity. The slightly dulled luster suggests a very light cleaning, though the eye appeal remains strong. Considerable prooflike reflectivity

shows on the reverse and frames sharp, nicely frosted design elements. A few thin pinscratches are visible in the lower obverse under magnification though these fail to draw the naked eye. One of only 300 remaining in Mint State.

PCGS# 8564. NGC ID: 2627.

## Near Mint 1801 Capped Bust Right Eagle



1301

**1801 Capped Bust Right Eagle.** BD-2, Taraszka-25. Rarity-2. AU-58 (PCGS). Clouds of satiny mint luster bloom from the protected regions around this desirable near-Mint piece. A touch of friction can be seen on the high points and in the fields, though the surfaces

remain free from notable blemishes of any sort. Overall pale ivory gold in color, with accents of deeper honey-gold in select areas. Well struck for the variety and showing strong clash marks in Liberty's cap.

PCGS# 8564. NGC ID: 2627.

## Underrated 1839 Small Letters Eagle



1302

**1839 Liberty Head Eagle. Small Letters (a.k.a. Type of 1840). EF-45 (PCGS).** A thoroughly appealing example of this often overlooked issue from the second year of the challenging Liberty Head eagle series of 1838 to 1907. Predominantly bold Choice EF detail greets the viewer from both sides, many of the finer elements of Liberty's portrait and the eagle remaining sharp. The surfaces are bathed in warm medium gold patina with traces of original satin luster evident in the protected areas around and among the devices. A loupe reveals a series of interesting die file marks (as made) at the lower obverse border below the date, as well as light die cracks (again, as made) on the same side through stars 2 to 4 and 5 to 9. These features are common to the handful of 1839 Small Letters eagles that we have handled in recent years. A highly elusive issue even in impaired condition, a problem free example such as this represents a particularly important find for the advanced collector of Liberty Head gold coinage. The longest-running ten-dollar gold eagle series produced in the United States Mint, the Liberty Head eagle was struck without interruption from 1838 through early 1907. It is the first eagle produced since 1804, President Thomas Jefferson having halted production of both this denomination and the silver dollar that year since rising bullion prices made the coins highly susceptible to melting by speculators. From 1805 through 1837, the largest gold denomination that the United States Mint produced for commercial use was the five-dollar half eagle, which had actually been the most popular gold denomination with contemporary bullion depositors since the inception of both series in 1795. By 1838, however, two laws had been passed that made it possible for the Mint to resume eagle coinage. The first was the Act of June 28, 1834, which reduced the weight of standard U.S. gold coins and, in so doing, placed the nation's monetary system on a gold standard. The second was the Act of January 18, 1837, a general overhaul of the nation's coinage laws that, among other things, standardized the fineness of gold and silver coins at 900 thousandths. When eagle production finally resumed in 1838, the Mint settled upon the Liberty Head design of Christian Gobrecht. The obverse, which remained virtually unchanged through the 70-year lifespan of this series, features a left-facing portrait of Liberty, her hair tied in a bun at the back of her head. Liberty is wearing a coronet inscribed LIBERTY, 13 stars encircle the border, and the date

is below the portrait. The initial portrait utilized in 1838 and early 1839 had deeper curvature to the truncation of the bust with Liberty's hair pulled back over her ear. For unknown reasons the design was modified slightly in 1839 to create the Liberty Head motif that would remain in use through the series' end in 1907. The basic reverse design also remained unchanged from 1838 to 1907, the focal feature an eagle with outstretched wings and a shield on its breast. The eagle clutches a group of three arrows in its left talon and an olive branch in its right talon. The legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is around the border and the denomination TEN D. is below the eagle. For those coins struck from 1838 through 1866 (San Francisco Mint only for the latter year) this is the reverse design in its entirety. The reverse was modified in 1866, however, with the addition of the motto IN GOD WE TRUST on a scroll above the eagle. This change was borne out of the Civil War, the death and destruction of that conflict sparking a religious revival in the United States. Although addition of the motto was contemplated as early as 1863, the first regular issue U.S. coin to display IN GOD WE TRUST was the two-cent piece, a new denomination introduced in 1864. The eagle followed suit in 1866, as did most other silver and gold denominations of sufficient size to accommodate this new design element. To distinguish them from their No Motto predecessors of 1838 to 1866, the Motto eagles of 1866 to 1907 are known as the Type II Liberty Head design. The second type of Liberty Head eagle produced in 1839, the Small Letters is distinguished from its Large Letters counterpart not only by the aforementioned differences in the design of Liberty's portrait, but also in the size of the letters in the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and the denomination TEN D. on the reverse. The 1839 Small Letters was produced to the extent of just 12,447 pieces, as opposed to the slightly more generous mintage of 25,801 coins for the 1839 Large Letters. The former is the rarer of the two issues in numismatic circles, although it is often overlooked by collectors focused on the brevity of the Large Letters design type of 1838 and early 1839. In fact, the experts at *PCGS CoinFacts* provide an estimate of only 50 to 60 coins extant in all grades for the 1839 Small Letters. With market appearances understandably few and far between, the significance of the present offering should be obvious to the astute gold enthusiast.

PCGS# 8580. NGC ID: 262F.

## Condition Rarity 1846/'5'-O Eagle in Mint State Tied for Finest Certified at PCGS



1303

**1846/'5'-O Liberty Head Eagle. Winter-3. MS-61 (PCGS).** This is a phenomenal condition rarity that ranks among the finest certified examples of both the issue and die pairing. Vivid golden yellow surfaces are intensely lustrous, an otherwise satiny texture yielding to decided semi-reflective qualities in the fields. Both sides are fully struck from the rims to the centers, a feature not often noted in New Orleans Mint gold coins from the pre-Civil War era. Exceptionally well preserved and solidly in the Mint State category, this beautiful coin is uncommonly smooth for the assigned grade and worthy of the strongest bids. The 1846-O has a mintage of just 81,780 pieces, far fewer than the 571,500 pieces reported for the 1847-O. While the latter is the most plentiful No Motto eagle from the New Orleans Mint, the former is among the rarest. This is particularly true in the finest circulated and Mint State grades, with Southern gold expert Doug

Winter commenting in his 2006 New Orleans Mint reference: “[The 1846-O] is especially hard to find in higher grades and coins with good eye appeal are nearly unheard of.” This is just such a coin, and its certified grade of MS-61 places it at the top of the Condition Census. It is sure to catch the eye of astute bidders, and we anticipate strong competition when it crosses the auction block. Winter-3 is the most frequently encountered die marriage of the 1846-O eagle, and it shares the same obverse as the other three varieties of the issue. In this late state, the bottom of the digit 6 is filled with a large die dot within its loop, this being the feature that once led numismatists to classify the variety as an overdate.

PCGS# 8596. NGC ID: 262X.

PCGS Population: just 3; 0 finer.

*From The Des Moines Collection.*

## Rare Mint State 1847-O Liberty Head Eagle



1304

**1847-O Liberty Head Eagle. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** A vibrant yellow-gold example of this New Orleans condition rarity. The surfaces are supremely lustrous, remaining fully composed and without notable friction across any points. A deeper reeding mark in the right reverse field serves as a convenient pedigree marker, and the eye appeal remains considerably strong for the assigned grade. An original and attractive piece.

Produced to the extent of 571,500 pieces, the 1847-O is by far the highest mintage eagle from the New Orleans Mint. It is the most common No Motto Liberty Head ten from this coinage facility with

survivors available in circulated grades through the lower reaches of AU. In Mint State, however, this issue develops into a significant condition rarity, as do most early eagles of this design type. Fewer than 15 Uncirculated coins are believed extant, perhaps no more than a dozen. The present MS-61 example ranks within the top 10 grading events listed in the PCGS Population Report, and only 8 coins have been certified finer through MS-64.

PCGS# 8598. NGC ID: 2632.

PCGS Population: 4; 8 finer through MS-64.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Finest PCGS-Certified 1853/'2' Eagle A New Discovery from Europe



*Photo Courtesy of PCGS*

1305

**1853/'2' Liberty Head Eagle. Breen-6905. MS-62 (PCGS).** An extraordinary condition rarity for this intriguing Liberty Head eagle variety that ranks as the single finest example known to PCGS. Handsome golden-orange surfaces are attractively original with a full endowment of mint luster. Boldly to sharply struck throughout, the surfaces are pleasingly smooth in hand for the assigned grade. A few carbon spots are scattered about, more so on the reverse, although the most prominent is located at the obverse border between stars 4 and 5 -- a useful identifying feature. A highlight of the extensive Liberty Head eagle offerings in this sale, and a coin that would serve as a focal point in even the finest gold cabinet.

This variety was discovered in a 1960 auction sale. The supposed "overdate" feature is faint and can be difficult to discern by the untrained numismatist, although for those who know where to look

it is sharp and clearly visible in the lower loop of the 3 on the present example. Although modern numismatic scholarship suggests that this variety is not an overdate, it remains popular with gold variety collectors. The 1853/'2' is also scarce in an absolute sense and very rare in Mint State. Indeed, this outstanding Mint State example is a recent discovery that was found in Europe as part of a large group of classic U.S. Mint gold coins. The coins were part of a submission to PCGS Paris and, upon examination by PCGS Director of World Grading Mike Sargent, this eagle was immediately recognized as the 1853/'2' variety. According to PCGS President Don Willis, this coin is the finest 1853/'2' eagle graded by PCGS during the company's 32 years of rare coin authentication. The discovery and certification of this coin is discussed in detail in a news release from PCGS dated July 10, 2018.

PCGS# 8611. NGC ID: C82G.

PCGS Population: just 1; 0 finer.

## Phenomenal Mint State 1858-O Eagle A Newcomer to the Condition Census



1306

**1858-O Liberty Head Eagle. MS-62+ (PCGS).** This is a beautiful example bathed in vivid medium gold patina. Otherwise satiny in texture, the surfaces reveal hints of semi-prooflike reflectivity in the fields as the coin rotates under a light, especially around the obverse periphery. Central striking detail is razor sharp, the peripheral devices a tad soft, yet not uncommonly so for a New Orleans Mint eagle from the 1850s. Nearly smooth enough to support a Choice Mint State rating, this gorgeous coin holds tremendous appeal for both Liberty Head eagle specialists and New Orleans Mint enthusiasts. The 1858-O was produced to the extent of just 20,000 pieces, although it is widely regarded as the third most common New Orleans Mint eagle from the 1850s. Our use of the word “common” deserves qualification here, for all O-mint tens from this decade are scarce to rare in an absolute sense. The typical survivor of this well circulated issue is in lower grades through EF, with an occasional AU-50 or AU-53 making its

appearance in the market. Unlike for most New Orleans Mint eagle of its era, there are several Mint State coins known for the 1858-O. Virtually all of these coins were part of a significant hoard of 19th century U.S. Mint gold coins discovered in 1985 during an excavation project in Jackson, Tennessee. The provenance of the present example is unknown, and it is also not included in the list of Significant Pieces provided by Douglas Winter in the 2006 edition of his *Gold Coins of the New Orleans Mint: 1839-1909*. A small number of Uncirculated 1858-O eagles were known prior to the discovery of the Jackson Hoard, most of which have long resided in tightly held collections, and even many of the coins in the Jackson find remained uncertified for years after PCGS and NGC began grading coins. Regardless of its provenance, this coin now ranks as one of the finest 1858-O eagles available to today’s discerning gold collectors.

PCGS# 8626. NGC ID: 263X.

PCGS Population: just 1; with a single MS-63 finer.



## Condition Census 1859-S Liberty Head Eagle



1307

**1859-S Liberty Head Eagle. AU-55 (PCGS).** Evenly toned with attractive rose-orange patina, this important coin offers uncommonly sharp definition for a surviving 1859-S eagle and generous original luster, particularly in the protected areas. The centers are boldly impressed from the dies, and minor softness of detail toward the borders is commonplace for many Liberty eagle issues from the 1850s. Satiny in texture and uncommonly distraction-free for the grade. Only 7,000 eagles were struck in this year as the San Francisco Mint continued to strike far more double eagles. Most of these eagles

entered circulation unnoticed, leaving collectors to find out years later how truly rare any example of this issue is in numismatic hands. High grade pieces are especially rare, and only a single Mint State piece has been certified, a lone MS-60 by NGC. PCGS Registry Set collectors should take note, as there are no finer examples at PCGS to best this exceptional AU-55. An important eagle worthy of inclusion in the finest set.

PCGS# 8630. NGC ID: 2643.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

## Formidable 1872 Eagle Rarity Just 1,620 Circulation Strikes Minted



1308

**1872 Liberty Head Eagle. AU-53 (PCGS).** This delightful 1872 eagle exhibits warm pinkish-honey patina and much of the original finish intact. The texture is predominantly satiny, although it is vibrant enough to suggest modest semi-prooflike tendencies in the fields. A touch of haziness is noted for accuracy. The definition is sharp throughout and not far from what one might expect to see in a Choice AU survivor.

The 1872 is a key date issue with a circulation strike mintage of only 1,620 coins. *PCGS CoinFacts* accounts for only 40 to 60 survivors throughout the numismatic grading scale. Unlike many similarly

elusive eagles from its era there are actually a few Mint State coins known for the 1872. Only marginally less rare are AU survivors; most extant examples are in lower grades through EF. The National Numismatic Collection in the Smithsonian Institution does not include a circulation strike 1872 eagle — further testament to the rarity of this issue. This important coin will be just right for a highly regarded collection of Liberty Head gold.

PCGS# 8663. NGC ID: 264Z.

PCGS Population: 4; 10 finer, just four of which are Mint State (MS-64 finest).

*From Heritage's Summer FUN Signature Auction of June 2008, lot 2151.*

## Mint State 1894-S Eagle

### A Highly Regarded Condition Rarity



1309

**1894-S Liberty Head Eagle. MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** A highlight of the fabulous Fairmont Collection, this is a Condition Census example of this famous 1894-S eagle. Gorgeous rose-gold surfaces are further enhanced by a full endowment of frosty mint luster. Razor sharp striking detail throughout, the surfaces exceptionally well preserved with solid Mint State quality. The 1894-S is the first in a trio of consecutively dated San Francisco Mint eagles that are scarce to rare in Uncirculated condition. In fact, this is one of the rarest Liberty Head issues from the 1890s irrespective of issuing mint, and not only because

the mintage is limited at 25,000 pieces. This issue has remained elusive in overseas finds, and what few examples have been repatriated from foreign bank hoards over the years are largely confined to circulated grades. The certified population tops out at the MS-62 level at both PCGS and NGC, confirming the present example as one of the finest available to today's quality conscious gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8731. NGC ID: 2677.

PCGS Population: 15; 0 finer.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Exquisite Gem Proof 1900 Eagle



1310

**1900 Liberty Head Eagle. Proof-65+ Cameo (NGC). CAC.** Highly attractive with vivid medium gold patina, this outstanding specimen really needs to be seen to be fully appreciated. Fully impressed and satiny in finish, the devices contrast markedly with deeply mirrored fields. The delicate surfaces are remarkably pristine for both the type and issue, confirming the validity of the premium Gem grade from NGC. Popular with collectors then and now as a turn of the century issue, the 1900 has the highest mintage in the Proof Liberty Head eagle

series with 120 pieces produced. Of course, that an issue with just 120 coins struck has the highest mintage for its type confirms the awesome rarity of Proof Liberty Head gold coinage as a group. Not all Proof 1900 eagles struck were sold to contemporary collectors, those that were not being destroyed in the Mint through melting. This is one of perhaps just 50 to 65 specimens believed extant, and it is a coin that will please even the most discerning numismatist.

PCGS# 88840. NGC ID: 28G7.

NGC Census: 1; 5 finer in this category (Proof-67 Cameo finest).

## Condition Rarity 1905 Liberty Head Eagle



1311

**1905 Liberty Head Eagle. MS-66 (PCGS).** A glorious premium Gem that ranks among the finest circulation strike 1905 eagles known to PCGS. Fully struck with bountiful satin luster, both sides are bathed in handsome medium gold patina. Silky smooth in appearance and close to pristine, this delightful example is sure to please even the most discerning gold enthusiast. The Philadelphia Mint produced 200,992 circulation strike eagles in 1905. While this total is limited when compared to the mintage figures for the truly common 1901, 1901-S and 1907 Liberty Head eagles (1,718,740 coins, 2,812,750 coins and

1,203,899 coins struck, respectively), the 1905 is still one of the more readily obtainable issues of its type in today's market. Most survivors grade no finer than MS-63, however, and this issue is scarce even in MS-64. Gems in MS-65 are elusive, and anything finer is so rare that most collectors will never even see such a coin, let alone have the opportunity to add one to their collection. A fleeting opportunity for the advanced numismatist that is worthy of the strongest bids.

PCGS# 8757. NGC ID: 2682.

PCGS Population: 7; 4 finer (MS-67+ finest).

## Lovely Gem 1907 No Periods Indian Eagle



1312

**1907 Indian Eagle. No Periods. MS-66 (NGC).** A charming and conditionally scarce example of this popular first year Indian eagle issue, this upper end Gem would make a significant addition to a high quality gold type set. Satiny and smooth, both sides also possess vivid golden-orange patina that provides outstanding eye appeal. A sharp to full strike rounds out an impressive list of physical attributes for this truly memorable coin. The Indian eagle owes its existence to Theodore Roosevelt. A keen student of the arts, in the 1890s while still an up and coming politician, he met famed sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens and was inspired by the latter's work. After the assassination of William McKinley made Roosevelt president, he began a series of progressive domestic policies — his "Square Deal" — that elevated the United States to the status as a world power. The Square Deal proved to be popular and Roosevelt was re-elected in 1904 in a landslide. For his second term, Charles Barber and George Morgan designed an inaugural medal and Roosevelt was unimpressed. He quickly rejected the Mint's initial design and instead was urged to consult with Saint-Gaudens to produce a new medal. While his schedule was too packed for him to personally design the medal, Saint-Gaudens made a preliminary sketch of the design on a napkin and told Roosevelt that he would give the assignment to his young associate, Adolph Weinman. The result of Weinman's work featured a modernistic bust of the president on the obverse and a stylized standing eagle facing left on a rock. The medal met with great praise and impressed Roosevelt enough that he decided to embark on what he referred to as his "pet crime" to completely redesign America's coinage. Roosevelt started with the two highest denominations, the eagle and double eagle, and once again enlisted the help of Saint-Gaudens. Even though by this time cancer had started to take a severe toll on the sculptor, Saint-Gaudens set to work at his Cornish, New Hampshire studio. The obverse design of the ten-dollar eagle features a head of Liberty derived from his William Tecumseh Sherman Victory Monument in New York City's Central Park. At Roosevelt's request, the portrait of Liberty for the eagle wears a Native American feathered headdress instead of the laurel wreath used on the monument. The reverse from the 1905 Inaugural medal formed the basis of the reverse design for the coin, although here the eagle stands on a bundle of arrows along with an olive branch. In addition, Saint-Gaudens also employed triangular periods to punctuate the statutory inscriptions, as he had done for the Inaugural medal. The first of the new eagles produced were the so-called Wire Rim pieces. These coins

did not have a rim to protect the design from wear, but instead the design blended into the edge. In addition, the relief was high, which interfered with stacking. Both of these artistic features unfortunately precluded these coins from being used in everyday commerce. Before the Wire Rim design was eliminated for circulation on July 29, 1907, Roosevelt requested of Secretary of the Treasury George Cortelyou that several hundred of the high relief Wire Rim coins be produced and that they "should be preserved as the work of a great American artist." Less than a week later, on August 3, Saint-Gaudens died. The Philadelphia Mint produced 500 of the Wire Rim eagles in late August-early September 1907 with an additional production run of 42 coins later that year. These coins were distributed as presentation pieces, but only after later strikings of a revised design had been introduced into circulation to prevent price speculation for these special pieces. Sometime during World War I, the 70 examples that remained in government hands were melted down, leaving a net production of 472 Wire Rim coins. In an effort to salvage the original high relief design for full scale production, Chief Engraver Charles Barber prepared a second version using a with a standard style rim. A total of 31,550 coins were struck of this Rounded Rim variety, but it was also judged to be unsuitable for commercial use and all but 50 coins were melted. Roosevelt leaned on the Mint to resolve the issues and get the ten-dollar eagle into circulation. Barber prepared another set of dies with several relatively minor but functionally significant modifications. He reduced the depth of the relief of the devices, redesigned the olive branch, adjusted Liberty's hair, and most noticeable to the casual observer, removed the triangular punctuation in the reverse inscriptions. These adaptations improved the striking quality enough that this design was finally adopted for circulation, the Philadelphia Mint producing 239,406 examples of the modified No Periods design in 1907. As the first examples of the new eagle to reach the general public, many 1907 No Periods coins were saved for posterity and Mint State pieces are plentiful in an absolute sense. On the other hand, many of these coins suffer from a soft striking detail in the centers as well as general mishandling. For specialists seeking exceptional coins for their collections, this issue can be challenging at the finest levels of Mint State preservation, as here. A significant opportunity to acquire a stellar-quality example of type that, in its earliest incarnations, is widely considered to be one of the masterpieces of American coinage art.

PCGS# 8852. NGC ID: 28GF.

## Impressive Gem Proof 1908 Motto \$10



1313

**1908 Indian Eagle. Motto. Matte Proof-66+ (PCGS). CAC.** The warm sandy-gold complexion of this Matte Proof Gem is impressively uniform and unwavering, exhibiting the coarser glinting facets that this issue is known for. Scrutiny reveals effectively pristine surfaces on each side, certainly nearing Superb Gem preservation in many respects. Saint-Gauden's legendary motifs are impressively rendered throughout, exhibiting the pinnacle of the intended design. The 1908 Motto is the first regular issue Proof in the Indian eagle series. (A small number of patterns and experimental pieces are known from 1907; no Proofs of the No Motto type were struck in 1908.) The 1908, with a mintage of 116 pieces, enjoys a higher rate of survival than the

following issues in this series, but many were destroyed in the Mint when they failed to sell. The dark sand blast finish proved unpopular with collectors at the time these coins were produced, so much so that the Mint abandoned it in 1909 in favor of a more vibrant satin finish. Estimates on the number of Proof 1908 eagles extant vary from as low as 40 coins to as generous as 75 pieces. Our research indicates that the total is somewhere in the range of 55 to 70 specimens. Well preserved and exceptionally attractive, this alluring Gem would make an impressive addition to an advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8890. NGC ID: 268E.

PCGS Population: 4; 4 finer (Proof-67+ finest).

## Beautiful Near-Gem 1909-D Indian Eagle



1314

**1909-D Indian Eagle. MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** A majestic representative of this desirable Denver Mint issue showing pinkish and rose-gold colors across each side. This beautiful patina is complemented by strong cartwheel luster and a dense frosty texture to the eagle on the reverse.

One of the lower mintage entries in the Indian eagle series with 121,540 pieces produced, the 1909-D is still far from the rarest issue of the type in terms of total number of Mint State coins extant. Thanks to

the relative availability of lower grade survivors in the MS-60 to MS-63 range, the 1909-D is only a median Indian eagle rarity in an absolute sense. However, this availability severely decreases as you approach Gem condition, and the present example is among the top examples certified by PCGS. Only two coins have been certified at the present MS-64+ level, and just 11 rank finer through MS-67.

PCGS# 8863. NGC ID: 28GN.

PCGS Population: 2; 11 finer through MS-67.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Choice Mint State 1911-D Eagle



1315

**1911-D Indian Eagle. MS-63 (PCGS).** This handsome Choice example is painted in a blend of yellow and peach hues across each side. The fields are impressively composed, showing just a few stray marks beneath a glass and remaining uniformly satiny. Well struck for the issue and ranking within the top 25 examples certified by PCGS.

The 1911-D Indian eagle has a mintage of just 30,100 pieces, the lowest among circulation strikes of this type excepting only the 1907

Wire Rim and 1907 Rounded Rim. One of the rarest 20th century U.S. Mint gold issues irrespective of denomination, the 1911-D is the most challenging Indian eagle to locate in the finest Mint State grades, surpassing even the 1933. The offering of a Mint State example in any grade is a noteworthy occasion that deserves attention and serious bidding from advanced 20th century gold collectors.

PCGS# 8869. NGC ID: 28GU.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Uncirculated 1913-S Indian Eagle



1316

**1913-S Indian Eagle. MS-62 (PCGS).** Pale pinkish and peach hues color this lovely Mint State rarity. The eye appeal far exceeds what is typically associated with this grade level, offering nicely composed fields and satiny, cartwheeling luster throughout. A few shallow marks are visible beneath a glass, but none of these distract the naked eye. A truly premium example.

With a paltry mintage of 66,000 pieces, the 1913-S eagle has long been recognized as one of the key issues of its type. As with many of the higher denomination gold issues from the early 20th century, most ended up in government melting pots during the late 1930s. While available to some degree in circulated grades, the 1913-S is elusive at even the lowest Mint State levels.

PCGS# 8874. NGC ID: 28GZ.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*



## Gem 1914-D Indian Eagle



1317

**1914-D Indian Eagle. MS-65 (PCGS).** The luster of this magnificent Gem is astonishing at first glance, remaining matte-like in the fields and satiny across the design elements. Faint suggestions of pinkish and peach color paint each side, complemented by overall smooth and undisturbed surfaces. A sharply produced and impressively preserved example.

