

The  
HARRY W. BASS, JR.

Collection  
—PART III—



May 25-26, 2000  
New York City

BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES





# BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES

Box 1224 • Wolfeboro, NH 03894

## PRICES REALIZED

THE

# HARRY W. BASS, JR.

COLLECTION

PART III

MAY 25-26, 2000

Excitement prevailed from start to finish at Part III of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, sold by Bowers and Merena Galleries in New York City, May 25-26. Several hundred bidders from all over the world competed for and were delighted to acquire even a small part of this legacy collection. When the final hammer came down, \$6,424,837.65 in gold rarities and collector coins found new owners.



1850 Baldwin & Co. \$10 realized \$149,500



1841 "Little Princess"  
\$2.50 realized \$178,250



1855 \$3 realized \$62,100



1854-O \$20 realized \$103,500

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1	2875.00	31	8050.00	62	552.00	91	546.25	121	1150.00	151	5750.00	181	2185.00	212	1150.00	241	747.50	271	62100.00
2	1955.00	32	2070.00	63	11500.00	92	87400.00	122	12075.00	152	1150.00	182	1380.00	213	11500.00	242	9200.00	272	7475.00
3	1265.00	33	10350.00	64	9200.00	93	1495.00	123	3220.00	153	5290.00	183	7475.00	214	862.50	243	16100.00	273	1495.00
4	1955.00	34	9775.00	65	5520.00	94	161000.00	124	2990.00	154	632.50	185	1495.00	215	632.50	244	11500.00	274	29900.00
5	6900.00	35	1035.00	66	2070.00	95	1380.00	125	2070.00	155	5750.00	186	1495.00	216	529.00	245	12075.00	275	2300.00
6	1495.00	36	747.50	67	7475.00	96	1380.00	126	805.00	156	1725.00	187	632.50	217	36800.00	247	14950.00	276	12075.00
8	8970.00	37	10925.00	68	3450.00	97	920.00	127	2185.00	158	3450.00	188	1725.00	218	2530.00	248	12650.00	277	2530.00
9	1092.50	38	747.50	69	1265.00	98	1495.00	128	6325.00	159	1725.00	189	580.75	219	690.00	249	12650.00	278	1955.00
10	4025.00	39	6900.00	70	10350.00	99	4830.00	129	977.50	160	1725.00	190	747.50	220	14950.00	250	12075.00	279	14950.00
11	1552.50	40	6900.00	71	7187.50	100	805.00	130	13800.00	161	1265.00	192	529.00	221	1610.00	251	16100.00	280	10350.00
12	977.50	41	747.50	72	1265.00	101	3450.00	131	6325.00	162	1092.50	193	1092.50	222	14950.00	252	18400.00	281	23000.00
13	1092.50	42	3335.00	73	552.00	102	12650.00	132	4830.00	163	1035.00	194	6900.00	223	2012.50	253	10350.00	282	2300.00
14	4140.00	43	16100.00	74	13225.00	103	517.50	133	2300.00	164	10925.00	195	2760.00	224	18400.00	254	17250.00	283	80500.00
15	1265.00	44	7475.00	75	1207.50	104	920.00	134	1610.00	165	1150.00	196	747.50	225	1725.00	255	13800.00	284	13800.00
16	3335.00	45	2472.50	76	8625.00	105	178250.00	135	747.50	166	5980.00	197	34500.00	226	12650.00	256	9775.00	285	10350.00
17	1495.00	46	10350.00	77	9775.00	106	2185.00	136	1610.00	167	1380.00	198	460.00	227	1840.00	257	17825.00	286	29900.00
18	2185.00	48	11500.00	78	7475.00	107	18400.00	137	920.00	168	776.25	199	1150.00	228	13800.00	258	25300.00	287	14950.00
19	575.00	49	8337.50	79	1610.00	108	862.50	138	3680.00	169	2415.00	200	13800.00	229	1840.00	259	9775.00	289	69000.00
20	12650.00	50	6325.00	80	24150.00	109	1638.75	139	2185.00	170	8050.00	201	920.00	230	16100.00	260	23000.00	290	20700.00
21	977.50	51	13800.00	81	9200.00	110	2070.00	140	3565.00	171	690.00	202	3220.00	231	4370.00	261	26450.00	291	17250.00
22	8970.00	52	4370.00	82	5060.00	111	3105.00	141	690.00	172	2990.00	203	1725.00	232	2530.00	262	6325.00	292	10925.00
23	7590.00	53	632.50	83	16100.00	112	2760.00	142	1725.00	173	977.50	204	2990.00	233	833.75	263	13800.00	293	4600.00
24	6325.00	55	14950.00	84	1380.00	113	920.00	143	6325.00	174	12650.00	205	18400.00	234	690.00	264	13800.00	294	4140.00
25	3680.00	56	603.75	85	1150.00	114	1725.00	144	3105.00	175	1150.00	206	3220.00	235	747.50	265	17250.00	295	9200.00
26	862.50	57	1955.00	86	8050.00	115	4140.00	145	920.00	176	1380.00	207	3680.00	236	16100.00	266	13800.00	296	2530.00
27	1265.00	58	32200.00	87	2185.00	116	1840.00	146	9200.00	177	1610.00	208	39100.00	237	21850.00	267	4025.00	297	3680.00
28	23000.00	59	11500.00	88	5290.00	117	1150.00	147	7762.50	178	2530.00	209	862.50	238	21850.00	268	14950.00	298	12650.00
29	26450.00	60	747.50	89	2300.00	118	747.50	148	977.50	179	7475.00	210	27600.00	239	18400.00	269	1840.00	299	4600.00
30	9775.00	61	8625.00	90	3910.00	119	1035.00	150	3220.00	180	1725.00	211	24150.00	240	12075.00	270	9775.00	300	12075.00

Prices realized include the 15% buyer's fee—Lots omitted represent unsold lots known to us as of the sale date.



Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
301	5060.00	362	41400.00	426	4830.00	488	3220.00	552	1092.50	614	1610.00	675	1840.00	739	1035.00	799	12650.00
302	19550.00	363	4600.00	427	13800.00	489	19550.00	553	805.00	616	920.00	676	32200.00	740	2415.00	800	3910.00
303	6900.00	364	1380.00	428	3910.00	490	1955.00	554	1495.00	617	1725.00	677	2070.00	741	747.50	801	31050.00
304	4600.00	365	11500.00	430	3220.00	491	9200.00	555	2185.00	618	747.50	678	3105.00	742	1150.00	802	8050.00
305	21850.00	367	2070.00	431	6900.00	492	20125.00	556	1092.50	619	3450.00	679	805.00	743	1092.50	803	18400.00
306	4600.00	368	3450.00	432	862.50	493	4600.00	557	1380.00	620	4370.00	680	575.00	744	747.50	804	4830.00
307	5060.00	369	1495.00	433	7475.00	495	12650.00	558	46000.00	621	3220.00	681	33350.00	745	2875.00	805	1380.00
308	4600.00	370	2990.00	434	3680.00	496	4370.00	559	85100.00	622	1725.00	682	2300.00	746	977.50	806	667.00
309	8050.00	372	2645.00	435	6900.00	497	3680.00	560	10925.00	623	1150.00	684	1150.00	747	4140.00	807	18400.00
310	21275.00	373	3220.00	436	3910.00	498	8050.00	561	75900.00	624	1955.00	685	1955.00	748	3910.00	808	20987.50
311	14950.00	374	8625.00	437	21275.00	499	5750.00	562	10350.00	625	805.00	686	10120.00	749	1495.00	809	17825.00
312	19550.00	375	21850.00	438	2300.00	500	23000.00	563	11500.00	626	2530.00	687	28750.00	750	747.50	810	2760.00
313	13800.00	376	5290.00	439	3680.00	501	5980.00	564	9775.00	627	1610.00	688	27600.00	751	2875.00	811	1092.50
314	2415.00	377	2127.50	440	1495.00	502	3910.00	565	17250.00	628	4600.00	689	2645.00	752	529.00	812	1725.00
315	8050.00	378	2990.00	441	9200.00	504	6670.00	566	7475.00	629	6900.00	690	41400.00	753	546.25	813	690.00
316	7475.00	379	3335.00	442	2127.50	505	5750.00	567	1322.50	630	1150.00	691	2875.00	754	575.00	814	11500.00
317	9200.00	380	2702.50	443	6440.00	506	12650.00	568	6900.00	631	1380.00	692	632.50	755	9200.00	816	3680.00
318	1150.00	381	9200.00	444	718.75	507	14950.00	569	1380.00	632	1610.00	693	3680.00	756	149500.00	817	2760.00
319	690.00	382	5520.00	445	6210.00	508	5980.00	570	460.00	633	2990.00	694	1955.00	757	62100.00	818	1495.00
320	2070.00	383	10350.00	446	1955.00	509	12650.00	571	1610.00	634	2185.00	695	431.25	758	8625.00	819	920.00
321	9775.00	384	3680.00	447	1840.00	510	1265.00	572	1955.00	635	1035.00	697	2300.00	759	1495.00	820	2645.00
322	402.50	385	1092.50	448	8050.00	511	32200.00	573	2760.00	636	2070.00	698	1380.00	760	805.00	821	862.50
323	2530.00	386	12075.00	449	9200.00	513	9775.00	575	1092.50	637	2875.00	700	4255.00	761	805.00	822	402.50
324	3335.00	387	8625.00	450	2530.00	514	11500.00	576	3450.00	638	2185.00	701	494.50	762	16100.00	823	10925.00
325	1380.00	388	1265.00	451	9200.00	515	4140.00	577	2760.00	639	632.50	702	3680.00	763	4140.00	824	4600.00
326	632.50	389	9200.00	452	6670.00	516	4830.00	578	3220.00	640	4025.00	703	1150.00	764	14950.00	825	20700.00
327	460.00	390	2645.00	453	3680.00	517	14950.00	579	2990.00	641	1725.00	704	1150.00	765	4140.00	826	1150.00
328	1092.50	391	4370.00	454	2760.00	518	8050.00	580	1725.00	642	10350.00	705	2875.00	766	862.50	827	5290.00
329	460.00	392	1495.00	455	1265.00	519	3680.00	581	1840.00	643	1495.00	706	1035.00	767	10350.00	828	9775.00
330	9775.00	393	747.50	457	2990.00	520	1725.00	582	2530.00	644	25300.00	707	2760.00	768	10350.00	829	2645.00
331	1265.00	394	2185.00	459	8050.00	521	1840.00	583	1265.00	645	920.00	708	1955.00	769	1035.00	830	920.00
332	4140.00	395	1840.00	460	2472.50	522	1955.00	584	2990.00	646	632.50	709	2070.00	770	747.50	831	4600.00
333	1380.00	396	368.00	461	10350.00	523	1150.00	585	977.50	647	2300.00	711	431.25	771	21850.00	832	4830.00
334	517.50	397	1495.00	462	4830.00	524	2990.00	586	1782.50	648	3910.00	712	6325.00	772	9200.00	833	39100.00
336	1495.00	399	3450.00	463	517.50	525	2760.00	587	3105.00	649	2760.00	713	690.00	773	2185.00	834	9775.00
337	3680.00	400	1495.00	464	14950.00	527	14375.00	588	5290.00	650	1265.00	714	862.50	774	1725.00	835	4830.00
338	977.50	401	6325.00	465	4140.00	528	460.00	589	1610.00	651	8050.00	715	4025.00	775	2530.00	836	690.00
339	9775.00	402	3450.00	466	7475.00	529	3450.00	590	3680.00	652	1610.00	716	2760.00	776	1092.50	837	8625.00
340	17250.00	403	2070.00	467	6210.00	531	3450.00	591	1322.50	653	8050.00	717	13800.00	777	10350.00	838	7935.00
341	11500.00	404	977.50	468	2070.00	532	3450.00	592	1610.00	654	3910.00	718	862.50	778	632.50	839	8050.00
342	19550.00	405	2530.00	469	13800.00	533	402.50	593	2990.00	655	1955.00	719	2530.00	779	2530.00	840	8625.00
343	2070.00	406	2530.00	470	2990.00	534	862.50	594	1150.00	656	36800.00	721	3220.00	780	103500.00	841	2990.00
344	1610.00	407	2875.00	471	4370.00	535	5290.00	595	690.00	657	6325.00	722	5290.00	781	10925.00	842	506.00
345	2990.00	408	3220.00	472	5175.00	536	690.00	596	747.50	658	6325.00	723	483.00	782	9200.00	843	460.00
346	1265.00	409	4140.00	473	14375.00	537	7475.00	597	3220.00	659	10925.00	724	575.00	783	14950.00	844	2760.00
347	1092.50	410	1380.00	474	4370.00	538	2185.00	599	1725.00	660	10350.00	725	4370.00	784	2300.00	845	8625.00
348	10350.00	411	747.50	475	6210.00	539	1840.00	600	977.50	662	3680.00	726	1035.00	785	1035.00	846	3680.00
349	1495.00	412	8050.00	476	1495.00	540	1035.00	601	1266.15	663	3680.00	727	517.50	786	1725.00	847	2990.00
350	9775.00	413	12650.00	477	862.50	541	4600.00	602	8625.00	664	1380.00	728	1035.00	787	10350.00	848	3220.00
351	13800.00	414	920.00	478	9200.00	542	2990.00	603	1380.00	665	1610.00	729	747.50	788	5290.00	849	3105.00
352	1380.00	415	1495.00	479	6900.00	543	920.00	604	3220.00	666	1495.00	730	805.00	789	2185.00	850	2645.00
353	18400.00	416	862.50	480	2185.00	544	2645.00	605	14950.00	667	1380.00	731	373.75	790	1955.00	851	1610.00
354	862.50	417	6325.00	481	3220.00	545	1840.00	606	1610.00	668	1495.00	732	920.00	791	23000.00	852	3507.50
355	7475.00	418	2070.00	482	5060.00	546	920.00	608	5520.00	669	2185.00	733	4600.00	792	97750.00	853	632.50
356	23000.00	421	1725.00	483	632.50	547	1437.50	609	2530.00	670	10925.00	734	1955.00	794	29900.00	854	12650.00
357	1150.00	422	805.00	484	368.00	548	506.00	610	2990.00	671	2185.00	735	1035.00	795	50600.00	855	6325.00
358	805.00	423	12650.00	485	23000.00	549	368.00	611	1092.50	672	3335.00	736	1380.00	796	11500.00	856	977.50
360	2415.00	424	6325.00	486	6900.00	550	1495.00	612	977.50	673	5290.00	737	5980.00	797	1610.00	857	517.50
361	546.25	425	2185.00	487	4370.00	551	805.00	613	2760.00	674	1380.00	738	2070.00	798	2760.00	858	2645.00



Prices realized include the 15% buyer's fee—Lots omitted represent unsold lots known to us as of the sale date.



*The*

# HARRY W. BASS, JR.

*Collection. - Part III*



## Bowers and Merena Galleries

*A Collectors Universe™ Company*

Box 1224 • Wolfeboro, NH 03894 • 800-458-4646 • In NH: 569-5095 • FAX: 603-569-5319  
www.bowersandmerena.com • email: auction@bowersandmerena.com



*About the Cover:*

A selection of beautiful coins from the Bass Collection.

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Licensed Auctioneers: John S. Babalis (#860160) — Q. David Bowers (#793852) — Raymond N. Merena (#793853) — Christine Karstedt (1008798)

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COLOR PLATE I



5 20 22 28 29 30 31 33 34 37 39



40 43 44 46 48 49 51 55 58 59 61



63 64 67 70 71 74 76 77 78 80



81 83 86 88 92 94 102 105 107



122 128 130 146 151 164 170 174 183



191 194 197 200 205 208 210 211 213



COLOR PLATE II



217 220 222 224 226 228 230 236 237



238 239 240 242 243 244 245 246 247



248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256



257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265



266 268 270 271 274 276 279 280



281 283 284 285 286 287



COLOR PLATE III



289 290 291 292 298



300 302 305 310 311 312 313



315 321 339 340 342 348 351



353 356 362 365 366 374 375 383



389 423 427 448 449 451 464 469



COLOR PLATE IV



473 475 482 485 489 491 492



495 496 498 500 501 506 507 509



511 513 514 517 518 521 558



559 560 561 562 563



564 565 566 568



COLOR PLATE V



573

588

605

607

608

615



629

631

642

644

648

653



656

657

658

659

660

670



673

676

681

683



686

687

688

690



COLOR PLATE VI





COLOR PLATE VII



794



795



796



801



803



807



808



809



814



823



825



833



839



854



855



867





COLOR PLATE VIII



869



874



881



894



895



899



908



909



912



913



914



915



916



917



919



920





# SESSIONS

*The Park Lane Ballroom, Park Lane Hotel*

## SESSION I - THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 25

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*6:00 PM Sharp*

Gold Dollars: Lots 1-79

Quarter Eagles: Lots 80-270

Three-Dollar Gold: Lots 271-287

Half Eagles: Lots 288-557

## SESSION II - FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 26

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*10:00 AM Sharp*

Eagles: Lots 558-755

Territorial Gold: Lot 756

Double Eagles: Lots 757-920

*We will serve a buffet lunch for registered bidders at approximately 12:00 noon.*

## AUCTION LOCATION

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The Park Lane Ballroom, Park Lane Hotel

36 Central Park South

New York City, NY

Telephone: 212-371-4000

## PRICES REALIZED

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For prices realized after the sale, call (603) 569-5095, Ext. 98

Limit: 10 lots per caller. A printed list of prices will be mailed to all subscribers after the sale.

Prices realized will be posted on the Internet soon after the sale at [bowersandmerena.com](http://bowersandmerena.com)



# LOT VIEWING

*The Park Lane Ballroom, Park Lane Hotel*

## SUNDAY, MAY 21

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9:00 AM – 1:00 PM ♦ 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

## MONDAY, MAY 22

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9:00 AM – 1:00 PM ♦ 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

## TUESDAY, MAY 23

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9:00 AM – 1:00 PM ♦ 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

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9:00 AM – 1:00 PM ♦ 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

## THURSDAY, MAY 25

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9:00 AM – 1:00 PM ♦ 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

## HELPFUL SUGGESTION

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We strongly recommend that our clients who intend to view a large portion of the sale, plan to do so as early in the lot viewing schedule as possible.

# LOT PICK-UP

*The Park Lane Ballroom, Park Lane Hotel*

## FRIDAY, MAY 26

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Approximately 45 minutes after the sale ends.



# BOWERS AND MERENA AUCTION SCHEDULE



JUNE 22-23, 2000

Chicago, IL  
with the MidAmerica Coin Expo

AUGUST 9-12, 2000

Philadelphia, PA  
The American Numismatic Association Sale of the Millennium  
*Now accepting consignments.*

OCTOBER 26-28, 2000

Baltimore, MD  
in conjunction with the Suburban Washington/Baltimore Convention  
*Now accepting consignments.*

NOVEMBER 20-21, 2000

New York City, NY  
The Harry W. Bass, Jr., Collection - Part IV

JANUARY 3, 2001

Orlando, FL  
The Rarities Sale  
*Now accepting consignments.*

MARCH 15-17, 2001

Baltimore, MD  
in conjunction with the Suburban Washington/Baltimore Convention  
*Now accepting consignments.*

PLUS:

*Many more sales in 2001, 2002, and onward!*

**BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES**

A Collectors Universe™ Company  
Box 1224 ♦ Wolfeboro, NH 03894  
Toll-free (800) 458-4646 ♦ In NH: 569-5095 ♦ Fax: (603) 569-5319  
www.bowersandmerena.com • E-mail: auction@bowersandmerena.com



# EXPANDED PERSONAL SERVICE FOR OUR MAIL BIDDERS

**Y**ou can improve your chances of being a winning bidder in this auction sale! Take advantage of our Maximum Expenditure service—bid on lots totaling up to eight times the amount you wish to spend (\$1,000 min.), or use our One Lot Only service and bid on up to five lots and be assured of getting no more than one—or use both features together. Please see points 15 and 16 in the Terms of Sale.



## Bid Sheet

**Bowers and Merena Galleries**  
A Collectors Universe™ Company  
P.O. Box 1224  
Wolfeboro, NH 03894  
(603) 569-5095

Fax your bids 24 hours a day! Our fax number is 1-603-569-5319! Be sure to follow up your fax or phone bids with written confirmation.

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit \_\_\_\_\_

Max. \_\_\_\_\_

O.L.O. \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ TERMS OF SALE BEFORE BIDDING.**

Gentlemen:

Here are my bids for your MAY 2000 Bass Collection. I have read the Terms of Sale (printed in the catalogue) and agree to them. I am of legal age. I understand that my bids are per lot. I agree to pay promptly upon receipt of your invoice, including postage and insurance costs.

ATTACH MAILING LABEL OR PRINT CLEARLY

Name John Dow Customer # \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or P.O. Box 123 Pleasant Street  
City Anytown State CA Zip 12345  
Daytime Telephone (123) 555-1111 Fax # (123) 555-1234  
Signature (bid sheet MUST be signed) John Dow Date 5/17/00

Deposit on Sale

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL SERVICES**

Maximum Expenditure

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please increase my bids  
10%  20%  30%   
if necessary to obtain lots.

PLEASE CHECK IF THIS IS A CONFIRMATION OF BIDS SUBMITTED BY PHONE OR FAX.

A 15% buyer's premium will be added to all successful bids.

If you are using the One Lot Only option, please use the narrow column to group the lots with a bracket:

Fax us your bid sheet (any time, 24 hours a day). Our direct fax number is (603) 569-5319.

LOT	BID	OFFICE USE ONLY	LOT	BID	OFFICE USE ONLY	LOT	BID	OFFICE USE ONLY
[	76	900	[	333	5,000			
	77	875		356	4,900			
	78	1,000		367	3,800			
	122	1,100		541	700			
	125	1,300		548	675			
	129	1,450		552	825			
[	275	2,000	[	756	10,000			
	280	3,100		757	9,075			
	285	2,900		764	8,500			
				812	600			
				813	750			

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NEW BIDDERS**

The following information must be supplied to us before your bids can be executed. Bidders who are not known to us must send a deposit of 25% of their bids. The deposit will be credited toward lots purchased and any balance will be refunded within 10 working days after the sale.

Have you done business before with Bowers and Merena?  Yes  No

Are you a dealer? No Do you have a resale number on file with us? \_\_\_\_\_

Other dealers with whom you have done business: Nat'l. Rare Coins, Inc.  
Western America Numismatics, Inc.

Bank references: Anytown First National Bank  
Attn: Nancy Smith, Cashier



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John Pack  
Beth O. Piper  
Gail Watson  
and various consultants

## AUCTIONEERS

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Christine Karstedt  
Raymond N. Merena

*Appreciation is extended to the following for the preparation of this catalogue:*

Cataloguing and numismatic expertise by Q. David Bowers, Mark Borckardt, John Pack, Beth O. Piper, Frank Van Valen, and Raymond N. Merena.

Photography by Douglas Plasencia.

Catalogue production by Jennifer Meers, Roberta French, Robert Lawrence, and Stephen Metcalfe. Catalogue coordination and advertising by Christine Karstedt.

AND, thanks to the entire Bowers and Merena staff for help in many ways. The presenting of a sale such as this is a highly coordinated team effort involving many talented people.

*All illustrations are of the actual items being sold.*

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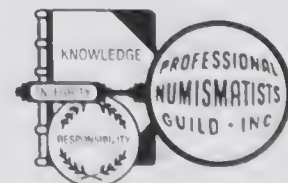
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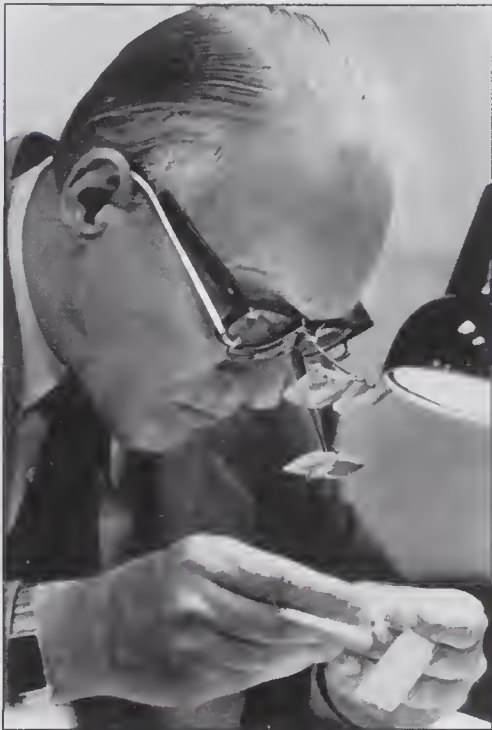






# Harry Wesley Bass, Jr.

1927-1998



Harry W. Bass, Jr.