The 1914-D is one of the more available of the branch mint Indian eagle issues with a mintage of 208,000 pieces. The coins were struck at a time of growing hostility in Europe and economic skittishness at home. The great melts of the 1930s claimed many coins, while some eagles were

shipped abroad in the form of foreign payments where they remained until after World War II before returning stateside. The majority of survivors are heavily bagmarked, the telltale signs of this storage and transportation in sacks. Gem Mint State examples are in short supply and with only a handful of specimens that may be considered finer, this a splendid example for the finest of eagle cabinets. PCGS lists just 33 coins at the present MS-65 grade and only 13 finer through MS-67.

PCGS# 8876. NGC ID: 28H3.

PCGS Population: 33; 13 finer through MS-67.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Scarce Choice Mint State 1915-S Indian Eagle



1318

**1915-S Indian Eagle. MS-63 (PCGS).** Tinges of crimson and honey-gold patina surround the design elements on each side of this Choice specimen, accenting the otherwise khaki-tan complexion. The luster is strong and uniform, glowing in the fields and cartwheeling at every tilt. Untroubled by significant marks and devoid of appreciable friction, this piece offers technical quality superior to most examples at this grade level.

One of the lower mintage entries among circulation strike Indian eagles, the 1915-S was produced to the extent of just 59,000 pieces.

Uncirculated survivors are scarce in an absolute sense and rarer than those of the 1910-S, 1912-S, 1914-S and 1916-S, to name just a few other issues of this type. In fact, this is the eighth rarest Indian eagle in Mint State, with perhaps just 325 Uncirculated examples remaining in all grades. PCGS has graded only 36 coins at the present MS-63 level and just 35 finer.

PCGS# 8879. NGC ID: 28H6.

PCGS Population: 36; 35 finer through MS-67.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Impressive Mint State 1916-S Indian Eagle



1319

**1916-S Indian Eagle. MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** Apricot hues bloom from around the design elements across this flashy San Francisco example. The luster is intense and frosty throughout the fields, showcasing overall exceptional preservation. A thin mark below ST of TRUST provides a convenient pedigree marker for this attractive example with eye appeal approaching Gem in many respects.

The 1916-S is the 10th scarcest of the 32 issues in the Indian eagle series. Although the recorded mintage of 138,500 pieces implies

availability, this is only true in lower mint state grades or even circulated examples. Furthermore, this date suffered particularly from the massive meltings that gobbled up the survivors in later years and most of those known today returned from European banks in the most recent two generations. Near Gem examples like the present piece are truly scarce, and PCGS has certified only 29 coins finer through MS-67.

PCGS# 8880. NGC ID: 28H7.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## DOUBLE EAGLES

## Condition Rarity 1850-O Double Eagle



1320

**1850-O Liberty Head Double Eagle. AU-53 (PCGS).** Vibrant brassy-gold coloration is accented by tinges of peach coloration across the highest points of this delightful New Orleans example. Glints of semi-reflectivity remain in the fields, most apparently so on the reverse. This is in contrast to the suggestions of frosty luster looming in the protected areas and within the intricacies of the design elements, testifying to the superior overall preservation. A handsome and desirable example of this first-year issue. PCGS lists just 31 examples at the present grade and just 19 coins finer up through a pinnacle of MS-61.

The perennially popular 1850-O is the premier double eagle from the Louisiana branch mint. A mintage of 141,000 pieces for this issue is considerably lower than the 1,170,261-coin mintage reported for the Philadelphia Mint's circulation strike delivery of the year. This began a trend that would continue throughout the early New Orleans Mint double eagle series of 1850 to 1861. While the vast quantities of gold that flowed east from California provided the bullion for double eagle

coinage at both the Philadelphia and New Orleans mints, the majority of this precious metal found its way to the Northeast rather than the Deep South.

The 1850-O is one of the more challenging early date New Orleans Mint double eagles to collect. Survivors are rarer than those of the 1851-O and 1852-O issues, and most are well worn in grades such as VF or EF. As with the Philadelphia Mint's issue of 1850, the 1850-O saw extensive use in domestic circulation, primarily in regions west of the Mississippi River where gold coins were a preferred medium of exchange. Other examples were exported, primarily to London, where they were eventually melted. With its first year status resulting in particularly strong demand among mintmarked gold type collectors and New Orleans Mint enthusiasts, this impressive AU 1850-O double eagle is sure to see spirited bidding at auction.

PCGS# 8903. NGC ID: 268G.

PCGS Population: 31; 19 finer through MS-61.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

# Exceptional Condition Census 1852-O Double Eagle

## The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Specimen



1321

**1852-O Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-62+ (PCGS).** An outstanding example of a New Orleans double eagle of any year in terms of both strike and surface. The strike is strong and even with excellent details, contrary to the usual almost haphazard strike typical of the double eagles struck at the historic Louisiana facility. The obverse is unlike most examples of the issue with complete center star points, a bold date, and perfect dentils. The same excellence in strike is found on the reverse with most of the razor sharp details highlighted by the bright golden hues found amongst the radiant satiny luster, making for a specimen rich in character and appeal. Even though the New Orleans Mint had produced double eagles in quantity in both 1850 and 1851, the coiners were still working out many of the difficulties found in producing such a large gold coin with precision. Emphasis seemed to have been placed more on quantity over quality, leaving many examples with uneven or weak strikes. In the end, a total of 190,000 specimens came off the Mint's presses, a decent quantity to be sure, helping to make this one of the more readily available of all New Orleans double eagles. As with most gold coins produced in the Antebellum South, the coins entered circulation where they would remain, seeing use primarily in the region. Numismatics in America was still in its very infancy in the early 1850s and there was essentially no interest in mintmarks at all, which when combined with the denomination's high face value meant that precious few examples of the issue were intentionally saved at the time. The Civil War disrupted monetary circulation patterns drastically, causing many to be used for overseas commerce or otherwise disappeared from use. When double eagle holdings from overseas started to be repatriated back to these shores in the twentieth century, most surviving specimens bore the evidence of not only their extended storage in large sacks, but also the years of general commercial use in the mid- to late nineteenth century. As a result, it is estimated that about 400 to 600 examples of the date can be accounted for today, most of those in the VF and EF range, with only a very small number of coins at the AU level or above. This comparative availability at the middle circulated grade levels has made the 1852-O double eagle especially popular for type collectors seeking just a single example of a New Orleans-produced double eagle. The issue's popularity has placed quite a bit of competitive pressure for the few examples known at the AU level and above. This situation is even more pronounced at the Mint State levels of preservation, where at best only about a dozen uncirculated examples of the issue may still be extant for the modern numismatist to appreciate.

The present specimen is among the finest for the entire issue, if not for any New Orleans \$20. Noted gold specialist Harry W. Bass, Jr. recognized this coin's aesthetic qualities when he obtained it from Paramount International Coin Corporation back in July of 1976. There, it would reside until finally sold as lot 771 of our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Bass Collection on May 26, 2000, where we described it thusly: Lively yellow gold with a definite olive blush. A superb specimen with brilliant and lustrous surfaces that display areas of prooflike reflectivity. Significantly finer than the choice AU-58 specimen we offered in Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, Lot 1694, October 1999. Harry Bass outdoes himself once again! The opportunity to obtain this piece is probably more important than the price paid - as it combines very high grade with very high aesthetic appeal."

The coin was eventually acquired by Robert Galiette where it formed one of the centerpieces of the Golden Age Collection. Its importance was readily appreciated, even serving as the cover coin for U.S. Liberty Head \$20 Double Eagles — The Gilded Age of Coinage. When we sold the Gilded Age Collection in August 2014, Q. David Bowers remarked that: "The terms "Mint State" and "New Orleans" are not often found together with regard to gold coins of the early 1850s. The present piece is an exception. Not only is it high in the PCGS Population Report, with none finer, but I reiterate that the number given in this and other reports does not necessarily reflect the different coins involved. In addition, I would not be at all surprised if this and other examples graded at this level were put together side by side, a connoisseur would reach for the Galiette coin first."

These descriptions are as accurate now as they were in 2000 and 2014, and will no doubt remain so for years to come. A certain centerpiece destined to grace the finest of gold cabinets.

PCGS# 8907. NGC ID: 268L.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

*From our August 2014 sale of the Gilded Age Collection. Earlier from Douglas Winter; from our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, Part III, May 2000, lot 771. Harry Bass acquired the coin from Paramount International Coin Corporation on July 16, 1976. Cover coin, front and back, in U.S. Liberty Head \$20 Double Eagles — The Gilded Age of Coinage, also pages xiii, 54, 55, and 354.*



## Scarce Choice AU 1852-O Double Eagle



1322

**1852-O Liberty Head Double Eagle. AU-55 (PCGS).** A charmingly original survivor from this scarce New Orleans issue. Traces of deeper russet and amber patina surround the design elements in select areas, remaining most heavy at stars 1, 2, and 3 on the obverse. The complexion is otherwise yellow-gold in hue with subtle hints of reflectivity throughout the reverse fields.

After a record mintage for the facility of 315,000 coins struck in 1851, the New Orleans Mint produced only 190,000 double eagles in 1852. The 1852-O is the final New Orleans Mint issue of this denomination

with a mintage of more than 100,000 pieces, and it is also the most readily obtainable after only the 1851-O. Domestic circulation claimed most examples, although some found their way overseas in later years as part of international transactions, where many were eventually melted. Only about 400 to 600 examples of the date can be accounted for today, most of those in the VF and EF range, with Choice AU pieces few and far between.

PCGS# 8907. NGC ID: 268L.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Rare Near-Mint 1853/'2' Liberty Head Double Eagle FS-301



1323

**1853/'2' Liberty Head Double Eagle.** AU-58 (PCGS). CAC. A truly exceptional representative of this elusive variety showing just the faintest traces of friction in the obverse fields and atop the highest points. The reverse is impressively preserved, virtually lacking any signs of handling. The luster is silken and satiny, glowing softly around the devices and remaining without distractions. A few trivial bagmarks at Liberty's chin account for the only notable blemishes throughout. Uncommonly sharp and intricate across all regions, offering strong technical quality for the grade and the issue.

An intriguing variety by any measure, the 1853/'2' double eagle has both fascinated and perplexed numismatists for years. The variety was discovered around 1959 and was popularized by Walter Breen who later carried it as an overdate in his *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*. The variety is listed as a clear overdate in Bill Fivaz's and J.T. Stanton's *Cherrypicker's Guide* and has been considered the only

overdate in the entire Liberty Head double eagle series. Other scholars, however, are not so certain of its status as an overdate since the artifact within the 3 does not closely resemble that of a 2. Only the one obverse die is known for the 1853/'2' variety, which is also distinguished in its later die states by a distinctive die chip under the right foot of the letter R in LIBERTY (which is noted as die rust in some references) as well as a repaired crossbar in the letter A in STATES. This variety is typically encountered in lower grades, with AU examples remarkably scarce. The very finest known examples grade just MS-61 or MS-62, emphasizing the importance of the present near-Mint example to advanced collectors of Liberty Head gold. PCGS has graded just 23 coins at the AU-58 level and only 13 rank finer through MS-61.

PCGS# 8909. NGC ID: 268M.

PCGS Population: 23; 13 finer through MS-61.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Scarce 1853-O Double Eagle



1324

**1853-O Liberty Head Double Eagle. AU-50 (PCGS).** A handsome About Uncirculated example of this challenging New Orleans Mint double eagle issue. Bathed in warm honey-rose patina, both sides are overall boldly defined with faint remnants of original luster evident as the surfaces dip into a light. Double eagle production at the New Orleans Mint reached its lowest point since the beginning of the series in 1853 with just 71,000 pieces produced. The distribution of the 1853-O is the same as that of the 1850 to 1852 New Orleans Mint deliveries, the coins seeing extensive domestic circulation in the South

and west of the Mississippi River beginning in the year of issue. Some worn examples were likely included in international transactions of later years. With only 150 to 250 coins believed extant in all grades, Q. David Bowers (2004) describes the 1853-O as “the gatekeeper to what becomes a series of hard-to-find New Orleans double eagles.” This is a pleasing example for the grade that comes highly recommended for inclusion in an advanced double eagle set or Southern gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8910. NGC ID: 268N.

*From the Paisley Acres Collection.*

## Scarce Choice AU 1854 Large Date Double Eagle



1325

**1854 Liberty Head Double Eagle. Large Date. AU-55+ (PCGS). CAC.** A gently circulated example of this desirable Large Date variety showing a medium-gold complexion and the faintest olive patina around the devices. The luster is satiny and fine, yielding to only the lightest friction in the fields and across the highest points. Well composed and attractive, with just a couple of bagmarks on Liberty's cheek to be noted under scrutiny. This piece offers near Condition Census preservation, with only 18 coins ranking finer at PCGS.

Circulation strike double eagle production at the Philadelphia Mint amounted to 757,899 coins in 1854, a total that was split between

Small Date and Large Date varieties. The latter is by far the rarer date style of the issue, and it likely amounts to no more than 10% of the coins extant. According to Q. David Bowers (2004) only three to five Mint State examples are known, and he describes the 1854 Large Date as “by [far] the rarest Philadelphia Mint double eagle minted up to this point in time.” The Mint also used the Large Date logotype of this variety in production of 1854 Liberty Seated silver dollars.

PCGS# 98911. NGC ID: 268S.

PCGS Population: 1; 18 finer through MS-64.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Desirable Choice AU 1854-S Double Eagle



1326

**1854-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. AU-55 (PCGS).** A wonderful ivory-gold example of this coveted San Francisco issue. The luster remains vibrant and satiny, with the protected regions harboring a soft, glowing complexion. The surfaces are overall smooth and untroubled, with a small mark to the right of star 3 as the only identifying blemish. It is otherwise exceptionally preserved and attractive, with particularly choice surfaces to be seen on the reverse.

After several years of political wrangling, the mint in San Francisco was finally opened for business in March of 1854. The mint was first located in the offices of the high regarded private coiners Moffat & Company at 608-610 Commercial Street until 1874 when it was replaced by a larger facility better suited for mass production. The first coins struck

were the five main gold denominations: the gold dollar, quarter eagle, half eagle, eagle, and the double eagle. A total of 141,468 \$20 gold pieces were struck that first year, all of which were promptly absorbed into the regional economy and would remain there for years. Because of their heavy use in a cash-starved West, this is a comparatively scarce issue that is almost always found in low grade. It was not until a group of 1854-S double eagles were found on the wreck of the *Yankee Blade* did any examples in higher degrees of conservation would become available. Even so, this issue is rare in Mint State and unknown above MS-65, stressing the significance of the present Choice AU specimen.

PCGS# 8913. NGC ID: 268U.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Delightful Choice AU 1855-S Double Eagle From the S.S. *Central America* Treasure



1327

**1855-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. Variety-14A. Broken A, Full E. Gold S.S. Central America Label. AU-58 (PCGS).** CAC. Lovely rose-gold surfaces with splashes of even more vivid reddish-gold highlights adorning the obverse periphery. Both sides are sharply defined throughout with much of the frosty mint luster remaining. Production of double eagles went into high gear at the San Francisco Mint in 1855 owing to the continuing influx of bullion from the region's gold fields. The 1855-S has a mintage more than six times that of the preceding freshman year, 1854, when the facility was getting started and gaining speed. Most of the 879,675 coins struck were used in commerce on the West Coast. High grade examples were once major rarities, but many of the 304 coins discovered as part of the S.S. *Central America*

treasure have since been certified AU or Mint State by the major third party grading services. A smaller number of Uncirculated coins entered the market during the early 1970s from a shipwreck found off the coast of Florida but, unlike the S.S. *Central America* pieces, those examples have noticeably granular surfaces from shallow immersion in seawater. Thanks primarily to the S.S. *Central America* recovery, the 1855-S is now regarded as one of the more readily obtainable Type I Liberty Head double eagles in grades above EF. The present example would do equally well in a high quality gold type or date set.

PCGS# 70040.

*From the Paisley Acres Collection.*

## Seldom Offered Mint State 1856 Double Eagle



1328

**1856 Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-61 (PCGS).** A remarkably well preserved example of this conditionally challenging Type I Liberty Head double eagle issue. Richly toned in a blend of golden-orange and deep rose patina, both sides are further adorned with softly frosted mint luster. The strike is razor sharp throughout, and the in hand appearance is far smoother than one might expect at the assigned grade level. The mintage for the 1856 is 329,878 circulation strikes, down nearly 40,000 pieces from the previous year's figure. The face value of Philadelphia Mint double eagles struck that year is \$6,597,560. The 1856 is considered by many to be a common date, no doubt because of the size of the mintages that occurred in Philadelphia at the beginning of the series. With regard to higher grades nothing could be

further from the truth. This date has long been respected by specialists in the denomination as one of the more challenging Philadelphia Mint issues of the 1850s, especially in attractive Uncirculated condition, as here. Q. David Bowers allowed for just 12 to 20 Mint State survivors when he penned his *Guide Book of Double Eagle Gold Coins* in 2004 for Whitman. This is one of the finer examples known to PCGS, and it stands tall among the extensive double eagle offerings in this sale.

PCGS# 8917. NGC ID: 268Y.

PCGS Population: 17; 13 finer (MS-63 finest).

*From the Soberman Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) William & Pierce McNally Auction Sale, December 1976, lot 663; our (Stack's) Cincinnati Art Museum Collection sale, June 1977, lot 1230. Lot tags included.*

## Key Date 1857-O Double Eagle



1329

**1857-O Liberty Head Double Eagle. AU-50 (PCGS).** A gorgeous, conditionally scarce example of a key date New Orleans Mint issue that can be elusive even in lower grades. Vivid medium gold surfaces retain ample evidence of a prooflike finish from the dies, a feature that is most pronounced in the protected field areas around the devices. Most design elements are boldly defined, and many retain ample sharpness of strike from the dies. Moderately abraded overall, as one should expect for the assigned grade, yet remarkably free of sizeable distractions for a lightly circulated New Orleans Mint twenty. Premium quality for both the issue and the assigned grade, and sure to please. The 1857-O and 1858-O are anomalies among New Orleans Mint double eagles from the late 1850s, being the only two issues from

that era with original mintages in excess of 10,000 coins. For the 1857-O, records provide a figure of 30,000 pieces struck in New Orleans, despite the mint being closed in the early part of the year due to repair work to the building. Apparently more gold bullion reached New Orleans from California in 1857 than in the previous three years, and proportionally more coins were produced. However, a more generous mintage does not mean that the 1857-O is a readily obtainable double eagle. In fact, it is still an elusive key date, with perhaps as few as 200 pieces surviving in all grades.

PCGS# 8921. NGC ID: 2694.

*From the Soberman Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) New York ANA Convention Sale of August 1976, lot 3188. Lot tag included.*

## A Remarkable Second 1857-O Double Eagle



1330

**1857-O Liberty Head Double Eagle. EF-45 (PCGS). CAC.** A warm glow of honey-gold patina surrounds the design elements of this beautiful example, accenting the overall yellowish complexion. Considerable luster remains in the protected areas, with the reverse showing strong satiny texture throughout the legend. Trivial bagmarks are visible in the obverse field under a glass but the complexion is handsomely composed in-hand and without notable distractions. The

scarcity of the key date 1857-O double eagle is such that even a single example offered is the sign of a significant numismatic auction. We are pleased to be offering multiple attractive, problem free examples in this sale, the present coin in Choice EF sure to find many willing buyers among advanced double eagle and Southern gold collectors.

PCGS# 8921. NGC ID: 2694.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Impressive Gem Mint State 1857-S \$20



1331

**1857-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-65+ (NGC).** The medium orange peripheral color gradually transitions to a somewhat lighter golden-orange patina rich in luster toward the centers, providing a delightful framing for the sharp strike and vibrant satiny texture. Although not indicated as such on the insert, this lovely Gem Mint State double eagle is almost certainly from the *Central America* treasure, the primary source of high grade Mint State specimens. Unlike in the East where paper money was readily accepted in commerce, gold and silver were the preferred coin of the realm out in the West. The coins struck at the San Francisco Mint especially in its early years entered circulation and remained there. This was especially true for double eagles which served as one of the principal denominations for larger transactions for generations. For many years, the best example of a Type I double eagle struck at the San Francisco Mint would be in the AU range. That all changed with the discovery of the wreck of the S. S. *Central America*

in the late 1980s. When the *Central America* sank off the coast of North Carolina on September 12, 1857. The loss was so great that it helped precipitate the Panic of 1857 and led to thousands of bank failures. In among the huge numbers of gold ingots, nuggets, and other coins, the steamship was also carrying a shipment of some 5,400 freshly struck 1857-S double eagles in its hold. Once the find was made available for sale, numismatists now could now acquire not only a Mint State example, but could entertain the possibility of Gem specimens. The majority of the recovered specimens are at the Choice to Gem Mint State level of preservation. That said, only a distinct minority have been certified above MS-65, all of which are eagerly sought not only by double eagle specialists, but also keen enthusiasts of Gold Rush history and shipwreck lore. A radiant example of an historic issue that will certainly please the successful bidder.

PCGS# 8922. NGC ID: 2696.



## Rare Mint State 1858 Liberty Head Double Eagle



1332

**1858 Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Subtle traces of pinkish and rose coloration envelope the design elements on each side, emphasizing the truly exceptional preservation of this Mint State rarity. The luster is fine and silken throughout, with nearly prooflike qualities apparent on the reverse. Free from distracting marks or detrimental friction, the eye appeal is strong for this or any grade level. An original and choice representative that will appease even the advanced specialist.

The mintage for the date was just 211,714 pieces, down more than 227,000 pieces from the previous year's tally at the Philadelphia Mint.

Face value for this elusive issue is \$4,234,280. Even circulated examples are scarce for an 1850s double eagle, and we estimate that some 900 to 1,200 examples are extant. Perhaps only 15 to 25 or so different examples of the date can be considered Mint State by today's grading standards, with the typical grade just MS-60 or marginally finer. The present piece ranks among the finest survivors of the issue, with only 9 coins certified finer by PCGS through MS-64.

PCGS# 8923. NGC ID: 2697.

PCGS Population: 14; 9 finer through MS-61.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Important Choice EF 1858-O Double Eagle



1333

**1858-O Liberty Head Double Eagle. EF-45 (PCGS). CAC.** Vivid yellow-gold coloration is accented by swaths of tangerine hues that paint the upper obverse and lower reverse borders. The surfaces are impressively composed and only gently worn, showing uniform friction without any notable distractions. Traces of satiny mint luster loom in the protected regions, surrounding boldly pronounced and intricate design elements.

The 1858-O is a low mintage issue with just 35,250 coins struck. The vast majority of examples were consumed by commercial use and the typical survivor grades EF or AU. According to Doug Winter in the 2006 edition of *Gold Coins of the New Orleans Mint: 1839-1909*, survivors of this mintage number only 150 to 175 coins in all grades. Q. David Bowers' 2004 estimate is similar, with no more than 150 pieces extant.

PCGS# 8924. NGC ID: 2698.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Condition Census 1858-S Double Eagle



1334

**1858-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-61 (PCGS).** A truly exceptional example of this significant condition rarity with uniform medium-gold coloration across each side. The surfaces are richly frosted and largely smooth, showing scattered bagmarks beneath a glass but none of which draw the eye. Boldly pronounced for the issue and offering pleasing eye appeal for the assigned grade.

The mintage for the 1858-S double eagle is 846,710 pieces, down more than 123,000 coins from the 1857-S tally. Though this issue has been represented in just about every major double eagle collection ever to cross the auction block, the typical example has been in worn condition. The 1858-S is a significant condition rarity in Mint State with only a few dozen examples known. Some 1858-S double eagles were reported

in the treasure recovered from the S.S. *Republic* shipwreck. However, that loss occurred seven years after 1858-S twenties were minted, and most of the recovered coins were in AU condition, with only a few at the lowest end of Uncirculated condition, and heavily abraded. Premium coins at all Mint State grade levels are rarities, a fact that confirms the significance of this offering for the quality conscious double eagle enthusiast. The present example is among the very finest survivors of this scarce issue, with just a single coin certified finer by PCGS.

PCGS# 8925, NGC ID: 2699.

PCGS Population: 16; just a single MS-64 certified finer.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Elusive 1859 Double Eagle



1335

**1859 Liberty Head Double Eagle. AU-53 (PCGS).** Scarce About Uncirculated quality for an underrated 1850s double eagle issue that can be challenging to locate even in lower grades. Bright reddish-orange surfaces exhibit a satin to modestly semi-prooflike finish as the coin rotates under a light. Sharply to fully defined over the focal features with only wispy hairlines and light handling marks discernible to the unaided eye. With a mere 43,597 circulation strikes produced, the 1859 boasts the lowest mintage among Philadelphia Mint double eagles produced up to that point in time. Examples are scarce in

all grades, Q. David Bowers (2004) accounting for just 250 to 350 circulated survivors and a mere three to five pieces in Mint State. Obviously, the 1859 has not benefited from any shipwreck or similar finds that increased the high grade availability of issues such as the 1857-S and 1865-S. Finer than the typically encountered VF or EF example, this vividly patinated AU would make a significant addition to an advanced double eagle set.

PCGS# 8926, NGC ID: 269A.

*From the Paisley Acres Collection.*



## A Second AU 1859 Double Eagle



1336

**1859 Liberty Head Double Eagle. AU-50 (NGC).** This is a pleasingly original example with warm rose-gold patina and much of the original satin to softly frosted luster remaining. Crisply impressed from the dies, the devices are sharply to fully defined in the absence of all but the lightest friction. In fact, were it not for a shallow obverse scuff over and before Liberty's neck this coin may have secured a higher AU

rating from NGC. A second opportunity for the astute double eagle collector to acquire a high grade example of this scarce and underrated Philadelphia Mint issue.

PCGS# 8926. NGC ID: 269A.

*From the Paisley Acres Collection. Earlier ex Duquesne.*

## Rarely Offered 1859-O Double Eagle Mintage: Just 9,100 Coins



1337

**1859-O Liberty Head Double Eagle. AU Details—Graffiti (PCGS).** This is an uncommonly attractive coin for both the issue and the assigned grade that is sure to catch the eye of astute double eagle collectors. Both sides are pleasingly original with warm honey-gold patina. Striking detail is remarkably sharp for a lightly circulated New Orleans Mint gold coin from the 1850s, and ample evidence of a semi-prooflike finish is discernible in the fields as the surfaces rotate under a light. The PCGS qualifier concerns a letter X on Liberty's cheek, although this feature is rather easily forgiven in light of this coin's considerable positive attributes in an 1859-O double eagle. Worthy

of serious bidder consideration. Although often ranked alongside the 1860-O in terms of both absolute and high grade rarity, the 1859-O is actually more elusive in all grades. In fact, the 1859-O is the fourth rarest New Orleans Mint double eagle, ranking immediately behind the 1855-O, both of which trail only the legendary 1856-O and 1854-O. From a mintage of 9,100 pieces, just 75 to 100 examples of the 1859-O are believed extant in all grades. Virtually all known survivors are circulated, as here, although few possess the fully original surfaces, sharp strike and relatively strong eye appeal of the present example.

PCGS# 8927. NGC ID: 269B.

## Mint State 1859-S Double Eagle



1338

**1859-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-60 (PCGS). CAC.** Pale khaki-gold color dominates the complexion of this lovely Mint State example. The surfaces show exceptional composure, with full luster and negligible friction even across the high point and exposed regions. A single bagmark in the field before Liberty's nose is the only notable blemish throughout. A technically superior piece with strong eye appeal that exceeds what is typically encountered at this grade level.

The mintage for this elusive issue is 636,445 pieces, more than 210,000 coins fewer than reported for the 1858-S. Face value equaled \$16,934,200. Only 35 to 50 different Mint State examples of the 1859-S

can be accounted for today. The high grade rarity of this issue is nearly unknown outside of the field of specialized double eagle collectors for the 1859-S has not been represented in any significant hoards, either shipwreck treasures or repatriations from foreign holdings. While the *S.S. Republic* did yield 67 1859-S double eagles, only one of those coins has been designated as Mint State. This richly original example represents a fleeting bidding opportunity for the astute gold collector.

PCGS# 8928. NGC ID: 269C.

PCGS Population: 9; 41 finer through MS-63.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Important Mint State 1861-S Double Eagle



1339

**1861-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-60 (PCGS). CAC.** Vivid sunflower-yellow coloration paints each side of this significant example from the San Francisco Mint. The reverse shows particularly superior preservation, with untouched devices and clean fields reminiscent of coins at a much higher grade level. Still, the obverse remains appealing, with strong luster and trivial bagmarks unworthy of individual mention.

After producing 19,250 double eagles in early 1861 using the famed Paquet Reverse, the San Francisco Mint went on to strike an additional 768,000 examples using the pre-existing "regular" Longacre reverse.

Most of these coins entered circulation in the West and were eagerly accepted, leaving most survivors in heavily worn condition for today's collectors. Recovered treasure ship finds have yielded the majority of the estimated 40 to 55 Mint State survivors, most of which have already been snatched up by astute collectors and are solidly off the market as part of tightly held collections. The present piece remains in important find, with only 5 coins certified at the present level by PCGS and just 26 finer through MS-64.

PCGS# 8935. NGC ID: 269K.

PCGS Population: 5; 26 finer.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Scarce AU 1862 Liberty Head Double Eagle



1340

**1862 Liberty Head Double Eagle. AU-50 (PCGS). CAC.** A blend of pale yellow and reddish-bronze tones dominate the complexion of this wonderfully original specimen. The vulnerable regions show just faint evidence of handling, with considerable satiny luster still remaining in the fields and within the devices. Trivial bagmarks are visible beneath Liberty's chin but the surface are otherwise smooth and without notable imperfections. This piece is an important survivors of this low-mintage issue, and PCGS has certified just 35 examples finer in all grades up through MS-63.

After striking a record total of 2,976,453 circulation strikes in 1861, the Philadelphia Mint delivered just 92,133 double eagles for commerce in 1862. This marked reduction in output is a result of the suspension

of gold specie payments by Northern banks in late 1861 due to the uncertain outcome of the Civil War. Most examples of this issue were used in export trade, survivors scarce and representing coins that have been repatriated in recent decades. The 1862 has never been represented in quantity in double eagle finds, however, an example being the treasure of the S.S. *Brother Jonathan* shipwreck that yielded just a single coin. With fewer than 300 coins extant in all grades, this exceptionally attractive AU clearly represents a significant offering for one of the rarest Philadelphia Mint double eagles of the Type I Liberty Head design.

PCGS# 8937. NGC ID: 269M.

PCGS Population: 15; 35 finer through MS-63.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Near Mint 1862-S Liberty Head Double Eagle



1341

**1862-S Liberty Head Double Eagle.** AU-58+ (PCGS). CAC. Subtle traces of olive patina around the peripheral elements testify to the originality of this glorious near Mint specimen. Satiny luster blankets the surfaces, showing just the faintest traces of friction in the exposed regions. Trivial bagmarks are visible with a glass but the complexion is nicely composed and attractive to the naked eye. This is an important survivor from this issue with only 26 coins certified finer by PCGS.

While the economic repercussions of the Civil War resulted in a sharp decrease in double eagle production at the Philadelphia Mint beginning in 1862, the San Francisco Mint remained busy churning out generous numbers of these coins. Records state that 854,173 examples were struck at the California facility, or \$17,083,460 in face value. These coins circulated on the West Coast in an era in which they were not seen in commerce in the East and Midwest. Although

less than 1/2 of 1% of the mintage for the 1862-S is extant, circulated examples exist in such numbers — Bowers (2004) says 2,500 to 3,500 pieces — that locating one in low grades should be relatively easy under normal market conditions. The same cannot be said for examples in AU and finer, which exist to the extent of just about 500 pieces. Coins at the Choice AU level are considerably scarce, and the present piece is the only coin certified AU-58+ by PCGS. A fair number of high grade coins entered the market recently from shipwreck treasures such as those of the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* and *S.S. Republic*, although we stress that most examples recovered from those sources are circulated to one degree or another.

PCGS# 8938. NGC ID: 269N.

PCGS Population: 1; 26 finer through MS-63+.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Choice AU 1863 Double Eagle



1342

**1863 Liberty Head Double Eagle.** AU-58 (PCGS). Rich, satiny luster blankets the surfaces of this Choice AU specimen, boasting pleasing medium-gold coloration throughout. Trivial bagmarks are visible on the obverse under inspection, though actual friction from handling remains negligible. An original and overall bold example.

While the 1863 was produced in somewhat greater numbers than the 1862, it still had a low mintage of just 142,790 circulation strikes. It is the third rarest Type I double eagle from the Philadelphia Mint, with

only the 1853/‘2’ and 1862 more difficult to obtain in all grades. With so few examples included in repatriations from European banks, and none discovered as part of the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* treasure, the 1863 remains a formidable rarity in Mint State. The present example is one of just 17 certified by PCGS at the AU-58 level and only 23 rank finer through MS-64.

PCGS# 8939. NGC ID: 269P.

PCGS Population: 17; 23 finer through MS-64.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Scarce Mint State 1863-S Double Eagle



1343

**1863-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** A blend of peach and pinkish tones mingle across this intensely lustrous example. Traces of olive patina remain in the protected regions of the obverse, contrasting against the satiny texture of the fields and showcasing the originality of this piece. The reverse is impressively preserved for the grade, with full composure to the fields and virtually untouched devices. An attractive and sharp representative of this conditionally rare issue.

The mintage for the 1863-S double eagle is 966,570 pieces, a substantial production figure for the Civil War era. This issue circulated extensively in West Coast commerce at a time when specie had virtually disappeared from day-to-day transactions in the Midwest and the East. Although many were likely exported overseas in later years,

survival rates are comparable to most other double eagle issues from the early to mid 1860s. Q David Bowers estimated an Uncirculated population of 30 to 50 different pieces in his 2004 *Guide Book of Double Eagles*. David W. Akers enumerated 15 listings of examples cataloged as Uncirculated in his 1982 study of double eagle auction records. All bets were off when Odyssey Marine Exploration later discovered the lost wreck of the S.S. *Republic*, which yielded a further 175 pieces. As treasure-found twenties typically do, these soon found their way into collections and, today, market appearances for Mint State examples are few and far between.

PCGS# 8940. NGC ID: 269R.

PCGS Population: 37; just 24 finer through MS-64.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Choice AU 1864 Double Eagle



1344

**1864 Liberty Head Double Eagle. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** A handsome high grade survivor with vivid medium-gold color across each side. Considerable luster remains throughout the fields, with the reverse remaining particularly composed and undisturbed by friction. A small mark in the field at the back of Liberty's head is the only notable imperfection throughout.

Federal records report that 204,235 circulation strike double eagles (\$4,084,700 in face value) were coined at the Philadelphia Mint during

1864, and due to the continued problem with hoarding — which lasted until late December 1879 — none were used in regular day-to-day transactions in the eastern half of the United States. It seems that many were exported, and to the extent that this happened, most were likely melted into bullion, as Uncirculated examples have not turned up in European bank hoards. We estimate a surviving population of between 300 to 450 pieces, most of which grade VF or EF.

PCGS# 8941. NGC ID: 269S.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Mint State 1864-S Liberty Double Eagle



1345

**1864-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-60 (PCGS). CAC.** A scarce uncirculated example of this important San Francisco issue. Pale medium-gold in color, the surfaces are pleasantly lustrous and show exceptional composure on the reverse. A shallow mark at star 4 serves as a convenient pedigree marker, and the complexion is otherwise without notable blemishes.

The San Francisco Mint produced 793,660 double eagles (\$15,873,200 face value) in 1864 according to government records. These circulated extensively on the Pacific Coast and it is believed that many were exported overseas. The 1864-S once ranked as a foremost rarity in Mint State; indeed, David W. Akers listed just four auction appearances of

Uncirculated examples in his 1982 tome on double eagles. Since that time, additional Mint State examples have entered the market. In 1999, as a consequence of the underwater excavation of the wreck of the S.S. Brother Jonathan, which sank in 1865, newly discovered Mint State examples were added to the roster of known specimens, followed by more from the S.S. Republic treasure. It is possible that even more Mint State examples came from other sources. Presently, the Uncirculated population is estimated at 220 to 240 coins, a total that is still limited when compared to the strong demand that Mint State double eagles enjoy in today's market.

PCGS# 8942. NGC ID: 269T.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Scarce Mint State 1866 Double Eagle



1346

**1866 Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-61 (PCGS).** A softly lustrous example with untouched mint surfaces remaining across much of each side. The obverse shows only a light scattering of bagmarks under scrutiny and the reverse is impressively composed, with just a negligible trace of friction in the right field. This piece offers overall strong eye appeal for this grade level and ranks among the finest survivors of the issue, as PCGS has certified only 11 coins finer.

The first year of the Type II design with the addition of the motto IN GOD WE TRUST on the reverse, the post-Civil War economy was still quite tenuous when the Philadelphia Mint struck 698,745 double eagles

in 1866. The entire issue entered circulation with little fanfare and were subject to hoarding or were used for overseas payments where specie was the preferred medium of exchange, a situation that would persist well into the 1870s. Even though a few thousand survivors are thought extant, almost all of these are in lower circulated grade levels. Popular as the first year for the type, here is a desirable and scarce Mint State for the double eagle connoisseur.

PCGS# 8949. NGC ID: 269X.

PCGS Population: 38; 11 finer through MS-64.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Iconic 1866-S No Motto Double Eagle



1347

**1866-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. No Motto. EF-45 (PCGS). CAC.** A beautiful and wholesome example of this desirable transitional rarity. The complexion is a blend of apricot and bronze hues, with traces of deeper patina in the protected areas. Blooms of satiny luster surround the peripheral elements and glow from the intricacies of the devices. A shallow mark is visible at Liberty's upper curl near star 11, but the surfaces are otherwise smooth and without disruption.

The story of the 1866-S No Motto double eagle starts five years earlier with the outbreak of hostilities after the separation from the Union of the Southern secessionist states. The nation's morale was severely wounded and as an appeal during this time of national crisis, Reverend M.R. Watkinson of Ridleyville, Pennsylvania petitioned Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase urging the placement of a motto acknowledging "Almighty God in some form in our coins." Approving of this request, Chase instructed the Director of the Mint to create designs and prepare patterns with various versions of the motto that he could take to Congress. Congress also thought kindly of the change and on April 22, 1864, they passed a law that specified the addition of the motto IN GOD WE TRUST on the newly created two-cent coin. The following year, Congress then instructed that the motto be added to all gold coins of suitable size — that is, half eagles and larger —

starting in 1866. The Philadelphia Mint began preparations in late 1865 for the change to the Motto reverse. The reverse dies were then shipped to San Francisco but because overland transit took over two months during that era, they did not arrive there until March. In the meantime, because the demand for coin, especially the double eagle, was strong on the West Coast, the San Francisco Mint went ahead with production of 1866 half dollars, half eagles, eagles, and double eagles using the older No Motto reverse dies on hand. Once the new dies arrived the old ones were swiftly retired, but not before somewhere around 120,000 No Motto double eagles were struck and released into circulation, where they remained for many years. The issue suffered a very high attrition rate and now the 1866-S No Motto double eagle is widely considered the second rarest San Francisco Mint issue of this denomination, ranking behind the legendary 1861-S A.C. Paquet Reverse. The 200 or so known pieces are primarily in VF or EF condition, often with significant impairments or otherwise limited eye appeal. The issue is all but unknown in Mint State. As an uncommonly original and aesthetically pleasing Choice EF, the opportunity that this coin represents for the advanced double eagle collector who demands both rarity and quality cannot be overstated.

PCGS# 8945. NGC ID: 269W.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Rare Mint State 1866-S Motto Double Eagle



1348

**1866-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. Motto. MS-61 (PCGS).** Gorgeous rose-orange patina blankets both sides of this fully lustrous, attractively original example. Sharply struck throughout the reverse design, the obverse is suitably bold over Liberty's portrait with appreciable softness confined to just a few of the stars. Exceptionally well preserved for this conditionally challenging issue, the surfaces are solidly in the Mint State category with a rather smooth appearance at the assigned grade level. 842,250 double eagles of the With Motto design type were struck at the San Francisco Mint in 1866 according to government records. Total face value for this issue is \$16,834,000. Most circulated extensively on the West Coast, and some others were shipped overseas to facilitate trade and were melted at their destinations. The 1866-S With Motto was once regarded as a great condition rarity. Back

in 1982, David W. Akers wrote: "I have seen only two Uncirculated examples, the finest being...from the Harry Bass Collection." As recently as 2000, the issue was considered to be extremely rare and was cataloged as such when we (Bowers and Merena) auctioned the Bass specimen. Since that time, however, additional pieces have come to light. Presumably an old hoard was dispersed, but no details have come to hand. In 2004, Q. David Bowers estimated a population of 40 to 70 different Mint State examples in his *Guide Book of Double Eagles* published by Whitman. This is a premium quality coin for both the issue and the assigned grade that is sure to sell for a strong bid to an astute double eagle specialist.

PCGS# 8950. NGC ID: 269Y.

PCGS Population: 14; 8 finer (MS-62+ finest).

*From The Des Moines Collection.*

## A Second Uncirculated 1866-S Motto Double Eagle



1349

**1866-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. Motto. MS-60 (PCGS). CAC.** A remarkable second bidding opportunity for the advanced double eagle collector seeking an Uncirculated example of the conditionally challenging 1866-S Motto. Handsome khaki-gold surfaces with tinges of pale rose iridescence intermingled here and there. Lustrous with a

generally bold strike, this is a solid Mint State example of an issue that is typically offered in circulated grades.

PCGS# 8950. NGC ID: 269Y.

PCGS Population: 6; 22 finer (MS-62 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Rarely Offered Uncirculated 1867-S Twenty



1350

**1867-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-60 (PCGS).** Attractive honey-rose surfaces with soft mint luster and a bold to sharp strike. Mint records indicate that 920,750 double eagles were produced at the San Francisco facility during 1867, amounting to \$18,415,000 in face value. As is typical of double eagles produced at this mint, they were heavily used in day-to-day transactions on the Pacific Coast, something completely opposite to the situation that prevailed in the eastern half of the United States, where precious metal coins were extensively hoarded and most transactions were conducted using paper money. Q. David Bowers estimated a Mint State population of just three to five different Mint State examples when he wrote his 2004

*Guide Book to Double Eagles* published by Whitman. This dovetails nicely with David W. Akers' research, as the latter found only three listings of Uncirculated specimens in a survey of more than 400 major auction sales. Although a few more Uncirculated coins have slipped into the market in recent years, the 1867-S continues to be celebrated as a major condition rarity. Indeed, to the best of our knowledge this issue has not been widely represented in any overseas hoards. A highlight of the remarkable Fairmont Collection, and a find for the advanced double eagle collector.

PCGS# 8952. NGC ID: 26A2.

PCGS Population: 18; 15 finer (MS-62 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Elusive 1868 Double Eagle



1351

**1868 Liberty Head Double Eagle. AU-58 (PCGS).** A beautiful example, both sides possess appreciable semi-reflective qualities in the fields. Otherwise satiny in finish, razor sharp striking detail and vivid rose-gold patina are also praiseworthy attributes. Only 98,575 circulation strike double eagles were coined at the Philadelphia Mint in 1868, one of the lowest production figures of the 1860s. This amounts to a face value of \$1,971,500. Q. David Bowers in his 2004 *Guide Book of Double Eagles* estimated a surviving Mint State population of just four to seven different pieces. David W. Akers was able to account

for just nine listings of Uncirculated examples in his 1982 survey of more than 400 major auction sales. Indeed, the 1868 is a formidable condition rarity and Mint State coins seldom appear at auction. As such, Choice AUs such as this enjoy strong demand among quality conscious double eagle collectors. Such pieces are rare in their own right, especially with the problem free and aesthetically appealing surfaces offered here. Impressive!

PCGS# 8953. NGC ID: 26A3.

PCGS Population: 27; 14 finer (MS-63 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Remarkable Condition Rarity 1868-S Double Eagle



1352

**1868-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Handsome golden-rose surfaces are well struck for a Type II Liberty Head double eagle, the reverse sharp throughout and the obverse suitably bold over Liberty's portrait. The luster is full, and the eye appeal is superior at the BU grade level. Consistent with other years during the 1860s, the production of double eagles at the San Francisco Mint was immense, dwarfing that of the Philadelphia facility. In 1868, some 837,500 examples were coined amounting to \$16,750,000 in face value. Most of these entered into the channels of commerce along the Pacific Coast, where gold was used in day-to-day transactions as freely as paper money was used back East. Many others were likely shipped overseas and melted. Q. David Bowers estimated a population of just five to

eight different Uncirculated examples when he wrote his *Guide Book of Double Eagles* in 2004. This estimate agrees nicely with David W. Akers' 1982 research, as the latter was only able to find six examples cataloged as Mint State in a survey of more than 400 major auction sales. More recently, it would appear that several additional MS-60/61 quality examples have come onto the market although, like its identically dated Philadelphia Mint counterpart, the 1868-S remains a major rarity in Mint State. This is one of the finest certified examples, and it would serve as a highlight in even the finest gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8954. NGC ID: 26A4.

PCGS Population: 22; 6 finer (MS-62+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Lovely and Rare Mint State 1870 Double Eagle



1353

**1870 Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-60 (PCGS). CAC.** Lively satin to softly frosted luster mingles nicely with light honey-rose patina, both the surface quality and eye appeal superior for the basal Mint State designation from PCGS. An uncommonly sharp strike in a Type II Liberty Head twenty rounds out an impressive list of physical attributes for this noteworthy coin. Just 155,150 circulation strike double eagles of this date and mint were produced with a modest face value of \$3,103,000. In 1982 David W. Akers had seen very few 1870 twenties in any grade approaching Mint State. Many of these were sent overseas in later years, by which time they were worn. While EF and AU coins are readily obtainable in the context of the Type II Liberty Head series, Uncirculated examples are rare and seldom offered. In the year 1870 the few numismatists who were interested in collecting double eagles ordered Proofs from the Mint. We are not aware of any collector who at the time desired a newly minted circulation strike. Even as late as 1893, Augustus Heaton commented that he knew of no one who collected mintmarked varieties of gold coins of the

denominations of \$5, \$10, and \$20. As this was in his *A Treatise on Mint Marks*, Heaton was commenting only on branch mint issues, however the same could have been said for numismatists currently seeking new circulation strikes from the Philadelphia Mint. In January 1936, Thomas L. Elder, in his offering of the Charles W. Sloane and Frank Lenz collections, offered an Uncirculated example and noted it was "very rare." More than any other dealer of the era, Elder, based in New York City, eagerly sought scarce gold coins of all denominations after 1933 when the government began calling them in. Elder sent out notices to bank tellers and others, offering premiums, and was responsible for saving countless thousands of pieces from the melting pot. By 1936 he was well aware that a Mint State 1870 double eagle was a rarity, as noted. The presently offered coin offers the successful bidder a chance to obtain an attractive high grade example of this conditionally challenging issue.

PCGS# 8957. NGC ID: 26A7.

PCGS Population: 6; 47 finer (MS-63+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Frosty Uncirculated 1871 Double Eagle A Formidable Condition Rarity



1354

**1871 Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-61 (PCGS).** This is a beautiful example with superior quality for both the issue and the assigned grade. Bathed in warm pinkish-honey patina, both sides are fully lustrous with a softly frosted finish from the dies. Modestly semi-reflective in the fields, as well, with a bold to sharp strike throughout. The circulation strike mintage for the 1871 double eagle was tiny for the era with just 80,120 pieces produced for a face value of \$1,602,400. This is the lowest Philadelphia Mint production tally of any date in this series after 1859 and prior to 1881. Many lightly worn examples of this date were exported in later banking transactions, only to return to America

in the mid to late 20th century, though this repatriation brought back very few high grade Uncirculated specimens. In fact, we suggest just 15 to 20 or so examples of this issue qualify as Mint State today, with most of those clustered around the MS-60 end of the grading scale. Uncommonly smooth at the MS-61 level with abundant eye appeal, the coin offered here is a highlight of the Fairmont Collection and is sure to see spirited bidding at auction.

PCGS# 8960. NGC ID: 26AA.

PCGS Population: just 8; with a further eight finer through MS-64.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Celebrated 1871-CC Double Eagle Rarity



1355

**1871-CC Liberty Head Double Eagle. EF-40 (PCGS). CAC.** Light honey-gold patina with a tinge of pale flint gray iridescence to both sides. Plenty of luster remains, the surfaces also retaining overall bold striking detail that wanes appreciably only around the obverse periphery. This is a premium quality coin in a circulated Carson City Mint twenty — originally preserved with a relatively smooth appearance in hand. The 1871-CC double eagle is one of the principle rarities of the denomination struck at Carson City, second only to the vaunted 1870-CC. The 174,387 coins produced at the Nevada facility that year were destined for immediate use in local commerce, where gold was the vastly preferred medium of exchange. Thanks to its somewhat remote location in regards to other population centers

at the time, the coins were heavily used in local circulation for many years. There were essentially no numismatists in the region, hence nobody with the interest or wherewithal to set aside an example at the time. Very few escaped the trials and tribulations of extensive circulation, in fact, and when available at all the 1871-CC is usually found damaged, heavily abraded or otherwise impaired. The present example, attractive in all regards with superior EF quality, represents an enticing find for advanced collectors of Liberty Head double eagles and Carson City Mint coinage.

PCGS# 8961. NGC ID: 26AB.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*



## Outstanding 1872-CC Double Eagle Rarely Offered Mint State Quality



1356

**1872-CC Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-60 (NGC).** A remarkable Mint State 1872-CC double eagle that is solidly in the Condition Census for this key date issue. The surfaces are exceptionally attractive and bathed in a rich blend of frosty luster and vivid rose-gold patina. Boldly to sharply defined from a well executed strike, an uncommonly smooth appearance for the assigned grade further defines this as a premium quality coin. A light grease streak (as made) on the reverse over and above the eagle's right wing will serve as a useful identifier for this significant condition rarity. The 1872-CC is the third double eagle issue from this fabled Frontier era branch mint, the mintage a modest 26,900 pieces with a face value of \$5,380,000. In the first three years of coinage operations at the Carson City Mint — 1870, 1871, and 1872 — it seems that the gold coins were used regionally and, indeed, we suspect that the 1872-CC double eagle as an issue helped form the

backbone of the economy in and around Carson City. Beginning in 1873, however, quantities of gold coins were more widely distributed, including in shipments sent to foreign banks. Today, the first three CC-mint gold issues across all three denominations — \$5, \$10, and \$20 — are all true classics. Grades for surviving 1872-CC double eagles are often VF to EF, and even a solidly graded and aesthetically pleasing AU is a rare find in today's market. Mint State coins, as here, are so elusive that most collectors will never even see one, let alone have the opportunity to compete for the opportunity to add an example to their collection. The strongest bids are in order here, for once this coin sells it may be many years before another 1872-CC double eagle of comparable quality appears at auction.

PCGS# 8964. NGC ID: 26AE.

PCGS Population: just 5; with a mere two finer through MS-62.