Harry Wesley Bass, Jr., was born on January 6, 1927, in Oklahoma City. He spent his childhood in Dallas where he graduated from the day school later known as St. Mark's Academy. His higher education took place at the University of Texas and at Southern Methodist University.

During World War II he served in the Navy. After the war he represented the family oil interests in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, then came back to Dallas where he played a prominent part in oil exploration and served as president of H.W. Bass and Sons, Inc.

In the 1950s he took a great interest in Republican politics and in 1957 was Dallas County chairman for the Republican Party. His wife Doris recalled that he played a prominent part in advancing the interests of the Republican Party in a district that was primarily Democratic. Later he served as a state committee man for the Republican Party representing the Dallas area.

Subsequently he became interested in computers, a relatively new field for amateurs, and computerized the party's members in his region. Later he set up a computer base for his home church, the Highland Park United Methodist Church. In the early 1990s when the Internet and e-mail became popular, Harry was one of the first to make wide use of it, and in the area of numismatics he certainly was in the forefront of the new discipline.

During the 1970s and 1980s he was involved in the management of the Vail ski resort in Colorado and the development of the nearby Beaver Creek ski resort. In

1978 he successfully did battle with 20th Century Fox for control of Vail Associates, Inc. Bass served as chairman of the board of Vail Associates and did much during the growth phases of the resort's development, continuing his involvement through 1985. At a special ceremony held in 1999 a public fountain in Vail was dedicated to his memory. The inscription reads:

The visionary who led Vail Associates in the early planning and development of Beaver Creek. Perhaps more than any other individual, he saw the possibilities for the resort and made the extensive financial commitments necessary to launch Beaver Creek. This fountain is dedicated in his honor.

Among his local affiliations he was a member of the Dallas Country Club, the Brook Hollow Golf Club, the Idle Wild and Calyx Groups, and in the 1950s was first president of the Dallas Ski Club, which he helped to form. He also served as president of the Sertoma Club in Dallas, a well-known service organization.

From 1978 through 1984 Harry Bass served as president of the American Numismatic Society, and before and after that date he was a councilor of the Society. In recent times the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation has made important financial gifts to the Society.

Harry Bass was born to Wilma Schuessler and Harry Wesley Bass. At the time of his death, from complications of lung disease on April 4, 1998, he had been pre-deceased by both of his parents and his eldest son, Harry Wesley Bass III. He was survived by his wife Doris and four grown children: John Harold Bass, Carol Ann Bass, Robert Stephen Bass, and Beverly Bass Haralson, along with seven grandchildren, his brother Richard D. Bass of Dallas, and his stepsons Michael Calhoun and David Calhoun.

In the preparation of the present catalogue and attendant arrangements, much of the coordination with the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation has been handled by David Calhoun, who is developing his own interest in American numismatics and can "talk coins" very effectively. What an impressive legacy to draw from!



### Formation of the Collection

The present catalogue brings to the auction venue the fruits of over three decades of numismatic connoisseurship and inquiry.

Harry Wesley Bass, Jr., became interested in rare coins as an adult, with his first purchases taking place in 1966 and his first in-person auction attendance in 1967. From that time until his untimely passing in 1998, Harry was a major figure in American numismatics.

Of inquisitive mind and with a generous measure of enthusiasm, Harry soon determined to learn as much as possible about numismatics. Drawing upon experience gained in the family oil business, in participation in politics on behalf of the Republican Party in Texas, in his work in Colorado ski resorts with Vail Associates and the development of Beaver Creek, and upon other knowledge, he commenced with great vigor. Harry was never anyone to do something half-way!

At the outset, he was attracted by nineteenth century gold coins. Anyone who has explored this fascinating pursuit will agree that there is something quite *special* to learn—after years of being in the social and business world—that there exist United States coins, made of *gold*, that at one time were familiar in banking and commercial circles, but which today are so *rare* that few have seen them. Upon further investigation, Harry learned that this series of coins, while in many instances scarce or rare, also included many pieces that were very inexpensive. In the 1960s it was possible to buy some of the more plentiful dates of \$20 gold coins for less than \$100 each.

As a first order of organized activity—after the thrill of discovering the American gold series—he set about building a definitive reference library on American numismatics (which currently is being featured in a series of memorable auctions by George Frederick Kolbe). Within a few years he had accomplished the feat of building one of the finest holdings of numismatic books and catalogues ever gathered by a private collector—and in later times he added to his holdings. Thus, from virtually the outset, Harry *knew* what he was looking for and could recognize the rarity of a gold coin based upon its past appearances.

I recall that when I first met Harry—and this was probably about 1969 or 1970—he impressed me with all that he knew about coins. We talked on and on about history, old-time auction catalogues, great collections of the past, and the availability of certain varieties in high grades. If I remember correctly, Harry did not ask about the coin market, price predictions, and the like. He loved the coins themselves, and prices—ever changing—were what they happened to be at any given time and would take care of themselves. As so often happens in numismatics—and which has been the case for every major old-time collection of which I am aware—the careful purchase of coins provided a great treasure for the future. As Parts I and II demonstrated, many specimens for which Harry paid record prices proved in the long run to be some of the most astute financial investments possible. The beauty part is that along the way he *enjoyed* his purchases and the pleasures they provided.

### Acquisition Strategy

Harry also realized at an early time that a listed price for a *rarity* represented either what such a piece had sold for sometime in the past, or was a ballpark estimate put down by a catalogue compiler who had to come up with *some* figure, but could find no market data. Thus, equipped with the knowledge found deep in his library, he knew that if a particular gold coin or other desired specimen was listed at, say, \$1,000, but that during the past 100 years only three or four had come on the market, and none recently, he could bid \$2,000, or \$5,000, or even \$10,000 to acquire an example at auction, and then *own it*, while everyone else was waiting to buy one at the catalogue price! Of course, after Harry bid and bought the item for \$10,000, and had it in his possession, the next round of published price guides would list it at \$10,000. In a way, Harry would be home free, while others were scratching their heads in bewilderment!

On the other hand, if an item was listed at \$1,000, but Harry found that each year a half dozen of them were sold at auction and even more were held in the private stocks of dealers, he could bide his time and wait for a piece that was just right, typically just right in terms of *quality*. These were the days before we had MS-61, MS-62, etc., or certification services, and



one person's "superb gem" might be another's "almost Uncirculated." In time, this undefined grading caused Harry to do several things: First, he learned on his own everything that he needed to know. As well as any dealer I ever met, Harry had a keen eye and knew the gem from the so-so, the pristine from the cleaned. Further, he chose to buy from dealers and others in whom he placed trust, based upon his experience with them.

Today, even a casual glance at the catalogue pages to follow, and at the coins themselves during the lot viewing time prior to the sale, will reveal that Harry's coins were in the vast majority "high end" pieces.

In summary, Harry was a very sophisticated buyer.

#### The Collection Grows

With a connoisseur's eye and with a generous purchase budget, Harry Bass acquired many important coins and other numismatic items, working closely with Dallas dealer Mike Brownlee (who for part of his numismatic career traded as the Goliad Corporation) as well as with other leading professionals all over America. The listing of sources ("pedigrees") in the present catalogue will demonstrate vividly how wide Harry cast his net for purchases, as dozens of names are given.

Over a period of time, many important properties were offered to him by dealers, who realized that Harry would make an instant decision for any item that filled his needs, and would pay for it promptly. In addition, he was an active participant in person and through agents at virtually every important auction conducted during the past several decades, from the 1960s up to the time of his unfortunate passing on April 4, 1998.

I recall that during our presentation of the Eliasberg Collection of U.S. Gold Coins in 1982, Harry came to our lot-viewing at the sale in New York City, brought his magnifying glass and loupe, and spent *several days* making notes of die varieties, particularly for gold issues of the early era in American coinage, 1795-1834. He brought his coins with him to the sale, so he could compare them side-by-side with the Eliasberg specimens. Along the way, during this and other sales, and during visits to private collections, museums, coin dealerships, and conventions,

he acquired much knowledge concerning this specialty. After a while, the *experts* would consult *him* to enrich and enhance their knowledge!

At the time of his passing, the Bass Collection and the holdings of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation included the most *extensive* collection of United States gold coins ever formed. While it did not have each and every date and mintmark, it was (and still is) highlighted by the unique 1870-S \$3 and many other great rarities, *many* of which are among the finest of their kind or are the very finest. Sometimes even a landmark rarity would be acquired in duplicate, and his array of multiple specimens of certain Proof gold rarities is, in a word, *impressive*.

Time and again, Harry was in the right place at the right time. Along the way his cabinet attained immense proportions—immense in quality, immense in importance, immense in interest.

#### Philanthropy and Outreach

In Texas, Harry Bass was the administrator of two non-profit foundations. The Harry Bass Foundation, created by his father, for a long time has supported various Dallas area activities including religious and charitable institutions, hospitals, and museums. A separate foundation, the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation, was set up to advance research and scholarship in certain areas of United States coinage including literature, patterns, and gold coins, with particular interest in outreach on the Internet and electronic media, as well as engage in significant philanthropic endeavors in other fields. Among its beneficiaries is the American Numismatic Society, New York City, which with Harry had close connections for a long time. For years he served as a councilor of the Society, and from 1978 through 1984 he was the Society's president. During his administration, many notable accomplishments were made.

It is planned that the Foundation will make available to a wide circle of numismatists much information gathered over a long period of time by Harry Bass. In time this will include the availability on the Internet of detailed descriptions and illustrations in full color.

To further its philanthropic objectives, the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation commissioned our



firm to showcase at public sale many important items from its vast and impressive holdings. Part I was held last May, Part II took place in October, and the catalogue for Part III is in your hands. No effort has been spared to make the series of catalogues a fine memorial to Harry's efforts and also references of lasting numismatic importance and value.

In addition to the auction presentations, our organization has commenced working closely with the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation to collate Harry's notes and create a sylloge, or *catalogue raisonné* of the items retained by the Foundation as well as notes on many other pieces. Along the way, the sylloge will contain information about Harry Bass' life, connoisseurship, the history and background of

the series he collected, and much other information that should prove to be of interest, value, and importance. While various series will be showcased in the sylloge, its focal point will be American gold coinage of the 1795-1834 era. The volume will present historical, numismatic, pictorial, and technical information not hitherto available from a single source. Further announcements concerning the sylloge will be made at a later date.

In the Pantheon of Numismatics a special place has been reserved for Harry and his memory, and generations from now he will still be remembered as one of the foremost figures in our field. The sylloge will share Harry's knowledge and enthusiasm with the numismatic world.



# WELCOME TO THE SALE!

by Q. David Bowers



On behalf of the consignor, the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation, and with the appreciation of the entire Bowers and Merena Galleries organization I welcome you to Part III in our series of presentations.

Part III emphasizes United States gold coins from dollars to double eagles. Gold dollars, quarter eagles, and three-dollar pieces highlight many Proof rarities with circulation strikes in accompaniment, while the higher denomination \$5, \$10, and \$20 coins feature circulation pieces in the limelight with selected Proofs for certain years.

John Dannreuther, well-known researcher in the gold series, contributed several paragraphs of appreciation to our Bass II catalogue. Now that the Bass II sale is history, we have invited him to share a further appreciation for the present sale—adding to our own perspective.

To aid in planning, in the back pages of the present catalogue we have included a listing of single gold coin dates, mintmarks, and grades that have appeared in the Bass II sale (the Bass I sale contained other than federal gold coins) and those that are planned to be presented in the Bass IV sale. This information, together with the main part of the current Bass III sale, will give a comprehensive view of individual pieces (items in multiple lots are not listed).

## Enjoyment of Varieties

While in the American series, large copper cents 1793-1814, Massachusetts silver coins dated 1652, early half dollars 1794-1836, and many other specialties have

been studied intensely, for the most part United States gold coins, particularly in the Coronet Head series, have been overlooked. Similarly, the varieties of gold \$1 1849-1889 and \$3 1854-1889 have never been defined in truly comprehensive studies, although some sub-specialties (such as Charlotte and Dahlonega issues) have attracted attention.

The result is that today there are many interesting and rare die varieties that can be purchased for little if any premium over the price level of the basic date or mintmark. Date repunchings, mintmark position variations, misplaced dates, unusual logotype positions, and fascinating die states all beckon to the numismatist equipped with a magnifying glass and possessed of an intellectual curiosity.

In his lifetime of collecting—from the beginning of his interest in rare coins in the 1960s until his passing in 1998—Harry W. Bass, Jr., enjoyed studying the specimens he owned. Often, he would linger for a long time comparing one coin with another, or noting the progress of a die crack, or observing that within a given date of coin, one could have the four-digit date logotype high and close to the neck of Miss Liberty, while another could have the date low and near the dentils, and a third could be in-between.

As dies were used, the various mints sought to extend their life by resurfacing (relapping) them, creating still different varieties. The possibilities presented by various mint processes were seemingly endless for Harry. To indulge in his passion for such study, he often bought two, three, four, or even a dozen of a certain date or mintmark. These could always be studied at leisure, and in the meantime they were a good store of financial value. Of course, this same philosophy has been the guiding precept of many famous numismatists of the past (as examples, Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., had so many



duplicates that in the 1940s and 1950s two major sales were devoted to their distribution; in the 19th century, J. Colvin Randall enjoyed owning multiples, as did Thomas Cleneay, *et al.*).

Further, Harry W. Bass, Jr., considered a circulation strike of a coin to be a *different* variety than a Proof. Thus, whenever possible, examples of each were acquired for a given Philadelphia Mint date. Further, if either a coin intended for circulation use or a Proof existed with tiny differences in die characteristics, examples of each variety were acquired. Still further, to determine rarity, die state (the progress of a die, including cracks, relapping, clashing, etc.), often multiple specimens of the same variety were acquired. The result is a collection—and an auction presentation—with no equals in the history of American numismatics.

Part IV of the Bass Collection, scheduled to be auctioned this autumn, will ring down the curtain on the program of Bass sales. In the meantime, a *sylloge*, or museum-style catalogue, is being prepared to showcase many of the items retained by the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation—among which are early gold coins 1795-1834 by die varieties. For the first time in numismatic history, a single reference will contain detailed illustrations of multiple denominations together with historical, numismatic, and other information.

#### Program for the Bass III Sale

Gold coins offered in the present Part III include (in order of appearance) the following:

**Session I, Thursday, May 25, at 6 p.m.:** The sale will begin with gold dollars—a marvelous presentation featuring high grade circulation strikes, Proofs, branch mint issues, and more. Then follow quarter eagles commencing with a truly *special* 1796 No-Stars and continuing to include many delicacies. To mention just the highlights would take many paragraphs, but I cannot resist noting the 1841 *Little Princess*. The offering of \$3 is short, sweet, and memorable, with the famous 1875 highlighting the series. Half eagles include many interesting and rare early issues, then hit their stride with the Coronet Head series. Scarce and rare issues abound, among which will be found many fascinating die varieties.

**Session II, Friday, May 26, 10 a.m.:** The numismatic day commences with a lovely 1795 eagle, the first year of issue, and continued to include outstanding early issues as well as one of the most important offerings of Coronet Head pieces ever to cross the auction block. The Bass III offering, in combination with the past Bass II and forthcoming Bass IV presentations, is the last word in comprehensiveness. Never before has such an extensive selection come to the auction forum, and when the last coin is sold, participants will be secure in the knowledge that nothing similar will ever be offered. Double eagles are similar in their comprehensive listing, with many incredible coins of quality and rarity. At about noontime, the auction will recess for a complimentary luncheon for registered bidders, hosted by the Bowers and Merena staff.

The site will be the Helmsley Park Lane Hotel at Central Park South, one of New York City's favorite stopping places—just a few paces from Fifth Avenue and the shopping and entertainment district. It is perhaps fitting in connection with the present gold coin sale that about a minute away, at the southeast corner of Central Park, is the *Sherman Victory Monument* by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, erected in 1903. The goddess Victory in the ensemble was the artist's model for his memorable double eagle design of 1907.

#### Appreciation

I express my deep gratitude to Doris (Mrs. Harry) Bass, Michael Wylie, David Calhoun, and Michael Calhoun—the trustees of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation—for consigning these memorable gold coins and other items to us. The staff members of the Foundation, including Ed Deane, Georga Peraza, and others, have been of great help in many ways.

In addition, numismatists and historians from several sectors have been consulted on certain listings and are credited on a separate page, along with the Bowers and Merena staff members who have worked so long, so diligently, and with such enthusiasm in bringing the present catalogue to you.

The present catalogue was researched and prepared by (alphabetically) Mark Borckardt (early issues 1795-1839 as well as selected later issues), Beth Piper



(selected Coronet Head issues), and Frank Van Valen (selected Coronet Head issues).

John Pack, our auction director, also helped with research and technicalities. Denise D'Eri and Beth Piper kept track of many details. Ray Merena lent assistance in several areas.

Douglas Plasencia took the photographs. I believe you'll agree with me that they are among the finest ever to appear in print in any catalogue we've ever done.

Aspects of typography and layout were accomplished by our Graphic Arts Department including Roberta French, Robert Lawrence, Jennifer Meers, and Stephen Metcalfe.

Chris Karstedt worked continuously with David Calhoun and the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation in the selection, presentation, publicity, and other aspects of the present coins and catalogue.

What did *I* do? I guess the answer is a bit of all and everything, working with the cataloguers and researchers listed above, plus creating some of the catalogue descriptions, adding introductions, text, and commentaries, and acting as editor.

Of course, while the catalogue was a tremendous amount of work for all of us, it was also very enjoyable. How fortunate we are.

#### The Sale and You

Looking toward the present Part III sale, I thank each and every one of you who has acquired the present catalogue, reads through it, and participates in a truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If you are a specialist in one of the gold series showcased, welcome. However, part of being a numismatist is having a generous measure of intellectual curiosity. Indeed,


throughout his lifetime, Harry Bass' objective was to acquire items that *interested him*, not what someone else wanted him to buy. I hope that in perusing the pages you will find many items to pique your interest and, perhaps, start a new specialty in American gold coins, the *crème de la crème* series of United States coinage and financial history.

As the years go by, the pedigree "From the Bass Collection" on a numismatic item will give it a special cachet.

While the catalogue itself has much historical and numismatic information, if you as a successful bidder on some of the rarer or infrequently offered items would like additional information, I invite you to address a personal letter to me, and I will recommend further areas of inquiry, or will send additional information from the Bowers and Merena archives and library, including information gathered for the Bass Foundation *sylloge* and for a separate multi-volume work on American gold coins to bear the Bowers and Merena Galleries imprimatur.

I have enjoyed *each and every one* of the coins during the catalogue preparation process—and, forever, I will enjoy the memories associated with them. How lucky *you* are to be a potential buyer at the sale. You have an appointment with numismatic destiny!

Sincerely,



Q. David Bowers, President  
Bowers and Merena Galleries



# *A Further Appreciation of the Bass Collection*

by John Dannreuther

*John Dannreuther, long-time student of and dealer in United States gold coins, contributed an appreciation which we published in the Bass II sale. We asked him for further comments for inclusion in the present Bass III catalogue:*

The nearly overwhelming quantity of rare and fantastic gold coins from the Harry Bass, Jr. Collection is a testament to the vision of this consummate collector and student of numismatics. Mr. Bass realized early in his numismatic career, nearly 35 years ago in the 1960s, that if a single rare coin of a particular date was a good deal, multiples would be a better one. He foresaw the future and recognized that quality, usually combined with rarity, would turn out to be an even better deal. He obtained many finest known examples only to have a new finest known show up—which he often also purchased even if it was not a different die variety!

However, the legacy of Harry Bass, Jr. should not be remembered by the number of specimens he acquired, but by his contribution to the advancement of *knowledge* about gold coins. No doubt, future numismatists ultimately will recognize how responsible he is for much of the “new” scholarship on United States gold coins. Not only did he willingly share his coin knowledge, observations, and discoveries with other collectors and dealers during his lifetime, the notes he took on his many different die examples will be expanded upon by Dave Bowers in the forthcoming Bass Collection *sylloge*. The number of hitherto unrecognized and unpublished die varieties is staggering, to say the least.

The many buyers who participated in the Bass I and II sales will find the third part just as exciting. There are nearly complete runs of Proof gold dollars and quarter eagles. Probably, no finer court has ever been paid to *The Little Princess* 1841 quarter eagle than in this catalogue. Other \$1 and \$2.50 specimens, common and rare, are often accompanied by die characteristics—most often taken from Mr. Bass’ notes—that will be of permanent value to specialists in gold coins.

Most probably, the catalogue could stop with gold dollars and quarter eagles—or even continue to include the dazzling threes (some rarities the likes of which are seldom seen)—and it would be an essential reference and resource for consultation for years to come. However, those series are just the beginning.

The large-denomination \$5, \$10, and \$20 coins come to the fore in importance, with the No-Motto pieces, up to 1866, almost overusing the terms “Condition Census” and “finest known”! Never in any previous auction sale or collection have so many high quality circulation strike issues come to market in a single cabinet. The present catalogue, along with the past two and the forthcoming Bass IV listings, will be viewed forever as *definitive*. Many are the varieties from the 1790s onward that were represented in grades such as VF and EF in such legendary cabinets as those of Messrs. Dunham, Atwater, Wolfson, Miles, Eliasberg, Norweb, and others, which in the Bass Collection are lustrous AU or Mint State.

There is a *danger* in all of this! To a casual observer of this catalogue, these choice and rare coins may appear *available*, but this is fool’s gold. On an absolute basis, there are *dozens* of single highlights in the Bass III catalogue that, if offered in an *ordinary* catalogue, would be the prime showpiece attraction. It is correct to say that even if the fabulous National Coin Collection at the Smithsonian were to come to market—which will never happen—there are *hundreds* of Bass Collection specimens that are finer!

The Bass catalogues each represent a *unique* opportunity. Many coins that appear in this sale simply will not be available elsewhere for years to come, and for some coins, perhaps *never* in the lifetime of the present catalogue holders. *Opportunity* is the key word.

Many price records will be broken by coins that have been off the market for a generation. The entire scope of this sale will be noted by future numismatists and those who attend this sale in person will long remember highlight after highlight. The phrase likely to be heard around bourse floors for many years will be: “What did the Bass coin bring?” And, years from now, people will ask: “Were you there?”

The entire numismatic community must thank the Bass family and the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation for this unprecedented opportunity. Numismatic gold research will have been moved forward more by these sales than any others in history.

Congratulations to the Bass family and foundation. Congratulations to the Bowers and Merena Galleries team. And, congratulations to *you* for being here when this sale happens.



*Another fine  
Bowers and Merena sale  
is about to begin...*









# SESSION ONE

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Thursday Evening, May 25, 6:00 PM Sharp

Gold Dollars: Lots 1-79

Quarter Eagles: Lots 80-270

Three-Dollar Gold: Lots 271-287

Half Eagles: Lots 288-557

## GOLD DOLLARS

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Welcome to the very nice selection of gold dollars in the Bass Collection Part III. In the pages to follow are many choice, rare, interesting, and desirable pieces that will delight the beginning enthusiast as well as fill in certain long-empty spaces in the cabinet of the advanced specialist. Quality is the byword, and also the buy word, for when Harry W. Bass, Jr., gathered these he did so with care. As the cover of this catalogue depicts, Harry was a very careful observer, and even today we can remember him visiting the lot viewing at the Louis Eliasberg sale of gold coins in 1982, bringing his binocular microscope with him, and spending hour after hour carefully studying the surfaces and varieties of different pieces, and making notes. Scarce high-grade mintmark issues, seldom seen Philadelphia Mint Proofs and Mint State coins, and others are described. While it is certainly a pleasure to catalogue the finest Proof 1875 gold dollar ever to pass under the gaze of the grading experts at PCGS, and recognize that this is the most famous of all gold dollar dates, it is also a pleasure to note the interesting die peculiarities of some of the more plentiful pieces. "Through the looking glass" can offer a wide variety of pleasures, and we lingered long while writing many of the descriptions, the basic text being by Mark Borckardt of our staff, with comments by the editor (QDB).