*From The Des Moines Collection.*

## Premium Quality EF 1872-CC Twenty-Dollar Gold



1357

**1872-CC Liberty Head Double Eagle. EF-45 (PCGS).** Light khaki-gold patina blankets surfaces that reveal plenty of satiny mint luster as the coin dips into a light. Grades for surviving 1872-CC double eagles are often VF to EF, confirming the conditionally challenging nature of an issue that is also scarce in an absolute sense. This upper end

Choice EF is significant, and it is sure to see spirited bidding among discerning numismatists.

PCGS# 8964. NGC ID: 26AE.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Seldom Offered 1873 Close 3 Double Eagle Significant Mint State Quality



1358

**1873 Liberty Head Double Eagle. Close 3. MS-62 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous with a frosty texture, this endearing piece also exhibits sharp striking detail and vivid medium gold patina. The mintage for the circulation strike 1873 double eagle is 1,709,825 pieces, face value amounting to \$34,196,500. This total includes both Close 3 and Open 3 date logotypes, the former undoubtedly comprising only a small percentage of the mintage given the scarcity of survivors relative to those of the Open 3 variety. Indeed, only 1,000 or so 1873 Close 3 double eagles are extant in all grades, fewer than 100 of which are Mint State. Premium quality at the MS-62 level, the present example represents a fleeting bidding opportunity for the astute double eagle enthusiast.

The Close 3 and Open 3 varieties were publicized by Harry X Boosel, who had no period after his X middle initial. He began collecting and dealing (on the side) in coins in the 1930s. From March 1957 through

December 1958 he wrote articles concerning the coinage of 1873, and the change in the 3 date logotype that was instituted by the Mint in the course of that year. The 3 used for multiple coin series that year initially had the knobs on the open ends of this digit too close together, and the numeral to some people looked like an 8. Accordingly, in the course of the year the date logotype was modified so that there would be more space between the open ends to the left side of this numeral — hence the designation thereafter of an Close 3 and an Open 3 variety for 1873. At first the term “Closed 3” was used, but then Kenneth Bressett and others involved with the *Guide Book of United States Coins* changed the nomenclature to “Close 3,” as the two knobs were not closed or touching, but were close together.

PCGS# 8966. NGC ID: 26AG.

PCGS Population: just 8; with a single MS-63 finer.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Condition Rarity 1873 Open 3 Double Eagle



1359

**1873 Liberty Head Double Eagle. Open 3. MS-63+ (PCGS).** Billowy mint frost and vivid rose-gold patina greet the viewer from both sides of this exceptional 1873 Open 3 twenty. A sharp strike and remarkably smooth surfaces further confirm this coin as a premium quality survivor of both the type and issue. With 1,500 to 2,500 or more examples extant, the 1873 Open 3 is one of the most readily obtainable issues of its design type in Mint State. Many of the Uncirculated pieces were repatriated from foreign bank hoards in the decades following

World War Two. This is still a conditionally challenging issue, however, the vast majority of examples confined to the MS-60 to MS-62 grade range. Among the finest known to PCGS, the coin offered here is a delight to behold and would serve as a highlight in an advanced type or date set.

PCGS# 8967. NGC ID: 26AH.

PCGS Population: 9; 12 finer (MS-65+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Key Date 1873-CC Liberty Head Twenty



1360

**1873-CC Liberty Head Double Eagle. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Lustrous honey-gold and pale rose surfaces with direct lighting calling forth modest semi-reflective tendencies in the obverse field. Otherwise softly frosted in finish, both sides retain plenty of bold to sharp definition from a well executed strike. The mintage for this issue is a scant 22,410 pieces, a reduction of more than 4,000 coins from the previous year's press run at the Carson City Mint. Face value was \$448,200. While some 1873-CC double eagles were included in overseas banking transactions in later years, by that time most showed

significant wear from extensive use in regional commerce. We estimate some 250 to 350 circulated examples of the date are extant today, with most of those VF, EF to a lesser degree, and with AU pieces scarce but occasionally available. Given that Mint State survivors are major rarities, this uncommonly attractive AU-55 represents a particularly significant find for the quality conscious collector.

PCGS# 8968. NGC ID: 26AJ.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Scarce 1873-S Open 3 Twenty



1361

**1873-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. Open 3. MS-61 (PCGS).** Lovely golden-rose patina mingles with intense mint luster on both sides of this boldly impressed example. Remarkably well preserved for an issue that can be elusive even in circulated grades, and worthy of serious bidder consideration, as such. The mintage for the 1873-S double eagle of 1,040,600 pieces includes both Close 3 and Open 3 date logotypes, and it was higher than the previous year's San Francisco Mint delivery by more than a quarter-million pieces. Face value totaled a hefty

\$20,812,000. Much of this mintage later went overseas in banking transactions, and many are the Mint State pieces that have come back home, especially during the 1990s. Most of the Uncirculated survivors are examples of the Close 3 variety, however, Open 3 coins such as this in the distinct minority in today's market. This is a seldom offered Brilliant Uncirculated coin that would serve as a focal point in any high quality double eagle set.

PCGS# 8979. NGC ID: 26AM.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Lustrous Mint State 1874 Double Eagle



1362

**1874 Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-62 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous rose-gold surfaces are frosty in texture with lovely cartwheel visual effects evident as the coin rotates under a light. The strike is essentially full, and the in hand appearance is uncommonly smooth for the assigned grade. The circulation strike mintage for this issue is 366,780 pieces, reduced nearly 1.4 million coins from the previous year's output in Philadelphia. The effects of the Panic of 1873 were still felt in 1874, and nearly 6,000 more businesses failed, thus adding up to a slightly

higher total of losses than in the Panic of 1857. Face value amounted to \$7,335,600. Many of the known low-range Uncirculated examples of the 1874 have come from overseas bank hoards in the second half of the 20th century, the current population perhaps in the range of 250 to 350 coins. This is one of the finer certified pieces, and it would do justice to an advanced type or date set.

PCGS# 8970. NGC ID: 26AN.

PCGS Population: 48; 10 finer (MS-64 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Lovely Mint State 1874-CC Double Eagle A Formidable Condition Rarity



1363

**1874-CC Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Truly remarkable in a survivor of this conditionally challenging issue, both sides retain full mint luster in a intense frosty texture. Striking detail is sharp throughout, the surfaces minimally abraded for the assigned grade with beautiful golden-rose patina. The Carson City Mint delivered 115,085 double eagles in 1874, up considerably from the 22,410 coins struck in 1873. The coins went directly into commerce locally, with few if any being shipped overseas at the time. Carson City Mint double eagles were not sent to foreign destinations in quantity before 1879, and only intermittently after that time. As a result, repatriated Carson City Mint gold coins typically are circulated, having received wear in the United States prior to being shipped overseas.

The fact that most 1874-CC double eagles circulated locally explains the extreme rarity of this issue in Mint State. There was no known numismatic interest on the frontier at the time, and very few coins

were preserved in Mint State as part of foreign bank hoards. We believe that as few as 15 to 20 examples of this issue can be called truly Mint State today, mainly repatriated coins. Here is a significant bidding opportunity for double eagle collectors and Carson City Mint specialists alike.

The 1874-CC was recognized as a rarity at an early time. On two occasions in 1929, Thomas L. Elder, the main buyer of double eagles and other gold coins from bank tellers, offered two of them at auction, both in only Fine grade, one called very rare and the other called rare. Elder was aware of the aspects of scarcity and rarity before most other dealers.

PCGS# 8971. NGC ID: 26AP.

PCGS Population: 13; with a mere three finer (all MS-62).

*From the Fairmont Collection.*



## Eagerly Sought 1875-CC Double Eagle Significant Mint State Preservation



1364

**1875-CC Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-61 (PCGS).** This is a boldly defined, frosty-textured example of one of the more popular type issues among Carson City Mint double eagles. Fully Uncirculated in preservation, and scarce as such, this coin is sure to catch the eye of advanced gold collectors. In 1875, double eagle production at the Carson City Mint was stepped up significantly with a sufficiently large mintage of 111,151 pieces, helped by the \$1.5 million bullion deposit made by the Consolidated Virginia Mining Company in June of that year. These coins entered circulation in the region and served many

years of service. Later on, many examples were shipped abroad, but by this time were quite worn. As one of the most available of the Carson City double eagle issues, the 1875-CC is a particularly popular issue for collectors desiring an example from this legendary Nevada mint. Fortunately for today's numismatists a few Uncirculated specimens are known, the coin offered here with superior eye appeal for the assigned grade.

PCGS# 8974. NGC ID: 26AT.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Choice Uncirculated 1876-S Twenty Among the Finest Known to PCGS



1365

**1876-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-63+ (PCGS).** Lively mint frost swirls around handsome rose-gold surfaces on both sides of this smartly impressed, exceptionally well preserved example. The mintage for this plentiful San Francisco Mint issue is 1,597,000 pieces, up more than 250,000 pieces from the previous year's total at the West Coast facility. Face value amounted to \$31,940,000. Many were exported, beginning in a significant way in 1879. We estimate a Mint State population for the 1876-S of 2,000 to 3,000 pieces, if not more. Most of

these are at MS-60 to MS-61, though MS-62 pieces can be found with a modicum of patience. Beginning at the MS-63 level, offered here, your chances of obtaining a specimen thin dramatically despite the certified population reports. A rare coin in an absolute sense, and even rarer from a market availability standpoint, this impressive piece represents a significant find for the quality conscious gold enthusiast.

PCGS# 8978. NGC ID: 26AX.

PCGS Population: 5; 17 finer (MS-65 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Highly Desirable 1877-CC Double Eagle



1366

**1877-CC Liberty Head Double Eagle.** AU-55 (PCGS). Pale honey-gold patina adorns both sides and speaks volumes about the originality of this coin. Glints of pale rose and light russet are also evident, generally around the peripheries. Sharply defined with ample luster, this premium quality Choice AU is sure to please even the most discerning double eagle enthusiast. The mintage for this scarce issue is just 42,565 pieces, a figure reduced by nearly 96,000 coins from the

previous year's relatively high production mark at the Carson City Mint. Many were shipped overseas after they had circulated in regional commerce. Some 800 to 1,200 circulated examples of the 1877-CC are known, with many of those just VF or EF. Nice AU examples such as this can be challenging to acquire and deserve serious bidder attention whenever they appear at auction.

PCGS# 8983. NGC ID: 26AZ.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Elusive Choice Uncirculated 1877-S Double Eagle



1367

**1877-S Liberty Head Double Eagle.** MS-63 (PCGS). CAC. This is an outstanding double eagle irrespective of type or issue, both sides fully struck and bathed in frosty golden-orange luster. Exceptionally smooth for this conditionally challenging issue, and worthy of a premium bid, as such. The 1877-S double eagle registered a mintage of 1,735,000 pieces, down some 138,000 coins from the previous year. Face value equaled \$34,700,000. Some portion of the mintage made it into overseas banking transactions, a familiar scenario — and a blessing to later generations of numismatists. Thanks to repatriations

from foreign bank hoards, in fact, our estimate for Mint State survivors is a rather generous 1,500 to 2,500 coins. Most of these, however, hover around the MS-60 and MS-61 grade levels. As a solidly graded and aesthetically pleasing MS-63, the coin offered here represents the finest realistically obtainable for the issue as far as most of today's double eagle specialists are concerned.

PCGS# 8984. NGC ID: 26B2.

PCGS Population: 31; 7 finer (MS-65+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Wonderfully Original 1878-CC Double Eagle



1368

**1878-CC Liberty Head Double Eagle.** AU-50 (PCGS). CAC. A richly original example with dominant khaki-gold patina, both sides also reveal tinges of pale rose iridescence as the surfaces dip into a light. Lustrous for the grade with bold to sharp devices, this is an exceptional coin for both the issue and the assigned grade. The passing of the Bland-Allison Act in 1878 meant that the Treasury's focus was placed on striking silver dollars over gold coins. Only 13,180 double eagles were struck at the Carson City Mint that year, less than one-tenth the production from just two years prior, making this one of the

scarcest issues in this mintmarked gold series. While the estimated overall survival rate of 4% to 5% for the 1878-CC double eagle is larger than most others from this facility, specimens appear at auction far less than expected. Seldom seen in any grade, attractively original AU examples such as this are particularly elusive and worthy of serious consideration whenever they appear at auction.

PCGS# 8986. NGC ID: 26B4.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Low Mintage 1879-CC Double Eagle



1369

**1879-CC Liberty Head Double Eagle.** EF-40 (PCGS). Handsome khaki-gold surfaces with tinges of iridescent pinkish-rose intermingled here and there around the peripheries. Detail is generally bold, and ample luster remains to further tempt the viewer as the surfaces dip into a light. While generous quantities of double eagles were being produced at Philadelphia and San Francisco during the 1870s, many of which ended up in foreign bank vaults for generations, this was not the case at the Carson City Mint. Here, double eagles — and gold coins in general — were almost exclusively made for local consumption, where they performed yeoman's duty in commerce.

Specie redemption was permitted for Legal Tender notes in January of 1879, prompting concern that there may be a run on gold. When the run never materialized, the need for double eagles waned and coinage of the denomination ceased early in the year at the Nevada facility. The limited production run of 10,708 pieces for the 1879-CC double eagle was accomplished in two batches using a single pair of dies. Elusive in all grades, the addition of any example is a notable accomplishment for the advanced numismatist.

PCGS# 8989. NGC ID: 26B7.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Legendary 1879-O Double Eagle

### Rare Key Date Issue with Just 2,325 Pieces Produced



1370

**1879-O Liberty Head Double Eagle. EF-45 (PCGS).** Inviting golden yellow surfaces with ample evidence of a semi-prooflike finish from the dies. The protected areas around the devices are particularly mirrored, a feature that is best appreciated with the aid of direct lighting. Sharply to fully defined over virtually all design elements, a few scattered reeding marks on the obverse are not out of place on a lightly circulated survivor of this highly elusive and extremely challenging issue. Alone among New Orleans Mint double eagles of the Type III Liberty Head design type, the 1879-O was produced upon the reopening of the New Orleans Mint after its forced closure at the onset of the Civil War. The reason for this mintage is unknown, as the government's primary purpose in reopening the New Orleans facility in 1879 was to aid in the production of Morgan silver dollars. The 1879-O double eagle may have been produced simply to mark the historic resumption of coinage in New Orleans, a theory that gains support when we consider that the mintage of this issue is a token 2,325 pieces (\$46,500 face value).

Regardless of exactly why they were produced, many examples of the 1879-O were exported alongside other double eagles of the era as part of international transactions. Approximately 100 to 120 coins are extant, generally in EF or AU, and mostly thanks to repatriations from foreign bank hoards in recent decades. With such a limited number of examples known, the 1879-O is obviously a leading rarity in the Southern gold series. Doug Winter (*Gold Coins of the New Orleans Mint: 1839-1909*, 2006 edition) ranks this issue fourth in rarity among New Orleans Mint double eagles after the 1856-O, 1854-O and 1855-O, a ranking it shares with the 1859-O. The present example is a highlight of the extensive double eagle offerings in this sale, and it is sure to have no difficulty finding its way into an advanced cabinet.

PCGS# 8990. NGC ID: 26B8.

PCGS Population: 16; 29 finer, just three of which are Mint State (MS-62 finest).

*From the Soberman Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of the Robison Collection of United States Gold Coins, February 1979, lot 923. Lot tag included.*

## Uncommonly Well Preserved 1879-S Double Eagle



1371

**1879-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** A lovely example of this conditionally challenging issue, both sides are bathed in a bold blend of rose-orange patina and softly frosted luster. Sharply to fully struck throughout with an uncommonly smooth appearance that is superior to that of the typically offered Uncirculated 1879-S double eagle. The mintage for this issue is 1,223,800 pieces, down more than 515,000 coins from the previous year's output at the San Francisco Mint. Face value totaled \$24,476,000. Many were shipped

to foreign destinations, although fewer have been repatriated than for many other double eagles of the era. Some 400 to 500 Uncirculated examples exist, mainly at the MS-60 and MS-61 levels. The 1879-S was a particularly challenging issue in Mint State before examples starting coming home from foreign bank hoards. Even so, it remains scarce with the quality and eye appeal offered here, and rare any finer.

PCGS# 8991. NGC ID: 26B9.

PCGS Population: 97; 9 finer (MS-64 finest).

## Condition Rarity 1880-S Double Eagle



1372

**1880-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-63 (PCGS).** Beautiful rose-gold patina blends with billowy mint luster on both sides of this exceptionally well preserved 1880-S twenty. The strike is sharp, if not full over all design elements, and the appearance is attractively original and worthy of the strongest bids. 836,000 double eagles, equal to \$16,720,000 in face value, were coined at the San Francisco Mint in 1880, eclipsing the Philadelphia Mint production figure by a wide margin. It is likely that large numbers immediately entered the channels of commerce, as gold coins were very popular on the West Coast for day-to-day transactions. Many others may have been kept

on hand in Treasury vaults for the redemption of Gold Certificates. Q. David Bowers in his 2004 *Guide Book of Double Eagles* estimated a population of 200 to 300, or perhaps even more Uncirculated examples. This estimate represents a vast increase in supply since the early 1980s, the result of repatriations from foreign bank hoards. The 1880-S is still rare in comparison to many other late date San Francisco Mint Liberty Head double eagles, however, especially at and above the grade level offered here.

PCGS# 8993. NGC ID: 26BB.

PCGS Population: 12; 5 finer (all MS-64).

## Exceptional Choice Mint State 1881-S Double Eagle



1373

**1881-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-63 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous with swirling mint frost, this lovely example is further adorned with vivid rose-orange patina. Sharply struck, as well, and uncommonly smooth for an issue that is typically offered no finer than MS-62. The West Coast mint reported a mintage of 727,000 double eagles in 1881, a figure representing a face value of \$14,540,000. It is likely that most of the 1881-S mintage entered into the channels of commerce and remained there until the average grade was only in the VF to EF range. Other pieces were likely reserved in banks and Treasury vaults for the redemption of Gold Certificates. Q. David Bowers in his 2004 *Guide Book of Double Eagles* estimates an Uncirculated supply of 500 to

750+ pieces. This estimate is nicely reflective of combined PCGS and NGC population statistics (taking into consideration the likelihood of resubmissions), and represents a large increase in available supplies since the early 1980s. Obviously many examples have been repatriated from foreign bank reserves in recent years, a familiar story in the Liberty Head double eagle series. With most survivors grading no finer than MS-62, as previously stated, this beautiful Choice example is a formidable condition rarity that would serve as a highlight in the finest collection.

PCGS# 8995. NGC ID: 26BD.

PCGS Population: 23; 6 finer (MS-64 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Inviting Near-Mint 1882-CC Double Eagle



1374

**1882-CC Liberty Head Double Eagle. AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous medium gold surfaces with a tinges of pale rose and orange evident at direct lighting angles. Virtually full striking details remains, as one should expect for the assigned grade, although the relatively smooth appearance is superior for a near-Mint Carson City Mint twenty. Only 39,140 double eagles were struck at the Nevada coinage facility in 1882 (\$782,800 face value). Most of these circulated extensively on the West

Coast, although others were shipped overseas and found their way into European bank hoards. Q. David Bowers estimated a circulated population of 900 to 1,200 or more examples when he wrote his *Guide Book of Double Eagles* back in 2004. His estimate has stood the test of time. Far finer than the typically encountered AU survivor, this premium quality coin is worthy of the strongest bids.

PCGS# 8997. NGC ID: 26BF.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Mint State 1883-CC Double Eagle



1375

**1883-CC Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-61 (NGC).** A satisfying representative of this scarce issue with considerable satiny luster blanketing the surfaces throughout. Overall medium gold in hue with regions of deeper honey patina near the borders. The left obverse field is home to a sizeable bagmark that accounts for the low Mint State grade, though the eye appeal remains overall pleasing at this level.

Mint records indicate a production figure of 59,962 1883-CC double eagles, equal to a face value of \$1,199,240. Most of these entered into the channels of commerce and circulated extensively. David Akers in his 1982 treatise on double eagles accounted for 39 auction

appearances of Mint State double eagles in a survey of more than 400 major auction sales. This figure seems to dovetail nicely with Dave Bowers' estimate of 60 to 100 examples, which he presented in his 2004 *Guide Book of Double Eagles* published by Whitman. The certification service statistics indicate a larger Uncirculated population, but this data is likely skewed by the fact that some specimens are cracked out of holders and resubmitted multiple times. Any Mint State 1883-CC is an important numismatic treasure, and the present example will surely be eagerly pursued by collectors of Carson City coinage and Liberty Head gold.

PCGS# 8999. NGC ID: 26BH.

## Choice AU 1883-CC Double Eagle



1376

**1883-CC Liberty Head Double Eagle. AU-58 (PCGS).** An impressive near-mint double eagle irrespective of date or issuing mint, the fact that this coin hails from the Nevada coinage facility is of further significance to the discerning collector. Much of the original frosty luster remains, both sides also retaining sharp to full detail throughout the design. Richly original patina blankets both sides and further enhances this coin's already considerable appeal. Mint records indicate a production figure of 59,962 double eagles at the Carson City Mint in 1883, equal to a face value of \$1,199,240. Most entered into the channels of commerce and circulated extensively, although more than a few were exported. In 2004, Q. David Bowers pegged the circulated

population at 1,100 to 1,400+ pieces, which is probably too low now, more than a decade later. The actual figure may be close to twice the high-end estimate, and there is no doubt that the 1883-CC is one of the more readily obtainable Carson City Mint double eagles in circulated grades. On the other hand, few are as technically sound and aesthetically pleasing as the present example, which is also nicer than many low-end Uncs that we have handled in recent years. A find for the discerning collector, and worthy of the strongest bids.

PCGS# 8999. NGC ID: 26BH.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Conditionally Scarce 1884-CC Double Eagle



1377

**1884-CC Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-61 (PCGS).** A predominantly medium gold example with warmer olive undertones and more vivid pale rose overtones. Undeniably original, both sides are also uncommonly smooth for the assigned grade and definitely worthy of a premium bid. Only 81,139 double eagles were coined at the Carson City Mint in 1884 (equal to \$1,622,780 in face value). Although most known examples are circulated, hundreds of Mint State coins also exist. Many were shipped overseas for payments that

required gold. Q. David Bowers said that these first started to appear in returns from foreign bank holdings beginning around 1950. His 2004 *Guide Book of Double Eagles*, published by Whitman, gave a high end estimate of 500 pieces for the Mint State population. This is a generous population by Carson City Mint double eagle standards, MS-60 and MS-61 coins such as this enjoying strong demand among mintmarked gold type collector as well as series specialists.

PCGS# 9001. NGC ID: 26BK.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Low Mintage 1885-CC Double Eagle Rarity



1378

**1885-CC Liberty Head Double Eagle.** AU-53 (PCGS). CAC. Warm honey-gold patina lightens to more of a medium gold shade as the surfaces dip into a light, both sides further enhanced by blushes of iridescent pinkish-rose around the peripheries. Lustrous with virtually full striking detail remaining, this is a lovely AU example of one of the lower mintage entries in the Carson City Mint double eagle series. Only 9,450 double eagles were coined at the Nevada branch mint in 1885 (\$189,000 face value), by far the smallest production figure of any \$20 from this facility during the 1880s. This is the final Carson

City Mint double eagle coinage until 1889-CC; the fabled frontier mint struck no coins of any denomination from 1886 to 1888. Q. David Bowers' 2004 estimate of 275 to 400 circulated examples seems to have stood the test of time and, indeed, this issue is elusive even at the VF and EF levels. In solidly graded About Uncirculated, as here, the 1885-CC is rare and always in demand among advanced collectors of double eagles and Carson City Mint coinage.

PCGS# 9004. NGC ID: 26BN.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Phenomenal Condition Rarity 1885-S Double Eagle



1379

**1885-S Liberty Head Double Eagle.** MS-64+ (PCGS). Razor sharp in striking detail with bountiful mint frost, this lovely example is further characterized by vivid rose-orange patina. The mintage for this issue is 683,500 coins (\$13,670,000 face value). Similar to contemporary San Francisco Mint twenties most 1885-S examples promptly entered circulation; many others were shipped overseas as a component of international trade, and still others were set aside for the backing of Gold Certificates. David W. Akers, writing in 1982, enumerated a few dozen Uncirculated examples that he found listed in a survey of major

auction sales going back to the 1940s. By 2004, when Q. David Bowers penned his *Guide Book of Double Eagles*, the supply was estimated at between 2,000 and 4,000 examples, this being in a different era after significant quantities of classic U.S. Mint gold coins had been repatriated from foreign bank hoards. While plentiful in lower grades, the 1885-S remains rare at and near the Gem Mint State level, as here. This is an exquisite coin worthy of the strongest bids.

PCGS# 9005. NGC ID: 26BP.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (both MS-65).

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Condition Rarity 1887-S Double Eagle



1380

**1887-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-63 (PCGS).** Beautiful medium gold surfaces with vivid pinkish-rose overtones to the obverse. Sharply struck with full softly frosted luster, this is an exceptionally smooth and well preserved example of this otherwise readily obtainable issue. 283,000 double eagles were struck at the San Francisco Mint in 1887, equal to a face value of \$5,660,000. Although this is not a particularly limited mintage in an absolute sense, it marked the lowest production level for double eagles coined at the San Francisco facility during the 1880s. As recently as 1982, David W. Akers considered the 1887-S to be scarce in Uncirculated condition, and Mint State examples appeared in fewer than 10% of the major auction sales that he surveyed in preparation of his landmark double eagle treatise. Later in 2004,

when Q. David Bowers authored his *Guide Book of Double Eagles* for Whitman, the situation was completely different, as thousands of Uncirculated examples from overseas bank reserves had come to light, and were repatriated in American collections. Today, the more generous estimates place the Uncirculated population above the 3,000-coin figure. On the other hand, the finest that most collections can muster for the 1887-S is an MS-62. In MS-63 this issue is scarce, and it remains exceedingly rare any finer. This is a superior quality example in all regards that represents a significant find for the advanced gold collector.