Authorized in March 1849, gold dollars made their first appearance in circulation early in May of the same year. The design was not quite finessed, it was in today's parlance a *beta version*, and during the year some changes were made. These included increasing the thickness of the wreath details and the size of the berries, and making each side of the wreath longer. Today, the varieties of 1849 have been described several ways, primarily by Walter Breen. As these words are being written, John Dannreuther and Jeff Garrett are well under way on a definitive book on minute die varieties, and some of their conclusions will be different from anything seen in book form to this point. In a phrase, gold dollars of 1849 are a *numismatic playground*.

From that point, production of the gold dollar, the obverse being a miniature representation of the Coronet Head used on the contemporary double eagle, continued through 1854, such pieces today being called the Type I design. Production was at

several mints: Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega, and New Orleans. As a general rule, the issues of Charlotte or Dahlonega are collected with great fervor today, while those of New Orleans, sometimes quite rare, are generally ignored.

The diameter of the gold dollar was considered to be too small for convenient use by the public, and it was enlarged, creating the Type II motif. The portrait was changed on the obverse, creating what is now called the Indian Princess design, or, as the Chapman brothers used to say a century ago, the Indian Queen. Princess or Queen, take your pick, the design was attractive in its day and is still appealing today—the same motif used on the \$3 denomination introduced in the same year.

As attractive as the Indian Princess or Type II gold dollar might have been, the thin metal planchet combined with the high-relief motif of Miss Liberty combined to create all sorts of problems during striking. Most obviously, the deepest recesses of the obverse die were opposite in the press from the central digits of the date, 88. The result was that either the features of Miss Liberty were not fully struck up, or some or all of the two central digits were weak, or combinations thereof. Finally, in 1856, the matter was given up, and the Type III motif was created, the Indian Princess now being restyled to a larger size, somewhat differently prepared, and of lower relief. The reverse design remained the same as before (for many years your editor believed that the reverse design was changed in subtle ways, but John Dannreuther pointed out that it was not changed—and, upon inspection, sure enough it had not been!). Thus isolated, the Type II gold dollars produced in part of 1854, and all of 1855, plus some stray 1856-S versions in San Francisco, are the hardest to find. As noted, lightness of strike is typical. High-grade pieces are also elusive. In the entire history of numismatics, no one has ever assembled a complete set of sharply struck, choice Mint State examples of this short lived series—so don't even think about trying! However, be secure in the knowledge that the pieces that Harry Bass collected are among the nicer examples of their kind.

The Type III gold dollar made its debut in 1856 and was continued uninterrupted through 1889. Some pieces were produced at the branch mints through 1860, and again in 1870 at San Francisco, but by and large the spread is devoted to Philadelphia pieces.



When first introduced in 1849, gold dollars were immediately popular. The reasons for this are somewhat subtle but are easy enough to understand if considered one step at a time:

Gold was discovered in the American River in California in January 1849, igniting the spark that created the fabulous Gold Rush. The first significant shipment of gold metal from the new find was brought to the Philadelphia Mint in December 1848, and it was soon realized that unprecedented quantities would be forthcoming, and, partly as a result of this, two new gold denominations were proposed, the dollar and the double eagle. Previously, the lowest denomination had been the quarter eagle and the highest denomination \$10.

As gold continued to pour into the channels of commerce and into the mints, it became “common” in comparison to silver, and previously minted silver coins began selling at a premium. By 1850, a silver dollar was worth more than a gold dollar, a trend that continued through early 1853. In 1851 and 1852, virtually all silver coins disappeared from circulation, as they could be sold at a premium to specie and bullion brokers. Thus, we come full circle to gold dollars: in the absence of silver coins in circulation, the gold dollar was in effect forced to become popular! This accounts for the large mintages during that period. Also, to help alleviate matters, the silver three-cent piece or trime was introduced in 1851, of lesser silver content alloy (just 75% instead of 90%) than the silver coins that had been taken from circulation. The trimes, not being profitable to melt down, circulated widely and also achieved success.

In February 1853, Congress put an end to the “silver problem” by reducing the authorized weight of silver coins from the half dime to the half dollar. This legislation was soon implemented, and lightweight silver issues with arrows at the date to distinguish the difference, were placed into circulation. For the first time since 1849, silver pieces were again abundant. Trimes became redundant, and mintage quantities dropped. Ditto for gold dollars. Although large quantities were made in 1854, after then gold dollar mintages fell precipitantly.

Made in reduced numbers, gold dollars were produced through the eve of the Civil War. Beginning in late December, 1861, by which time the Civil War had been underway for over a half year, the public became wary of the outcome. No longer was it viewed that union forces had an easy win. Indeed, Union troops had suffered some devastating losses. Faced with some insecurity, the public began hoarding coins, and gold pieces were the first to disappear, eventually followed by silver, and by the second week of July 1862, by the “lowly” copper-nickel Flying Eagle and Indian cents. As it turned out, gold coins of all kinds did not circulate in the East or Midwest for many years thereafter. Instead, commerce was conducted by privately issued tokens, encased postage stamps, paper scrip, fractional

currency notes, and paper money, the last in particular including the “greenback” or Legal Tender notes. It was not until December 18, 1878, that gold coins, silver coins, and paper money were all at par—all trading at the same value and interchangeable. In the meantime, some very curious things occurred, including a sharp rise in the value of gold in 1864 and 1865 to one point at which it took over \$250 in Legal Tender notes to buy \$100 worth of gold!

It is seen that after 1861, gold dollars were unnecessary, as they did not circulate. Thus, mintages became even smaller, and only token amounts were produced through the Civil War and the decade after, hitting an all-time low of just 400 circulation strikes in 1875 (plus perhaps 40 Proofs plus a few dozen Proofs made for collectors). Today, the centerpiece circulation strike gold dollar of this stretch is the 1875. An example is not offered in the present sale, but we mention it to complete the historical-numismatic picture.

After 1878, gold dollars were again available at face value. However, by that time newly minted Morgan dollars (first struck in March 1878), and silver coins of all kinds glutted the channels of commerce. Thus, gold dollars were not needed to make change. There was a great interest in gold dollars for jewelry purposes, and speculators found them interesting as well. Accordingly, from 1879, continuing to 1889, while mintages were low, substantial percentages of the pieces were retained as souvenirs, or made into jewelry, or held for investment. Thus, there are no fantastic rarities in this span. Interestingly, the 1877 and 1878 were not saved at all, and thus are very rare.

Along the way, gold dollars became numismatic favorites. In the 1860s and 1870s, when Liberty Head gold coins were scarcely collected at all (except for a handful of numismatists who ordered Proofs each year), gold dollars were eagerly sought. Thus, virtually from Day One in American coin auctions, gold dollars were included. The present writer (QDB), together with a half dozen research associates, has been delving into historical newspaper accounts, auction catalogues, and other material, leading to the eventual publication of a multi-volume reference on American gold coins. Along the way, dozens of pages of interesting newspaper stories, historical accounts, and other information about gold dollars has come to light. All of this has been very exciting to discover or, in some instances, to rediscover, and it is hoped that upon publication readers will find it equally so.

Great thanks is due to the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation for the book project in the works, as it has been the Bass Collection that provided the catalyst for all of this activity. Thank you. And, to readers of the present catalogue who are about to see our offering of gold dollars, enjoy the opportunity.



## Choice Mint State 1849 Gold Dollar

Open Wreath, Small Head, No L  
First Gold Dollar Issued



(2x photo)

- 1 **1849 Open Wreath, Small Head, No L. MS-64 (PCGS).** Lovely satiny yellow gold lustre with a few very minor surface marks here and there. Sharp central design details with weakness along the obverse and reverse borders. Numerous minute die polish lines are visible at extreme left obverse.

The following stars are repunched (counting beginning to the left of the bust tip): 9 (dramatically), 12 (slightly), and 13 (dramatically).

Although the reported mintage was just 1,000 coins, which figure we reported last October in the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, Part II, we now believe the actual mintage may have been several thousand coins. We estimate at least 1,000 coins exist today.

Die state as lots 1 and 2 of Bass, Part II.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

## Lovely 1849 Open Wreath Gold Dollar

Large Head, With L



(2x photo)

- 2 **1849 Open Wreath, Large Head, With L. MS-64 (PCGS).** Soft frosty yellow gold with hints of orange toning, especially on the reverse. Very light reflectivity is noted, providing a slight cameo appearance. An extremely attractive gold dollar. Slight central weakness is noted, especially at the date on the reverse. According to Walter Breen, this variety was struck from May 9 to June 7, 1849 (as it may well have been, but this does not mean that it was not struck later as well).

A raised die line connects the star at 9:00 and border above. Minute raised die lines are visible inside the border at 9:00.

Reverse relapped and now with some berries appearing as *large* isolated dots, the berry after R (DOLLAR) being an exception; before relapping, this die must have had a very bold wreath—quite unlike the delicate tiny berries seen on the preceding lot (the die for which was not relapped, and thus the berries were small and delicate to begin with).

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 9, 1971.



(2x photo)

- 3 **1849 Open Wreath, Large Head, With L. MS-63.** Sharply struck light yellow gold with a hint of green. A few minor abrasions are present.

A die crack from the border through I in UNITED crosses the wreath and joins DOLL. General style as preceding; extensively relapped, with *large* berries disconnected in some instances from their stems.

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 1912

## Prooflike 1849 Gold Dollar

Closed Wreath



(2x photo)

- 4 **1849 Closed Wreath. MS-64 PL.** This is a most attractive gold dollar with heavy die polish lines providing a prooflike appearance. Sharply struck in light yellow gold with splashes of orange toning on the reverse. A few very minor abrasions are visible in the obverse fields, but are hard to differentiate from the normal die striae. The Close or Closed Wreath type comprised the majority of 1849 gold dollar coinage.

Is the wreath Closed or just Close? Quick examination will reveal that the wreath is not at all closed, however, the branches are much closer to the digit 1 than on the Open Wreath variety. Although still catalogued as Closed Wreath, we submit that Close Wreath is a much better description. In fact, auction catalogues until the early 20th century, described this as Close Wreath.

The Close Wreath die was made by adapting the Open Wreath, by adding two berries and three leaves at the top of the former highest leaf groups; all other topographical features remain the same.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, December 16, 1971.

## Mint State 1849-D Gold Dollar



(2x photo)

- 5 **1849-D MS-61 (PCGS).** Mintmark shows signs of doubling, however, this appears to be a result of strike or machine doubling, rather than a repunched mintmark. Light greenish yellow gold with a halo of reflective surface around the obverse device, this being framed by frosty lustre through the stars. Quite sharply struck with slight weakness only at the obverse border from 3:00 to 7:00. Mintage for the year amounted to



21,588 coins with the first struck on July 15, 1849. This is the least rare Dahlonega gold dollar in Mint State. Doug Winter noted this issue is usually seen in Extremely Fine or lower About Uncirculated grades. The issue is moderately scarce in higher About Uncirculated grades and rare in Mint State.

A few stars are connected by die cracks.

The obverse presents an entirely different appearance than the Philadelphia Mint version; with the relief appearing higher, with the portrait especially bold, and with a very high rim. The reverse is of the Open Wreath style with delicate berries. Mintmark D slightly to left of bow knot. Under magnification, both obverse and reverse dies show evidence of rust.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 18, 1972.*



(2x photo)

- 6 **1849-O MS-62.** Satiny deep yellow lustre with a few minor marks. The obverse and reverse edges are rounded. Vertical hairlines are noted on Miss Liberty's neck and head, along with a few other very minor impairments. Although 215,000 were struck, we estimate that fewer than 100 survive in Mint State. A popular issue due to its status as the first New Orleans Mint gold dollar.

Some light die rust is noted, otherwise perfect dies.

Obverse with heavy, bold rim framing the portrait more dramatically than on Philadelphia Mint coins. Fields gently basined. Reverse with heavy berries, not relapped, and with stems present (the Open Wreath reverse of this year seems come in two different styles—delicate berries and heavy berries, but the cataloguer is not aware of which styles were used in combination with which obverse dies, nor is a complete listing of use at the four mints, Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega, and New Orleans at hand).

*Purchased from Mattoff, December 19, 1972.*

### Choice Mint State 1851 Gold \$1



(2x photo)

- 7 **1851 MS-64.** Satiny bright yellow gold lustre with very few surface marks. Some central weakness is noted, otherwise a sharp coin. An impressive coin destined for an impressive type set.

In recent decades there has been an increased interest in coin pedigrees. It is a mark of distinction and pride when a piece can be specifically traced to prior ownership by a well-known numismatist such as Virgil Brand, Louis Eliasberg, T. Harrison Garrett, J.F. Bell, William J. Jenks, Amon Carter, Jr., Harry W. Bass, Jr., or another luminary. Recently, numismatic writer Al Doyle interviewed the editor (QDB) on this subject, noting that he had observed the increasing interest.

Of course, many coins lose their pedigrees as they move from one owner to another, or as cataloguers elect not to preserve the pedigrees or do not know the pedigrees to begin with. However, in instances in which they are correctly preserved, an additional aura or quimessential aspect is given to the coin. In the present instance, the owner of this 1851 gold dollar—or, of course, the other coins in the sale—can always look with pride upon a piece that was purchased years ago and treasured by the most enthusiastic student of gold die varieties among any collector who ever lived—Harry W. Bass, Jr.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 17, 1972.*

### Delightful 1851-C Gold Dollar



(2x photo)

- 8 **1851-C MS-64 (PCGS).** This wonderful coin has sharp design details and frosty, rich yellow gold lustre. A few minute surface imperfections are noted. The reverse has a planchet lamination at upper left, crossing the wreath below first S in STATES. 41,267 gold dollars were struck in Charlotte this year. The most common Charlotte Mint gold dollar, still rare in Mint State. Probably 30 to 50 Mint State coins survive, although printed estimates range from 10 to 72. A very attractive piece which would add considerable interest to a type set—the inclusion of a Charlotte Mint coin rather than the much more plentiful Philadelphia version.

Heavy obverse die polish is noted.

*From Stack's sale of the Garrett Collection, March 1976, Lot 332.*

- 9 **1851-C AU-50.** An attractive example, pleasing light yellow gold, lightly cleaned at one time. Overall the coin is of higher quality than usually encountered for an 1851-C at this grade level—as even a cursory in-person examination will reveal.

*From Stack's sale of September 1968, Lot 296*

### Lovely AU 1851-D Gold Dollar



(2x photo)

- 10 **1851-D AU-55.** Reverse rotated 90°. Light greenish yellow gold with pleasing orange patina. Very sharp obverse and reverse design details. An attractive gold dollar. Just 9,882 were minted, one-third in February and two-thirds in June. A scarce coin in choice About Uncirculated grades, according to Doug Winter, who notes that this coin is a rarity in Mint State.

Small obverse rim breaks at 10:00 and 1:00. Obverse with very high edge and pronounced wire rim, dramatically so—lending additional interest to the specimen. Reverse with four-digit logotype very deeply punched into the die, making the numerals appear larger and closer together than normal. Protruding from the bottom of the first 1 is a tiny line or artifact, possibly placed on the die to help position the logotype (a thought advanced to the editor by Bill Fivaz, as such small marks—not repunchings of the first digit—occur across many denominations). The dies have clashed, and upon close examination a full outline of the head of Miss Liberty can be seen incuse on the reverse. All in all this is a truly interesting coin, a marvelous piece from a technical viewpoint, one that the advanced specialist in Dahlonega pieces will enjoy and appreciate owning.

*From Stack's sale of United States Coins, Metropolitan N.Y. Numismatic Convention Sale, March 1973*



- 11 **1851-O MS-62.** Frosty bright yellow gold with peripheral orange toning. Few very minor surface marks are noted. Perhaps 150 to 250 Mint State examples survive from a mintage of 290,000. Only occasionally are finer examples offered on the market.

Reverse with very large O mintmark. Position slightly below the center of the wreath knot.

*From Abe Kosoff's of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1704.*

- 12 **Trio of Mint State Type I gold dollars:** ☆ 1852 MS-62 ☆ 1853 MS-61 ☆ 1854 MS-62. Repunched 85 in date. Each is brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 3 pieces)

The 1854 is quite curious from a technical viewpoint. On the reverse the four-digit logotype is partly repunched, as noted, and is far to the right, with the crosslet of the 4 impinging on a berry. The die has clashed at least twice, possibly three times, and under magnification complete outlines of the head of Miss Liberty can be seen on the reverse. One of those enjoyable gold dollars that affords a great deal of interest when examined under magnification.

- 13 **Trio of Type I gold dollars:** ☆ 1852 MS-62, Lustrous with a minor rim nick on obverse. The obverse die seemingly relapped, but subtly, creating delicate stars; reverse with the four-digit logotype punched more deeply into the die toward the end of the date ☆ 1853 MS-62. Lustrous with a touch of toning ☆ 1854 MS-60. Lightly toned with darker toning at 1 of date and repunched 85. This is from the same die as the 1854 in the preceding lot, except that it is very slightly relapped, so that there is now a very small separation between the digit and the berry; clash marks from the head of Miss Liberty are visible but not as obvious as on the earlier offered 1854. (Total: 3 pieces)



(2x photo)

- 14 **1852-O MS-63 (PCGS).** A sharply struck example, bright yellow gold with minor surface marks. The obverse border is weak from 5:00 to 9:00 and the opposite reverse border is also weak. Although a relatively high mintage of 140,000 coins suggests that this is a common issue, only 15 to 25 Mint State examples exist. Of those, very few are better than MS-62. Only one other equivalent MS-63 example appeared for auction sale in the 1990s, that being in Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, sold by us last October. A splendid coin worthy of close bidder attention. Doug Winter noted that this issue is the second rarest gold dollar struck at New Orleans.

Minor die chips are noted near star at 2:00.

*Purchased from Mattoff, February 19, 1972.*

## Choice Mint State 1853 Gold Dollar



(2x photo)

- 15 **1853 MS-64.** A very pleasing, sharply struck example with brilliant yellow gold lustre. A few very minor surface marks are noted. An ideal coin for the date or type collector.

Light reverse clash marks outlining the head of Miss Liberty transferred from the obverse. Date logotype low and to the left.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 10, 1971.*

## Pleasing 1853-D Gold Dollar



(2x photo)

- 16 **1853-D AU-55.** Light yellow gold with satiny, slightly reflective lustre. Weakness is noted on the highest central points of the obverse. A few minor surface marks are present, including a small edge mark at 3:00 and a thin hairline scratch diagonally across the obverse. Numerous very fine obverse die polish lines or die scratches are visible. Just 6,583 coins were struck with a survival rate of approximately 3%. In 1853, almost 80% of all gold minted in Dahlonega came from California.

Under magnification the reverse is quite curious. Probably from treatment in the machine shop at the Dahlonega Mint—where something less than delicate finessing was employed—the die has gained a number of raised lines, possibly removed rust or clash marks, a berry is solidly connected to the base of T (UNITED), and there are other idiosyncrasies. Both obverse and reverse have been relapped. Die orientation normal on this particular pair, but the same die pair also exists misaligned to medal-wise orientation.

*From Stack's sale of the Meyers Collection, December 1972, Lot 481.*

- 17 **1853-O MS-62.** Frosty yellow gold lustre with sharp design details. Very faint clash marks outlining Miss Liberty are noted in the reverse. Perhaps finer than the assigned grade. Of all gold dollars struck in New Orleans, this issue is the most plentiful.

Very faint clash marks are noted on the reverse, along with diagonal die file marks just inside the border at 11.

Obverse struck from a rusted die, the field giving the portrait of Miss Liberty an interesting appearance (scarcely noticeable except under magnification), which when studied, reveals detail as to what happened. Mintmark nearly round in external outline.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, March 1972.*



- 18 **1854 Type I. MS-63 (PCGS).** Repunched 85. A lovely example with fully brilliant yellow gold lustre and very few surface marks of any type. This is the final year of the Liberty Head gold dollar and a transitional year, with the Indian Head type minted beginning later in the year. Both designs boast roughly equal mintages. A truly *beautiful* specimen—one which is certainly as good as some we have seen designated as *MS-64*. Grading is an art, not a science, and if we were personally seeking a very nice 1854 gold dollar, we would not hesitate bidding an *MS-64 price* for this beauty!

The obverse has both radial cracks from the border into the interior portion of the design, and peripheral cracks extending through and connecting various stars. The reverse has very faint clash marks displaying the outline of Miss Liberty, is lightly relapped from the die discussed earlier, with the date touching the berry (when the die was first made), now relapped. Late state with light die cracks.

*Purchased from RARCOA, July 24, 1972.*

- 19 **1854 Type I. MS-63.** An attractive gold dollar with brilliant, frosty yellow gold lustre. A few scattered marks are noted on either side.

Different dies from preceding. Obverse with delicate cracks particularly noticeable at star 2; star 3 touches border. Extremely high rim, curiously so, with the field recessed far below it. Reverse with date logotype significantly clear of berry at right. Prominent clash marks display the outline of Miss Liberty transferred from the obverse.

*Purchased from Michael G. Brownlee, April 17, 1967.*

### Choice Mint State 1854 Gold Dollar Small Indian Head



(2x photo)

- 20 **1854 Type II. MS-63 (PCGS).** A delightful cameo with reflective obverse fields and lustrous devices. The reverse is similar although with not as much cameo contrast. Satiny lustre with a few very minor surface marks, although with heavy clash marks which may be incorrectly seen as imperfections. Extremely sharp strike with full central hair details on the obverse, and very strong date details. The digit 8 shows some very *slight* weakness, scarcely worthy of mention (and 90% of cataloguers would not do so).

This new design was created by James Barton Longacre in conjunction with an increased diameter, intended to make the coin easier to handle. The presently offered example will prove to be the delight of its new owner, whether acquired to fill a hole in a type set, to add to a set of date and mintmark issues, or to illustrate clash marks in a specialized cabinet. No doubt Harry Bass, Jr., a consummate student of die varieties, purchased this piece because of the clash marks. In this instance, the clash marks do not interfere at all with the design detail of the coin or in any other way, except to add *character* to otherwise plain areas of the field. As such, the clash marks can be viewed as a *bonus* to anyone interested in mint procedures.

For the record, the four-digit date logotype used on Type I gold dollars was also used to prepare dies for Type II gold dollars.

Many gold dollars of this type have clash marks, however, those on the present coin are as extensive as any we recall handling. The heaviest clash marks are visible at the center of obverse and reverse, with lighter clash marks along the obverse borders.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, November 30, 1971.*

- 21 **1854 Type II. AU-58.** Frosty light yellow gold lustre with very pleasing surfaces for the grade. A few minor surface marks are noted.

This is one of the most *interesting* 1854 Type II gold dollars we have ever seen, and we can readily imagine that Harry W. Bass, Jr. purchased it for precisely the same features that we are about to describe:

The obverse is from a *heavily rusted* die, showing hundreds of raised lumps (pits in the die) around the border inscriptions. The open field areas do not show these, indicating that the die was lightly reground or relapped. At ATES (STATES) there is one of the most prominent die bulges we have ever seen on a dollar of this type, itself dramatic and curious. As if this were not enough, the portrait of Miss Liberty is a raised ridge, possibly due to rust (which process we cannot particularly describe, giving that it is an outline and is separated from the portrait), possibly the result of metal movement when the field of the die was relapped (observations from interested students of the series will be welcomed and will enlighten us). *Further*, there are clash marks showing part of the reverse wreath. If Louis Agassiz were alive and interested in numismatics, he might assign the description of this die as an essay project to one of his students!

Nor is that all. The reverse, while not as curious as the obverse, has its own set of distinctions. The die seems to have been very lightly relapped. At the center are clash marks showing the outline of Miss Liberty transferred from the obverse. The logotype was placed high on the die, and slightly misaligned, with the first digit (1) much closer to the O (DOLLAR) than the final digit (4) is to the right foot of A above it.

Here, indeed, is a "story coin" worth, in our opinion, a nice premium!

*From RARCOA's NASCA sale, February 1972, Lot 706.*

### Lovely 1855 Gold Dollar Small Indian Head Design



(2x photo)

- 22 **1855 MS-62 (PCGS).** Frosty light yellow gold with delightful surfaces for the grade. A few very minor blemishes are noted. Sharply struck throughout, except for very slight weakness at the central reverse. This very scarce type was only issued for two years in Philadelphia, and in 1856 at San Francisco, and is in demand from both date and type collectors. The 1855 Philadelphia issue is about equal in rarity to the 1854. We estimate about 2% of the original mintage survives in Mint State, approximately 1,500 coins.

This is another interesting "story" coin, not quite the match for the 1854 Type II in the preceding lot, but still able to stand on its own. The obverse is very well struck, with excellent detail on just about every area except the highest hair. The field, normally blank and thus devoid of interest, displays some of the most prominent clash marks we have ever seen. One can make out many of the details of the reverse wreath. On the reverse of the coin, just the opposite has taken place, with a prominent clash mark transferred from the portrait of Miss Liberty on the obverse. The striking is very excellent, save for some trivial weakness at the top of the 8. Again, no doubt Harry W. Bass, Jr. considered this to be a very *special* coin, one with a great deal of personality.

*From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 679.*



## Mint State 1855 Gold Dollar



(2x photo)

- 23 **1855 MS-61.** Lustrous light yellow gold with minor surface marks. Typical strike with strong details except for central obverse and reverse with digit 8 weak.

Very light clash marks, especially on the reverse, whereupon careful examination the outline of the portrait of Miss Liberty can be ascertained.

*Purchased from Walter Burks, January 18, 1973.*

## Important 1855-C Gold Dollar

### The Only Charlotte Type II Dollar



(2x photo)

- 24 **1855-C EF-45.** Pale greenish yellow gold with traces of orange patina. Moderately abraded and hairlined surfaces, not at all unusual for Charlotte and Dahlonega gold dollars. Strike very typical of this design, with the digit 8 weak. This example also shows weakness on the second feather plume. From a very small mintage of 9,803 coins, with fewer than 200 surviving today. Despite our description—we would probably bend over backward in trying to give a visual picture of the coin—this piece is *above average* for an 1855-C gold dollar! It is to be remembered that in today's world of numismatics, for many buyers—particularly newcomers and investors—one “number” tells all. In reality, certification services and others that use numbers do impart a degree of information about the coin, but a number alone can say nothing about the striking quality, planchet, die preparation, or any of the *many other features* that contribute to the interest, desirability, and *value* of a coin.

Clash marks are visible at central reverse.

*Purchased from Abe Kosoff, August 1973.*

## Another Scarce 1855-C Gold Dollar



(2x photo)

- 25 **1855-C EF-40.** Light yellow gold with minor abrasions and hairlines, having been cleaned in the past. Minor planchet roughness is noted. An above average strike for the issue, as best we can determine past the wear. In fact, at this grade level this is one of the nicest 1855-C gold dollars we have ever seen! This might sound strange to the uninitiated, but it is probably precisely this quality that attracted Harry Bass to it when he purchased it over 30 years ago. In his time, Harry was well known to leading dealers all across the United States, who often gave him first chance at anything rare or interesting in the gold series. One can readily imagine that for every coin he added to his cabinet, he considered and *did not buy* several or more others.

This is the only year in which the small Indian Head design was struck in Charlotte. In fact, there is only one branch mint issue of this type for each coinage facility. Charlotte, Dahlonega, and New Orleans each only produced this type in 1855 while San Francisco only in 1856.

Light clash marks are visible.

*Purchased from Michael G. Brownlee, April 18, 1967.*

- 26 **1855-O AU-50.** Lustrous light yellow gold with reflective mirrored surface visible around devices and letters. A very attractive example with minor imperfections, but above average for the issue. A high quality coin overall, and one that should attract enthusiastic bidding.

The 1855-O is the most available branch mint gold dollar of this design, from a mintage of 55,000 coins, but it is certainly *rare* in comparison to its Philadelphia Mint counterpart. As a general rule, the 1855-O gold dollar is much better struck than the naïve or primitive issues from Charlotte and Dahlonega.

The 1855-O marks the final gold dollars struck at the New Orleans Mint. It is worth noting that today, as in recent decades, there is a tremendous amount of numismatic interest focused upon Charlotte and Dahlonega branch mint coins, while by comparison there are relatively few specialists in New Orleans issues. Thus, coin for coin, scarcity for scarcity, rarity for rarity, the New Orleans pieces are lower priced.

*From Stack's sale of the Stewart Collection, May 1972, Lot 1536.*

- 27 **1856-S Type II. Normal Mintmark. AU-50.** Light yellow gold with rich deep gold and iridescent toning. An attractive example of the only San Francisco Type II gold dollar. Two varieties are mentioned in the literature—the normal or perfect mintmark variety as offered here, and the one with the doubled S.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1709.*



## Lovely Cameo Proof 1856 Gold Dollar

Type III, Slanted 5



(2x photo)

- 28 **1856 Type III. Slanted 5. Proof-64 (PCGS).** Deep reflective yellow gold with lustrous devices. A delightful cameo Proof with very minor hairlines visible under magnification (which, of course, is why it has been called Proof-64 rather than, say, Proof-65 or Proof-66). A small patch of frost is visible at the border, past the final letter in AMERICA. Planchet dullness is visible at bottom of obverse. The reverse has minor planchet striae left and right of the large digit 1 along with a minor lint mark below the smaller digit 1 in the date, continuing through the left ribbon bow. At least eight, and perhaps 10, Proofs exist. We suppose that the preceding couple of sentences may be superfluous, as 80% of buyers would be happy with a comment such as "Proof-64 (PCGS)—wonderful, splendid, marvelous, rare, etc." However, each of these coins does have a personality, and we consider it quite interesting to study the detail and relate our observations. Of course, this Proof-64 will stand proudly on its own without any other Proof-64 in existence in numismatics—it is really a very *nice* one!

This new obverse design, a modification of the earlier Indian Head obverse with smaller portrait, was prepared by James B. Longacre, with the hope of finding a motif that would strike up sharply. As a result, most Type III gold dollars are quite sharply struck, with the exception of Charlotte and Dahlonga coins which were struck from dies spaced slightly too far apart.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer (both Proof-65).

Faint clash marks are visible within the wreath.

It is quite possible, perhaps probable, that this coin traces its pedigree to New Netherlands' 45th sale of April 1955. Although not plated, Lot 763 was described: "Proof. Almost entirely brilliant; trifling touch of surface dullness (as made) on the bottom obverse margin after A of AMERICA. An authentic and desirable Proof of this date, and as such very rare and valuable."

Furthermore, regarding this very same auction lot, possibly or probably this coin: The buyer of this lot was Dave Bowers, a junior at Forty Fort (Pennsylvania) High School, who was enjoying being a mail-order rare coin dealer and by that time had become a friend of John J. Ford, Jr., guiding light of the New Netherlands firm. During this era, after each sale Ford would lead a troupe of his friends, perhaps a dozen in all, to Mama Leone's Restaurant in the Theatre District, one of the few places that was open late at night and still serving dinner.

Upon asking Dave where the 1856 Type III gold dollar went that he had purchased at New Netherlands, he paused a moment and then reflected that it may have gone to a Mr. A.K., a private collector in Wisconsin, who he recalls sent a letter stating that his daughter was about to be married, and thus he had to close his correspondence quickly with Dave, as he had other things to tend to. Of course, this was about 45 years ago, so exact details have faded somewhat.

*Purchased from Bowers and Ruddy, December 27, 1971.*

## Amazing Gem Proof 1857 Gold Dollar

Finest PCGS Certified



(2x photo)

- 29 **1857 Proof-66 (PCGS).** This phenomenal brilliant yellow gold Proof has deep mirrored fields framing cameo devices. Extremely sharp design details are characteristic of both obverse and reverse. A few minor hairlines are noted, along with several raised die polish lines. Scattered planchet imperfections were present when this gem was struck. One of the finest from a population of less than 10 Proofs. Slightly rarer than 1856 Proof gold dollars. Various estimates range from as few as five to as many as 12 Proofs in existence.

A coin combining rarity and quality such as this is apt to come on the market only once a *generation*, if that. Thus, the price paid is often secondary to the *opportunity* to purchase such a piece. It is relevant to state that when Harry W. Bass, Jr., was forming his collection from the 1960s through the late 1990s, if he saw something he liked, he bought it. Along the way he set *many* all time record prices, but events would prove that yesterday's record became a bargain at a later time. Thus, today in the year 2000, the Bass coins, all gathered with care, and by selective, aggressive purchasing, have in the aggregate yielded a tremendous profit over the price paid. Precisely the same thing could be said about the other great gold cabinets that have come to market—the Norweb Collection, the Eliasberg Collection, and more. How delightful it is that a fine cabinet of gold coins can provide many intellectual pleasures and collecting challenges while, at the same time, offer the distinct possibility of being one of the finest financial investments imaginable!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Possibly from New Netherlands' 45th sale, as was the 1856 offered above. Both coins in the New Netherlands sale were purchased by Dave Bowers, and both were sold by Bowers and Ruddy some 16 years later, possibly after the firm had reacquired them from the man who bought them from Dave shortly after the New Netherlands sale. Perhaps this is a coincidence, or perhaps not. Who knows?

Before leaving this subject entirely, we mention that Proof coins were not generally sold to collectors until the year 1858. Thus, mintages for the lower years tend to be very small. Even in 1858, only a handful of Proofs were distributed, singly (not in sets).

*Purchased from Bowers and Ruddy, December 27, 1971.*



## Glittering Proof 1858 Gold Dollar



(2x photo)

- 30 **1858 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Reflective deep greenish gold Proof fields with lustrous bright yellow devices. The cameo contrast between fields and devices is exceptional. Very faint diagonal polish lines are visible on the obverse. A curved lint mark from the bottom of T in UNITED almost reaches Liberty's nose. The reverse has a small patch of short vertical hairlines above LAR, visible only at certain angles to light.

Proof gold dollars of 1858 and 1859 are, per conventional wisdom, of about equal rarity, although our studies—still in progress—shows that perhaps a few more 1858 pieces are around. However, the total number known on an absolute basis is very small, and again the word *opportunity* beckons.

In 1858 Proof coins were first generally sold to the public, as noted under the preceding lot. The number of Proof gold dollars distributed was nowhere recorded, but if we were to give an estimate, we would suggest that no more than 20 were produced. This in comparison to an estimated 215 examples of the very famous 1858 Proof *silver* dollar.

From RARCOA's Central States Numismatic Society sale, April 1975, Lot 27.

## Delightful Proof 1859 Gold Dollar

### Repunched Date



(2x photo)

- 31 **1859 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Repunched 18 in date apparently as always. Very slight strike doubling is noted, especially on nose, lips, bust tip, and some obverse letters. Similar to the 1858 Proof, with deeply reflective greenish yellow gold fields and lustrous rich yellow devices. Reports indicate that 80 Proofs were struck, however, most were likely melted with a net mintage of less than 25. Today, perhaps only 12 to 15 Proofs are known.

PCGS Population: 8; 2 finer (both Proof-65).

Very heavy obverse and reverse clash marks including letters of LIBERTY through the date, and Liberty's earlobe above second L in DOLLAR. During the course of producing most series of United States coins, sometimes during the clashing of dies, they would be relapped or repolished, to remove or partly remove the clash marks, imparting a mirrorlike surface and creating what we like to call an *inadvertent* or *unintentional* Proof. Many examples could be cited. However, in the present instance this is the regular die used to coin Proofs, to the best of our knowledge. We would be very interested in corresponding with anyone possessing an 1859 Proof dollar that has different characteristics (for example, no clash marks) from that described here.

The four digits are small and differently styled from anything seen to this point. 1 is short and with a particularly thick upright, not at all delicate; 18 heavy with very small pieces, top interior being about the same as the bottom interior. The 5 very curiously shaped, with top flag being as wide as or slightly wider than the curve below it, heavy, and sharply pointed. Ball large and close to upright, touching it on most if not all impressions. 9 thick to the left and right, somewhat small at the bottom, with small ball close to or touching the curve above. Interior space of 9 leans or is oriented slightly to the right. This distinctive set of numeral punches, bearing no relation to anything used earlier in the series, is popularly attributed to Anthony C. Paquet.

This reverse die is one of two used to strike Proofs this year. The other die is illustrated at Lot 128 of our Bass II auction (which is the same as the American Numismatic Society's Proof). As a quick visual check, on the present coin the lower portion of the 1 (1859) is much closer to the nearest part of the ribbon than it is to the O (DOLLAR) above, whereas on the piece in the Bass II collection, the digit is about the same distance from both. To the best of our knowledge, this difference has not been published before.

Purchased from Strauss Coin Co., December 13, 1971

- 32 **Quartette of gold dollars grading MS-62:** ☆ 1859. Date logo-type punched more deeply into the die at the top of the figures on the bottom, making the figures heavier at the tops, and resulting in a tapered appearance to the first digit ☆ 1861. Obverse die with delicate clash marks visible under magnification, particularly above the portrait ☆ 1874 ☆ 1884. Each displays lustrous surfaces, the final two issues are prooflike. (Total: 4 pieces)

A very nice group, perhaps the catalyst to forming a gold dollar set by dates. The 1859 in Mint State is somewhat scarce, the 1884 has the advantage of having a low mintage. Each of the pieces is quite attractive.

## Lovely Cameo Proof 1860 Gold Dollar

### Gem Classic Rarity



(2x photo)

- 33 **1860 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Sharply struck cameo Proof with rich yellow gold devices. Microscopic imperfections include tiny lint marks and planchet flakes as struck, along with very faint hairlines. The central date digits, 86, are slightly weaker or shallower than 1 and 0. Although 154 Proofs were struck, sales were certainly not as brisk as some had hoped, with a net mintage (coins actually finding buyers at the Mint) of possibly 40 to 50 coins. Of these, all struck on April 15, perhaps just 25 to 30 (or less) survive, few of which can hold a candle to the present piece in terms of numerical designation (*only part of the story*) and, equally important, eye appeal.

PCGS Population: 7; 1 finer (Proof-66).

Two short raised die lines extend left from Liberty's ear lobe. D and first S are slightly doubled. Die lines extend right from A and second T in STATES, from the right diagonal of A just above crossbar, and from right foot of T.

From Stack's ANA sale, August 1971, Lot 1922.



## Amazing Gem Proof 1861 Gold \$1

### Highly Desirable Classic Rarity



(2x photo)

- 34 **1861 Proof-65 (PCGS).** This wonderful cameo Proof has very deep reflective mirrored fields. The devices are lustrous and frosty and all design details are sharp. Fields have a wavy or watery appearance, characteristic of gem Proof gold coins. The mintage figure of 349 coins seems completely out of line, with just 15 to 20 survivors known today. The actual number distributed was probably about 30 coins.

Very little survives in the way of records relating to Proof coinage of this era. The numbers that have reached print are nearly completely due to the unstinting efforts of R.W. Julian, who many years ago spent much time in the National Archives going through mint records, later sharing them with Walter Breen (who used them in his monographs, his 1988 *Encyclopedia*, and elsewhere), Clair Birdsall, and others. Although R.W. Julian's efforts have not been widely heralded, they are indeed worthy of great recognition and the gratitude of all numismatic students. Having worked with Bob Julian for a long time in many different areas, we know how careful his research is—devoid of theories, adhering to the facts, and rarely in need of emendation. Currently, he is a consulting editor to our gold coin encyclopedia project.

The reason for producing Proof coins is not stated in Mint records, and if in 1861 a quantity such as 349 pieces was indeed produced, this might have been for a special occasion—what occasion? The inauguration of President Abraham Lincoln comes to mind—what a nice souvenir an 1861 Proof dollar (the smallest gold denomination), would have made. There is some precedent for using the smallest denomination gold coin as a commemorative or special issue, as evidenced by the 1848 CAL. quarter eagle—selected as the denomination used to coin souvenirs from California gold bullion. No doubt if a gold dollar had existed in 1848 (the denomination did not begin until 1849), a gold dollar would have been chosen instead.

The concept of an extra number of Proof coins or special strikes being made for presidential inauguration is not new, and may have originated with Michael Hodder in an essay in Stack's catalogue for the James A. Stack Collection, in which he noted that certain early (pre-1858) Proofs tended to exist in larger numbers for inaugural years.

In our current study of gold coins leading to the eventual publication of the multi-volume encyclopedia, we have noticed the same thing. Prooflike and/or Proof quarter eagles were made in larger numbers in 1829 (an inaugural year) than any other year of the era.

Every once in a while a surprise delights the collecting fraternity, and how interesting it would be if some tie-in could be made to the 1861 Proof dollars and the Lincoln inauguration. This would at once explain the overly large mintage and, if they were distributed to the general public or to officials or to congressmen, they would have been handled carelessly, and this would explain their rarity today. The theory is in place, now all we need to do is find some printed evidence!

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Marks Collection, November 1971, Lot 1601.

- 35 **1861 MS-64.** A wonderful circulation strike example with vertical die striae on obverse and reverse, providing a reflective mirrored appearance. Sharply struck with only a few very minor imperfections. A favorite choice among type collectors, as many choice or gem Mint State examples survive.

Die striae are the strong rule, not the occasional exception, on circulation strike dies of all silver and gold denominations of this year. Such striae are particularly evident on early strikes, such as this, as they sometimes later wear off, being replaced by granularity. In instances (not applicable to this piece) in which a die is relapped, a new set of striae, perhaps with a different orientation, will be seen.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, September 21, 1972.

- 36 **1861 MS-63.** Highly lustrous bright yellow gold with a few very minor surface marks, including a few hairlines on the obverse. Minor planchet roughness is noted in the lower left obverse field.

Light obverse and heavy reverse clash marks including ERTY of LIBERTY, this appearing raised and backward, a transfer from the obverse die in which on the band of the headdress of the Indian princess it appeared *incuse* and in the correct arrangement. This type of clash mark occurs on several different dates of gold dollars and is especially interesting. The appreciation of this coin—and just about any other gold dollar—can be enhanced by spending some time studying it under high-powered magnification. If you want to go a further step, the "Money Store" at the American Numismatic Association, Colorado Springs, offers binocular microscopes for sale—making it possible to see interesting features larger than life and in three dimensions.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 15, 1971.

## Glittering Gem Proof 1862 Gold \$1

### An American Numismatic Classic



(2x photo)

- 37 **1862 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A wonderful gem with deeply reflective mirrored fields and highly lustrous, frosty devices. A few very minor hairlines and other minute imperfections are noted in the fields. Some scratches on the PCGS holder are also reflected in the mirrored fields. 35 Proofs were struck on February 16, 1862, although some may have remained unsold. Possibly 15 to 20 of these survive today, with gem examples of extreme rarity. The obverse die was used for Proofs of several following years, including 1863 to 1873, 1875, and 1876. This same die was later used for circulation strikes in 1879 and 1888, then for Proofs in 1889.

The obverse die has a small area of polished Proof surface at the vertical element of the first (leftmost) headdress plume, this being diagnostic of all Proofs for 1862 to 1873. Thus, a gold dollar cannot be called Proof unless this feature is noted. A tiny horizontal projection is noted at about the center outside right of the digit 2.

Purchased from Doug Weaver, June 9, 1973.

- 38 **1862 MS-63.** Satiny light orange-gold with smooth surfaces and only a few very minor abrasions. Highly lustrous and attractive. A small area of planchet roughness exists at upper right obverse.

Digit 2 has same characteristics as Proof.

Purchased from Abner Kriesberg, March 30, 1973.



## Exciting Proof 1863 Gold \$1

### Key to the Series



(2x photo)

- 39 **1863 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Extremely deep mirrored Proof fields with heavily frosted, lustrous devices. A wonderful cameo Proof and a scarce year as well. Very sharply struck with only a few very minor hairlines and other abrasions. Although the stated Proof mintage of 50 coins suggests a higher population, only 12 to 15 examples are known today. Most likely, only about 30 Proofs were actually distributed, the rest were later melted as unsold. All Proofs were struck on March 23, 1863.

The desirability of the 1863 Proof gold dollar—not that it needs any enhancement—is increased by the fact that *Mint State* coins of this date are the rarest of the decade and are seldom met with, even in “name” collections. Thus, additional market pressure is placed upon the small available supply of Proofs. Among Proofs, very few in existence combine the high grade and excellent eye appeal of the present coin.

*From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 703.*

## Choice Proof 1864 Gold Dollar

### Another Classic



(2x photo)

- 40 **1864 Proof-63 (PCGS).** Light greenish yellow gold with cameo devices on obverse and reverse. Numerous minor hairlines are visible. Splashes of deep coppery toning are visible on either side. Similar to 1863, only 50 Proofs were struck on February 11, 1864 with about 30 coins actually sold. Today, just 12 to 15 of these still exist. Throughout the 1990s, just five Proofs appeared for sale at auction.

This is another coin combining rarity with a generous amount of eye appeal. Although PCGS has graded it Proof-63, take our word for it (if you wish) that this is nicer than some Proof gold dollars we have seen graded all the way to Proof-65. Harry Bass was a connoisseur when he made purchases, and this coin was selected for its *quality*. The new owner of this piece will be justifiably proud.

PCGS Population: 3; 5 finer (Proof-66 finest).

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, December 21, 1971.*



(2x photo)

- 41 **1864 MS-62.** Lustrous light yellow gold with numerous tiny marks and hairlines. Still attractive and rare. Only 5,900 were struck, with 2,400 delivered on February 23, and 3,500 on December 6, according to Walter Breen. We are not aware of any way to determine which delivery a given coin came from.

Year in and year out a Mint State 1864 gold dollar has been regarded as a prime numismatic classic. In the “gold coin project” now underway we have reviewed *several thousand* historical auction catalogues and, as these particular words are being written (on February 17) have made detailed notes on over 1,200 of the most important—with hundreds more yet to come. Without fear of contradiction we can state that decades ago a Mint State 1864 gold dollar was considered to be a numismatic prize, was one of the most highly valued Philadelphia Mint issues in the entire series, and was eagerly sought. Today in the year 2000, sometimes *foundational rarity* is overlooked in the quest for numbers, etc., but still the 1864 gold dollar is as desirable as ever—it just takes a bit more searching to discover its true importance.

We notice this piece came from the Champa Collection, consigned by a prominent numismatist of Louisville, Kentucky, who collected gold coins, patterns, and other items. After he sold his collection through us, he did not want to give up numismatics and embarked on a completely different tangent, building on the modest library he had gathered in relation to pattern coins, and going on to form one of the most impressive libraries in American numismatic history.

*From our sale of the Armand Champa Collection, May 1972, Lot 505.*

## Curious “Proof” 1865 Gold Dollar



(2x photo)

- 42 **1865 Proof-62, or possibly prooflike MS-62.** A curious piece which is quite unlike any other 1865 gold dollar we recall seeing. Harry Bass in his notes attributed this as a *Proof restrike*, noting that the reverse die is different from the Proof held by the American Numismatic Society, although it shared the same obverse. Harry Bass in his studies also stated, with a question mark at the end, “two known?”—indicating that he had not heard of any others, while at the same time he had evaluated multiple examples of the “regular” dies.

This piece seems to have been struck from dies with a very deep, indeed *heavy* “orange peel” surface, particularly on the reverse. There is also a planchet chip. The surfaces are somewhat irregular, although highly prooflike, no doubt intended as a Proof, and in our opinion attributable as one.

The production quantity of Proofs for the 1865 was reported as 50, to which restrikes were added, with Walter Breen noting that some of these might not be restrikes at all in the traditional sense, as they may have been produced in the year dated, 1865. Whatever the origin, the piece does not have the depth of brilliance of a regular Proof and was probably produced to create a specimen *of the date* for sale to collectors in



an era in which the dates of the mid-1860s were recognized as being worth several dollars each, when certain later and earlier dates were worth not much more than face value.