PCGS# 9007. NGC ID: 26BS.

PCGS Population: 77; 5 finer (MS-65 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Low Mintage 1891-CC Double Eagle



1381

**1891-CC Liberty Head Double Eagle. EF-45 (PCGS). CAC.** Undeniably original khaki-gold surfaces with pale flint gray highlights evident as the surfaces rotate under a light. Direct viewing angles call forth ample luster remnants that are most intense in the protected areas around the devices. Boldly defined over the focal features with exceptionally strong eye appeal in a lightly circulated Carson City Mint twenty. With a mere 5,000 pieces produced (\$100,000 face value), the 1891-CC is the lowest mintage Carson City Mint double

eagle of the 1889 to 1893 era. Circulation on the West Coast was immediate and extensive, although a couple of thousand of examples were probably exported after acquiring wear. Most of those coins were melted overseas, although a few hundred have been repatriated in recent decades, to the delight of collectors who would otherwise not be able to obtain an example of this key date Carson City Mint entry.

PCGS# 9017. NGC ID: 26C3.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Desirable Proof Striking of the MCMVII High Relief Double Eagle



1382

**MCMVII (1907) Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle. High Relief. Wire Rim. Proof Details—Cleaned (NGC).** This is a beautiful example of a classic 20th century gold type, both the technical quality and eye appeal superior for the assigned grade. Both sides exhibit warm golden-orange patina, the striking detail expectably full for a Proof High Relief double eagle. Predominantly satiny in texture, slight muting to the surfaces and a few barely perceptible hairlines are all that seem to explain the NGC qualifier. The in and appearance, however, is quite smooth and the eye appeal is considerable. Worthy of a close look, and also a strong bid. This is an enigmatic issue whose origins are mysterious. There is no federal record for the production of Proof MCMVII Saint-Gaudens double eagles of the High Relief design type, although then-Chief Engraver Charles E. Barber (as related by Walter Breen, 1988) claimed that five specimens were prepared. We now know that Barber's statement is erroneous, if one uses the Breen definition (given below) to define a Proof striking of this type. These specially

prepared coins are distinguished from circulation strikes (again, per Breen) by several diagnostics, among which are:

- 1 - Sharp inner borders on both the obverse and the reverse.
- 2 - Extremely sharp striking detail that extends to all of the olive berries and pillars in the Capitol Building on the obverse.
- 3 - Crisp, distinct ends to all feathers in the eagle's tail at the right reverse border.
- 4 - Countless swirling die polish lines, or striations in the fields on both sides. As confirmed by the NGC attribution as a Proof, the present example displays all of these attributes, although we admit that one will need a loupe to effectively discern the striations. If you are seeking an exceptionally well produced example of this famous design type, consider this coin carefully.

PCGS# 9135, NGC ID: 26F2.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection.*

## Lovely Choice Mint State MCMVII High Relief Double Eagle



1383

**MCMVII (1907) Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle. High Relief. Wire Rim. MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** A premium quality near-Gem to represent this classic 20th century gold issue. Bathed in a blend of satin to softly frosted luster and warm medium gold patina, both sides also offer razor sharp striking detail to all design elements. A couple of light alloy spots on the reverse are noted solely for accuracy, the quality and eye appeal of this coin equally impressive and worthy of the strongest bids. With a nod to Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Twice Told Tales*, and acknowledging that the story of this coin is well known, we take a minute or two of your time to give a reiteration: In 1904 President Theodore Roosevelt had occasion to visit the Smithsonian Institution in the "Castle" building a short walk from the White House. On display were coins of ancient Greece, this in an era before the Mint Collection was moved there (in the 1920s). He contemplated the array of beautiful designs before him. Upon consideration, he reflected that current United States silver and gold coinage was rather unappealing from an artistic viewpoint (never mind that we all dearly love Liberty Head gold coins, Morgan dollars, and Barber silver today!). On his own he contacted Augustus Saint-Gaudens, America's best-known sculptor, who had his studio in Cornish, New Hampshire, and was working on various commissions. Today his home, studio and grounds comprise a National Historical Site well worth visiting in the warmer months. Roosevelt suggested that the entire United States coin spectrum be redesigned from the cent to the double eagle. Saint-

Gaudens took up the commission, valued at \$5,000, and set about making sketches and models. As fate would have it, the sculptor was in declining health, his condition worsened, and by early 1907 he had created detailed motifs for only the \$10 and \$20 pieces. He passed away on August 3 of that year. Charles E. Barber, the chief engraver of the United States Mint, vigorously protested Roosevelt's interference in the Mint's normal prerogative of creating whatever designs it pleased. Taking up the challenge, Roosevelt called the project his "pet crime." As models were finessed and dies in high relief were completed, Barber stated that the coins would be virtually impossible to strike in quantity. The riposte from Roosevelt was that he did not care if only one coin per day could be struck, that is how it would be! A compromise was effected, and slightly over 12,000 MCMVII High Relief double eagles were struck in 1907 and from the same dies early in 1908. The design was subsequently modified by flattening the motifs, eliminating the Roman numerals and making certain other changes. Over a long period of years various surveys in the numismatic field have ranked this as the most beautiful of all circulating U.S. coinage designs. We estimate that perhaps 6,000 are known, or about half the mintage, as these were appreciated in their own time and many were saved. However, few can match the quality of the coin offered here.

PCGS# 9135. NGC ID: 26F2.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of September 2006, lot 1696. Lot tag included.*

## Radiant Near-Gem 1907 High Relief \$20 Wire Rim



1384

**MCMVII (1907) Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle. High Relief. Wire Rim. MS-64+ (PCGS).** A pristine example of this iconic issue with matte-like surfaces and significant traces of die polishing throughout the fields on each side. The overall khaki gold coloration is accented by a subtle marbling of honey-gold tones across the reverse. Boldly pronounced throughout, a subtle wire rim dances along the majority

of the obverse circumference and along half of the reverse edge. A small blemish at the lower obverse border will help trace this dazzling near-Gem through future cabinets. Exceptional quality in an issue widely considered to be the most beautiful to ever emerge from the United States Mint.

PCGS# 9135. NGC ID: 26F2.

## Classic MCMVII High Relief Double Eagle Lovely Choice Mint State Quality



1385

**MCMVII (1907) Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle. High Relief. Wire Rim. MS-64 (PCGS).** This is an impressively lustrous and aesthetically appealing example of the famous and beautiful MCMVII double eagle designed by Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Handsome orange-gold surfaces are satiny and lovely. Premium quality for the assigned grade. One of several opportunities in this sale for the advanced gold enthusiast

to acquire an upper end example of this perennially popular double eagle type, the present near-Gem would make a lovely addition to any numismatic cabinet.

PCGS# 9135. NGC ID: 26F2.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection. Earlier from our Baltimore Auction of July 2015, lot 6210.*



## Choice Mint State 1907 High Relief Saint-Gaudens Twenty



1386

**MCMVII (1907) Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle. High Relief. Wire Rim. MS-64 (PCGS).** Outstanding deep golden-yellow patina over a strike that is medallionic in appearance. The surfaces are satiny and predominantly smooth with solid Choice Mint State quality throughout. A beautiful piece and highly desirable example of one of the most eagerly sought issues in the United States Mint's classic gold

coin series. While our sales typically feature multiple Uncirculated examples of the MCMVII High Relief double eagle, as here, the popularity of this issue is such that bidding activity is always strong.

PCGS# 9135. NGC ID: 26F2.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) 70th Anniversary Sale, October 2005, lot 1336.*

## Uncirculated 1907 High Relief Saint-Gaudens \$20



1387

**MCMVII (1907) Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle. High Relief. Wire Rim. Unc Details—Cleaning (PCGS).** An additional satisfying example of this 20th Century rarity. The surfaces are slightly bright and glossy but are free from distracting hairlines, with the reverse

remaining particular well preserved. The luster is matte-like in the fields and frames well formed design elements. Overall yellow gold in color with traces of patina visible under magnification.

PCGS# 9135. NGC ID: 26F2.

## Desirable Choice AU 1907 High Relief Double Eagle



1388

**MCMVII (1907) Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle. High Relief. Wire Rim. AU-55 (PCGS).** We are pleased to be offering multiple examples of this beautifully designed and perennially popular 20th century gold issue in this sale. The present lot features a delightful Choice AU with

bright medium gold patina and plenty of original satin luster. Sharply defined throughout and sure to find many willing buyers among advanced gold collectors.

PCGS# 9135. NGC ID: 26F2.

## Bold MCMVII High Relief Double Eagle Wire Rim Variant



1389

**MCMVII (1907) Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle. High Relief. Wire Rim. AU Details—Cleaned (PCGS).** Signs of a light cleaning show in the fields on each side, though the eye appeal remains quite strong. The

luster is largely coarse and matte-like on the obverse, and the surfaces are left without any notable marks. A pleasing representative of this significant rarity by one of the most famed American sculptors.

PCGS# 9135. NGC ID: 26F2.



## Endearing Near-Gem High Relief Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle Scarcer Flat Rim Variant



1390

**MCMVII (1907) Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle. High Relief. Flat Rim. MS-64 (PCGS).** Captivating golden yellow surfaces with a razor sharp strike and full satin luster. The in hand appearance is superior even for the assigned grade, this beautiful coin knocking on the door of a full Gem Mint State rating. One of several opportunities in this sale for the advanced gold enthusiast to acquire a high quality example of this classic double eagle type, the coin offered here is particularly

appealing as a representative of the scarcer Flat Rim variant. Noted in the numismatic community as early as 1908, the Flat Rim variety is thought to comprise only one-third of the 12,367-coin mintage for the MCMVII High Relief double eagle. Examples are often acquired alongside their Wire Rim counterparts by collectors seeking to assemble a complete set of circulation strike Saint-Gaudens twenties.

PCGS# 9136. NGC ID: 26F2.

## Virtually Pristine 1908 No Motto Double Eagle



1391

**1908 Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle. No Motto. MS-68 (PCGS).** An essentially perfect example of this perennially popular type issue from the early Saint-Gaudens double eagle series. Bathed in warm rose-gold patina, both sides also sport a full endowment of softly frosted luster. Boldly struck, expertly preserved and a delight to behold, this coin is likely from the Wells Fargo Nevada Gold hoard of 1908 No Motto double eagles, although it is not designated as such on the PCGS insert. In any event, it is a breathtakingly beautiful Superb Gem that would do equally well in a high grade gold type or date set. While this issue was always available in various grades, the numbers were altered

considerably with the discovery of a large hoard of this particular date that was handled by our own Ron Gillio in the early 1990s. The hoard contained 19,900 double eagles, and they were of incredible quality. Apparently undisturbed since 1917 these bags of 1908 No Motto coins came to light and were named "The Wells Fargo Hoard" from the location where they were stored. The finest coins of this hoard offer unbelievable quality, many Superb Gems, as here, that otherwise would never have been available to today's discerning gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 9142. NGC ID: 26F6.

PCGS Population: 99; 10 finer (all MS-69).

## Exceptionally Well Preserved 1910 Double Eagle PCGS MS-65+



1392

**1910 Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle. MS-65+ (PCGS).** This gorgeous Gem is fully struck and bathed in a handsome blend of roe-gold patina and softly frosted luster. The surfaces are remarkably smooth for the type, and they border on pristine for an example of this conditionally challenging issue. A delight to behold, and sure to have no difficulty finding its way into an advanced double eagle set. The Philadelphia Mint produced 482,000 double eagles for commercial use in 1910, its

most generous total for this denomination from the 1909 to 1920 era. A substantial percentage of the 1910 double eagles mintage ended up overseas, which helps to explain the generous number of Mint State examples available to today's collectors. However, as is the case with several other Saint-Gaudens issues, premium Gems such as this are highly elusive and Superb Gems are all but unknown.

PCGS# 9154. NGC ID: 26FE.

PCGS Population: 4; 6 finer (MS-66+ finest).

## Superior Quality 1911 Double Eagle Scarce Low Mintage Issue



1393

**1911 Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle. MS-65 (PCGS).** A smartly impressed, sharply to fully defined example of this challenging Philadelphia Mint issue. Lustrous with a softly frosted texture from the dies, both sides are further adorned with handsome deep gold and pale rose patina. Produced to the extent of just 197,250 circulation strikes, the 1911 is one of the scarcest early date issues in the Saint-

Gaudens double eagle series. Most Uncirculated survivors grade no finer than MS-64, and many have inferior eye appeal due to subdued lackluster surfaces. Very well produced and preserved, this delightful Gem would serve as a highlight in an advanced double eagle set or larger collection of classic U.S. Mint gold coinage.

PCGS# 9157. NGC ID: 26FJ.

PCGS Population: 49; 25 finer (MS-67 finest).

## Key Condition Rarity 1921 Double Eagle



1394

**1921 Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle. MS-62 (PCGS).** Vibrant satin luster mingles with equally attractive pale rose and medium yellow-gold patina on both sides of this impressive condition rarity among extant 1921 double eagles. Fully struck and outwardly smooth in most areas, were it not for a few extremely minor, well scattered abrasions this coin may have secured a Choice Mint State rating.

The mintage figures for several double eagle issues produced in the 1920s and 1930s mask their rarity today. During the financial crises that resulted from World War I, most double eagles did not circulate domestically but were rather used for international trade, principally to Europe. Demand for double eagles for export soared in the years following the Great War, which resulted in higher production numbers throughout the 1920s. Bags of newly minted Saint-Gaudens double eagles sat in bank and government vaults or were used in prearranged specie payments to foreign banks. Fortunately, some enterprising and well-connected numismatists managed to obtain issues through back channels via bankers and Treasury officials that otherwise would not have entered circulation. This all changed on April 5, 1933 when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 6102 requiring the surrender of all but a desultory amount of gold coin, bullion, and gold certificates in an effort to prevent hoarding. This order was later superseded by Executive Order 6260 signed on August 28, 1933 which included export prohibitions, effectively ceasing the

flow of gold out of the country. The double eagles still in government and bank hands ended up in Treasury melting pots, cast into ingots and transferred to gold reserves. In the process, the vast majority of the Saint-Gaudens double eagles struck in the 1920s and 1930s ended up in government smelters with no regard for date or mintmark.

The 1921 double eagle was the only gold denomination struck that year and then only at the Philadelphia Mint. A few were paid out domestically and as specie payments to Europe following the Great War, but the substantial bulk remained at the Mint. The 1921 double eagle is one such issue that mostly ended up in the melts of the 1930s leaving an estimated 150 coins behind, half of which are in circulated grade levels. When David Akers wrote about this issue, he called it “the premier condition rarity of the Saint-Gaudens series.” Approximately 25 coins are known in higher grades across both PCGS and NGC and this figure undoubtedly represents some resubmissions. Equally daunting, the price of these coins are well into the six-figure range. The present coin combines strong Mint State quality with greater accessibility, making for a desirable combination to today’s dedicated collectors. As one of the most desired twentieth century gold rarities, we are excited to offer such a stunning specimen, and look forward to seeing it cross the block.

PCGS# 9172. NGC ID: 26G2.

PCGS Population: 24; 18 finer.

## Elusive Mint State 1925-S Double Eagle



1395

**1925-S Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle. MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** A charming deep gold example with full mint luster and a predominantly sharp strike. The 1925-S is one of the most challenging Saint-Gaudens double eagles to locate in high grades, a mintage of 3,776,500 pieces concealing its true rarity. Most of the coins struck were retained in federal vaults until destroyed through melting in the late 1930s. Many of the survivors have been repatriated from foreign bank hoards in recent decades, but the numbers involved are limited to the extent

that the 1925-S remains elusive in today's market. Furthermore, this is the only mintmarked double eagle of its era for which approximately half of the extant population is circulated as opposed to Mint State. With precious few examples certified in and Uncirculated grade, this endearing piece represents a significant find for the advanced double eagle collector.

PCGS# 9182, NGC ID: 26GC.

*From the Fairmont Collection.*

## Outstanding Superb Gem 1928 Double Eagle



1396

**1928 Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle. MS-67 (PCGS).** A vibrant fully struck Superb Gem specimen replete with a silky smooth surface texture highlighted by the rose-orange gold patination. Struck on the eve of the Great Depression, the 8,816,000 double eagles struck at Philadelphia proved to be by far the largest mintage for the series and the last readily available issue for the entire series. A significant portion were shipped abroad in international trade while a smaller quantity were paid out domestically. The massive Treasury melts of the 1930s took their toll on the coins that remained. The coins that sat in European and South American vaults fared better since the

vast majority of the surviving specimens among those that returned stateside beginning in the 1940s and 1950s are uncirculated. The issue is readily available up through Gem Mint State and even above. However, at the Superb Gem Mint State level, the numbers diminish drastically; less than 10 grading events at the MS-67+ level have been recorded at both services combined and not a single one above. Even the most selective of connoisseurs would be hard pressed to locate a finer example.

PCGS# 9189, NGC ID: 26GK.

*From our November 2015 Baltimore Rarities Night sale, lot 20147.*

## COMMEMORATIVE SILVER COINS

## Rare Specimen 1938 New Rochelle Half Dollar



1397

**1938 New Rochelle, New York 250th Anniversary. Specimen. MS-66 (NGC).** A brilliant specimen for this presentation issue showing the faintest dusting of original patina. The fields are considerably prooflike and reflective, subtly contrasting the more satiny central elements. Well struck and incredibly significant for advanced collectors of the Classic Commemorative series.

This is one of the very few known Specimen coins struck of the New Rochelle issue in 1938. Breen in his Encyclopedia mentions that "reportedly 50 presentation coins on polished blanks, plus 10-14 Matte Proofs" may have been struck. Kevin Flynn elaborates that

these 50 presentation coins were "distributed in dark red boxes with a velvet liner...these had documents specifying which number they were struck...they include a silver medal produced by Tiffany & Co. from Lorriland Wise's original reverse." NGC has long recognized the special merits of this Specimen issue, though PCGS only recently began to acknowledge their existence in July 2015. The NGC Census lists just 4 examples certified at the SP-66 level and only 6 finer through SP-68, placing the present example among one of the most exclusive peer groups in the series.

PCGS# 99335.

NGC Census: 4; 6 finer through SP-68.



## Impressive Gem Old Spanish Trail Half Dollar None Graded Finer



1398

**1935 Old Spanish Trail. MS-68 (NGC).** Lovely satiny silver surfaces greet the viewer from both sides of this exceptionally smooth example. This is a delightful Superb Gem that is sure to catch the eye of astute collectors. To commemorate the 400th anniversary of the expedition of Spanish explorer Cabela de Vasa and the opening of the Old Spanish Trail, the Act of June 5, 1935 authorized the production of a maximum of 10,000 half dollars. The Philadelphia Mint achieved this mintage, plus an additional 8 coins for assay purposes, and all 10,000 examples

were distributed to contemporary collectors. With its expansive field areas that usually display numerous distracting abrasions, the Old Spanish Trail is one of the most challenging classic commemorative half dollars to locate in the finest Mint State grades. Indeed, the present example would serve as a highlight in even the most advanced cabinet, and none are graded finer at either PCGS or NGC.

PCGS# 9376. NGC ID: BYJ5.

NGC Census: 8; 0 finer.

## COMMEMORATIVE GOLD COINS

## Rare Gem Panama-Pacific \$50 Round



1399

**1915-S Panama-Pacific Exposition \$50. Round. MS-65 (PCGS).**

**Secure Holder.** A remarkably well preserved and smooth-looking example of this legendary rarity among classic U.S. Mint commemorative coinage. Satiny medium gold surfaces are boldly defined throughout with strong eye appeal to match superior technical quality. The obverse of this impressive type depicts Liberty as Athena with her helmet pitched up upon her head in the expected fashion of the Greeks, surrounded by the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA above and the denomination FIFTY DOLLARS below. The motto IN GOD WE TRUST is located in the upper left field. For the reverse the designer, Robert Aitken, features a large owl facing nearly forward, perched on a thick pine branch, with large pine cones below and in the background. The motto E PLURIBUS UNUM is tucked into the field behind the owl. Matching the obverse is a round band at the perimeter which notes the name and place of the Exposition. The

octagonal pieces, but not their round counterparts, include an extra border with dolphins that symbolize the continuous waterway created by the opening of the Panama Canal. The round version of the Panama-Pacific Exposition \$50s did not sell as well as the octagonal style at the time of issue in 1915, hence a greater percentage of the mintage was returned to the Mint for melting. In fact, of the 1,500 round examples struck, only 483 were distributed to contemporary collectors, which paltry total confirms this type as the rarest collectible U.S. Mint commemorative coin. Gems such as this are in the distinct minority among survivors, many of which are impaired due to mishandling, and few of which grade finer than MS-64. A simply incredible example of this prized issue, featured in the popular reference *100 Greatest U.S. Coins* by Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth.

PCGS# 7451. NGC ID: BYLU.

PCGS Population: 24; just 8 finer through MS-66.



## PROOF SET

### 7-Piece 1936 Proof Set Satin and Brilliant Finishes



1400

**1936 Proof Set (PCGS).** All coins are individually graded and encapsulated by PCGS, as follows:

**1936 Lincoln Cent. Satin. Proof-66 RD (PCGS).** A Gem Proof example with beautiful terracotta patina and areas of golden tan luster showing through on the obverse. This is the scarcer of the two variants of the Proof 1936 cent. The issue as a whole is a key date in the Lincoln series with a mintage of 5,569 pieces.

**1936 Lincoln Cent. Brilliant. Proof-66 RD (PCGS).** This is a glistening red-orange example with reflective, watery surfaces and delicate peach hues.

**1936 Buffalo Nickel. Satin. Proof-66 (PCGS).** Offered is an exceptional Gem with a silky smooth texture and a full strike. Lightly toned in silver gray with warmer sandy-gold and lilac marbled throughout.

**1936 Buffalo Nickel. Brilliant. Proof-66 (PCGS).** A vibrant and

flashy example of the Brilliant format with dramatically reflective fields on each side.

**1936 Mercury Dime. Proof-66 (PCGS).** This fully struck, mostly untuned Proof dime is dusted with just the slightest traces of original patina.

**1936 Washington Quarter. Proof-66 (PCGS).** A faint veil of sandy-gold patina is seen on both sides of this brilliant Gem Proof quarter. 1936 is a key date for modern U.S. Mint Proof coinage, and the quarter has the lowest mintage of the five denominations produced at just 3,837 coins struck.

**1936 Walking Liberty Half Dollar. Proof-66 (PCGS).** Largely brilliant in complexion, this Gem reveals subtle traces of olive and peach patina under inspection. It is uniformly mirrored in finish and exceptionally well preserved for a survivor of this key date, 3,901-piece issue.

(Total: 7 coins)

## PATTERN AND EXPERIMENTAL COINS

## Exceedingly Rare Copper Restrike of the 1852 Liberty Seated Silver Dollar One of Just Four Specimens Positively Confirmed to Exist



1401

**1852 Pattern Liberty Seated Dollar. Restrike. Judd-134, Pollock-161. Rarity-7+. Copper. Reeded Edge. Proof-64 BN (PCGS).** The obverse and reverse designs are the same that the Mint used to strike regular issue 1852 Liberty Seated silver dollars. Struck from a reverse die identifiable by a series of short, parallel, nearly horizontal die lines in the field below the eagle's left wing. This die was also used to produce some silver restrikes of the 1852 dollar, including the Norweb specimen (Bowers and Merena, November 1988, lot 3800). This is a handsome specimen — fully Choice in quality — that is also an exceedingly rare coin with tremendous appeal for advanced pattern enthusiasts and specialists in Liberty Seated coinage alike. Both sides are bathed in a blend of orange-copper and medium brown patina. Striking detail is expectably sharp for the method of manufacture with virtually all design elements fully rendered. The in hand appearance is smooth and inviting, close inspection with a loupe revealing faint surface build up that we mention here solely for accuracy. There are few features with which to identify this coin in past and/or future market appearances, but given the extreme rarity of this type we feel compelled to offer a swirl of slightly darker color on the reverse at the letter E in AMERICA for this purpose. Outstanding quality and awesome rarity that are worthy of the strongest bids. A classic key date issue in the challenging Liberty Seated silver dollar series of 1840 to 1873, the regular issue 1852 was produced at a time when the delicate balance between gold and silver on the world market had become upset by the extensive mining of the California Gold Rush. In 1849, one year after James Wilson Marshall's historic discovery at Sutter's Mill on the American River, it cost the Mint \$1.013 in metal to produce a single silver dollar. This premium was not high enough to discourage relatively generous mintages, which were achieved at the request of bullion depositors anyhow, the coins trading for slightly more than face value in commercial channels. By the early 1850s, however, the

price of silver has risen to such a level where the bullion value of coins such as the half dollar and silver dollar far exceeded face value. Most silver coins disappeared from circulation, silver dollars being bought up by exchange and bullion brokers. Under such circumstances there was little incentive for bullion depositors to request new silver dollars for their precious metal, circulation strike mintages at the Philadelphia Mint amounting to just 7,500 coins in 1850, a mere 1,300 coins in 1851, and an even more paltry total of 1,100 pieces in 1852. These deliveries represent significant reductions from the 62,600-piece mintage reported for the circulation strike 1849. Although the Act of February 21, 1853 left the weight of the silver dollar unchanged, the return of smaller denomination silver coins to circulation that the Act facilitated also resulted in an increase in yearly silver dollar coinage. As with their pre-1853 predecessors, those Liberty Seated issues struck in the Philadelphia Mint during later years were made at the request of bullion depositors. Most coins were used in international commerce with England and China, the Liberty Seated silver dollar series as a whole foreshadowing the specialized trade dollar introduced in 1873. The rarity of the low mintage circulation strike 1851 and 1852 silver dollars was recognized early in the growing numismatic community of the 1850s. During the final years of that decade, at the same time that Mint Director James Ross Snowden began marketing yearly Proof coinage to collectors on a wider scale, Mint personnel also produced limited numbers of Proof restrikes of rare key date issues such as the 1851 and 1852 silver dollars. These restrikes are not part of a regular Mint issue, mintage figures were not recorded, and the coins were sold privately to collectors. The first public offering of Proof restrikes of the 1851 and 1852 silver dollars was in Edward Cogan's Simon Gratz Collection sale of May 21, 1859. Snowden, who served as mint director from June 1853 to May 1861, probably oversaw the production of silver restrikes of these two issues from 1858 or early 1859 through the



end of his tenure. Whereas silver restrikes of the 1851 and 1852 Liberty Seated dollars were known to the numismatic community by 1859, the first appearance of copper strikings of the 1851 was in Edward Cogan's F.S. Edwards sale of October 1865. Copper strikings of the 1852 silver dollar appeared even later, the earliest known auction offering part of Edward Cogan's April 1877 A.S. Jenks Collection Sale. In addition to the staggered appearance of these coins in numismatic circles, the existence of several different die varieties points to multiple striking periods for Restrike Proof 1851 and 1852 silver dollars. In addition to the final years of Snowden's tenure as mint director, Henry R. Linderman's two terms in that office (April 1867 to May 1869 and April 1873 to December 1878) are periods of time when many restrikes and other numismatic delicacies are known to have been made for private sale to contemporary collectors. Based on the type's earliest known appearance in Cogan's sale of April 1877, we believe that the copper restrikes of the 1852 silver dollar were produced in the early to mid 1870s during Linderman's second term as mint director. These coins were almost certainly made alongside another batch of silver restrikes since, as related above, all known copper impressions were struck from the same reverse die as at least one of the known silver examples (the Norweb specimen). Copper impressions of the Proof restrike 1852 silver dollar are exceedingly rare — even more so than the silver strikings — the website *uspatterns.com* accounting for approximately half a dozen survivors. We can positively confirm the existence of only

four specimens, one of which has been silver plated:

1 - **PCGS Proof-65 BN**. Pictured on the *PCGS CoinFacts* website.

2 - **PCGS Proof-64 BN**. The present example, also pictured on the *PCGS CoinFacts* website.

3 - **NGC Proof-62 BN**. Ex our (American Numismatic Rarities') Classics Sale of September 2003, lot 51. Likely earlier ex New England Rare Coin Auctions' FUN Auction of January 1981, lot 1107. The plate coin for the type in both the 10th (2009) edition of the Judd pattern reference and on the website *uspatterns.com*.

4 - **NCS Proof. Silver Plated**. Ex Heritage's CSNS Signature Sale of May 2003, lot 7090.

In addition, we are aware of two other auction appearances for this type that likely represent earlier offerings of one or two of the coins listed above: A - Ex Edward Cogan's sale of the A.S. Jenks Collection, April 1877. B - Ex King Farouk of Egypt; Sotheby's sale of the Palace Collections of Egypt, 1954, lot 1746; M.H. Bolender. As the foregoing census makes clear, this is only our second offering for a Proof restrike 1852 silver dollar in copper that we can recall. The present near-Gem, finer than the NGC Proof-62 BN specimen that we (ANR) sold in September 2003, represents a fleeting bidding opportunity for astute pattern and Liberty Seated dollar collectors alike. A highlight of our 2018 ANA Auction that is sure to see spirited bidding.

PCGS# 11570.

## Exceedingly Rare 1871 Judd-1140 Pattern Indian Princess Dollar By Far the Finest of Only Three Known



1402

**1871 Pattern Dollar. Judd-1140, Pollock-1282. Rarity-8. Silver. Plain Edge. Proof-65 (PCGS). CAC. Gold Shield Holder. Obv:** Liberty is seated left with 13 stars around the border and the date 1871 below. She is wearing a Native American headdress, her right hand supports a liberty pole, and her left hand rests atop a globe inscribed LIBERTY. Two flags are behind the portrait, one of which displays 22 stars. The arrangement of the stars around the border, with stars 1 and 13 more distant from the base of the central design, is very similar to that seen on the posthumous 1870 pattern dollars of the Longacre Indian Princess type. Longacre died on January 1, 1869, but his legacy lived on. Unlike the 1870 issues, however, Judd-1140 does not include the designer's name at the lower right corner of the central design. **Rev:** A wreath of cotton and corn encircles the denomination 1 DOLLAR with the word STANDARD inscribed along the upper border.

It is not often in numismatics that one has the chance to purchase a beautiful Gem that is by far the finest of just three known of the variety. Here is such an opportunity and a simply outstanding piece. Both sides are exceptionally vibrant with lovely iridescent toning of olive-gray and tannish-silver. Vivid undertones of gold, blue and pinkish-apricot are seen as is modest field to device contrast. The preservation easily justifies the Gem rating from PCGS.

Judd-1140 is at once a prime rarity among pattern dollars and one of the most enigmatic coins in this highly specialized series. For many years, pattern specialists believed that only one example of Judd-1140 was known to exist. The excellent 1994 book *United States Patterns and Related Issues* by Andrew W. Pollock III records only a single auction appearance of this type (for the present example, in fact), as does the indispensable reference *United States Pattern Coins*, 10th edition, by Dr. J. Hewitt Judd, edited by Q. David Bowers, 2009 (also for the present coin). While the extreme rarity of this type has long been recognized, the existence of a second example in numismatic hands remained unknown until our offering of this coin in August 2014, and for a very simple reason. This coin had been off the market for more than 40 years prior to that, having last appeared at auction in Kagin's Sale of the '70s. Since that event, conducted in November 1973, only one other example of Judd-1140 had been offered for sale — the Farouk specimen that reappeared in Spink Smythe's May 2011 sale

of the Magnolia Collection. The Farouk-Magnolia specimen current resides in a PCGS Proof-62+ holder. This coin is also finer than a third specimen, prior provenance unknown, that appeared at auction in January 2017.

The complete pedigrees for the three known examples of Judd-1140 are as follows:

**1 - PCGS Proof-65.** Ex Kagin's Sale of the '70s, November 1973, lot 806, off the market for 40 years thereafter; our Chicago ANA Sale of August 2014, lot 13289; Heritage's Denver ANA Signature Auction of August 2017, lot 4254. **The present example.**

**2 - NGC Proof-63.** Ex Kentucky Collection; Great Collections' sale of January 2017. As of this writing this coin does not appear in the NGC Census.

**3 - PCGS Proof-62+.** Ex King Farouk of Egypt; Sotheby's sale of the Palace Collections of Egypt, 1954; Spink Smythe's sale of the Magnolia Collection, May 2011, lot 18, where it realized \$54,625. This coin was certified Proof-61 by PCGS at the time of the Magnolia Collection sale, although the Proof-62+ now listed in the PCGS Population Report is presumed to record an upgrade of this coin. The Spink Smythe catalogers contributed to the belief that only one example of Judd-1140 was extant with the following statement in their description: "While one specimen is traced to an 11/73 Kagin's sale, it is quite likely that example and the present are the same." We now know that this statement is false and that the PCGS Proof-65 and Proof-62+ specimens are different coins.

The opportunity to acquire the finest known example of the beautifully designed and exceedingly rare 1871 Judd-1140 Indian Princess pattern dollar is likely to be a once in a lifetime opportunity for most specialists. This is a highlight of the Stack's Bowers Galleries August 2018 ANA Sale, and one of our most important pattern offerings in recent years. This pattern is sure to spark spirited bidder competition among advanced collectors.

PCGS# 61402.

*From Kagin's Sale of the '70s, November 1973, lot 806, off the market for 40 years thereafter; our Chicago ANA Sale of August 2014, lot 13289; Heritage's Denver ANA Signature Auction of August 2017, lot 4254.*

## MINT ERRORS

## Remarkable 1943 Lincoln Cent Overstruck on a 1943 Mercury Dime Ranked No. 39 of the 100 Greatest U.S. Error Coins



1403

**1943 Lincoln Cent—Overstruck on a 1943 Mercury Dime—MS-62 (NGC).** This intriguing and rare double denomination error is ranked No. 39 in the popular reference *100 Greatest U.S. Error Coins* by Nicholas P. Brown, David J. Camire and Fred Weinberg, where it is described as: “A breathtaking coin to see, this double denomination combines the popularity of not only the Lincoln cent and the Mercury dime, but also the 1943 date (caused by the desirability of the famous 1943 copper cents....). This example, like other wrong-planchet, off-metal strikes, resulted from overlooked coins being left in tote bins. From there it was a simple matter for this dime to be mistakenly fed into a press coining cents.” This nice brilliant Uncirculated specimen is one of two known for this date and series, and it shows excellent details of the original dime impression. In this case, the obverse cent design is on the reverse of the dime, and vice versa. This was entirely a random matter, and it just as easily could have been coined in the other orientation. “As has been previously noted, off-metal error coins are very popular. The 1943 error coinage carries special collector interest due to the publicity

surrounding the 1943 bronze cent. There are not many 1943 cents struck on dimes. In high grades they always command a premium.” To this excellent write up we would add very little other than to report that the other known example of a 1943 cent overstruck on a 1943 dime appeared in our (Bowers and Ruddy’s) Terrell Collection sale of May 1973, lot 1092. For that coin, the obverse and reverse of both types were aligned. On the present example, portions of all four digits in the date for the Mercury dime are discernible within the lower portion of the right wheat ear. Special thanks to Saul Teichman for providing us with census and provenance information relating to this significant Mint error.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection. Earlier ex Bill Fivaz, imaged on the cover of the Midwest Error Coin Collectors Association (MECCA) journal, April 1973; our (Bowers and Merena’s) sale of the Bill Fivaz Collection, July-August 2003, lot 3217; Heritage’s Denver, CO Signature & Platinum Night Auction of August 2006, lot 4013. Pictured on page 50 of the 2010 reference 100 Greatest U.S. Error Coins by Nicholas P. Brown, David J. Camire and Fred Weinberg, where it is ranked as No. 39.*

## Fabled 1944 Steel Cent Rarity Among the Finest Certified



1404

**1944 Lincoln Cent—Struck on a Zinc-Coated Steel Planchet—MS-63 (NGC).** This is a lovely example of the 1944-dated counterpart to the 1943 “copper penny” error made famous by Henry Ford. Both sides are sharply struck with most design elements fully defined. The surfaces are predominantly bright silver-gray in appearance with a satiny texture. Scattered carbon deposits account for the MS-63 grade from NGC, although they are not overly distracting at most viewing angles. A centerpiece of the extensive wrong planchet offerings in the John Whitney Walter Collection, and a find for advanced Lincoln cent and Mint error enthusiasts. Like its 1943 bronze cent counterpart, the 1944 steel cent is a highly prized error that has enchanted collectors since its discovery by collector Richard Fenton in 1945. While not as well known as the 1943 bronze cents, the 1944 steel cents are still rare in the ultimate sense. No more than 30 Philadelphia Mint 1944 steel cents are known; the 1943-D steel cent comes in at fewer than 10 pieces known; the 1944-S steel cent is represented by just two examples. The Philadelphia Mint is known to have used zinc-coated steel planchets from its 1943-dated Lincoln cent production to strike Belgian two franc coins in 1944, something that did not occur at either the Denver or San

Francisco facilities and might explain why the 1944 Philadelphia Mint steel cents are a bit more prevalent in numismatic circles. According to the Lange reference on the Lincoln cent series, a single Mint State specimen of this rarity — along with a Mint State 1943 bronze cent — was given to the Mint’s chief engraver, John R. Sinnock, a coin collector himself, who later presented the pair to a “female acquaintance.” The pair of cents passed through the hands of several well known coin dealers including Harry J. Forman and John J. Ford, Jr., who consigned the coins to our (Bowers and Ruddy’s) 1981 ANA auction sale where the steel cent appeared as lot 415. Over the years our offerings for 1944-dated steel cents have usually been few and far between. The present sale, with examples from the Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco mints featured, is an extremely rare occurrence that likely represents a once in a lifetime bidding opportunity for most collectors. The first of multiple (!) Philadelphia Mint coins in the John Whitney Walter Collection, in fact, this Choice Uncirculated example is one of the finest certified and would serve as a highlight in any numismatic cabinet.

PCGS# 82722.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection.*



## A Remarkable Second 1944 Steel Cent



1405

**1944 Lincoln Cent—Struck on a Zinc-Coated Steel Planchet—AU-55 (NGC).** While the inclusion of even a single 1944 steel cent would be the sign of a significant numismatic auction, we are pleased to be offering multiple examples of the Philadelphia Mint error, as well as examples of the even rarer Denver and San Francisco mint errors, in our current sale of the John Whitney Walter Collection. This is the second Philadelphia Mint example in the Walter Collection, and it is a generally steel-gray coin with most design elements boldly defined.

Isolated softness of detail is noted for the centers and here and there around the peripheries. There are no marks of consequence, although we do note speckles of russet color that are associated with light carbon deposits. Undeniably original in preservation, and generally smooth in hand, this coin is sure to have no difficulty finding its way into an advanced Lincoln cent set or Mint error collection.

PCGS# 82722.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection.*

## More Affordable 1944 Steel Cent



1406

**1944 Lincoln Cent—Struck on a Zinc-Coated Steel Planchet—AU Details—Cleaned (PCGS).** A significant opportunity for the budget minded collector to acquire an example of this highly desirable wrong planchet error, the counterpart to the famous 1943 bronze cent. Predominantly silver-gray in appearance, both sides exhibit bold to sharp definition throughout the design. Light hairlining explains the PCGS qualifier, and a few scattered swirls of inactive corrosion are also noted for accuracy, the most prevalent of which

are located along the right obverse border. Our multiple offerings in this sale notwithstanding, these are scarce coins, the Denver and San Francisco mint steel cents of the year nothing short of rare. The present Philadelphia Mint example, while not perfect, has a charm all its own, and it is sure to find many willing buyers in today's competitive numismatic market.

PCGS# 82722.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection.*

## Mint State 1944-D Steel Cent Rarity



1407

**1944-D Lincoln Cent—Struck on a Zinc-Coated Steel Planchet—MS-62 (NGC).** This is a lovely example of a fabled Mint error with technical quality and eye appeal that are superior for the assigned grade. Bright silver-gray surfaces are boldly and sharply struck throughout with a pleasingly smooth appearance in hand. A bit subdued, yet still decidedly satiny in finish, appreciable luster remains to tempt the persistent viewer. No doubt struck early in 1944, in Denver, when the zinc-coated steel planchets of 1943 were being ushered out of the system to make way for production of 1944 bronze cents. It is presumed that a small number of zinc-coated steel planchets were stuck in the press hoppers or tote bins, a similar situation also resulting in the creation of the equally desirable 1944 and 1944-S steel cents. The Denver Mint 1944 steel cents are rarer than their Philadelphia

Mint counterparts, although not as rare as the highly elusive San Francisco Mint pieces. No more than 10 examples of the 1944-D are believed extant, the 2010 book *100 Greatest U.S. Error Coins* by Nicholas P. Brown, David J. Camire and Fred Weinberg providing an estimate of as few as eight coins known. This issue is ranked as #15 in that popular reference. Our offering of the outstanding John Whitney Walter Collection in the present sale represents a fleeting opportunity for the advanced collector to acquire 1944-dated steel cents from all three operating mints — Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco. In uncommonly attractive NGC MS-62 the Denver Mint coin is worthy of the strongest bids.

PCGS# 82725.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection.*

## Exceedingly Rare 1944-S Steel Cent

### The Discovery Specimen from the San Francisco Mint

### One of Just Two Known



1408

**1944-S Lincoln Cent—Struck on a Zinc-Coated Steel Planchet—EF-40 (NGC).** It is a pleasure for us to once again be offering through auction one of the rarest and most significant 1944-dated Lincoln cents struck in error on a zinc-coated steel planchet left over from the preceding year's production. Medium steel-gray patina greets the viewer from both sides, the central design elements boldly and sharply defined. Peripheral detail is quite soft, however, with some of the lettering merged into the rim. Both sides are glossy in texture with wispy hairlines from an old cleaning, a loupe also revealing speckles of light verdigris around the peripheries and microscopic pitting. We mention these features solely for accuracy, as the rarity and significance of this coin are such that it is sure to have no difficulty finding its way into an advanced collection of Lincoln cent or major Mint errors. The San Francisco Mint coins are the rarest of the 1944-dated steel cents, for years the present example unique from the West Coast coinage facility. We (as Bowers and Ruddy) were pleased to present this discovery specimen of the 1944-S steel cent in our January 1983 Roy Harte Collection, Part III sale, where it was featured as lot

787. Interestingly, that sale also featured 1944 steel cents from the Philadelphia and Denver mints. Of that landmark offering, David W. Lange (*The Complete Guide to Lincoln Cents*, 1996) writes: "In fact, this great rarity was the last of three sequential lots comprising a complete set of 1944-dated steel cents from all mints, an opportunity for collectors that may never be repeated." To the best of our knowledge, the present sale represents only the third time in numismatic auction history when 1944-dated steel cents from all three mints were offered side-by-side in the same sale. The second occasion was in January 2016 when Heritage offered selections from the Bob R. Simpson Collection, which included the only other 1944-S steel cent to have ever come to light — the PCGS MS-66 that also ranks as the finest certified 1944 steel cent from any mint. The NGC EF-40 offered here is a leading highlight of the John Whitney Walter Collection and is sure to see spirited bidding among advanced numismatists.

PCGS# 82731.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection. Earlier from our (Bowers and Ruddy's) Roy Harte Collection, Part III sale, January 1983, 787. Pictured in the 1996 reference *The Complete Guide to Lincoln Cents* by David W. Lange.*

## Dramatic and Rare Multi-Piece Bonded Die Cap of 1982 Bronze Lincoln Cents



1409

**1982 Lincoln Cent. Bronze. Large Date—13 and 4-Piece Bonded Die Cap—Mint State (Uncertified).** A truly fascinating piece that ranks as one of the most dramatic and significant bonded errors that we have ever had the privilege of bringing to auction. This bonded obverse die cap actually consists of two pieces, the larger comprising 13 coins and the smaller four coins. The latter fits snugly into the top of the former, and it is likely that the four upper coins detached from the remaining pieces before the entire group finally found its way out of the press. When placed together the entire bonded die cap is approximately 22 mm in height and 53 mm wide, at its greatest dimensions. When offered in Superior's February 1999 sale of the Dr. Juan XII Suros

Collection, this piece was "believed to be the largest known bonded group." The group is as made apart from mottled medium and steel-brown toning, the lack of a zinc core confirming that these are bronze planchets. A particularly interesting feature of this bonded group is the protrusion of a nearly complete cent from the side approximately 75% of the way down the die cap. Highly appealing and a wonderful discussion piece, this bonded group will have no difficulty finding its way into another advanced Mint error cabinet.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection. Earlier ex Bowers and Merena Galleries; Dr. Juan XII Suros; Superior's sale of the Dr. Juan XII Suros Collection, February 1999, lot 63. This piece was featured in an article that appeared in the September 5, 1994 issue of Coin World.*



## 1965 Roosevelt Dime Struck on a Silver Planchet Popular and Rare Transitional Alloy Error



1410

**1965 Roosevelt Dime—Struck on a Silver Dime Planchet—AU-58 (PCGS).** A pleasing example of this elusive error, both sides are lightly toned in wisps of iridescent gold. Lustrous satin surfaces with a bold strike and plenty of satiny luster remaining. This desirable transitional error was struck in the Philadelphia Mint in either 1965 or early 1966, at a time with the facility was producing dimes in both

the outgoing 90% silver composition and the incoming copper-nickel clad composition. The former planchets were supposed to be reserved for 1964-dated dies, but a few found their way into presses fitted with 1965-dated dies, as here. A highlight of the wrong planchet errors in the John Whitney Walter Collection, and a find for the specialist.

PCGS# E5130. NGC ID: 23M4.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection.*

## Rarely Encountered 1944 Quarter Struck on a Steel Cent Planchet



1411

**1944 Washington Quarter—Struck on a Zinc-Coated Steel Cent Planchet—AU Details—Tooled (PCGS).** 2.68 grams. A highlight of the extensive Mint error offerings in the John Whitney Walter Collection, this piece exhibits a full date and clear mintmark area. The strike is flush to the lower obverse and upper reverse borders, all design elements that are present exhibiting sharp definition. The obverse is

bright and satiny, the reverse a bit darker with light granularity and scattered oxidation. These are rare, and they enjoy further appeal among specialists due to their association by date and planchet stock with the 1944 steel cents and their more famous 1943 bronze cent counterparts. Sure to see spirited bidding at auction.

PCGS# E5824.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection.*

# Intriguing Transitional Error 1977-D Washington Quarter Struck on a Silver Clad Planchet Exceedingly Rare



1412

**1977-D Washington Quarter—Struck on a Silver Clad Planchet—AU-55 (NGC).** 5.8 grams. Simply put, this is one of the most significant Mint errors that we have offered in recent sales. Whereas the 1977-D Washington quarter is a copper-nickel clad issue, this piece was erroneously struck on a silver clad planchet used for some of the San Francisco Mint's Bicentennial issues of 1976. NGC has certified this coin as a transitional error, a term reserved for special types of wrong planchet errors that involve coins struck on a planchet from a previous or following year's production involving a chance in metallic composition. The discovery piece for this rare error was reported by Bernie Steinbock prior to 1981. Since then very few others have come to light, and to the best of our knowledge only one other example has

appeared at auction in recent years, an NGC EF Details coin that sold as lot 3499 in Heritage's January 2016 FUN Signature Auction. This error was known to Walter Breen, who assigned it catalog reference number 4457 in his 1988 encyclopedia and described it as such: *"The single great rarity in this period {1977-} is the 1977 D silver-clad; this piece is on an obsolete Bicentennial blank which remained in the hopper at resumption of regular nickel-clad coinage, in exact parallel to the 1943 bronze cents and 1946 wartime silver 5 [cent] coins. How it got to Denver is uncertain."* A pleasing Choice AU, both sides exhibit pale silver toning to sharply struck, near-fully lustrous surfaces. Smooth and inviting in hand, this coin is sure to see spirited bidding among both Mint error specialists and advanced Washington quarter collectors.



# Highly Significant 1942 Half Dollar Struck on a Quarter Planchet

## With Full Date

### Extremely Rare



1413

**1942 Walking Liberty Half Dollar—Struck on a Quarter Planchet—MS-62 (PCGS).** 6.22 grams. This is one of the most desirable examples of this rare wrong planchet error type of which we are aware, primarily due to the manner in which the quarter planchet was aligned between the half dollar dies. The planchet was flush with the bottom of the obverse die with the result that this coin features a full date with all four digits clear. Interestingly, and to illustrate the significance of this feature, the three Walking Liberty half dollars struck on quarter planchets featured in the 2009 reference *World's Greatest Mint Errors* by Mike Byers are either undated (one coin) or display only the tops of the date digits (two coins). On the other hand, the alignment of the reverse is such that the mintmark area is off the planchet, leaving open the possibility that this error could be a product of the Philadelphia, Denver or San Francisco mints, all three of which produced half dollars in 1942. All design features that are present on this piece are sharply to fully defined, the surfaces with splashes of copper-russet patina to otherwise

dominant golden-gray toning. Satiny in texture and smooth in hand, a bit more vibrancy to the luster would likely have resulted in a Choice Mint State grade from PCGS. Walking Liberty half dollars of all dates struck on quarter planchets are exceedingly rare, research conducted by Saul Teichman suggesting that only about 14 different examples are known. The following dates are represented in Teichman's census: (1) 1917 or 1947 (only the very top of the date is discernible); (2) 1941; (5) 1942; (2) 1943; (2) 1944; and (2) undated. The present example is one of several highlights of the extensive Mint error offerings in the John Whitney Walter Collection, and it is sure to see spirited bidding at auction. Special thanks to Saul Teichman for providing us with census and provenance information relating to this significant Mint error.

PCGS# E6614.