This piece is deserving of further study, perhaps with our notes serving as a starting point. It would be interesting to learn from anyone who has an example from the same dies.

Lightly frosted cameo devices and mirrored fields have numerous tiny abrasions and other imperfections. The reverse has a wavy, dished appearance. Perhaps a restrike with a different date position from circulation strikes. A heavy lint mark is attached to the reverse border at 12:00.

Mint reports indicate 25 Proofs were struck. Probably most or all of these were actually distributed, with 12 to 15 known today. This information helps us with the previous Proof coinage of 1863 and 1864, also with 12 to 15 known today, yet with a reported mintage of 50 coins in each year.

In his *Proof Coin Encyclopedia*, Walter Breen noted that restrikes exist, and stated that these may have been produced as early as late 1865. Of course, if struck in 1865 they would not be classified as restrikes.

Date slants up to right with ribbon peak below left curve of digit 6. Mint State examples offered in Part II of the Bass Collection have ribbon peak below center of 6, or very slightly right of center.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, December 20, 1972.*

## Amazing Gem Proof 1866 Gold Dollar

Tied For Finest PCGS Certified



(2x photo)

- 43 **1866 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Extremely sharp design details with deep mirrored fields and lustrous, cameo devices. A coin for the connoisseur. Another very rare issue in Proof format, and in circulation strike format as well, with 30 Proofs struck and 16 to 20 known today. Of those struck, 25 were delivered on January 15 and five on June 8.

A concept related to rarity is market availability, or how often a given coin appears for sale today. In the case of 1866 gold dollar Proofs, throughout the 1990s examples were offered for sale on average once every 15 months.

There are so few of these pieces known, and even fewer offering a combination of high grade and beautiful eye appeal, that if you desire a Proof 1866, we suggest that you throw caution to the wind and bid very liberally, remembering that it is often the case of numismatics that today's record price is tomorrow's bargain. In the instance of the 1866 gold dollar, not only is this a fantastic rarity in Proof preservation, but there is the added appeal of related circulation strikes being rarities.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

The obverse die is distinguished by two tiny raised parallel lines, at a diagonal below the earlobe. On the reverse the interior parts of the 8 are open, as is the base of the 6, but the top part of the first 6 and the interior of the second 6 are filled in. John Dannreuther notes that this Proof is from an obverse die that is not usually associated with Proofs of this era. Interestingly, Harry Bass had noted on his insert that this coin matched the ANS specimen, which is in their complete run of Proof gold dollars from 1854 to 1889.

*From Stack's sale of the Delp Collection, November 1972, Lot 774.*

## Lovely Cameo Proof 1867 Gold Dollar

Exceedingly Important Rarity



(2x photo)

- 44 **1867 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Delightful orange-gold with deeper orange toning at the border. A cameo with mirrored fields and frosted devices. A few minor hairlines on the obverse keep this out of the gem category. A small round planchet flaw is just above R in DOLLAR. Mint reports recorded 50 Proofs struck, with 25 each on March 5 and July 2. Many of these must have been unsold, as only about 15 survive, suggesting an actual distribution of 25 to 30 coins. Only five Proofs appeared at auction throughout the 1990s.

Again, the opportunity to acquire this piece is exceedingly important. While the designation by PCGS as "only" Proof-64, it has a very generous amount of eye appeal and will stand on its own with certain Proof dollars certified with even higher numbers. It is to be recalled that Harry Bass spent many years in his search for quality, and as a bidder in the sale, you are the direct beneficiary. As is the case with most gold dollars of this era, the 1867 is not only an extreme rarity in Proof format, but high-grade circulation strikes are elusive as well.

PCGS Population: 4; 4 finer (all Proof-65).

Obverse is the "incomplete feather" die used on certain other gold dollars of the period and is different from that used to coin the preceding 1866.

*From Stack's sale of the Garrett Collection, March 1976, Lot 421.*

## Mint State 1867 Gold Dollar

A Splendid Coin



(2x photo)

- 45 **1867 MS-63.** Sharply struck with lustrous light yellow gold surfaces and few minor surface marks. Slightly reflective fields and frosty devices. Obverse and reverse have intense die striae slanting up to the right, indicating it is a very early strike after the surfacing of the dies (in fact, the striae are about as prominent as we have ever seen on any circulation strike gold dollar). In Mint State quality, this issue is almost as rare as when in Proof. Only 25 to 35 examples are known, with most of these in lower numeric levels. The present coin, hand selected by Harry Bass, is a splendid specimen of the date and grade.

Four-digit date logotype positioned low, 6 close to ribbon, and slanting down to the right (easily discernible by comparing the distance from the top of the 1 in date and the letter above it, and the distance from the top of the L to its respective letter above it). Logotype punched in the die with the final digit particularly deep. The striking of this piece is slightly light in the two center digits, 86, giving the curious aspect of the 1 being normal, the 86 be-



ing light, and the 7 being very heavy—easy to figure out if viewed on a step-by-step basis.

Also of interest to the specialist is a very slight (best observed by holding the coin at an angle to the light) bulge on the bottom part of the obverse, most prominent on the neck, from that point to NIT (UNITED).

*Purchased from RARCOA, August 23, 1973.*

## Desirable Proof 1868 Gold Dollar

Incredibly Important Rarity  
Reverse Rotated



(2x photo)

- 46 **1868 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Deeply reflective yellow gold fields and bright gold devices create intense cameo contrast. Extremely sharp strike with only a few very minor imperfections. Medallic die alignment with the reverse rotated 180° from the normal position. Most known Proof 1868 gold dollars, and all known 1868 Proof \$3 gold coins, have the reverse in medallic orientation. One was reported with the dies rotated 30° and Walter Breen reported examples with normal alignment.

Just 25 Proofs were minted, and all were delivered on February 20. Certainly less than 20 survive today, perhaps just 10 to 12 examples. An incredibly important rarity, again a coin which will hold its own with just about *any* Proof dollar we have seen—regardless of numerical designation. As is a common thread throughout the Bass Collection, the present coin combines not only a very satisfactory numerical grade, but equally or more important, a high degree of aesthetic quality and eye appeal. The result is an 1868 Proof gold dollar that will furnish the pride of ownership for a long time.

PCGS Population: 3; 3 finer (all Proof-65).

Obverse from “unfinished feather” die seen on nearly all Proof gold dollars of the era. Reverse with date logotype low, 6 above point of ribbon and fairly close to it, and with date slanting down to the right (easily discernible by comparing to the baseline of the letters above it).

*From Stack’s sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 1975*

## Rare Mint State 1868 Gold Dollar



(2x photo)

- 47 **1868 MS-63.** Satiny light yellow gold lustre with minor surface marks. Cleaned in the past with light hairlines visible. Reverse is rotated very slightly left. Another scarce issue in Mint State, although more common than the 1867 issue offered above.

Date position about the same as on the Proof just described.

*From Abe Kosoff’s ANA sale, August 1968, Lot 1469.*

## Gem Cameo Proof 1869 Gold Dollar

Finest PCGS Certified  
An American Numismatic Treasure



(2x photo)

- 48 **1869 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold with extremely deep mirrored fields and bright, cameo devices. A few very minor hairlines are visible. Numerous raised die finish lines are visible on the reverse. The 25 Proofs struck were all delivered on February 19, just four days after 5,900 circulation strikes were delivered. Just 12 to 15 Proofs are known today, with examples appearing on the market once every 20 months.

Another tremendously important, exceedingly rare coin, the *opportunity* to purchase it being extraordinary. Combining high grade and beautiful appearance this piece will be a treasure in the cabinet of its next owner.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Obverse with “unfinished feather” die as normally seen on Proofs of this year.

The reverse die is very interesting to study under magnification. During the Proof polishing process a number of lines were imparted into the die surface, creating *raised* lines on the finished coin—quite interesting. The date logotype, larger than in preceding years, is slightly low and is level.

*From Stack’s sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 1977.*

## Attractive Proof 1870 Gold \$1



(2x photo)

- 49 **1870 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold with lustrous devices framed by reflective Proof fields. A few minor hairlines and other imperfections are noted. Just 12 to 15 Proofs remain from a mintage of 35 coins. These were delivered on February 3 (25 Proofs) and June 1 (10 Proofs). Another incredibly rare, exceedingly important Proof from this issue—a prize when acquired by Harry Bass many years ago and, a quarter of a century later, an even greater prize—as in the meantime a few other pieces have become lost, strayed, or impaired. Another exceedingly important *opportunity*.

PCGS Population: 3; 4 finer (all Proof-65)

Obverse from “unfinished feather” die common to multiple Proofs dates of the era. Reverse with date logotype level and slightly low, deeply impressed into the die. As is the case with Proofs of the preceding year, under *very high* magnification some very interesting *raised* lines can be seen, artifacts of the Proof polishing process.

*From RARCOA’s Central States Numismatic Society sale, April 1975, Lot 44.*



## Attractive Proof 1871 Gold Dollar



(2x photo)

- 50 **1871 Proof-63 (PCGS).** Delightful cameo Proof with moderate contrast between lustrous devices and mirrored fields. Minor hairlines are visible in obverse and reverse fields. In addition, light die polish lines are also noted. Minor scratches are just above the obverse border at 6:00. The obverse has a splash of light orange toning along the rim at 4:30. Mintage consisted of 30 Proofs delivered February 20, following the delivery of 3,900 circulation strikes less than a week earlier, on February 15. We estimate about 10 to 12 Proofs survive today.

Once again—and how pleasant it is to be repetitive in this catalogue!—we are confronted with a prime American numismatic rarity with a great deal of eye appeal. The numerical grade of the present 1861 is not as high as the Proofs offered in the several preceding lots, but the overall quality may make up for it, and certainly this is no *ordinary* Proof-63! Again, the word *opportunity* is relevant.

PCGS Population: 1; 3 finer (Proof-66 finest).

Obverse with “unfinished feather” die, as typical for Proofs of the era. Reverse with date logotype boldly punched into die, level, and slightly low.

*Purchased from Joe Flynn, December 13, 1972.*

## Gem Cameo Proof 1872 Gold \$1



(2x photo)

- 51 **1872 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Sharply defined with amazing cameo contrast. Deeply reflective mirrored fields and heavily frosted devices. Few very minor planchet flakes and hairlines are visible. All 30 Proofs were delivered on February 3. In addition, 3,500 circulation strikes were minted. It is likely that most or all Proofs were actually sold, as an estimated 15 to 18 remain today. A general rule can be established that 50% to 60% of Proof gold dollars still survive, possibly a greater percentage closer to the end of this denomination in 1889.

PCGS Population: 5; 1 finer (Proof-66).

Obverse from “unfinished feather” die used elsewhere in Proof coinage of the era. For continued employment, the die has been repolished, resulting in some other “unfinished” areas, very small, throughout the plumes. Reverse with date logotype in small heavy letters, about centered. Interior space of O (DOLLAR) and 2 (1872) filled.

*From Stack’s sale of the Garrett Collection, March 1976, Lot 451.*

## Prooflike 1873 Closed 3 Gold Dollar

Possibly Struck as a Proof



(2x photo)

- 52 **1873 Closed 3. MS-62 (PCGS).** An attractive prooflike example with light cameo contrast. The surfaces have numerous tiny handling marks. Possibly struck as a Proof, however, not certified as such. We believe that this is, in fact, one of just 25 Proofs struck, with only 10 to 12 survivors. Several tiny lint marks are visible on either side. This example has the polished area in the first headdress plume, characteristic of Proofs struck from 1862 to 1873. Also, the light orange-peel surface is reminiscent of Proofs. Regardless of Proof or circulation strike status, this is an important rarity.

Obverse from “unfinished feather” die, about the same state as the preceding. Reverse with small Closed 3 date logotype, about centered, and also nearly level.

*Purchased from Strauss Coin Co., December 13, 1971.*

- 53 **1873 Open 3. MS-64.** Sharply struck with full LIBERTY. Highly lustrous deep yellow gold with satiny surfaces. Very minor surface marks are noted. A splendid specimen, among the finest seen in recent years.

Open 3 date logotype, low and sloping slightly to the right.

*Purchased from RARCOA, July 24, 1972.*

- 54 **1873 Open 3. MS-63.** Attractive light yellow gold with frosty lustre and only a few very minor surface marks. Only LIB of LIBERTY is on the die (nothing to do with the striking, but due to the die itself), and with a prominent *raised* vertical line on the neck of Miss Liberty, also in the die. This distinctive variety has been known for many years and has been long described in the literature.

Reverse with date logotype punched especially deeply into the die, giving it a somewhat less “open” feature than on the preceding, although from the same logotype punch.

*From RARCOA’s Central States Numismatic Society sale, April 1975, Lot 624.*



## Stunning Cameo Proof 1874 Gold \$1

Finest PCGS Certified

An American Numismatic Treasure



(2x photo)

- 55 **1874 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A wonderful gem with very light yellow gold devices, and strong cameo contrast. A few very minor hairlines and other planchet imperfections are noted. Only L of LIBERTY is visible. Light die polish lines and lint marks are visible. This is a very common issue in Mint State, however, a rarity when in Proof quality. Only 20 Proofs were struck with about half of these surviving today. When examining market appearances at auction over the past decade, we find that only four examples have appeared, or one every 30 months.

This is a true American numismatic treasure, one of the most important gold dollars of any date, any mint to be auctioned in our lifetime. By way of comparison, *several* Proof 1875 gold dollars appear on the market for each single Proof 1874! Much could be said about this coin, without fear of exaggeration. Simply stated, it is *fantastic*. Again, the *opportunity* is more relevant than the price paid.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Obverse from a different die, with feathers fully finished. Deep mirror surfaces of more uniform quality than the "unfinished" feather obverse, which by this time was becoming tired. Reverse with bold logotype, about centered. Interiors of DO and top of A (DOLLAR) filled. Both obverse and reverse dies were especially deeply polished, making this a really *proofy* Proof (if such a term is allowed). Splendid!

From Superior's Auction '85, July 1985, Lot 904.

- 56 **1874 MS-64.** An attractive example with satiny light yellow gold lustre. Minor hairlines and other abrasions are noted. A candidate for the type collector.

Variety without the word LIBERTY in the headband, a characteristic of the *die* (not of striking), well known in the literature, and cited numerous times over the years. A very interesting variety.

From Stack's sale of May 1971, Lot 1199.

- 57 **Grouping of gold dollars grading MS-62:** ☆ 1874. Pale toning over lustrous surfaces. Variety with only the L in LIBERTY visible, again in the die. Different from the preceding, and well described in the literature; on the reverse the date logotype is particularly deeply impressed ☆ 1874. Lustrous with splashes of orange toning. Obverse as preceding; reverse from a different die, date logotype slightly farther left, O (DOLLAR) completely filled in, certainly an unusual aspect ☆ 1878. Lustrous ☆ 1884. Lustrous. Fairly low mintage ☆ 1885. Lustrous. A very curious piece for the specialist. Obverse with wire rim around most of the periphery, pronounced bulge below TA (STATES); reverse with prominent clash marks completely outlining the portrait of Miss Liberty, and with ERTY visible raised and backward. A very interesting group for the specialist or, for that matter, for anyone desiring to own beautiful coins of interesting varieties. (Total: 5 pieces)



## Incredible Gem Proof 1875 Gold Dollar

Landmark Philadelphia Mint Rarity

Finest PCGS Certified



58 **1875 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Deep yellow gold with reflective mirrored fields and lustrous, frosty devices. A lovely example with strong cameo contrast.

A splendid specimen which comes as close to perfection as any certified by PCGS—this standing alone at the Proof-66 level, with *none finer!* On the reverse a lint mark is seen to the right of the denomination number, a pedigree marker.

The fame of the 1875 is long enduring, and for many years this has been recognized as *the* classic in any date series of gold dollars. Of all of the Philadelphia Mint issues 1849 through 1889, this is *the* coin—really with no serious competition. Time and again the classic collections brought to market by generations of dealers would be complete *except* for the 1875.

Popular references state that 400 circulation strikes were minted plus 20 Proofs, but we suspect that a few more Proofs than 20 were struck. No doubt the figure of 20 represents

number of gold Proof *sets* produced in 1875, and may be applicable to the \$5, \$10, \$20 which played to reduce demand, but not to the lower denominations. There are more than 20 Proof 1875 gold dollars known today and more than 20 1875 \$3 pieces (the \$3 being a classic rarity in that denomination). Not only is the presently offered 1875 a formidable rarity surrounded by great fame, but it also traces its pedigree to the cabinet of T. Harrison Garrett of Baltimore, Maryland. Thus, as we gaze at this coin while cataloguing it, and as you gaze upon it as a proud owner, we both can both envision that years ago this piece was in Garrett's upstairs study at Evergreen House on North Charles Street, where no doubt it was enjoyed from time to time by viewing under magnification.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From the "unfinished feather" die used from 1862 to 1873.

From Stack's sale of the Garrett Collection, March 1976, Lot 457.



## Important Proof 1876 Gold Dollar

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS  
Another Numismatic Landmark



(2x photo)

- 59 **1876 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold with moderate cameo contrast and a hint of iridescent toning. In addition, just 3,200 circulation strikes were manufactured, although the issue resides in the shadow of 1875.

Only occasionally does a Proof 1876 gold dollar cross the auction block and even less often is a glittering gem presented for sale. The coin offered here is one of the very finest in existence, another American classic, a piece that will be long cherished by its next owner.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Although not all Proofs of 1876 used the obverse of 1862 to 1873, this specimen did.

*Purchased from American Coin Co., February 10, 1973.*

- 60 **1876 MS-63.** Prooflike Mint State with light cameo contrast. Very light yellow gold with minor surface marks. Quite sharply struck. Mint State coins are quite elusive, as few seem to have been saved by collectors in the years following our nation's centennial.

Four-digit date logotype slightly differently positioned than on the circulation strike than on the Proof. On the Proof the highest point of the ribbon is directly below the space between 8 and 7.

*Purchased from RARCOA, July 24, 1972.*

## Delightful Proof 1877 Gold Dollar



(2x photo)

- 61 **1877 Proof-64 (PCGS).** A lovely cameo Proof with lustrous light yellow gold devices. A few very light hairlines are noted, along with numerous planchet flakes, particularly on the reverse, as struck. Another very important issue in Proof, from a mintage reported as 20 coins, although probably more in line with 30 examples. Approximately 15 to 20 Proofs survive today. Determining numbers known today involves considerable guesswork, especially among the smaller denominations. Plate matching among older catalogues, and some recent catalogues, is quite difficult as pedigree markers can be nearly impossible to see. Resubmission to grading services, sometimes with the same coin being sent in multiple times, makes the task even more difficult. Estimates of survival can vary from one person to another, based on each individual's own experience. In the case of this issue, for instance, David Akers noted just 10

to 12 examples exist, when offering the Pittman Collection coin in 1997.

PCGS Population: 2; 4 finer (all Proof-65).

Harry Bass's notes (paraphrased) "As American Numismatic Society and other Proof, but no dash marks on the face die of the present piece."

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, April 1973.*

- 62 **1877 MS-63.** Satiny light yellow gold with a few minor surface marks, including small scrapes on Liberty's cheek. Another scarce issue in Mint State, one of just 3,900 coins struck. The 1877 has always been a "magic date" in numismatics, and in the gold dollar series this year has been highly admired. Unlike the situation which began just two years later in 1879, in 1877 very few circulation strikes were saved by collectors or dealers. Thus, pieces are very elusive today.

*From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 578.*

## Gem Cameo Proof 1878 Gold \$1

Tied for Finest PCGS Certified  
A Fantastic Gold Dollar Classic



(2x photo)

- 63 **1878 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Delightful cameo Proof with bright yellow gold devices and deeper gold fields. Very sharply defined. Another rarity with just 10 to 12 examples known from a mintage of 20 coins. Not only a rarity in Proof, but extremely scarce and underrated in circulation strike form, with a mintage of just 3,000 such coins, and less than 250 surviving in all grade levels.

Anyone desiring to form a set of Proof gold dollars from the first year that such pieces were generally available, 1858, until the last, 1889, will find the 1878 to be one of the real "stoppers." In Proof, far fewer examples have crossed the auction block than have the much more famous 1875. The Bass Collection coin, combining incredible beauty and long established rarity, presents an *opportunity* which is not likely to be repeated soon.

PCGS Population: 6, none finer.

A short die line connects the right base of A in STATES with the first plume in the headdress; a different die from that used in 1877 and not the "incomplete feather" die used on certain other Proof issues of the era. On the reverse, diagonal die lines fill the interior spaces of the final 8. Date logotype low, with highest point of ribbon just left of the 7.

Four digit date logotype very widely spaced, unusually so and completely unlike the several preceding years. Base of 7 low.

1 thick, slightly heavier at top, and with lower right serif incomplete at base; top and bottom spaces of 8 about equal size.

Under very high magnification the 18 numerals in the die are lightly re-punched.

*From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 72*



## Delightful Proof 1879 Gold Dollar



(2x photo)

- 64 **1879 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Very pale pinkish yellow gold with attractive cameo highlights. A few very faint hairlines are visible. A delightful example with extremely sharp design details. Possibly one of the 20 examples struck January 25, per notes below. The remaining 10 coins were struck November 22.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (Proof-66).

A few tiny raised rust lumps are visible on Liberty's neck. Raised die lines fill the upper loop of 8 and the loop of 9, as well as the left and right ribbon bows.

Walter Breen noted that 20 Proofs struck January 25 had crisscross die lines filling the interior space of the left ribbon bow, while those struck November 22 had this area polished.

From Stack's sale of October 1970, Lot 951.

## Prooflike Gem 1880 Gold Dollar

### Enticing Low Mintage



(2x photo)

- 65 **1880 MS-66 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold with deeply reflective fields and sharp design details. An attractive cameo example certified as a circulation strike, however, easily confused with Proofs. Slight strike or machine doubling is noted on the reverse. Thus begins the final decade of gold dollar production for circulation (commemoratives were struck many years later) with 1,600 coins minted. Over half of these survive today in Mint State condition with only a handful of circulated coins.

The supply of 1879, 1880, and 1881 circulation strikes will be discussed in some detail in Dave Bowers' forthcoming multi-volume study on gold coins, such information drawing upon data from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Today, the availability of examples is very fortunate, as this is one of relatively few low-mintage gold coins that is within the financial possibility of just about any buyer.

Very closely resembling a Proof; as noted, and at one time considered to be a Proof by Harry Bass, who never quite made up his mind, and in his notes kept a question mark after it.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1971.

## Lustrous 1880 Gold Dollar



(2x photo)

- 66 **1880 MS-65.** An exciting example with frosty light yellow gold lustre. Very sharply struck with full definition of all obverse and reverse designs. A small rim imperfection at 7:30 on the obverse (10:30 on the reverse) is suggestive of a very minor planchet clip.

Reverse die very slightly different from the preceding, with date logotype moved a hair's breadth to the left. Probably not noticeable in a photographic plate, but observable under high magnification.

From Stack's ANA sale, August 1971, Lot 1938.

## Lovely Cameo Proof 1881 Gold \$1



(2x photo)

- 67 **1881 Proof-64 (PCGS).** An amazing cameo Proof very close to superb gem classification. Lustrous devices set against mirrored fields create an attractive cameo appearance. Although 87 Proofs were struck, only 45 to 55 exist. Many offered as Proofs over the past century actually were prooflike circulation strikes. Thus, the actual number of survivors of Proofs may be lower than suggested here.

Purchased from International Gold Corp., June 9, 1973.

## Superb Gem 1881 Gold Dollar



(2x photo)

- 68 **1881 MS-67 (PCGS).** An incredible example with satiny reflective lustre and light cameo contrast. Pristine surfaces of extraordinary quality. Of the mintage of 7,620, numismatists squirreled away a fair number for posterity, making the coin scarce today, but not an incredible rarity. Of course, at this grade level, "rare" still may be an applicable label.

Purchased from RARCOA, July 24, 1972.