*From the John Whitney Walter Collection. Earlier ex Schornstein; Herbert I. Melnick's sale of the New York Collection, July 1983, lot 743; our (Bowers and Merena's) Bebee Collection sale, August 1987, lot 2707. Bowers and Merena lot tag included.*

## PRIVATE AND TERRITORIAL GOLD COINS AND RELATED

## Condition Census 1830 Templeton Reid \$2.50 Gold One of Only Three Mint State Examples Certified



1414

**1830 Templeton Reid \$2.50. K-1. Rarity-6. MS-61 (NGC).** A phenomenal absolute and condition rarity that ranks among the finest certified for an issue that is elusive at all levels of preservation. Satiny surfaces are remarkably smooth for the assigned grade, there being only wispy handling marks and no sizeable or otherwise singularly mentionable blemishes. Both sides exhibit handsome honey-gold patina with glints of warmer deep rose iridescence outlining the design elements. The strike is fully executed and ideally centered on the planchet with all letters and digits bold. Tied for finest certified at the leading third party grading services, this Condition Census coin would serve as a centerpiece in even the finest private and territorial gold cabinet. Although limited from the outset with survivors exceedingly rare today, Templeton Reid's coinage is historically significant as the first private gold coinage of the early 19th century. Reid's production was soon followed by the more extensive coinage of the Bechtler family in Rutherfordton, North Carolina. The design used for all of the Templeton Red issues is simple and purely functional, the obverse of the quarter eagle displaying the date 1830 in the center and the inscription GEORGIA GOLD around the periphery. On the reverse, the name of the firm T. REID is inscribed along the upper border, the denomination 2.50 is in the center, and the word ASSAYER is below. A broad dentilated border is noted for the obverse, but not the reverse. Much of what we know about Templeton Reid is based on the research of Dr. Dexter Seymour, whose estate included an example of this issue certified AU-58 by PCGS that sold as lot 1204 in our May 2013 New Orleans ANA Sale. When we (as Bowers and Merena) offered the Eliasberg specimen in 1996, which we graded as net VF-20, we included the following information: "Gold had been discovered in Georgia during the 1820s. By the latter part of the decade news had spread and many fortune seekers had arrived in the district. Milledgeville, then the state capital, was one of the centers of activity. Templeton Reid, a gunsmith and clockmaker, sensed an opportunity to fill a commercial need by converting gold dust, then traded by weight in the area, into coins. The nearest and only federal mint was at Philadelphia, which was hundreds of miles distant. For an entrepreneurial miner to send bullion there involved several weeks of time, risk of transportation, and loss of capital. On July 24, 1830, an article appeared in the Southern Recorder which told of Reid's new enterprise." "We have examined, during the past week, with great pleasure, an apparatus constructed by our very ingenious fellow citizen, Mr. Templeton Reid for the purpose of putting gold into a shape more convenient than that in which it is originally found. He makes with great facility and great neatness,

pieces worth ten, five, and two and a half dollars. No alloy is mixed with it, and it is so stamped that it cannot be easily imitated. He sets out soon for the mines, and intends putting his apparatus into operation, as soon as he reaches them. "About \$1500 worth of Georgia Gold has been stamped by our ingenious townsman, Mr. Templeton Reid, with handsome dies, showing the actual value of each piece of metal, in parcels of \$2.50, \$5, and \$10....Mr. Reid informs us that the gold dust stamped by him will be taken at the Mint and at most of the banks for the value it purports on its face to bear. This will give it a pretty general currency, and make it answer the purposes of money..." "Shortly thereafter Templeton Reid moved to Gainesville, which was situated closer to the center of actual mining activity. Coins were made and put into circulation, including one specimen which, unfortunately for Reid, found its way to a disgruntled citizen who styled himself anonymously as 'No Assayer' in a letter to the Georgia Courier August 16, 1830, and complained that Reid was making nearly a 7% profit on his coinage scheme, an amount considered to be exploitative. According to 'No Assayer,' Reid's \$10 pieces contained just \$9.38 worth of bullion. Apparently Reid produced his coins from native metal without alloying it to a standard fineness. Although his pieces were worth somewhat less than the face value indicated upon them, it is not known whether Reid was seeking an unusually high profit from his coinage or whether the situation was inadvertent. In any event, this and subsequent newspaper accounts apparently served to diminish the reputation of his coins, and minting ceased." Templeton Reid's private Georgia mint only operated for about three months. Coinage was effected during part of July, all of August and September and part of October, 1830. Many of his coins were subsequently melted by the United States Mint, accounting in part for their extreme rarity today. Dexter C. Seymour, who studied the series intensively, suggested that only about 1,600 coins were produced totally, including approximately 1,000 quarter eagles, 300 half eagles, and 250 eagles. Templeton Reid may have gone to California in 1849, for dies bearing his name were made with that location as an imprint, but if he did, facts concerning his activities in the far West are not known today."

PCGS# 10320. NGC ID: 2B8W.

Combined PCGS and NGC Population: just 3 in all Mint State grades, all MS-61.

Ex S.H. Chapman's sale of the Charles Gregory Collection, June 1916, lot 2283; Henry Chapman's sale of the A.C. Nygren Collection, April 1924, lot 20; J.C. Morgenthau & Co.'s sale of October 1933, lot 236; our (Bowers and Ruddy's) Stanislaw Herstal Collection sale, February 1974, lot 803; our (Stack's) Lighthouse Collection sale, June 1978, lot 677; our (Stack's) sale of the Jerome S. Coles Collection, October 1983, lot 193; C.R.W. Collection.

## Exceedingly Rare 1830 Templeton Reid \$5 Gold

### One of Just Six Examples Known

### Only Four Coins in Private Hands



1415

**1830 Templeton Reid \$5. K-2. Rarity-7+. Genuine—Damage (PCGS).** A truly memorable offering that could very well represent a once in a lifetime bidding opportunity for the advanced collector of private and territorial gold coinage. This is a remarkably attractive coin despite the PCGS designation, both sides retoned nicely in warm honey-gold patina. Tinges of light rose are also evident as the surfaces rotate under a light. The left obverse and right reverse borders are somewhat lightly struck, but all design elements on both sides are clear, and most are bold. Cleaned at one time with a curiously matte-like texture, yet generally smooth in hand, a small mark above the letter D in GOLD and a shallow depression at the border below the letter R in ASSAYER are mentioned solely as identifying features. **EF Details.** We are pleased and fortunate to be offering not only a Condition Census 1830 Templeton Reid \$2.50 in this sale, but also an example of its exceedingly rare \$5 counterpart. The Templeton Reid \$5, in fact, is one of the great rarities among private and territorial gold issues. Dr. Dexter C. Seymour, whose research has provided

us with much of what we know about Templeton Reid, estimates the mintage for the half eagle at just 300 pieces. Most of these coins were melted in the United States Mint after a letter written by a local citizen and published in the August 16, 1830 edition of the *Georgia Courier* revealed that one of Reid's \$10 coins contained only \$9.38 in gold. Reid's coinage operations ceased shortly thereafter, most of the coins eventually being destroyed for their bullion content. According to *PCGS CoinFacts*, only six Templeton Reid \$5 gold coins are known, two of which are permanently impounded in the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution. One of those coins was part of the original Mint Cabinet, while the other was donated as part of the Josiah K. Lilly Collection. Only four specimens are available for private ownership and, to the best of our knowledge, the present offering is only the third public auction appearance for a Templeton Reid \$5 since our (Bowers and Ruddy's) offering of the Nygren-Garrett specimen. A highlight of the present sale, and sure to see spirited bidding among advanced collectors.

PCGS# 10323. NGC ID: 2B8X.

## Endearing Choice AU Christopher Bechtler \$5 Gold K-20 Variety



1416

**Undated (1837-1842) Christopher Bechtler \$5. K-20. Rarity-4. 134.G., 21 CARATS, With Star. AU-58 (NGC).** A handsome piece with subtle pale rose highlights to otherwise dominant olive-khaki patina. All design elements are boldly rendered, the surfaces with a satiny, somewhat granular texture that retains appreciable remnants of the original finish. Scattered handling marks are consistent with the type, a tiny edge nick just past 9 o'clock on the reverse noted for accuracy. That side of the coin is also rotated nearly 90 degrees counterclockwise from normal coin alignment. Although the designs of these Bechtler coins were simple, they stated the necessary information — this is CAROLINA GOLD, 21 CARATS and 134 GRAINS in weight for

the obverse, while the reverse states the maker C. BECHTLER at RUTHERF(ord) and the denomination 5 DOLLARS. Examples of this type circulated widely and were known to be as stated for their purity and weight. A few years after they were struck, the federal government finally stepped in and opened branch mints in the Lower Appalachian region. By 1838, the Charlotte and Dahlonega mints were in production. These historic Bechtler gold coins are highly collectible and usually found in reasonably high numismatic grades. This example is particularly appealing for its technical quality and eye appeal.

PCGS# 10097.

NGC Census: 13; 18 finer (MS-63 finest).

## Historic 1849 Norris, Gregg & Norris \$5



1417

**1849 Norris, Gregg & Norris \$5. K-2. Rarity-5. Plain Edge. AU-58 (NGC).** A handsome and inviting example of one of the most significant private coinage issues from the California Gold Rush. Both sides are bathed in warm olive-orange patina, the surfaces with a soft satin texture that is uncommonly smooth in hand. Striking detail is generally bold with the only mentionable lack of detail confined to the eagle's left leg and the shield on its breast. A significant find at all levels of preservation, this Norris, Gregg & Norris \$5 offers pleasing and scarce Choice AU quality for the advanced territorial gold enthusiast. After the discovery of gold in California in 1848, the influx of prospectors and fortune-seekers far exceeded the coin supply, causing serious financial hardship. Trading in gold dust and nuggets was haphazard at best and susceptible to fraud. In the spring of 1849, partners Thomas H. Norris, Hiram A. Norris, and Charles Gregg established in Benicia City what numismatic scholars consider to be the first mint in the territory. Their firm was certainly the first mentioned in the local press. In the May 31, 1849 edition of the *Alta California*, the editors noted a five-dollar gold coin struck at nearby Benicia City, noting "In general appearance it resembles the United States coin of the same value, but it bears the private stamp of 'Norris, Grieg [sic] & Norris', and is in other

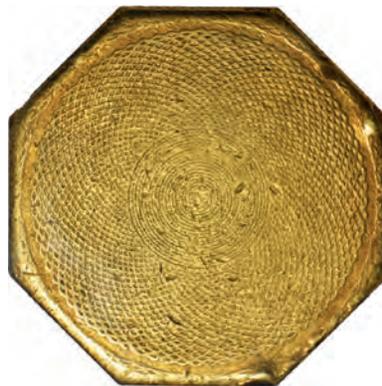
particulars widely different." It is interesting that it was described as resembling federal coins of the time, when in actuality the design of the Norris, Gregg & Norris \$5 is notably different. In 1849, the firm struck several varieties of \$5 gold pieces with plain and reeded edges, as well as with or without a period after the word ALLOY. The coins seem to have been accepted at the time as borne out by the variety of grades observed. Some brokers questioned the coins, but assays by Jacob R. Eckfeldt and William E. DuBois at the United States Mint substantiated their purity. At some point around 1850, Norris, Gregg & Norris established a branch in Stockton. A solitary 1850-dated \$5 coin is known marked STOCKTON and is permanently impounded in the Smithsonian collection. Norris, Gregg & Norris faded into history with no indication of when they ceased operations; references to the coins in local papers had ceased by 1851. Probably struck in limited numbers, and rare today, these coins stand as testimony to the firm's brief minting operations and the start of private coinage in Gold Rush California.

PCGS# 10279.

NGC Census: 7; 18 finer (MS-63 finest).

*From the Blue Ridge Mountains Portfolio.*

## Historic U.S. Assay Office of Gold \$50 “Slug”



1418

**1852 United States Assay Office of Gold \$50. K-13. Rarity-5. 887 THOUS. AU-50 (NGC).** This is a handsome and highly desirable example of this perennially popular California Gold Rush issue. Boldly patinated in a blend of khaki-gold and honey-rose patina, both sides are uncommonly well defined for a lightly circulated survivor of this challenging type. The reverse is bold throughout the target design, while the obverse retains relatively sharp detail to the eagle, scroll and central inscription. The date is clear and the peripheral

inscription, while typically weak in isolated areas, is near-fully legible. Scattered handling marks are commensurate with the type, as are a few edge bruises. With an overall positive appearance and tremendous historic appeal, this coin is sure to have no difficulty finding its way into a specialized cabinet focused on Territorial gold coinage or the California Gold Rush era. Struck by the United States Assay Office of Gold, successor to Moffat & Co. and essentially a reorganization of that firm under Curtis, Perry and Ward.

PCGS# 10017. NGC ID: ANHG.

## Important Mint State 1853 Assay Office \$20 Gold

### Rare 884 THOUS. Variety



1419

**1853 United States Assay Office of Gold \$20. K-17. Rarity-7-. 884 THOUS. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Enveloped in an even light amber gold color with smooth satiny finish, the surfaces are devoid of any serious abrasions that plague this series, or pioneer gold of any sort. Dramatically lustrous with a vivid and bold cartwheel effect on the obverse and reverse, it is hard to imagine an example with finer eye appeal, a quality readily recognized by CAC as evidenced by their endorsement. The United States Assay Office of Gold is as much part of the story of the California Gold Rush as the 1848 discovery of gold along the banks of the American River at the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains at Sutter's Mill near Coloma. In 1849 John Little Moffat and his three partners, Joseph R. Curtis, Philo H. Perry, and Samuel H. Ward established the private assaying and refining business of Moffat & Company in San Francisco. Soon thereafter, Moffat & Co. began producing circulating gold ingots as well as \$5 gold pieces at their facilities located at the corner of Clay and Dupont Streets. The company quickly garnered an excellent reputation and their business thrived, unlike many of the early pioneer assay and coining firms. The rapid influx of "Forty-niners" to the gold fields hoping to find their fortune resulted in an acute shortage of circulating currency. Even though there were proposals to establish a branch mint as early as 1849, competing political interests delayed action. Finally, Congress passed a compromise bill on September 30, 1850 which established the United States Assay Office. Not long after passage of the act, the two entered into a contract to operate as the United States Assay Office of Gold while retaining the original company name with New York watchmaker and engraver Augustus Humbert appointed as United States Assayer. Moffat & Co. continued operation as before until January 1852 when Moffat sold his interest to his partners. Under the dissolution terms, the remaining partnership of Curtis, Perry and Ward would retain the Moffat & Company corporate name and continue to strike circulating

ingots under government contract. On February 14, the remaining partners dispensed with the Moffat & Co. name and officially formed the United States Assay Office of Gold. Even though they bore the name of the United States Assay Office of Gold, the coins carried no legal tender status. Because the office lacked equipment to refine gold to federal standards of 90% gold and 10% copper, the coins were struck in .880, .884, and .887 fine gold. Beginning in 1852, the office began to produce \$10 and \$20 gold pieces in .884 fine gold. When sets of dies were originally prepared under Humbert's direction, the original order set the fineness at 880 THOUS, but this was soon changed to 884 before any coins were struck. Evidence of this alteration can be seen in the form of traces of the original 0 under the 4. Pressure to conform to the legal gold alloy eventually compelled the firm to start producing coins at the mandated standard, albeit using the naturally occurring gold and silver alloy. The United States Assay Office of Gold ceased operations on December 14, 1853, in anticipation of the opening of the San Francisco Mint. The firm supplied both the building and machinery for the new United States branch mint, its location on Commercial Street near Montgomery being the site were the San Francisco Mint struck its first Liberty double eagles on April 15, 1854. Once the mint was in operation, the coins of the U. S. Assay Office of Gold very quickly disappeared into the San Francisco Mint's melting pots. Today, the \$20 gold pieces struck in .884 fine gold are very scarce in any condition even among the rarified world of territorial gold coins. At the uncirculated degrees of preservation, the issue is decidedly challenging with only six grading events recorded at PCGS. An exceptionally well-preserved specimen of an historic issue that will soon reside in an advanced holding of pioneer gold.

PCGS# 10010. NGC ID: ANHC.

PCGS Population: 3; 3 finer (MS-63 finest).

*From our August 2014 sale of the 1853 Collection, lot 10068. Earlier from Heritage's sale of June 1997, lot 6562.*

## Perennially Popular 1853 U.S. Assay Office of Gold \$20



1420

**1853 United States Assay Office of Gold \$20. K-18. Rarity-2. 900 THOUS. MS-60 (NGC).** Lovely medium gold surfaces are sharply to fully struck over virtually all design elements. Both sides are lustrous, as befits the assigned grade, with a softly frosted texture from the dies. Fairly smooth overall, and sure to have no difficulty finding its way into an advanced numismatic cabinet. This is one of the most frequently encountered types in the privately minted California Gold Rush coinage series of the late 1840s and 1850s. The United States Assay

Office of Gold under Curtis, Perry and Ward struck 2.5 million 900 THOUS \$20 gold pieces from the beginning of March to the end of October, 1853. The coins were widely distributed, with many finding their way into circulation on the West Coast and others being shipped back to the Eastern United States as gold bullion. Thirty different dies were used to produce this high mintage issue, and they survived until destroyed by fires caused by the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. Mint State survivors such as this are away in demand.

PCGS# 10014. NGC ID: ANHD.

## Legendary 1849 Pacific Company \$1 The Finest of Just Three Examples Known



1421

**1849 Pacific Company \$1. K-Unlisted. Rarity-8. MS-61 (NGC).** A highly significant offering and fleeting bidding opportunity for the advanced collector specializing in private and territorial gold coinage. This is an endearing specimen, both sides with delicate pale rose and powder blue highlights to dominant light golden patina. The strike is exceptional for a privately issued gold coin, all design elements boldly to sharply defined. Wispy hairlines and a slightly subdued finish explain the MS-61 grade from NGC, but the in hand appearance is quite smooth and the eye appeal is far superior to that of the only other example of this type currently traced.

Only three examples of this legendary rarity are known to exist, one of which was stolen in 1967 and has since been lost to the numismatic community.

1 - **NGC MS-61.** Ex Ben Green's sale of August 1910; Virgil M. Brand, acquired August 1910 via private sale, Brand Journal number 54157; J.C. Morgenthau & Co.'s sale of October 1933, lot 275, returned to Brand heirs; Brand estate - Armin Brand - Jane Brand Allen; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Virgil M. Brand Collection, Part II, June 1984, lot 1545; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Jay Roe Collection, July 2002, lot 943; Stuart Levine; Heritage's sale of the Riverboat Collection, April 2014, lot 5432. **The present example.**

2 - **NCS AU Details—Mount Removed.** Ex our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Paul S. Mory, Sr. Collection, June 2000, lot 1041; our (American Numismatic Rarities') Old West and Franklinton Collections sale, August 2006, lot 1128. This coin was discovered by metal detectorist, Jerold Reinford, in New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, June 1999.

3 - **Holed.** Ex H.O. Granberg (1914 ANS Exhibition); Waldo C. Newcomer; B. Max Mehl, ca. 1931; Charles Williams (Numismatic Galleries 1951 FPL); possibly to Lamot duPont; Willis duPont; stolen in 1967 and since untraced.

As the California Gold Rush heated up, many enterprising companies struck out for the gold fields with the hopes of assaying the finds and producing locally accepted privately issued coins. While there are recorded a number of such proposed companies with "Pacific" in their names, it is widely accepted that the Pacific Company formed in Boston on January 8, 1849 by John W. Cartwright is the organization originally behind the Pacific Company coinage. Composed of 38 subscribers who contributed \$1,000 each to join, the Pacific Company bought and outfitted the vessel York. As part of their equipment were sets of dies for a planned issue of \$1, \$2.50, \$5, and \$10 gold pieces. The four denominations all bear a version of the same design: on the obverse is a Liberty cap with stars and rays (closely resembling Mexican silver

coins of the period) with the denomination indicated below and on the reverse is a heraldic eagle clutching an olive branch and hammer surrounded by the legend, PACIFIC COMPANY, CALIFORNIA, and the date 1849. The York sailed out of Boston Harbor on April 1, 1849 and arrived in San Francisco Bay on September 16. One of the company members presciently observed in his diary: "All that board us say that our company will break up as all others have done." That is indeed what happened not long after the party arrived at their destination of Benicia on October 8. Scarcely twelve days later the Pacific Company was officially dissolved and its members went their separate ways without having ever striking a single gold coin.

Based on a thorough analysis of surviving Pacific Company coins, the dies apparently came into the possession of the well-established assay company of Broderick & Kohler in San Francisco soon after the original company's dissolution. Col. Jonathan D. Stevenson, a former commander of a regiment of New York Volunteers and a veteran of the Mexican War found early success in the Gold Rush. He brought in fellow New Yorkers Frederick D. Kohler and David C. Broderick to begin an assay and refining firm that soon branched out into coining using the Pacific Company dies. Broderick & Kohler opted to use the dies with no modification to produce their own coinage, primarily consisting of \$5 and \$10 pieces. Unlike most private coiners, Broderick & Kohler did not use a screw press but instead produced their coins using a sledgehammer. When the coins were first introduced into daily commerce, the coins were accepted at par initially under the premise that anything was better than using raw gold dust and placer gold. Like many other of the earliest private coiners during the Gold Rush, the coin's purity was inconsistent at best, mostly based on the fineness of the metal as originally mined without much further refinement. While some coiners tried to compensate for this by making their coins heavier, the Pacific Company coins were not, earning the business a decent return on investment while short-changing the public who used the coins. This business model fared well for both Broderick and Kohler because of the high profit margin and, combined with successful real estate investments, they soon were able to shutter their assay and coining business. Broderick was elected as state senator in January of 1850 and left the partnership, while Kohler carried on for only a couple of months before shuttering the business and selling off all the firm's equipment in its entirety in March to Baldwin & Co., long before the comparatively low purity of their product was discovered. When examples of the \$5 and \$10 coins were assayed by the Mint in 1851, they were found to have an intrinsic value of \$4.48 and an astonishingly low \$7.76, respectively, among the lowest of the private issuers at the time. Once news of the poor assays reached California, the coins were

promptly rejected as sub-par and quickly found themselves in melting pots within just a few years, accounting for the tremendous rarity of any Pacific Company issue today. Despite the assay results, Kohler and Broderick's reputations appear to have not been substantially impacted. Kohler became State Assayer the following month and continued on in local public service until his death in 1864. Broderick was eventually elected U.S. Senator for California in 1857, an office he held until he was killed in a duel in 1859.

While dies were produced for a \$2.50 coin, no gold example has to date ever been found or recorded, just a precious few silver patterns. For decades, the gold dollar was also widely assumed to have been struck in gold for circulation. At least three silver pattern strikes are known, including a uniface obverse struck on a 1776 Spanish colonial 1 real coin and another overstruck on a half dime, as well as additional extremely rare specimens struck in white metal. Precisely who struck the off-metal patterns is not known; they could have been produced back East when the dies were prepared or by Broderick & Kohler to test their coining equipment. Wayne Raymond illustrated a holed example of the gold dollar (almost certainly the Granberg-Newcomer-Mehl-Williams-duPont specimen) in his 1931 work, *Private Gold Coins Struck in the United States, 1830-1861*, though with no commentary. Even in 1981's landmark *Private Gold Coins and Patterns of the United States* by Donald Kagin the \$1 issue was listed as a pattern.

The \$1 piece continued to be considered a pattern for many years until June of 1999 when a metal detector in New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania recovered a gold specimen. This coin was at one time mounted onto jewelry and retains the evidence of the solder used to mount the coin. As news of the confirmation that gold \$1 coins exist, the issue once again attracted interest. The Granberg-Newcomer-Mehl-Williams-duPont piece illustrated by Raymond back in 1931 was also reassessed and though the coin itself cannot be examined, it is regarded to be a gold coin. Since the turn of the twentieth century, this specimen was

originally thought to be a gilt silver pattern and was listed as such until 2002 when it was suspected to actually be struck in a somewhat lower grade gold alloy. The coin was then certified by NGC and confirmed to be gold, only the second confirmed Pacific Company \$1 piece so identified.

The two currently available specimens were given metallurgical tests and were found to have wildly differing purity levels. The discovery piece was found to be comprised of 64.5% gold, 16.1% silver, 8.9% copper, 5.3% silicon, 4.0% aluminum, and 1.1% iron while this piece is 72.2% gold, 16.8% silver, and 11.0% copper. This is consistent with naturally occurring unrefined California gold found at differing locales. Such varying purity was later accepted as normal with the Period I fractional gold coins that started to be produced by local jewelers around 1853, though by then these served more as a token currency unlike what was expected to be a dollar's worth of precious metal just a few years earlier.

The three gold pieces known only survived due to pure circumstance; the New Bethlehem coin was no doubt only preserved for posterity because it was considered a souvenir at the time and incorporated into jewelry rather than be sold as scrap gold and end up in a crucible. Today only three \$1 gold coins are known, of which only two are traceable. This is the only undamaged example of the issue and by far the finest extant. Here is presented a singular opportunity to add a superlative example of one of the great rarities of California Gold Rush numismatics.

PCGS# 45435. NGC ID: ANGB.

*Ex Ben Green's sale of August 1910; Virgil M. Brand, acquired August 1910 via private sale, Brand Journal number 54157; J.C. Morgenthau & Co.'s sale of October 1933, lot 275, returned to Brand heirs; Brand estate - Armin Brand - Jane Brand Allen; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Virgil M. Brand Collection, Part II, June 1984, lot 1545; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Jay Roe Collection, July 2002, lot 943; Stuart Levine; Heritage's sale of the Riverboat Collection, April 2014, lot 5432.*

## Elusive Silver Die Trial of the 1849 Pacific Company \$2.50 Tied for Finest Certified at PCGS



1422

**1849 Pacific Company \$2.50. Silver Die Trial. K-2. Rarity-6+. AU-55 (PCGS).** This is a richly original, aesthetically pleasing example that would be just right for an advanced collection of private and territorial gold coinage. Warm pewter gray patina blankets both sides, and the obverse has bold midnight blue outlines to the design elements. The devices on the reverse are ringed in golden-copper iridescence that yields to vivid blue and pink undertones. The strike is essentially full

and, indeed, this satiny beauty is not far from full Mint State quality. Wispy handling marks are mostly minor and easily overlooked, although there is a concentration of light scrapes near the left reverse border before the digit 2 in the denomination. Premium quality for the assigned grade, and a delight to behold, this is a highly desirable counterpart to the legendary 1849 Pacific Company \$1 offered above.

PCGS# 10301.

PCGS Population: just 3; 0 finer.

## Rare and Intriguing Oregon Exchange Company \$5 Gold



1423

**1849 Oregon Exchange Company \$5. AU-55 (PCGS).** A highlight of the extensive gold offerings in this sale, this \$5 Oregon “Beaver” would serve as a focal point in the finest collection of California Gold Rush and related coinage. Warm, even, khaki-gold patina blankets both sides, direct lighting also calling forth subtle rose-orange undertones. All design elements are boldly outlined and fully appreciable, the beaver with a clear eye and some of its “fur” also discernible. Traces of original luster persist in the protected areas to further tempt the viewer as the coin dips into a light. Pleasingly smooth in hand for a lightly circulated example of this elusive and challenging type, we anticipate strong competition for this coin among advanced collectors. Many Oregonians who traveled to California to seek their fortune in the gold fields returned home bringing with them quantities of nuggets and gold dust. As in neighboring California, local money was in short supply and use of gold dust as a medium of exchange was fraught with difficulties. To address this issue, the Oregon Exchange Company was established by several prominent Oregon City residents in early 1849. The obverse of the five-dollar coins all bear a rustic depiction of a beaver on a log and the initials of the company officers who contributed to the purchase of the coining equipment: Kilborn, Magruder, Taylor, Abernethy, Willson, Rector, Campbell (which was erroneously entered as a G), and Smith. The T. O. — another die engraver error — represents

Oregon Territory. This transposition was corrected on examples of the \$10 denomination attributed as Kagin-2. While no effort was made to standardize the alloy, the coiners compensated for this by deliberating making the coins overweight. U.S. Mint assays report that the five-dollar coins were valued at \$5.50. While this helped to guarantee their acceptance, being worth more than their stated value ensured that the pieces would be taken in at face and melted down for their intrinsic value. It has been estimated that roughly 6,000 of the \$5 coins were produced before minting operations ceased in September 1849 when the company’s two crucibles broke and the principals decided to disband. “Beaver Money,” as the coins were soon nicknamed, proved popular in commerce as evidenced by the wide range of grades in which they have been found. Mint State examples of the \$5 are among the rarest of the rare and undamaged, lightly circulated specimens such as this are nearly as challenging to find. With their charming beaver design and rich history, Oregon Exchange Company gold coins have been favored by the territorial gold collecting community for generations. Opportunity is the byword here and it is one that should not be passed up.

PCGS# 10288. NGC ID: ANJV.

PCGS Population: 1; 3 finer, only one of which is Mint State (MS-62).

*From the Blue Ridge Mountains Portfolio.*

## Exceedingly Rare 1854-DERI BG-529 Octagonal \$1 Fewer than Five Coins Known



1424

**1854-DERI Octagonal \$1. BG-529. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. AU Details—Damage (PCGS).** A fleeting bidding opportunity for the advanced collector specializing in California small denomination gold coinage. This is an exceptionally attractive coin for the assigned grade, both sides exhibiting subtle deep rose highlights to otherwise dominant olive-gold patina. Satiny in texture and generally smooth in hand, bold to sharp definition for most major design elements is also a praiseworthy attribute. The PCGS qualifier concerns evidence of a slight bend that seems to have originated with damage incurred at the left border. BG-529 is similar in design to BG-527 and BG-528, although it is easily distinguished by having two stars (as opposed to one) at the right reverse border between the words GOLD and DERI. This variety was unknown to the numismatic community until famed California small denomination gold collector Dr. John Wesel “Jay” Roe discovered an example in September 1980. Since that time the major certification services have reported five *grading events* for this variety of which we are aware, although at least two of these entries represent

the same coin. We can positively confirm the existence of just three examples:

1 - **PCGS AU-58+**. Ex Heritage’s Denver ANA Signature Coin Auction of August 2017, lot 4248. This coin was offered as an NGC AU-58 in that sale, and it appears to still be listed as such at that service.

2 - **PCGS AU-50**. Ex Don Lynch, San Jose Coin Shop, acquired by the following on September 24, 1980; our (Bowers and Merena’s) sale of the Jay Roe Collection, September 2003, lot 127. The discovery specimen for the BG-529 variety.

3 - **PCGS AU Details—Damage**. *The present example.*

The NGC Census also lists an MS-61 for this variety, which may be a fourth example or an upgrade of the PCGS AU-58+ listed above. Our first offering for the BG-529 variety since handling the Jay Roe specimen in 2003, this lot is sure to see spirited bidding among specialists.

PCGS# 10506. NGC ID: 2BLU.



## Lovely and Rare 1943 New York Assay Office Gold Ingot



1425

**1943 New York Assay Office Gold Ingot. 35 mm x 58.5 mm x 10.5 mm. 12.57 ounces, .9995 fine.** This impressive bar has the familiar seal neatly centered on the face with the inscription U.S. ASSAY OFFICE / NEW YORK around the Great Seal eagle, with the date 1943 above the eagle. Below the seal is stamped FINE / 999.5. The top of the bar is stamped 956 0, the bottom 400, and the right edge OZS. 12.57. The back of the bar is uninscribed, and has a slight incuse area in its

center formed when the molten gold solidified. Bright golden-yellow patina throughout, and a pleasing example with only the normal signs of minor handling. These gold bars or ingots were sold by the New York Assay Office long ago, and most were melted with the precious metal used in industry. Very few were retained for collecting purposes and, indeed, all New York Assay office gold ingots are rare. One of several examples that we are pleased to be offering in this sale, and a significant find for the advanced collector.

## A Second 1943 New York Assay Office Gold Ingot



1426

**1943 New York Assay Office Gold Ingot. 35 mm x 58.5 mm x 9 mm. 10.49 ounces, .9998 fine.** This bar has the familiar seal at the top of the face with the inscription U.S. ASSAY OFFICE / NEW YORK around the Great Seal eagle, with the date 1943 above the eagle. Below the seal is stamped FINE / 999.8. The top of the bar is stamped 14831, the bottom 1 (or ??), and the right edge OZS. 10.49. The back of the bar is

uninscribed, and has a slight incuse area in its center formed when the molten gold solidified. Bright golden-yellow patina throughout, and an attractive example with generally minor signs of handling. A minor scuff at the right edge of the face is noted for accuracy, as is a slightly uneven impression to the seal that does not include the digit 1 in the date. A second opportunity for the specialized collector to acquire one of these rare gold ingots from the New York Assay Office.

## Large and Impressive 1968 New York Assay Office Gold Ingot



1427

**1968 New York Assay Office Gold Ingot. 38 mm x 56.5 mm x 21 mm. 25.96 ounces, .9998 fine.** This bar has the familiar seal at the top of the face with the inscription U.S. ASSAY OFFICE / NEW YORK around the Great Seal eagle, with the date 1968 above the eagle. Below the seal is stamped FINE / 999.8. The top of the bar is stamped 36502, the bottom R185, and the right edge OZS. 25.96. The back of the bar

is uninscribed with a smooth, slightly incuse area in its center. Bright golden-yellow patina throughout, and an attractive example with only the normal minor signs of handling. The stamps are all boldly impressed and clear, and the ingot has a truly satisfying heft in hand. All the New York Assay Office bars and ingots are rare, particularly in larger sizes, as here. A true showpiece which will cause excitement whenever it is displayed.

### END OF SESSION THREE

# Bidding Increments

Bid	Bid Increment
\$0-\$99	\$5.00
\$100-\$199	\$10.00
\$200-\$499	\$20.00
\$500-\$999	\$50.00
\$1,000-\$1,999	\$100.00
\$2,000-\$4,999	\$200.00
\$5,000-\$9,999	\$500.00
\$10,000-\$19,999	\$1,000.00
\$20,000-\$49,999	\$2,000.00
\$50,000-\$99,999	\$5,000.00
\$100,000-\$199,999	\$10,000.00
\$200,000-\$499,999	\$20,000.00
\$500,000-\$999,999	\$50,000.00
\$1,000,000-\$1,999,999	\$100,000.00
\$2,000,000+	\$200,000.00

## Bank Wire Information:

**For Domestic (U.S.) Banks, please direct your bank wire transfer to:**

Bank Name: CIT Bank N.A.

ABA/Routing#: 322270288

Account Name: Stack's Bowers Numismatics LLC

Address: 75 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena, CA 91103

Account Number: 1311011385

**For Foreign Banks\*, please direct your bank wire transfer to:**

Bank Name: OneWest Bank, N.A.

International Swift Code: OWBKUS6L

Account Name: Stacks Bowers Numismatics LLC

Address: 75 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena, CA 91103

Account Number: 1311011385

\*Bank wires sent from a foreign bank are subject to an international bank wire fee of \$35. If an international order will be settled using a different form of payment, please contact us by phone or email to have the wire fee removed. If the wire will be sent in any currency other than USD, Stack's Bowers Galleries needs to be contacted prior to the transfer in order to arrange for an intermediary bank.



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2. Descriptions and Grading. Bidder acknowledges that grading of most coins and currency in this Auction has been determined by independent grading services, and those that are not may be graded by Stack's Bowers. Grading of rare coins and currency is subjective and, even though grading has a material effect on the value of the coins and currency, grading may differ among independent grading services and among numismatists. Stack's Bowers is not responsible for the grades assigned by independent grading services, and makes no warranty or representation regarding such grades. Bidder further acknowledges and agrees that grades assigned by Stack's Bowers and lot descriptions are based solely upon an examination of the coins and currency and are intended to identify coins and currency and note any perceived characteristics. However, coin grading and descriptions are subjective. Stack's Bowers does not warrant the accuracy of such grading or descriptions, nor do they in any way form the basis for any bid. All photographs in this catalog are of the actual items being sold but may not be the actual size or to scale.

3. The Bidding Process. The Auctioneer shall have the right to open or accept the bidding on any lot by placing a bid on behalf of the Consignor or his or her agent; a Bidder by mail, telephone, Internet or telefax; or any other participant in the Auction Sale. Bids must be for an entire lot and each lot constitutes a separate sale. All bids must be on increment as established by the Auctioneer, or half increment (a cut bid). Non-conforming bids will be rounded down to the nearest full increment and this rounded bid will be the bidder's high bid. No lot will be broken up unless otherwise permitted by the Auctioneer. Lots will be sold in their numbered sequence unless Auctioneer directs otherwise. All material shall be sold in separate lots to the highest Bidder as determined by the Auctioneer. Auctioneer shall have the right in its sole and absolute discretion to accept or decline any bid, establish bid increments, challenge any bid or bidding increment, to reduce any mail bid received, adjudicate all bidding disputes, to exclude any bidder and to determine the prevailing bid. The Auctioneer shall have the right, but not the obligation, to rescind the acceptance of any bid and place the lot(s) for Auction Sale again. Auctioneer's decision on all bidding disputes shall be binding and final. For the mail and Internet Bidder's protection, no "unlimited" or "buy" bids will be accepted. When identical bids are received for a lot, preference is given to the first bid received as determined by the Auctioneer. A mail bid will take precedence over an identical floor bid; a Floor Bidder, Telephone

Bidder and Live Internet Bidder must bid higher than the highest mail bid to be awarded any lot. Cut bids are only accepted on bids greater than \$500 and each bidder may only execute one cut bid per lot. Bids will not be accepted from persons under eighteen (18) years of age without a parent's written consent which acknowledges the Terms of Sale herein and agrees to be bound thereby on behalf of the underage Bidder. The auction sale is complete when the Auctioneer so announces by the fall of the hammer or in any other customary manner.

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Certain auctions or auction sessions, will be conducted exclusively over the Internet, and bids will be accepted only from pre-registered Bidders.

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4. Bidder Registration Required. All persons seeking to bid must complete and sign a registration card either at the auction or online, or otherwise qualify to bid, as determined in the sole discretion of the Auctioneer. By submitting a bid, the Bidder acknowledges that Bidder has read the Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale, the descriptions for the lot(s) on which they have bid, and that they agree to be bound by these Terms of Sale. This agreement shall be deemed to have been made and entered in California. The Bidder acknowledges that the invoice describing a lot by number incorporates the catalog and Terms of Sale. Person appearing on the OFAC list are not eligible to bid.

5. Buyer's Premiums. A premium of twenty percent (20%) based upon the total amount of the hammer (minimum of \$20), will be added to all purchases of individual lots, regardless of affiliation with any group or organization (the "Buyer's Premium"). A reacquisition charge may apply to Consignors pursuant to a separate agreement, which may be higher or lower than the Buyer's Premium.

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## Terms & Conditions (cont.)

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8. Financial Responsibility. In the event any applicable conditions of these Terms of Sale herein are not complied with by a Buyer or if the Buyer fails to make payment in full by the Default Date, Stack's Bowers reserves the right, in its sole discretion, in addition to all other remedies which it may have at law or in equity to rescind the sale of that lot or any other lot or lots sold to the defaulting Buyer, retaining all payments made by Buyer as liquidated damages, it being recognized that actual damages may be speculative or difficult to compute, and resell a portion or all of the lots held by Stack's Bowers, in a commercially reasonable manner, which may include a public or private sale, in a quantity sufficient in the opinion of Stack's Bowers to satisfy the indebtedness, plus all accrued charges, and Stack's Bowers may charge a seller's commission that is commercially reasonable. More than one such sale may take place at the option of Stack's Bowers. If Stack's Bowers resells the lots, Buyer agrees to pay for the reasonable cost of such sale, together with any incidental costs of sale, including reasonable attorney's fees and costs, cataloging and any other reasonable charges. Notice of the sale shall be by U.S.P.S. Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to the address utilized on the Bid Sheet, Auction Consignment and Security Agreement or other last known address by Stack's Bowers. The proceeds shall be applied first to the satisfaction of any damages occasioned by Buyer's breach, then to any other indebtedness owed to Stack's Bowers, including without limitation, commissions, handling charges, carrying charges, the expenses of both sales, seller's fees, reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, collection agency fees and costs and any other costs or expenses incurred. Buyer shall also be liable to Stack's Bowers for any deficiency if the proceeds of such sale or sales are insufficient to cover such amounts.

Buyer grants to Stack's Bowers, its affiliates and assignees, the right to offset any sums due, or found to be due to Stack's Bowers, and to make such offset from any past, current, or future consignment, or purchases that are in the possession or control of Stack's Bowers; or from any sums due to Buyer by Stack's Bowers, its affiliates and assignees. In addition, defaulting Buyers will be deemed to have granted to Stack's Bowers, its affiliates and assignees, a security interest in: (x) the purchased lots and their proceeds, and (y) such sums or other items and their proceeds, in the

possession of Stack's Bowers, its affiliates or assignees, to secure all indebtedness due to Stack's Bowers and its affiliated companies, plus all accrued expenses, carrying charges, seller's fees, attorney fees, and costs, until the indebtedness is paid in full. Buyer grants Stack's Bowers the right to file a UCC-1 financing statement for such items, and to assign such interest to any affiliated or related company or any third party deemed appropriate by Stack's Bowers. If the auction invoice is not paid for in full by the Default Date, a carrying charge of one-and-one-half percent (1-1/2%) per month may be imposed on the unpaid amount until it is paid in full. In the event this interest rate exceeds the interest permitted by law, the same shall be adjusted to the maximum rate permitted by law, and any amount paid in excess thereof shall be allocated to principal. Buyer agrees to pay all reasonable attorney's fees, court costs and other collection costs incurred by Stack's Bowers or any affiliated or related company to collect past due invoices or to interpret or enforce the terms hereof or in any action or proceeding arising out of or related to the Auction Sale. Stack's Bowers reserves the right to assign its interest to any third party. To the extent that the Buyer for any lot consists of more than one person or entity, each such person or entity is jointly and severally liable for all obligations of the Buyer, regardless of the title or capacity of such person or entity. Stack's Bowers shall have all the rights of a secured creditor under Article 9 of the California Commercial Code and all rights of the consignor to collect amounts due from the Buyer, whether at law or equity.

9. Shipping. It is the Buyer's responsibility to contact Stack's Bowers after the sale to make shipping and packaging arrangements. Due to the fragile nature of some lots, Stack's Bowers may elect not to assume responsibility for shipping or packing, or may charge additional shipping and handling. Lots indicated as being "framed" or that are specifically identified in the catalog are shipped at Buyer's risk. All taxes, postage, shipping, if applicable, handling, insurance costs, the Buyer's Premium, and any other fees required by law to be charged or collected will be added to the invoice for any lots invoiced to Buyer. All lots shipped to foreign countries will be billed an additional one-half percent (1/2%) for insurance (minimum of \$10). For any lots delivered outside the United States, the declaration value shall be the item's hammer price plus its buyer's premium. Auctioneer shall not be liable for any loss caused or resulting from seizure or destruction under quarantine or customs regulation or confiscation by order of any government or public authority. All lots will be shipped FOB Destination, freight prepaid and charged back. Title and risk of loss pass to the Buyer at the destination upon tender of delivery. Acceptance of delivery constitutes acceptance of the purchased lots. Inspection of the purchased lots is not required for acceptance. Any and all claims based upon Buyer's failure to receive a purchased lot, Buyer's receipt of a lot in damaged condition, or otherwise related to delivery, must be received in writing by Stack's Bowers no later than the earlier of thirty (30) days after payment, or the date of the Auction Sale (the "Outside Claim Date"). As Buyers may not receive notification of shipment, it is Buyer's responsibility to keep track of the Outside Claim Date and make timely notification of any such claim. The failure to make a timely claim, time being of the essence, shall constitute a waiver of any such claim. Orders paid by credit card will only be shipped to the verified address on file with the credit card merchant.

10. DISCLAIMER AND WARRANTIES. NO WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE IS MADE OR IMPLIED ON ANY LOT. NO WARRANTY, WHETHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, IS MADE WITH RESPECT TO ANY LOT EXCEPT FOR WARRANTY OF TITLE, AND IN THE CASE OF TITLE, AUCTIONEER IS SELLING ONLY THAT RIGHT OR TITLE TO THE LOT THAT THE CONSIGNOR MAY HAVE AS OF THE AUCTION SALE DATE. ALL LOTS ARE SOLD "AS IS" AND WITH ALL FAULTS. PURCHASER HEREBY ASSUMES ALL RISKS CONCERNING AND RELATED TO THE GRADING, QUALITY, DESCRIPTION, CONDITION, AUTHENTICITY, AND PROVENANCE OF A LOT.

a. COINS AND CURRENCY LISTED IN THIS CATALOG GRADED BY PCGS, NGC, ANACS, ICG, PCGS CURRENCY, PMG, PCGS BANKNOTE GRADING, CMC OR ANY OTHER THIRD PARTY GRADING SERVICE OR EXAMINED BY THE BUYER PRIOR TO THE AUCTION SALE MAY NOT BE RETURNED FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER BY ANY BUYER, EXCEPT FOR CLAIMS RELATED TO AUTHENTICITY.

b. For non-certified coins and currency that have not been examined by the Buyer prior to the Auction Sale: if it is determined in a review by Stack's Bowers that there

## Terms & Conditions (cont.)

is a material error in the catalog description of a non-certified coin or currency or the coin or currency is not authentic, such lot may be returned, provided written notice is received by Stack's Bowers no later than seventy-two (72) hours of delivery of the lots in question, and such lots are returned and received by Stack's Bowers, in their original, sealed containers, no later than fourteen (14) calendar days after delivery, in the same condition the lot(s) were delivered to the Buyer, time being of the essence.

c. If an item or items are returned pursuant to the terms herein, they must be housed in their original, sealed and unopened container.

d. Late remittance or removal of any item from its original container, or altering a coin constitutes just cause for revocation of all return privileges.

e. Grading or condition of rare coins and currency may have a material effect on the value of the item(s) purchased, and the opinion of others (including independent grading services) may differ with the independent grading services opinion or interpretation of Stack's Bowers. Stack's Bowers shall not be bound by any prior, or subsequent opinion, determination or certification by any independent grading service.

f. Questions regarding the minting of a coin as a "proof" or as a "business strike" relate to the method of manufacture and not to authenticity.

g. All oral and written statements made by Stack's Bowers and its employees or agents (including affiliated and related companies) are statements of opinion only, and are not warranties or representations of any kind, unless stated as a specific written warranty, and no employee or agent of Stack's Bowers has authority to vary or alter these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale. Stack's Bowers reserves the right to vary or alter the Terms of Sale, either generally or with respect to specific persons or circumstances, in its sole discretion. Any variation or alteration shall be effective only if in writing and signed by an officer of Stack's Bowers authorized to do so.

h. Stack's Bowers is acting as an auctioneer. Title to the lots purchased passes directly from the Consignor to the Buyer. Accordingly, Stack's Bowers is not making, and disclaims, any warranty of title.

i. Bidders shall have no recourse against the Consignor for any reason whatsoever.

j. Bidder acknowledges that the numismatic market is speculative, unregulated and volatile, and that coin prices may rise or fall over time. Stack's Bowers does not guarantee or represent that any customer buying for investment purposes will be able to sell for a profit in the future.

k. Bidder acknowledges and agrees that neither Stack's Bowers, nor its employees, affiliates, agents, third-party providers or consignors warrant that auctions will be unimpaird, uninterrupted or error free and accordingly shall not be liable for such events.

11. Waiver and Release. Bidder, for himself, his heirs, agents, successors and assignees, generally and specifically waives and releases, and forever discharges Stack's Bowers, and its respective affiliates, parents, officers, directors, shareholders, agents, subsidiaries, employees, managers and members and each of them, and their respective successors and assignees from any and all claims, rights, demands and causes of actions and suits, of whatever kind or nature, including but not limited to claims based upon Auctioneer's negligence, whether in law or equity, tort or otherwise, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected (a "Claim"), which Bidder may assert with respect to and/or arising out of, or in connection with any challenge to the title to or authenticity of any goods purchased, the sale itself, any lot bid upon or consigned, and/or the auction, except where such Claim is otherwise expressly authorized in these Terms of Sale. It is the intention of Bidder that this waiver and release shall be effective as a bar to each and every Claim that may arise hereunder or be related to the Auction Sale, and Bidder hereby knowingly and voluntarily waives any and all rights and benefits otherwise conferred upon him by the provisions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads in full as follows:

"A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR."

12. Disputes. If a dispute arises concerning ownership of a lot or concerning proceeds of any sale, Stack's Bowers reserves the right to commence a statutory interpleader proceeding at the expense of the Consignor and Buyer and any other applicable party, and in such event shall be entitled to its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. Stack's Bowers reserves the right to cancel or postpone the Auction Sale or any session thereof for any reason whatsoever. No Bidder shall have any claim as a result thereof, including for incidental or consequential damages. Neither Stack's Bowers nor any affiliated or related company shall be responsible for incidental or consequential damages arising out of any failure of the Terms of Sale, the auction or the conduct thereof and in no event shall such liability exceed the purchase price, premium, or fees paid. Rights granted to Bidders under the within Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale are personal and apply only to the Bidder who initially purchases the lot(s) from Stack's Bowers. The rights may not be assigned or transferred to any other person or entity, whether by sale of the lot(s), operation of law or otherwise. Any attempt to assign or transfer any such rights shall be absolutely void and unenforceable. No third party may rely on any benefit or right conferred by these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale.

Any dispute arising out of or related to these Terms of Sale, the Auction Sale or any lot, with the sole exception of actions by Stack's Bowers to collect amounts owed to it and other damages, shall be submitted to binding arbitration pursuant to the commercial arbitration rules of the American Arbitration Association, with any arbitration hearing to occur in Orange County, California. Absent an agreement of the parties, the arbitrator shall limit discovery to that which is necessary to enable the hearing to proceed efficiently. The arbitrator shall not have the power to award punitive or consequential damages, nor alter, amend modify any of the terms of this Agreement. The award by the arbitrator, if any, may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Each party shall pay one-half the costs of the arbitration. Bidder acknowledges and agrees that the competent courts of the State of California shall have exclusive in personam jurisdiction, subject to the requirement to arbitrate, over any dispute(s) arising hereunder, regardless of any party's current or future residence or domicile. Bidder further agrees that venue of the arbitration proceeding shall be in Orange County, California; and any court proceeding shall be in the Orange County Superior Court, in the State of California, and in each case waive any claim of Forum Non Conveniens. Bidder agrees that any arbitration or legal action with respect to this Auction Sale is barred unless commenced within one (1) year of the date of this Auction Sale. AUCTION PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSLY WAIVE ANY RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY.

13. General Terms. These Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale and the auction shall be construed and enforced in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the State of California, regardless of the location of the Auction Sale. These Terms of Sale and the information on the Stack's Bowers' website constitute the entire agreement between the parties hereto on the subject matter hereof and supersede all other agreements, understandings, warranties and representations concerning the subject matter hereof. If any section of these Terms of Auction Sale or any term or provision of any section is held to be invalid, void, or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections or terms and provisions of a section shall continue in full force and effect without being impaired or invalidated in any way. Stack's Bowers may at its sole and absolute discretion, make loans or advances to Consignors and/or Bidders.

14. Chinese Translation. The Chinese translations are provided as a matter of convenience. In the event of a conflict, all English Terms and Conditions and lot descriptions take precedence and are binding.

Bidding in this auction sale constitutes unconditional acceptance by the Bidder of the foregoing terms of sale.

Please note: Transparent holders in which the auction lots are stored are to facilitate viewing and inspection of the lots and ARE NOT for long-term storage.

PCGS and NGC numbers provided are for bidder convenience only, we do not guarantee their accuracy. An incorrect PCGS or NGC number is not grounds to return a lot.

For PRICES REALIZED after the sale, call 1-800-458-4646. Preliminary prices realized will also be posted on the Internet soon after the session closes.

WHEN GREAT COLLECTIONS ARE SOLD



STACK'S BOWERS GALLERIES  
SELLS THEM!

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GALLERIES