### Gem 1881 Gold Dollar



(2x photo)

- 69 **1881 MS-65.** An outstanding gem with frosty light yellow gold lustre and sharp design details. A few very minor surface marks are noted. Right inside curves of both 8s are repunched.  
*Purchased from RARCOA, July 24, 1972.*

### Phenomenal Gem Proof 1882 Gold Dollar Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



(2x photo)

- 70 **1882 Proof-66 (PCGS).** This incredible light yellow gold Proof has amazing cameo contrast, one of the finest in the present selection. Proof mintages were on the rise by 1882, with 125 struck. Six different deliveries of Proofs took place throughout the year, no doubt with each group being minted after the previous coins were all sold. Probably between 60 and 80 Proofs exist, although a specific roster is nearly impossible, as many prooflike Mint State coins have been offered as Proofs in the past.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer.

Date slants slightly up to right. Upper loop of second 8 is filled by diagonal die lines.

*From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 48.*

### Gem Cameo Proof 1883 Gold \$1



(2x photo)

- 71 **1883 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold with lustrous devices and deeply mirrored fields. A lovely gem cameo example. Variety with perfect date, the digits filled by die lines, however, not repunched. In 1883, the Mint produced 207 Proofs with approximately half surviving today.

An interesting collection within a collection would be the assembling of a run of Proof gold dollars of the 1880s. All are somewhat scarce, some are quite rare, but each is obtainable with a degree of patience. The Bass Collection brings to the auction block some of the finest quality coins seen in a long time.

*From Superior's sale of April 1973, Lot 84.*

- 72 **1883 MS-64.** Sharply struck with frosty light yellow gold lustre. Only a few minor hairlines and other abrasions are noted. A few marks here and there, suggest the grade assigned. Extremely lustrous and quite attractive overall. From a mintage of 10,800 circulation strikes.

*Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.*

- 73 **1883 MS-63.** Frosty light yellow gold lustre. Very attractive.  
*From Stack's sale of December 1971, Lot 788.*

### Superb Gem Proof 1884 Gold \$1



(2x photo)

- 74 **1884 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Wonderful cameo contrast with rich yellow gold. The mintage of Proofs has now reached 1,006 coins, the highest to date. From 1884 through 1888, mintage of Proof gold dollars ranged from 1,006 to 1,105 coins, jumping to an unprecedented 1,779 coins in 1889.

18 in date are sharply recut below.

Although these figures are generous, in no instance does even a larger percentage of such Proofs survive today. Either the mintage figures are in gross error, or the pieces were sold outside of numismatics (such as to jewelers) and did not survive. In fact, for the most "common" of all Proofs, the 1889 with a mintage of 1,779, the situation is particularly incorrect—as today the 1889 is one of the rarest issues of the decade, with far fewer than 10% of the so-called Proof mintage known to exist!

*From Harner-Rooke's sale of December 1970, Lot 3040.*

- 75 **1885 MS-64.** Sharply struck with frosty bright yellow gold lustre. 11,156 examples were struck with about 10% to 15% surviving today, nearly all Mint State. As with most issues in the late 1870s and 1880s, circulated examples are seldom encountered. Another marvelous opportunity from the Bass Collection. Let your mind wander and contemplate how nice it would be to have a date run of these gold dollars—and then start here!

*Purchased from Abe Kosoff, August 1973.*

### Gem Cameo Proof 1886 Gold \$1



(2x photo)

- 76 **1886 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A lovely coin in bright yellow gold with reflective mirrored Proof fields and attractive cameo devices. 1,016 Proof were struck in 1886 with possibly 20% to 30% still in existence today. This is certainly one of the finest that can be found anywhere—a prize for its next owner just as it was for Harry Bass.

*Purchased from Mike Kirzner, August 11, 1971.*



## Superb Gem Proof 1887 Gold \$1



(2x photo)

- 77 **1887 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Extremely attractive cameo Proof struck in delightful green gold. The reverse is rotated about 30° left. Another more or less “common” Proof gold dollar, one of 200 to 300 survivors from a mintage of 1,043 Proofs. A delightful coin, one of the finest in existence.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, November 3, 1971.*

## Gem Proof 1888 Gold Dollar



(2x photo)

- 78 **1888 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A gem cameo Proof with bright orange-gold highlights. A few faint hairlines and planchet flakes are noted. Slight haze in the upper left obverse field. This is probably the second most available of all Proof gold dollars. Possibly as many as 500 survive from the mintage of 1,079 coins.

*From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 2011.*

## Incredibly Rare Proof 1889 Gold Dollar



(2x photo)

- 79 **1889 Proof-61.** Light yellow gold with moderate cameo contrast. Minor hairlines and other imperfections are noted. A crescent of light orange toning follows the border at bottom of the reverse. The final issue of this denomination (except for a few commemoratives struck in the early 1900s) and the high watermark for Proofs, with 1,779 coined. However, very few were actually sold to collectors and today it is estimated that fewer than 100 survive. Among gold dollars of this era, the 1889, with the highest reported mintage, is the rarest today—indeed, it is an object of desire for anyone putting together a gold dollar set.

The attribution to this piece as being of *Proof* format is tentative and subject to further study. If at the sale we have a different conclusion, we will announce it. The dies are both highly prooflike, with complete interior Proof surface within most (but not all) inscription letters. On the headband, ERT (LIBERTY) is missing, a key that bears further study as we go to press. On the reverse the date is about centered between the wreath and the lettering.

*Purchased from Superior, May 15, 1973.*

## QUARTER EAGLES

Welcome to the quarter eagles in the Harry W. Bass, Jr., Part III catalogue. Our presentation begins with a 1796 die variety so rare that the most accomplished of 1796 specialists—John Whitney Walter—was not able to find one during the long period of years in which he endeavored to assemble each and every die variety of 1796, half cents to eagles. Just this single variety was missing!

And then there is the Little Princess, as the 1841 has been affectionately called. This is not just *any* Little Princess, although even the most worn example would be of incredible significance. Rather, it is a beautiful glittering Proof which traces its pedigree to the Eliasberg Collection and stands high as one of America's most famous gold rarities. Moreover, this particular coin was the last gold issue that Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., acquired during his long quest which led to an accomplishment no one ever did before and will probably never do again: the acquisition of one of each known date and mintmark of United States coin from the 1793 half cent to the 1933 double eagle.

In betwixt and between such landmarks as the 1796 and 1841 are choice, interesting, and rare early quarter eagles, notable specimens from the Charlotte, Dahlonega, New Orleans, and San Francisco mints, interesting “types,” rare varieties, curious die states, and a generous share of landmarks. Proofs abound and are complete by date from 1859 through the end of the series in 1907, the solitary exception being the 1881—perhaps compensated by the Proof 1841 just mentioned. Only in a few instances in American numismatic history has such a glittering array been offered for auction competition. And, not only are such Proofs rare, the quality is simply extraordinary. What a pleasure it has been to catalogue the delightful and famous 1863, the equally rare Proofs of 1864, 1865k and a few other years, which are not as famous, but which are every bit as difficult to find. All told, this is a quarter eagle sale to be remembered.

Coins of the \$2.50 denomination were first struck in 1796, after which issuance was intermittent to the 1820s, then continuous through 1915, plus a few scattered issues of the 1920s. Along the way many different designs were made, die varieties were created, and other aspects changed and evolved, creating a series that ranks high in collectible interests with numismatists. Harry W. Bass, Jr. enjoyed quarter eagles and collected them not only by basic type, date and mint sequence, but by interesting die varieties and states as well. His personal notes plus the observations of the cataloguer (Frank Van Valen) and the editor (QDB) are combined to give much technical information that has not reached print elsewhere. Hopefully, the notes will be of interest to prospective bidders as well as to established specialists. One thing is for certain: the entire cataloguing experience was highly enjoyable, and spending weeks, indeed months with these pieces has made them dear friends. Off the market for several decades in some instances, the Bass Collection coins now come forth to delight a new generation of enthusiasts.



## Highly Important 1796 \$2.50 Variety

No Stars

Unlisted in Breen's First Monograph

Only Variety Missing from the Walter Collection



(2x photo)

80 **1796 Breen-6113, Breen-3, Hilt-2A. Rarity-7+. No Stars. Net VF-20;** sharpness of EF-45 with heavy horizontal and vertical scratches, primarily on the obverse. The rims appear to be lightly filed. Light greenish yellow gold with a slightly polished appearance. An arc-shaped depression on the reverse appears to be the remnant of an incomplete planchet punch, where the planchet cutter failed to fully cut through the metal.

This is an extremely rare variety with just four to six examples currently known to exist, including a second example collected by Harry W. Bass, Jr. and retained by the Bass Foundation. John Whitney Walter, known as "Mr. 1796," aspired to assemble a complete die variety collection of 1796 coinage from half cent to eagle—certainly a formidable task. However, Mr. Walter *almost* succeeded, the "almost" being with the exception of one coin—the variety offered here. An example of this eluded him for years.

At the time his great collection was consigned for sale and beautifully presented by Stack's (May 4, 1999), Mr. Walter was not aware that the present coin would be available. No doubt, had this coin appeared on the market two years ago rather than today, he would have paid *any price* to have obtained it!

To relate another circumstance, when Robert Hilt III acquired an example of the present variety from Auction '82 he

was aware of just four coins—including the two pieces owned by Harry W. Bass, Jr., the piece he purchased at Auction '82, and a fourth coin owned at the time by dealer Ben Levin. This same lineup constitutes the pieces known to us today.

This die variety, Breen-3, represents the very first 1796 quarter eagle minted—effectively the first variety of the first year of one of America's favorite numismatic series. The cataloguer (Mark Borckardt) believes that there is a strong possibility that the 66 coins included in the first delivery of quarter eagles, September 1796, were of the Breen-3 variety. This would follow quite closely with an estimated 10% survival rate for the entire production of 1796 quarter eagles (covering all varieties).

Currently, we are aware of the following varieties of the 1796 Breen-3:

1. Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation.
2. Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The coin presently offered for sale.
3. Auction '82:332; Robert P. Hilt, III.
4. Ben Levin.

For the specialist or would-be specialist this is an offering of incredible importance. The early quarter eagle series, defined as the varieties minted from 1796 through 1807, or, more expansively, 1796 through 1834 With Motto, are very collectible by die varieties, sometimes but a single combination for a given year, other times multiples. The "stopper" in the collection is the coin offered here—which handily shades such better known die varieties as the 1804 with 13 stars on the reverse. One can readily imagine that the purchaser of this coin will have fairly clear sailing for the *rest of the quarter eagle series*, this piece, an example of which eluded the foremost collector of 1796 coinage (John Whitney Walter, as noted), being the Holy Grail of the quarter eagle variety lineup.

The obverse die is not lapped, the lowest curls fully defined. Examples of the other die variety are known in various states from lightly lapped to extensively lapped, with progressively weakening lower curls, eventually with little or no detail present. Faint evidence of a die crack through bases of LIBER with a die scratch from the lower right serif of E to the upright of R.

The reverse has several cracks, including a major crack from the border through center of E in STATES, to a cloud, stars 4 and 12, to back of the eagle's neck, following the neck to ribbon, across eagle's breast and horizontal shield lines, to vertical stripe 3, continuing through this stripe, following left edge of eagle's tail, and to the border. Another crack from the border passes between ST to cloud 1 and stars 1 and 8.

*Purchased from World Wide Coin, October 11, 1972.*

## Lustrous 1802 Quarter Eagle

So-Called Overdate



81 **1802 Breen-6118, Breen-1,3. "Overdate." AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous bright yellow gold with a hint of orange and green toning. Several very minor surface abrasions are noted, and probably shouldn't be mentioned at all, for that is what grading numbers are all about—one expects certain things at certain grade levels. All told, this piece is a truly *outstanding* example of the 1802 quarter eagle—consistent with the general tenor of the Bass Collection.

Historically, the 1802 quarter eagle has been catalogued as 1802/1, an overdate, but we see no reason to attribute it as

such—as there is absolutely no trace of a 1 under the 2 on this piece or any other 1802 quarter eagle that has come under our view.

This variety was included in Breen's quarter eagle monograph under two different varieties, Breen-1 and Breen-3. It is now recognized that both were struck from the same die pair. This is the least rare of three known 1802 quarter eagle varieties.

The bust of Liberty is surrounded by light clash marks, including a nearly complete star at base of neck and shield stripes above the cap. A thin reverse die crack from the inner curve of C passes to the right lower point of this letter, through the center of final A, to the border. Minor clash marks are visible. A die scratch, diagnostic for this reverse die, from the left corner of the shield extends left to center of the wing. A faint die scratch from tip of second feather at right, joins left diagonal of first A, just above center.

*Purchased from Paramount, December 3, 1969.*



## Important 1826 Quarter Eagle Rarity

### Rarest Date of the 1821-1834 Type



- 82 1826 Breen-6130, Breen-1. Rarity-5+. "Overdate." EF-45. Light greenish gold with very minor hairlines resulting from an old cleaning. Slightly reflective fields are noted. Just 760 quarter eagles were struck in 1826, all delivered on February 19, with approximately 30 to 40 survivors known today, making it the rarest of all quarter eagles of the general design used from 1821 through 1834 With Motto. This entire span of quarter eagles is rarity laden, so, justifiably, the 1826 can be called *the rarest of the rare*.

The mintage total is not known, and it is probably the case that in addition to the small quantity made in calendar year 1826, a few more were struck in 1827, possibly yielding a total production figure of 1,700.

For a long time and in many publications this has been called the 1826/5 overdate, but we see no traces of a 5 under the final digit—either on this coin or any other that we have examined—and therefore consider that it should be called simply an 1826.

A survey of auction sales from the 1990s reveals the rarity of this issue. Only the 1797, 1804 13 Stars, and 1806/5 have fewer auction appearances for the decade.

Light clash marks are visible on the obverse.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, October 18, 1966.

## Choice Mint State 1834 Classic Head \$2.50



(2x photo)

- 83 1834 Breen-6140. No Motto, Large or Booby Head. MS-64 (PCGS). This is quite possibly the finest known example from these dies. Very sharply struck with exceptional aesthetic appeal. Prooflike fields and lightly frosted devices. Possibly the finest known example of this die variety, per notes below. An example from the first year of issue among Classic Head gold.

This is the Second Head style, which would continue through 1835 into 1836.

Variety C as noted in Part II of the Bass Collection. Same dies as Lot 276 in that sale, and of finer quality.

Light clash marks are visible within the vertical shield elements.

Technical notes are not repeated from the catalogue offering Part II of the Bass Collection. For seriously interested numismatists, we recommend obtaining a copy of that catalogue.

From Stack's sale of April 1978, Lot 792.

- 84 1834 Breen-6140. No Motto, Large or Booby Head. AU-58. Bass variety B and extremely rare as such. Sharply struck with rich greenish yellow gold surfaces and considerable reflectivity. A few minor to moderate surface marks are noted.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of October 1968, Lot 1424.

- 85 Quartette of Classic Head quarter eagles: ☆ 1834 No Motto. VF-25 ☆ 1836 VF-25 ☆ 1836 Net VF-20; sharpness of EF-40, brushed ☆ 1839-O VF-20. (Total: 4 pieces)

## Choice Mint State 1835 Quarter Eagle



- 86 1835 Breen-6141. MS-63 (PCGS). Brilliant and lustrous light yellow gold. Sharply struck although the central details are slightly weak. A few very minor surface abrasions are typical of the grade. This is one of three die varieties of 1835 quarter eagles currently known.

Bass variety I with AM in AMERICA widely spaced. Same dies as Lot 280 in Part II of the Bass Collection, and of similar quality.

Purchase from John Rowe, October 7, 1966.

- 87 Pair of early quarter eagles: ☆ 1835 EF-45. Yellow gold surfaces ☆ 1836 AU-50. Frosty surfaces. (Total: 2 pieces)

## Scarce Mint State 1836 Quarter Eagle



- 88 1836 Breen-6142. Head of 1834. MS-63 (PCGS). Frosty and brilliant yellow gold with scattered surface marks. Extremely sharp strike with full details at center of obverse and reverse, a quality seldom seen among Classic Head quarter eagles. This is a scarcer variety and the present example is among the finer we have seen.

Variety B for 1836. Same dies and of similar quality to Lot 287 of Part II.

Purchased from Superior, March 1978.

## Mint State 1836 Quarter Eagle



- 89 1836 Breen-6142. Head of 1834. MS-61 (PCGS). Very sharply struck with brilliant, slightly reflective yellow gold surfaces. Minor surface marks and hairlines are noted. Another example of this scarce variety for the specialist. Indeed, the present offering of the Bass Collection—taking all sales cumulatively—is an opportunity unprecedented in numismatic history. Whether you would like some nice "types," or interesting varieties, or simply some very attractive, hand-selected coins, many opportunities beckon.

Variety B for 1836. Same dies and of similar quality to Lot 288 of Part II.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, April 11, 1972.



## Lustrous Mint State 1836 Quarter Eagle



- 90 **1836 Breen-6143. Head of 1835. MS-62 (PCGS).** A lovely example with bright greenish yellow gold lustre and very minor surface marks as expected for the grade. Slightly reflective prooflike fields. Die striae and polish lines are noted, along with minimal hairlines. Slightly soft at the central features.

Variety D for 1836 quarter eagles.

An early die state without visible cracks or clash marks. A faint remnant of the otherwise missing berry in the olive branch can be discerned, but some imagination is required.

*Purchased from Mal Varner, February 24, 1972.*

- 91 **1836 Breen-6143. Head of 1835. AU-50.** A lovely example with reflective fields and minor hairlines, perhaps cleaned at some past time. Very slightly weak at the centers, typical of most Classic Head gold coins. A rare variety.

Variety G for 1836 and not represented in Part II of the Bass sale.

The obverse has a heavy bisecting crack from the border through star 6, across the bust, to the border between stars 12 and 13. Reverse die crumbling fills top half of the space between vertical stripes 5 and 6.

*Purchased from Superior, August 12, 1969.*

## Choice Proof 1836 Quarter Eagle

From the Eliasberg Collection



(2x photo)

- 92 **1836 Breen-6144. Head of 1837. Proof-64 (PCGS).** A wonderful cameo Proof with lustrous bright yellow gold devices and mirrored greenish gold fields. Slight discoloration appears on the obverse rim at 3:00. As with most other Classic Head gold coins, even this Proof has slight weakness at the centers.

The offering of a *Proof* quarter eagle of any variety is a landmark numismatic event. Major collections have been formed and dispersed without having a Proof example of this date or, for that matter, a Proof example of *any* Classic Head quarter eagle. During the catalogue processing here at Bowers and Merena we all agreed that this is a truly *exciting* coin to behold—one that evokes a double-take, as Proof *Classic Head* coins are so seldom seen.

From the Eliasberg Collection with the following catalogue description: "Some indications of light striking at the highest part of the obverse, as normal (due to the characteristics of the design); otherwise sharply struck and well defined. *Only three or four Proofs are known to exist.* Another potentially once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the gold coin specialist. Once sold, another 1836 Proof of this quality may not appear on the market again for many decades." Today, in 2000, six Proofs have been identified.

The last 1836 Proof quarter eagle offered for sale was the Pittman Collection specimen, sold in May 1998 by David Akers. In that catalogue, he presented a roster of known examples, which we include here, with permission.

1. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian Institution. Head of 1835.

2. John Jay Pittman Collection, David Akers, May 1998, Lot 1720; "Memorable" Collection, Numismatic Gallery, March 1948, Lot 97; "World's Greatest Collection," Numismatic Gallery, 1946, Lot 103. Head of 1834.

3. Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. See pedigree below. Head of 1837.

4. Brian Hendelson. Part of an original 1836 Proof set which included two gold coins. Owned by the same family in the Philadelphia area since the year of issue. Head of 1835.

5. New Jersey dealer. Note: David Akers listed this as the same as the following, however, later was informed that they are two distinct coins.

6. Stack's 55th Anniversary Sale, Lot 1674; Abe Kosoff; Jerome Kern Collection, B. Max Mehl, 1950, Lot 26; Col. E.H.R. Green. Head of 1835.

It is quite interesting to note that Proof 1836 quarter eagles exist with all three different head styles.

It would be difficult to envision a finer pedigree than this. The lineup includes some of the most important names in the annals of gold coin collecting.

Variety C for 1836. Block 8 in date. With berry in branch. Head of 1837, hair over coronet sweeps back to form first curl below star 7.

*From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, Lot 103. Earlier from the John H. Clapp Collection, 1942; William H. Woodin Collection, 1911; John G. Mills Collection, 1904; Harlan P. Smith, privately; Lorin G. Parmelee Collection, 1890.*

- 93 **1836 Breen-6144. Head of 1837. AU-58.** Lustrous and frosty orange-gold surfaces with minor surface marks. Quite weak at center of obverse and reverse. Otherwise, an aesthetically pleasing example.

Variety C for 1836. Perfect dies.

*Purchased from Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, March 11, 1971.*



## Gem Proof 1837 Quarter Eagle

Only Collectible Proof 1837 \$2.50

A Truly Sensational Coin!



94 **1837 Breen-6145. Repunched 8 and 7. Proof-65 (PCGS).** An intense cameo Proof in bright yellow gold with deeply reflective fields. Only a few very minor surface marks and planchet flakes must be mentioned, however, these are virtually invisible. A small spot is attached to the border outside star 4.

This is an incredible, fantastic quarter eagle—combining high quality and beautiful appearance together with extreme rarity. As if these characteristics were not enough, the piece is quite interesting from a variety, die state, and technical viewpoint as well—all in all a “package” that will delight and forever hold the attention and interest of the successful bidder.

From the Eliasberg Collection with the following description:

“Some obverse striking characteristics similar to the preceding [1836 Proof]. Otherwise sharply and deeply struck. A hairline die crack bisects the obverse from the eighth star through the center of the portrait ending at the serif of the 7. Another brilliant star in the present galaxy of numismatic rarities. It is possible that *just three specimens exist*. David Akers places the number at two to three. One of these is permanently impounded in the Smithsonian Institution. It is significant to mention that not a solitary example of a Proof 1837 quarter eagles has appeared at public auction during the past half century. The importance of this opportunity does not have to be reiterated. Suffice it to say that this opportunity, if missed, may not recur during the lifetime of anyone reading this catalogue.”

The above words are just as important today as they were when we first wrote them in 1982. In a way, it seems as though we catalogued the Eliasberg gold coin collection yesterday, but in reality an entire new generation of buyers has emerged on the market since that time. The present coin is the only example from these dies available to collectors.

Only two Proof 1837 quarter eagles have been identified, both the same variety. The other Proof is in the Smithsonian Institution. Furthermore, no circulation strikes of this variety are known, thus the present coin is the only example from these dies available to collectors.

Variety A for 1837. The obverse has a bisecting die crack from the rim at 12:30 through star 8, passing through the upper hair curls, TY, the lower hair curls, to the left top of digit 7. Both digits 7 and 8 are repunched, the 7 most prominently at upper right. Star 8 is sharply recut, stars 9 and 10 slightly recut.

*From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, Lot 104. Earlier pedigree is very similar to the 1836 offered above: From the John H. Clapp Collection, 1942; John G. Mills Collection, 1904; Lorin G. Parmelee Collection, 1890. These two Proofs have spent much of their lives side by side in various cabinets. Perhaps the new owner will keep the pair together for future generations.*



- 95 **1838-C EF-40.** The reverse, graded separately, is just F-12. Greenish yellow gold and very lightly cleaned. There is just one variety of 1838-C quarter eagle.

In this year the Charlotte Mint began coinage, and quarter eagles and half eagles were struck.

*Purchased from Donald Apte, June 6, 1969.*

- 96 **1839/8 Breen-6148. "Overdate." AU-55.** Sharply struck and lustrous with bright orange-gold surfaces. Minor hairlines and abrasions are noted, along with a few light file marks on the obverse rim, especially at 9:00. Only one variety of 1839 quarter eagle is known.

Walter Breen describes this as an overdate, but it most certainly is not (attribution of this statement: editor, QDB) as the repunching under the 9 in no way resembles the digit 8. There is no such thing as an overdate for *any* 1839 quarter eagle—this being confirmed by recent studies and, in our opinion, negating any earlier listings of overdates, including in our own catalogues and just about everywhere else.

*Purchased from SERO Coins, March 10, 1969.*

- 97 **1839-C Net VF-20;** sharpness of EF-45, burnished. Light yellow gold surfaces with moderate abrasions. Still a pleasing example of this scarce issue. This is variety B of 1839-C quarter eagles. Only the second Charlotte Mint issue and one of just two such issues representing the Classic Head design.

- 98 **1839-O Low Date, Close Fraction. AU-58.** Rotated reverse with medallion alignment, a curious and very interesting feature, but not unusual for the 1839-O—as, apparently, an entire production run was made in this manner. Brilliant and lustrous yellow gold with minor hairlines, having been cleaned in the past. This Close Fraction variety is considerably scarcer than the Wide Fraction reverse. Only these two varieties are known.

Perfect obverse die. The reverse has several die cracks and is similar to Lot 317 from Part II of the Bass Collection.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1969, Lot 11.*

## Mint State 1840 Quarter Eagle

### First Year of the Type



- 99 **1840 MS-60 (PCGS).** Lustrous yellow gold with plenty of brilliance on both sides. Some central striking weakness is noted. Considerably rarer in Mint State than even its low business strike mintage of 18,859 pieces indicates. Typically seen in low grades, VF or so being the usual condition. Highly respected for many years as a rarity in high grades. As far back as 1975, David Akers noted he had never seen a Mint State example of the date. Only a few specimens of the date in Uncirculated have surfaced since the Akers comments, with perhaps fewer than a dozen specimens currently known. What better way to begin the offering of Coronet quarter eagles from the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection than with a Mint State rarity?

Not only is the 1840 quarter eagle rare in an absolute basis—taking its place in the sequence of date and mint varieties—but it is also especially *important* as the first year of the design. Thus, anyone seeking to build a very high-grade type set of quarter eagles will want to bid especially aggressively for this coin, secure in the knowledge that few equals exist anywhere.

PCGS Population: 1; 5 finer (MS-64 finest).

Obverse with date centered between dentils and truncation, 8 and 4 of date closer than other numerals. Light repunching is noted around the 4 and within the bottom of the 0 in the date; this no doubt later faded from the die. Left edge of bottom serif of 1 over the center of a dentil. Lowest curl on Liberty's neck centered directly over 0 in date. Reverse with three prominent die cracks, the first of which runs from the bottom of the right upright of the M in AMERICA to the tip of the uppermost arrow. A second crack runs from the rim at 6:00 directly upward, directly between the numerator and the denominator in the fraction, ending in the arrow feather above. The third crack connects the junction of the eagle's right leg and the closest olive leaf to the wing above. This is an advanced state of the reverse as compared to Bass:320 (October 1999), where just the crack at 6:00 was noted.

*From New England Rare Coin Auctions' (NERCA) sale of November 1977, Lot 851.*

- 100 **1840 EF-40.** Bright yellow gold. A very nice example of this grade level, another prime candidate for a type set.

From a different obverse die than the preceding lot (see Bass:321, October 1999); date slightly closer to the truncation than the dentils, lower left serif of 1 in date over left edge of dentil, curl on Liberty's neck slightly to left of 0 in date.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1730.*

- 101 **1840-C AU-55.** Lightly cleaned on the obverse, but with a nice appearance, and not particularly different than the quality normally seen for a Charlotte Mint quarter eagle in this grade and from this era. A tiny reverse edge bruise is seen at 2:00. Variety with circular raised lathe lines on the obverse. Despite the aforementioned blemishes, the coin actually has substantial eye appeal. As specialists know well, Charlotte Mint coinage was used extensively and intensively in circulation, and pieces in everyday commerce were not handled with care. Perhaps our catalogue descriptions are a bit more detailed than the norm, but be assured that many historical listings catalogued as "AU-55" and nothing else were not necessarily pieces any finer than the lovely example offered here.

A thin line projects from the left side of the 1 in the date just above the serif, probably the remnants of a previously punched 1; none of the other numerals show any traces of repunching. Dies essentially as described at Bass:326 (October 1999), save for the reverse. On the present specimen, a die crack runs across the rim and a dentil at 7:00, then through the left upright of the U in UNITED, and from there to the highest of the innermost olive leaves.

Under high magnification many *circular raised lathe lines* are seen in the portrait of Miss Liberty, these being particularly evident among the words LIBERTY and on the neck. This phenomenon is very rare in American coinage, although in the course of cataloguing the Liberty Head pieces in the Bass sale we have come across two different dies with it. The interested reader is referred to the dissertation relating to circular lathe lines beginning on page 64 of *A Buyer's and Enthusiast's Guide to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents*, by Q. David Bowers, where an 1864 Indian cent with circular lathe lines is illustrated. Further information on the subject can also be found at Lot 326 of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, Part II, October 1999.

*From Pine Tree Rare Coin Auctions' sale of March 1974, Lot 65.*



## Impressive 1840-D \$2.50 Rarity

A Desirable Low-Mintage Date

The Eliasberg Specimen



- 102 1840-D EF-45 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with traces of orange. A popular rarity from the first year of the design type, a date struck to the tune of just 3,532 pieces. We estimate that perhaps just four or five dozen examples of the date exist in all circulated grades—the Mint State population is but a tiny fraction of that number!

From an early obverse state, without a die crack from the rim to the field between the fourth and fifth stars; this date is typically seen with an obverse die crack. In *Gold Coins of the Dahlonega Mint 1838-1861*, Douglas Winter noted that “a few exist with a perfect obverse die and they are extremely rare.” David Akers called this date “One of the dozen rarest Coronet Head quarter eagles,” that statement based on auction appearances of the date. Some lightness of strike is seen near the centers, typical for the date. Winter further noted: “The 1840-D is among the most poorly struck Dahlonega quarter eagles.” He also notes that “on all examples, the stars are flat.” The specimen offered here exhibits strong central radials on all of the obverse stars save for one, and the details on the eagle are quite strong also; not full, but certainly closer than typically seen. Seldom seen in finer grades than that offered here, and nearly certain to cause a stir among fanciers of Dahlonega Mint issues.

All of this said, we must of course mention the Eliasberg Collection pedigree—no finer association can be imagined for *any* United States gold coin. Increasingly, numismatists are coming to appreciate pedigree connections when they are available, these adding a quintessential element to the ownership of a coin. One can imagine this piece and its journey from the Chapman brothers to John M. Clapp, then in 1906 to his son John H. Clapp, then in 1942 to Louis E. Eliasberg, after which it became part of the most extensive collection of United States coins ever formed. This particular coin—along with others in the collection—was viewed by over a million people at the Smithsonian Institution in 1976, and was widely admired elsewhere. In October 1982 we were privileged to offer the Eliasberg gold coins at auction, an event which still echoes today in the halls of American numismatics.

Date logotype deeply punched into die and slightly high; one obverse being used for all known coins.

On the reverse the D mintmark is deeply embedded in the bottom of the arrow feather. Previously this was the only reverse die known for 1840-D quarter eagle coinage, but a new variety has recently been discovered. The horizontal shield lines are pierced by multiple extensions of the vertical stripes, as is the bottom outline of the shield, an interesting but not necessarily unusual phenomenon of the era.

*From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, Lot 114; earlier from the Chapman brothers' sale of October 1894; John M. Clapp; John H. Clapp.*

- 103 1840-O Small O. EF-45.** Lustrous honey gold with warmer orange-gold in the protected areas. Lightly brushed long ago, but still entirely worthy of the assigned grade. *In fact*, this is one of the very finest 1840-O quarter eagles we have ever seen at this grade level. Check it out during the lot viewing and I'm sure you will agree that it is at the very least a nice EF-45 and can even challenge the AU-50 level.

Douglas Winter called this date “one of the rarest and most underrated of all New Orleans quarter eagles,” that despite a fairly generous mintage of 33,580 coins. Some faint scratches noted on both sides, perhaps we should say *faint lines*, as the scratches are indeed, faint. A very nice specimen with a pleasing overall aspect—one that is about on par with others of the date, mint, and grade.

Date logotype deeply impressed into the die and quite high, about three times closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils.

Reverse with small O mintmark, as usually seen, the mintmark being embedded in the tip of the tail feather.

*From Stack's sale of May 1971, Lot 1216.*

- 104 1840-O Small O. EF-40.** Lustrous yellow gold. Some faint scratches noted on both sides.

Date logotype deeply impressed into the die and quite high, about three times closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils.

Reverse with small O mintmark, as usually seen, the mintmark being embedded in the tip of the tail feather.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of October 1968, Lot 733.*



## Choice Proof 1841 \$2.50 Rarity

The Fabled “Little Princess”

The Eliasberg Specimen

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



105 1841 “Little Princess.” Proof-64 (PCGS). A lovely Proof example of one of the most prized gold coin issues in all of American numismatics. Bright yellow gold with hints of orange on the high points. Full cameo contrast on each side adds greatly to the overall appeal. Some faint hairlines on each side—visible mainly under low magnification—are all that keep this rarity from the gem category. We estimate fewer than 20 examples of this date are known in all grades, making it the rarest and most coveted dates of the design type—and certainly the most *famous*. Other royalty seen in the Court of the Little Princess include the 1854-S (typically encountered only in well worn grades) and the Proof-only 1863, both worthy of *noblesse oblige*, but neither is as well known.

Relevant to the presently offered coin, and as a commentary just as true today as when we wrote it in 1982, the following observation is made in our Eliasberg Collection catalogue:

“This coin proved to be the most difficult gold issue for the former owner to obtain. The acquisition of the specimen offered here made the present collection of regularly issued United States gold coins complete as to denomination and mintmark variety. Of course, it was pure luck that such rarities as the 1822 half eagle and the unique 1870-S \$3 were obtained earlier, but the fact that the 1841 quarter eagle was the last coin needed for the collection points up its extreme rarity.”

It is not known precisely how many 1841 quarter eagles exist, and no doubt the comment that “fewer than 20” is generous, as others have suggested such numbers as 10 to 12. In 1977 when we offered the Fairfield Collection specimen (recently graded as Proof-40 by PCGS), we noted that at the time Walter Breen believed there were eight different specimens in existence, one of which was of questionable authenticity and two of

which were in museums—leaving just five available genuine pieces. In our 1977 offering we noted that David Akers had traced 13 different auction appearances, including duplicate offerings of certain specimens. We concluded by stating that it was our estimate at the time that about seven to nine coins were known in collectors’ hands or estates. In 1988 in *Walter Breen’s Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* the most ambitious roster ever attempted was presented on page 494 and listed 12 specimens, some of which may have overlapped, and at least one of which was “not verified.” In addition, Breen noted “others reported, mostly VF to EF.”

Fast forward to 1998, when Mark Borckardt of our staff catalogued the Fairfield coin, again consigned to us, graded as Proof-40 as noted. He spent hours checking references in print and doing other studies, creating a listing that was the most comprehensive published up to that time. This information is incorporated in the notes below, along with comments by Q. David Bowers and other staff members, some of which will be included in the multi-volume coin reference now being created.

The present 1841 Little Princess quarter eagle, a glittering Proof of simply exquisite quality, is the finest that Harry W. Bass, Jr., was able to locate in several decades of connoisseurship. In terms of quality, importance, and visual appearance it handily eclipses just about every example in existence. Here, indeed, is a center point of the Bass Collection, a center point of American numismatics, a truly *royal princess* that will forever be a treasure in the cabinet of its next owner—just as it was for Harry W. Bass, Jr. and, before him, Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.



## History and Appreciation of the 1841 Quarter Eagle

By Mark Borckardt and Q. David Bowers

Although the existence of the 1841 quarter eagle was known almost immediately after it was struck, and a Proof was placed in the Mint Cabinet, very little was discussed in numismatic circles until these coins were a century old. The first substantive essay appeared in Lot 1324 in B. Max Mehl's 1940 sale of the Frank A. Baldwin and Charles A. Spencer Collection, in which Mehl gave some technical details, noting in part that the Philadelphia coin had a "finely milled edge and not the coarse milling as found of Charlotte Mint pieces." Further, Mehl informed prospective bidders that the coin, "according to the best of my knowledge, is the first specimen ever to have been offered at auction."

In June 1941 Mehl presented the W.F. Dunham Collection, drawing upon his 1940 description and expanding it slightly. Prior to these two sales, only a handful of auction appearances have been located (these will be detailed in the forthcoming study on gold coins).

An early offering was in William Harvey Strobridge's catalogue of the George Francis Seavey Collection in 1873. Seavey, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, was one of the most prominent numismatist in the American scene during the 1860s and 1870s. Many of the pieces in his cabinet became part of the foundation of the famous Parmelee Collection. In October 1875, the collection of Mendes I. Cohen, Baltimore, Maryland, was offered at auction through a catalogue prepared by Edward Cogan. That piece was described "but little circulated" and perhaps was equivalent to today's EF or AU grade. Somewhat similarly, in W. Elliot Woodward's sale of his own personal collection in October 1884, under Lot 1958, a related coin was offered as: "1841 Good impression; very little circulation, scarce." At the time the word *good* referred to "nice" or "choice," not to a specific grade. Indeed, at the time there were no grading standards in effect—it was every person on his own.

The 1841 quarter eagle, which may have been struck only in Proof format, was not recorded in the *Annual Report of the Director of the Mint*, or other Mint records, at the time of issue. While unusual, this is by no means a unique circumstance. For example, the famous 1870-S Liberty Seated silver dollar, so highly acclaimed as a rarity today, and of which perhaps no more than 10 are known, is similarly not listed, nor is the 1845-O quarter eagle (apparently the mintage for that particular coin was combined with 1846-O)—and other examples could be cited. Notwithstanding the lack of official recording, there was a modest coinage of 1841 quarter eagles including pieces which eventually found their way into circulation. As Proofs (such as the Eliasberg-Bass specimen here offered) and circulated pieces are from the same die pair, it is not known whether all pieces were originally struck as Proofs, and some were later spent—or whether a few were struck in Proof format, and the others were made from the same dies for business or commercial purposes. This point has been debated from time to time.

A year after the coinage, in 1842, Jacob Reese Eckfeldt and William E. Dubois recorded the existence of an example in the Mint Cabinet in their book, *A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations, Struck Within the Past Century*. The 1841 was illustrated on Plate I from an engraving taken from a medal-ruling machine, somewhat of an innovation at the time. This device, which may have been invented by Christian Gobrecht, but was credited to others, made it possible for a stylus to trace over the surface of a three-dimensional medal and render a two-dimensional engraving of it. The Eckfeldt-Dubois volume was not primarily intended as a numismatic reference, but seems to have been sold mainly to bullion dealers and banks. Thus, no information was given concerning the rarity of the 1841 quarter eagle (if, indeed, it was considered rare at the time), nor was the rarity of other coins highlighted. This book did not even mention that the illustrated 1804 silver dollar was unusual or rare. It does fix in time the issuance of the 1841 quarter eagle, making it a virtual certainty that it was struck in the year dated.

In 1860, James Ross Snowden's *A Description of Ancient and Modern Coins in the Cabinet Collection at the Mint of the United States*, referred to the issue as a "pattern" coinage. Between pages 128 and 129 is a fold-out "Statement, Exhibiting the Number of Pieces Coined at the Mint of the United States." This statement described the 1841 quarter eagles as "patterns" and noted "only a few specimens were struck, one of which is now in the Mint Cabinet." Snowden, who became director of the Mint in 1853 and who had a strong interest in numismatics, probably consulted Duhois, who at the time was the Mint historian, on the subject of the 1841 quarter eagle. Sometimes the term "pattern" was used interchangeably with "Proof," and referred to limited-production pieces made for cabinet purposes, not necessarily to experimental designs (the definitions are different from what we use today). Snowden, although he was an accomplished numismatist (the first Mint director to be such), probably assumed that the 1841 was a pattern as there was no circulation strike quantity given in older reports. Although the book in question bore his name on the title page, it included much work done by others, among whom was William E. Dubois—semi-official Mint historian and apologist, the disseminator of much valuable information and, not iden-

tified here and there, misinformation as well. Some further comments concerning Dubois will be found in the recently released book, *The Rare Silver Dollars Dated 1804 and the Exciting Adventures of Edmund Roberts*, by Q. David Bowers.

In 1890 the spotlight was on the Lorin G. Parmelee Collection catalogued by David Proskey and offered at auction by the New York Coin & Stamp Company (Proskey and his partner H.P. Smith). Lot 1822 in the sale was an 1841 quarter eagle, graded as "Very Good," no doubt meaning "very nice—no relation to the technical Very Good grade we know today. This coin is the 1841 listed as part of the Seavey Collection in the 1870s. The story of Parmelee would make a very nice book on its own, but again there is extensive mention of him in many modern references, including the aforementioned Bowers book on the 1804 dollar. The auction of the Parmelee sale in 1890 can best be described as a *offering*, as Parmelee could not bear to part with many of the rarities, and simply bid them back for his own account—retaining many of the highlights of the collection for several years thereafter.

Nineteen years passed with little mention of this issue until Edgar Adams issued his *Official Premium List of United States, Private and Territorial Gold Coins* in 1909. He noted the existence of two examples: the specimen in the Mint Cabinet and an example owned by Joseph C. Mitchelson of Connecticut (although Mitchelson was not mentioned by name). Two years later, in 1911, Mitchelson passed away and his collection went to the State of Connecticut through terms of his will. Mitchelson's collection is now housed in a special room and vault at the Connecticut State Library in Hartford. Adams wrote: "Only two of these coins are known to be in existence. One is owned by a private collector in Connecticut, and the other specimen is in the United States Mint Collection at Philadelphia. The mint records, however, do not mention the issue of a quarter eagle in this year at the parent mint."

Virtually nothing new was mentioned about the 1841 quarter eagle until the earlier noted 1940 Mehl sale of the Baldwin and Spencer collections, which served as a springboard for his comments in the offering of another example in the Dunham Collection, June 1941. Today in 2000, Mehl is viewed with mixed emotions. Some consider him to be a numismatic showman with little serious knowledge, while others credit him as being the most important rare coin dealer of the early 20th century. The truth is actually a combination of both. While Mehl is not particularly remembered for his technical numismatic knowledge, he certainly handled his share of rarities, and today his catalogues are highly esteemed for the collections they showcased. And, among his descriptions are some that are of excellent value to researchers today, including the Dunham description of an 1841 quarter eagle:

"1841 quarter eagle or \$2.50 gold of the Philadelphia Mint. Finely milled edge, typical of the Philadelphia Mint gold coinage of these years, and not the coarse milling of the Charlotte Mint. This rarity was originally struck as a Proof and still maintains quite a bit of Proof lustre around the stars and legend, but has seen some circulation. It can easily be classed as Extremely Fine and only a shade from Uncirculated. I doubt if more than six specimens are known to exist."

As noted, there is no record of the 1841 Philadelphia Mint quarter eagle coinage in government documents. This ties in nicely with the policy that *Proofs* were not recorded in the mintage figures, although business strikes usually were. Continuing the Mehl description:

"To the best of my knowledge the only other specimen ever to have been offered at auction in this country was the one sold in my sale March 26th of last year [1940]. The coin was fine, and it sold for \$605.00. As mentioned in my catalog of that sale, Mr. Adams, in his 'Official List,' published in 1909, stated that only two specimens of this coin were then known to exist, one in the Mitchelson Collection, now owned by the State of Connecticut, and the other in the United States Mint Collection, both specimens of which, of course, are out of the market for all time. Four or five specimens have been discovered since Mr. Adams' work appeared in 1909. The first of these specimens, discovered about 11 years ago, was sold at private sale for over \$3,000.00. Since then other specimens have sold for less, but above \$1,000.00. The last specimen offered, as mentioned above, brought \$605.00. I consider it probably the rarest quarter eagle and one of our very rarest gold coins."

Mehl the showman provided much text concerning United States rarities—the 1841 quarter eagle and others—that provides very entertaining reading today, often with much information included. Mehl had a *joie de vivre* that made the writing of most of his competitors staid by comparison. Today, anyone wanting an hour of enjoyable reading has but to take from the shelf the easily available Dunham catalogue and spend some time leafing through its text housed in gold-foil covers.

The 1841 quarter eagle has been nicknamed the "Little Princess" for many years, a royal designation popularized by the late Abe Kosoff. However, in doing a lot of looking through historical text on the 1841 quarter eagle, it seems that the Oscar for the creation should go to none other than Norman Stack, who



used it in his description of the piece in the Davis-Graves Collection sold by his family firm, Stack's, in 1954, noting:

"This 1841 quarter eagle is the only one available today and we like to call it the 'Little Princess' in the coin rarities."

The tenor of this discussion seems to indicate that Norman Stack had been calling this variety the *Little Princess* before writing this catalogue—perhaps on the observation of earlier pieces. Perhaps the designation was derived from or inspired by the earlier comparison made in 1946 by Abe Kosoff in the Numismatic Gallery sale of the World's Greatest Collection (F.C.C. Boyd). In that sale, Kosoff compared this rarity to the 1822 half eagle:

"While it is not quite as rare as the 'King of American Gold,' namely the 1822 half eagle, it is just as beautiful and this specimen in Proof condition is just as difficult to obtain."

All examples of the 1841 quarter eagle were struck from a single pair of dies. However, it is not known whether after the Proofs were made, it was the intention of the Mint to produce circulation strikes, or whether any circulation strikes were actually made. In his *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*, Walter Breen noted that these were only struck in Proof. Earlier, in his 1975 auction survey of quarter eagles, David W. Akers was not convinced that all were struck as Proofs.

Especially significant to the discussion, an offering of an 1841 quarter eagle in the Mid-American sale of May 1985 has a comment originating from John Dannreuther indicating that the 1841 and 1846 Proof quarter eagles in the Eliasberg Collection sale were struck from the same reverse die. This provides additional evidence for those who believe all examples of the Little Princess were intended as Proofs.

In his *Analysis of Auction Records*, David Akers discussed this coin in detail:

"The 1841 is generally considered to be the most desirable of all Liberty Head quarter eagles. There is no official record of this date having been struck, but obviously a small number were minted. Most numismatists and cataloguers feel that this is a Proof-only date and that all known specimens were originally struck in Proof for inclusion in presentation sets. This seems unlikely to me and I am not convinced that the 1841 is a Proof-only date.

"First of all, there are far too many specimens known when compared to other Proof quarter eagles (or Proof gold of any other denomination) of the same period. Less than five Proofs are known of every other quarter eagle from 1840 to 1848, and yet I would estimate that at least 12 and possibly as many as 15 1841s are known. Only a few of them are clearly and unequivocally Proofs, such as the coin in the Smithsonian Institution, the piece in Louis Eliasberg's collection, the Davis/Graves coin, and perhaps one or two others. Most of the others are well circulated and, in fact, grade from VG to EF. More importantly, the supposedly 'impaired Proofs' just don't look like impaired Proofs. Consider for example the Wolfson specimen, which was subsequently in the Shuford Sale and then in the 1974 NASC Sale conducted by the American Auction Association. Although barely circulated, it has almost no trace of a Proof surface and few of the other characteristics of a genuine Proof (such as a square edge), although it does appear to have been struck from the same dies as the Proofs.

"If indeed the 1841 is a Proof-only date, it would be an interesting research project for someone to determine why such a large number (relatively speaking, of course) were struck. Certainly it was not for presentation sets since such sets would have included a half eagle and eagle as well. Or would they? Could there have been presentation sets that contained the minor coins and just the quarter eagle without the other two gold coins? Was there something special about the year 1841 that justified altering the normal pattern of making gold Proofs? On the other hand, if the 1841 quarter eagle is not a Proof-only date, as I believe, then why were so few struck and why was there no record of the mintage?

"As you can see, this coin poses many interesting questions and, for that reason, it is for me one of the most intriguing and enigmatic of all United States gold coins.

"All known specimens of the 1841 were apparently struck from the same dies. Since some pieces are obviously Proofs, this would normally indicate that they were all struck as Proofs since I know of no other non-Proof gold coins of any denomination or date that were struck from the same dies as the Proofs of the same year."

Today, in 2000, some questions have been answered, but others remain. It is now known that there are multiple instances in which dies used to strike Proof gold (and other) coins were, indeed, used to make business strikes. However, we still do not know whether this took place with the 1841 quarter eagle dies.

No record of the coinage of this issue has been found in contemporary government documents, as noted in the introduction to this article. However, it was not customary to keep records of Proofs struck, although business strikes were usually accounted for. Per contra, there are a number of authentic United States coins known which, obviously, were made as business strikes, but were not recorded in government records, notably the

1870-S half dime (presently unique) and, as we noted in an earlier paragraph, the 1870-S Liberty Seated silver dollar (about 10 known); both of these issues have no indication of ever having been struck from Proof dies, but are strictly circulation strikes.

If all 1841 quarter eagles were struck in Proof format, perhaps the output was partially for collectors and partially for presentation or some other purpose, perhaps for some long-forgotten ceremony. In 1841 the quarter eagle was the smallest gold coin produced by the United States (the gold dollar did not make its debut until 1849). Thus, a civic, political, commercial, or other ceremony requiring gold coins as an honorarium or gift would find the quarter eagle to be convenient. For example, 1841 was the year of the inauguration of President William Henry Harrison, and if congressmen or other dignitaries were given a gold memento, a quarter eagle would be a likely candidate—just as the quarter eagle denomination was selected later in the decade to showcase California gold, in the form of the well-known 1848 "CAL." issues.

If circulation strikes were made for general commerce, they were made from dies that had a full Proof finish.

To summarize the preceding, all known 1841 quarter eagles are from the same Proof dies. A number of pieces show signs of circulation and were "spent," which seems logical if some were used for presentation purposes in ceremonies and not sold directly to numismatists. If any coins were made for general circulation, they appeared as Proofs when first issued.

Relating to the numismatic aspects of the 1841 quarter eagle, as with any rarity, the authentication of any "new" specimen is mandatory. In the chronicles of numismatics there have been a few instances of "1841" quarter eagles being offered that were created by removing a C or D mintmark from an 1841-dated Charlotte or Dahlonega coin. Numismatists are more sophisticated now, and a piece that might have fooled an earlier generation would not likely pass muster today, especially if a simple test is made concerning the vertical edge reeding. The Little Princess has a very fine, closely spaced reeding in comparison to its Charlotte and Dahlonega counterparts. In Stack's offering of the Samuel Wolfson Collection of United States gold coins, October 1962, under Lot 114 are excellent photographs of the edge reeding on coins from all three mints. The branch mint coins have edge reeding with rather wide spaces between each reed, described by Breen as coarse reeding. The Philadelphia Mint coin, however, has very narrow spaces between each reed, Breen's fine reeding. B. Max Mehl noticed this difference in his catalogues of 1940-1941.

### Registry of 1841 Quarter Eagles

Today in 2000, the 1841 Little Princess quarter eagle is recognized as a highlight of any cabinet fortunate enough to possess an example of this classic rarity. The following listing, revised from earlier presentations, includes the Harry W. Bass, Jr. specimens and represents the pieces presently known to Mark Borckardt.

This list is based on the roster in *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*, 1988, to which certain corrections have been made and pieces added. The author is also deeply indebted to Philip Scott Rubin for providing much information regarding auction citations and for verifying certain information below. Rubin keeps an auction appearance record of many rarities covering the entire spectrum of United States coinage. Without his research, pedigree tracking would be much less complete. It is believed that no more than 16 to 18 *different* examples survive today, some of which are in institutional collections as noted.

**1. Smithsonian Collection.** Proof. National Numismatic Collection; Smithsonian Institution. This example was undoubtedly placed in the Mint Cabinet (which had been formed in June 1838) at the time of striking, 1841. • This specimen was illustrated in the Eckfeldt-Dubois Manual published in 1842, the first time the existence of this date reached print, as it was not included in the *Annual Report of the Director of the Mint*.

**2. Eliasberg Collection.** Proof-63. (now in a Proof-64 PCGS holder, the present specimen). Earlier pedigree: A.H. Baldwin; B.G. Johnson; Wayne Raymond; Waldo Newcomer; Col. E.H.R. Green; F.C.C. Boyd; Numismatic Gallery, World's Greatest Collection (name given to the Boyd Collection), January 1946, Lot 108, \$6,000; "J.F. Bell" (pseudonym of Jake Shapiro, Chicago financier); Numismatic Gallery, Memorable Collection (Bell Collection), March 1948, Lot 101, \$5,750, later privately to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.; Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, United States Gold Coin Collection, October 1982, Lot 117, \$82,500. "Some scattered marks, but overall quite beautiful." This was the last regular-issue gold coin to be acquired by Mr. Eliasberg on his journey to a complete set of United States coinage. • The story of this prominent Baltimore numismatist was told by Q. David Bowers in the 1996 book, *Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.: King of Coins*. Relative to other owners, A.H. Baldwin was and is a leading London numismatic firm; B.G. Johnson (who acquired this coin as part of a full gold Proof set of the year 1841 including the quarter eagle, half eagle and eagle; Wayne Raymond acquired the set



from Johnson for \$1,000 and sold the present single piece from the set to the Newcomer for the same amount, representing a neat profit!); Waldo Newcomer hailed from Baltimore and put together a marvelous cabinet of American coins that was later consigned to B. Max Mehl for private sale; Col. E.H.R. Green was a well-known eccentric millionaire, who collected everything from railroads, to all 100 of the 1918 24¢ inverted airmail stamps, to all five 1913 Liberty Head nickels; Boyd was a prominent executive, coin dealer, and numismatic connoisseur; Numismatic Gallery was the partnership of Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg.

**3. Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection.** Proof-60 (PCGS). From World Wide Coins, February 1974. One of several important American rarities (others being the 1913 Liberty Head nickel and 1804 silver dollar) acquired by World Wide during that era. Harry Bass often liked to get nice things in pairs—perhaps proving the old-time adage that particularly fine things are found that way! This piece was offered in our Bass II Collection, October 1999, as Lot 335.

**4. Mitchelson Collection.** Impaired Proof. Joseph C. Mitchelson; Connecticut State Library. • Mitchelson was in the tobacco business in Tariffville, Connecticut. In connection with his trade he traveled widely, coast to coast, in an era in which most people tended to stay in their home region. Not only did Mitchelson acquire pieces for his own cabinet, he also scouted for other collectors and handled many rarities. The new study of gold coins will mention Mitchelson frequently and a number of the pieces that passed through his hands.

**5. Menjou Collection.** Proof-60. Numismatic Gallery, Adolphe Menjou Sale, June 1950, Lot 1189, \$5,100; R.F. Schermerhorn; Robert Friedberg; H.P. Graves; Stack's, Davis-Graves Sale, May 1954, Lot 691, \$6,000; Grant Pierce (not in the 1965 sale of his collection); Stack's, August 1976, ANA, Lot 2787, \$41,000; Superior Galleries, February 1991, Lot 2664, \$66,000. "Full Proof surfaces and delicate contrast between devices and fields. Light signs of handling fail to detract from the coin's overall appeal." • Menjou was well known as a movie actor in secondary parts; Schermerhorn was a well-known Dallas numismatist, rare coin dealer, and paper money and gold coin collector who, among other things, attended the King Farouk sale in Cairo in 1954; Friedberg formed the Capitol Coin Company and at one time had several dozen leased coin departments in various retail stores including Gimbel's; the Davis-Graves sale contained many rarities including a notable 1804 silver dollar; Pierce was a Midwestern numismatist.

**6. Norweb Collection.** AU-55. Mrs. R. Henry Norweb; Bowers and Merena, March 1988, Lot 1970, \$30,800; Superior Galleries, July 1989, Auction '89, Lot 844, \$30,800. • The story of Emery May Holden Norweb, and other family members and their fabulous collection was told by Michael Hodder and Q. David Bowers in *The Norweb Collection: An American Legacy*, published in 1987. This cabinet had its beginnings with Albert Fairchild Holden in the 1890s, and was capably continued and vastly expanded by his daughter, Emery May, who cut her teeth in numismatics before she was a teenager, by classifying colonial coins to Crosby's *Early Coins of America* book!

**7. Wolfson Collection.** AU-50. Samuel Wolfson, Stack's, October 1962, Lot 114 \$15,000; Alex Shuford; A. Kosoff, May 1968, Lot 1731, \$18,000; Stanislaw Herstal Collection; American Auction Association, February 1974, Lot 739A, \$26,000. • Wolfson, an industrialist, lived in Florida, and began his numismatic interest when he looked over his son's shoulder while the youth was collecting Lincoln cents; Shuford manufactured various products including adhesive tape and lived in North Carolina, many of his coins were cleaned or processed, while others, fortunately, were not "improved"; Herstal was a well-known Polish exile who lived in South America, whose collection was auctioned in a catalogue bearing his name, although the 1841 quarter eagle was consigned from another source.

**8. Peters auction.** Impaired Proof. Jess Peters, August 1973, ANA, Lot 821, \$26,000. • Jess Peters, an Illinois professional numismatist, was prominent on the American collecting scene for many years and conducted several notable auctions containing not only American rarities, but more important to his specialty, coins of Central and South America and other countries.

**9. Mid-American auction.** EF-45. Mid-American Rare Coin Auctions (Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth, photography by Tom Mulvaney), May 1985, Lot 1223, \$21,000; Superior Galleries, Heifetz Collection, October 1989, Lot 3995, \$25,300; David W. Akers, August 1990, Auction '90, Lot 1841, \$23,000. Spot inside dentils over final S. • The Heifetz Collection was formed by violinist Jascha Heifetz. Akers was earlier general manager of Paramount International Coin Corporation, later to form David W. Akers, Inc., and in 1997-1999 to auction the John J. Pittman Collection. In the present context, his six-volume set covering denominations of gold coins from dollars to double eagles, published sequentially from 1975 to 1992, is just as valuable today as ever—this despite publication in

the meantime of certification service population reports and a lot of new data.

**10. Superior auction.** EF-45. Superior Galleries, July 1986, Auction '86, Lot 1345, \$18,700. Superior Galleries was formed by the Goldberg family in Los Angeles in the 1930s, and in the 1980s was conducted by the sons of the founders, Mark, Ira, and Larry Goldberg. The company brought to the auction forum many important coins and private collections.

**11. Stack Collection.** EF-40. James A. Stack, Sr.; Stack's, October 1994, Lot 865 \$66,000. Bright yellow gold with some mirror surface on the obverse around the stars. • James A. Stack, no relation to the coin firm of the same name, lived in Plandome, New York, and over a long period of years formed a very impressive cabinet, today remembered for not only its rarities but for the high overall quality of just about everything in it.

**12. Fairfield Collection.** EF-40. Stephen Baer; Q. David Bowers; Arthur Lamborn; Bowers and Ruddy, Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1481, \$19,000; Abner Kreisberg, Windsor Collection, November 1981, Lot 254, \$19,500; Stack's and Superior Galleries, Kramer Collection, November 1988, Lot 115, \$25,300; Superior Galleries May 1989, Lot 1751, \$25,300; Superior Galleries, Heifetz Collection (one of two specimens in that sale), October 1989, Lot 3996, \$20,350; Bowers and Merena Galleries; Columbia Collection; Bowers and Merena, November 1998. Rim nicks at upper obverse and on reverse. Breen *Encyclopedia* plate coin. • The Fairfield Collection was an illustrious gathering primarily of rarities, by a New England collector who enjoyed quality and rarity and liked it even better if two, three, or four pieces could be had rather than a single coin. Auctioned by Bowers and Ruddy in 1977, the multimillion dollar sale achieved the highest price to that date ever recorded for a single coin auction event.

**13. Dunham Collection.** EF-40. William F. Dunham; B. Max Mehl, June 1941, Lot 1932, \$525; "J.F. Bell"; RARCOA, April 1963, Lot 108 \$13,500; Rare Coin Company of America; stolen in December 1964 at the GENA Convention in New York. See *Coin World*, 12/30/1964, p. 76 for notice and illustration. The various photos of this coin are not sufficiently clear for further identification, however, this does not appear to be any of the others listed here. Walter Breen noted that this coin has field marks left of eighth star, before lower lip, and between the wing and base of D. • Dunham was a Chicago pharmacist. The era of his greatest activity seems to have been circa 1905-1920, during which time he published an easy finding list for Hard Times tokens, gave a prize for the person attracting the most members to the American Numismatic Association, exhibited widely, and did many other things. His collection was purchased outright by Mehl in the late 1930s, and certain pieces were privately sold from it, although this information was not generally known until published by Q. David Bowers in *The History of United States Coinage as Illustrated by the Garrett Collection*, 1979. Certain items that were sold by Mehl earlier were allowed to remain in the Dunham catalogue, and appeared later in the "prices realized" list, although the coins had long since departed Mehl's ownership by the time that the Dunham sale was held.

**14. Herdman Collection.** EF-40. Herdman Collection; Bowers and Ruddy, December 1977, Lot 6406, \$17,500. Walter Breen, in his *Complete Encyclopedia*, noted that this is the same as the Empire Coin, however, the illustrations do not match. Donald Herdman, an avocado rancher, collected coins for many decades and was a participant in the Atwater, Menjou, and other "name" sales of the 1940s, having begun his interest when he acquired as a birthday gift a gold quarter eagle (This must be a magical way to begin to enter numismatics, for Amon Carter began collecting when B. Max Mehl gave him an 1879 quarter eagle, representing the year of his birth).

**15. Empire inventory.** VF-30. New York non-collector; Empire Coins (Q. David Bowers and James F. Ruddy); *Empire Review*, number 14, August-September 1961, p. 31; private collection; Arthur Lamborn (duplicate); Paramount, July 1985, Auction '85, Lot 1419, \$12,650. Note tiny nick at 9:00 on O in OF. Short diagonal field scrape below M in AMERICA. • Dave Bowers recalled that this piece literally "walked in" to Empire Coin Company, at the time located at 252 Main Street, Johnson City, New York, and was owned by a lady who lived in a town to the north, in whose family it had descended. She had no collection or, for that matter, any other old coins at all. How fortunate it was that this single piece was one of the most famous of all American rarities!

**16. Robison Collection.** VF-30. Lester Merkin February 1972, Lot 368A, \$11,000; Terrell Collection; American Auction Association, May 1973, Lot 1009, \$10,050; Robison Collection; Stack's, February 1979, Lot 115 \$13,000. Small nick just left of star 7. Rim nicks above first S and A of STATES, above right wing tip, and below stop after final A. • Ellis Robison managed a large wholesale medicine and drug firm in Troy, New York, for many years, and built his collection primarily through the office of Charles and Arline French in the same city, with Harvey G. Stack often acting as an advisor. Terrell was a pseudonym for Julian Terrell Hathaway, a southern California



collector, friend, and onetime business associate of Dave Bowers; he was and is known to his friends as Terry Hathaway.

**17. Hydeman Collection.** VG-8. B. Max Mehl, March 1940, Lot 132-1, \$605; A. Kosoff, Hydeman Collection, March 1961, Lot 548, \$600; RARCOA, Saslow Collection, January 1969, Lot 399, \$3,100; Abner Kreisberg, June 1970, Lot 1497. • Edwin Hydeman was a York (PA) department store owner who formed a fine collection, primarily through Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg.

The following appearances have not been identified among coins listed above and most likely represent duplication.

Spellman. Proof. Waldo Newcomer; Col. E.H.R. Green; Charles M. Williams; "J.F. Bell"; Clifford T. Weihman; Cardinal Spellman; Archdiocese of New York. This coin is described in various literature, including the catalogue. In the present connection, Mark Borckardt has not seen a photograph of this particular piece and would be interested in learning more about it; could this be a candidate for No. 3 in the above list—the Bass Collection duplicate earlier offered?

Seavey. W.H. Strobridge, Seavey Collection, 1873, Lot 612. This is probably the same as the Parmelee coin described as Very Good. The catalogue does not include a plate of this coin. This catalogue used a simple numerical

grading system with the coin assigned a number equivalent to Uncirculated, possibly through typographical error. It seems unlikely that Parmelee, who bought the entire collection before the sale took place, would sell a high-grade coin and keep a lower grade duplicate. In the late 1800s, this issue was not recognized as a rarity, as indicated by the price realized at the Parmelee auction, just 40 cents over face value!

Parmelee. Very Good. New York Coin and Stamp Co., Lorin G. Parmelee Collection, June 1890, Lot 1122, \$2.90. Possibly the Hydeman coin, however, not illustrated in the Parmelee catalogue.

Christie's. EF-40. Christie's, April 1985, Lot 937. According to the catalogue, this coin was "hidden for many years in a safety deposit box." No previous pedigree has been established. Possibly the same as the Superior specimen, No. 10 above.

*From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection. Previously from A.H. Baldwin; B.G. Johnson; Wayte Raymond; Waldo Newcomer; Colonel E.H.R. Green; F.C.C. Boyd; Numismatic Gallery, "World's Greatest Collection" (Boyd Collection); "J.F. Bell" (pseudonym of Jake Shapiro, a Chicago coin dealer); Numismatic Gallery, "Memorable Collection" (Bell Collection); bought in by the owner, J.F. Bell, but later sold privately to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.*

## Elusive 1841-D Quarter Eagle



**106 1841-D EF-40.** Medium yellow gold. Lightly cleaned with some scattered marks present as well. *However*, an inspection of the piece will reveal that it is fairly attractive overall, and is not particularly different from what one might expect from an 1841-D at this grade level. From a small mintage of just 4,164 pieces, and considered to be the scarcest Dahlonega Mint quarter eagle of the decade. We estimate fewer than 100 pieces from that mintage are accounted for today in all grades. Struck from a very rare die combination, one that Harry Bass recognized as such (his notes are incorporated into the commentary below).

In his *Gold Coins of the Dahlonega Mint 1838-1861*, Douglas Winter noted three distinct reverse die varieties for this date. The variety offered here, designated as 2-C, in the Winter reference, displays the following details: "Obverse with first 1 in the date spaced equally between the bust and the dentils while the second 1 is closer to the dentils."

The specimen offered here is an early die state of the obverse, which is frequently found with a bisecting horizontal crack; no crack is present on this specimen.

The description for the reverse of variety 2-C reads: "On the reverse, which was used in 1841 and possibly again in 1843, the shaft of the arrow ends over the left edge of the upright of the mintmark. The fraction bar ends to the left side of the opening in the D. The 1 in the fraction is entirely to the left of the mintmark. No die breaks are seen on this use of reverse C. Only one example of this die pair has been seen on the 1841-D quarter eagle (1993 Heritage ANA sale, Lot 5508) and it appears to be extremely rare."

The Bass Collection specimen offered here shows a faint die crack on the reverse, an unrecorded state. The crack extends from the top of the 1 in the fraction upward into the arrow feathers above.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 30, 1968.*

## 1842-D Quarter Eagle Rarity

Lovely, Lustrous AU  
Unknown in Mint State



(2x photo)

**107 1842-D Repunched 184. AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous orange-gold. A greatly prized rarity from Dahlonega, notable for its low mintage of 4,643 pieces, as well as for the fact that Mint State examples of the date are *unknown* to today's collecting community. PCGS has only certified two examples of this date at a higher grade, both of those AU-58, with one of those specimens being the coin offered as Lot 342 in our sale of Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection (October 1999). David Akers makes the eye-opening comment that the "1842-D is generally appreciated for its real rarity; it is every bit as rare as the 1854-D, 1855-D, and 1856-D, and certainly more rare than the latter two in grades better than EF." Walter Breen echoes a similar sentiment stating "usually in low grades; prohibitively rare above EF." The present specimen is among the finest known for the date, and probably a shoo-in for Condition Census honors. One of many treasures from the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection that will see extensive bidding activity when it crosses the auction block.

PCGS Population: 6; 2 finer (AU-58).

Date logotype high and more deeply impressed at the top of the date than at the bottom, indicating that the logotype punch was not driven in a true vertical alignment. Very obvious repunching under first three date digits; probably the earliest obverse state. Reverse with D mintmark overlapping feather, with part of the feather visible at the center of the letter and a tiny part of the feather extending from the left of the upright.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of October 1968, Lot 735.*



108 **1842-O EF-40.** Medium orange-gold with some lustre in the protected areas. Somewhat lightly struck at the centers, typical for the date and mint. Much rarer than its mintage of 19,800 pieces indicates; we estimate that perhaps as few as 100 to 150 examples of the date are now known in all grades. Early in our studies of quarter eagles it became quite evident that while Charlotte and Dahlonega Mint coins were saved to some degree, particularly during the eve of the Civil War, most New Orleans issues tended to be widely scattered and were saved in smaller proportionate quantities.

This issue usually exhibits die cracks of varying degrees, although the present specimen is free of same; perhaps the time spent in circulation makes the cracks less obvious. On the ticket that accompanies this lot, Harry Bass wrote "No cracks?"

Date logotype deeply punched into the die and well centered.

On the reverse the O mintmark is high with its upper right embedded in the arrow feather.

From Lester Merkin's sale of June 1970, Lot 428.

109 **1843 Large Date. MS-61.** Lustrous honey gold with bright yellow highlights in the recessed areas. A rarity in Mint State despite a sizeable mintage of 100,546 business strikes; perhaps a dozen or so examples are known, mostly at the low end of the Mint State range. Raised vertical die striae are plainly seen in the obverse field, indicative that this specimen was among the first of the date struck; these lines would fade from the die with use. A major opportunity for the quarter eagle specialist—as true Mint State examples of the 1843 are very elusive.

Date logotype rather curious inasmuch as the first two digits are quite small, and the last two much larger! This is true of all quarter eagles of this year and mint. Interestingly, this same logotype was used to create the Large Date quarter eagles of 1843-C and 1843-O, and, even more interesting, *dimes* of 1843 and 1843-O. The overly large size of the last two date digits is so significant that it really should be mentioned in the standard texts, if only as a footnote.

Further concerning the Large Date, the 1 and 8 are slightly small, and the 4 and 3 are larger, the 3 particularly oversized. The last digit also tilts slightly to the left, and an extension of its top would result in a line intersecting with the adjacent 4 below its peak. Although little has reached print concerning the process as employed at the Philadelphia Mint (where all dies were made), the four-digit logotypes seem to have been produced by taking individual date punches and stamping them into a matrix of flat steel. If a punch was impressed deeply into the matrix, an effect would be created such as the digit 1 here described. The matrix was then hardened, and one or more four-digit logotypes were produced by impacting a small rectangular piece of soft steel into the openings created by the punching of the four digits.

From Stack's sale of May 1972, Lot 1613.

110 **Quartette of quarter eagles:** ☆ 1843 AU-58 ☆ 1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4. AU-55 ☆ 1850 AU-58 ☆ 1851 AU-58. Each displays lustrous yellow gold surfaces. (Total: 4 pieces)

### Lovely 1843-D \$2.50 Small Date, Small D Mintmark



111 **1843-D Small Date, Small D. AU-55 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold with strong lustre on both sides. The most plentiful of all Dahlonega quarter eagle issues, but still a desirable coin at the assigned grade.

Two obverse dies and five reverse dies were shipped from the Philadelphia Mint beginning on December 22, 1842, anticipating the following year's coinage. Mintage was intermittent from the spring through the early autumn.

This is Douglas Winter's variety 4-C. The date logotype is small and thus comfortably fits in the allotted space between the neck and dentils. On the

reverse a barely visible crack runs from the rim to the upper right of the first S in STATES. Another faint crack runs from the rim upward between the D in the denomination and the period that follows to the tip of the olive branch. Also, a raised die line extends from a dentil downward to the right through TA.

Purchased from the Gohiad Corporation, April 11, 1972.

### Another 1843-D \$2.50 Small Date, Small Mintmark



112 **1843-D Small Date, Small D. AU-50.** Lustrous orange-gold. A faint obverse scratch is noted in the field before Miss Liberty's face.

Winter-4C.

From Stack's sale of June 1972, Lot 787.

113 **1843-D Small Date, Large D. Net EF-40;** sharpness of AU-55, but once cleaned. Some scattered rim marks are also noted. A rare variety; Douglas Winter wrote: "It is believed that 3,537 1843-D quarter eagles using this reverse were struck on October 7, 1843." Considerably rarer than the Small D variety of the date, and worthy of serious bidder consideration as such.

In *Gold Coins of the Dahlonega Mint 1838-1861*, Douglas Winter noted four varieties of this date. Three of those, designated 4-C, 4-E, 4-F, are the style with small D mintmark, while the fourth variety, 4-G, has the large mintmark reverse as offered here. This variety is also Breen-6170.

114 **1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4. MS-60.** Lustrous yellow gold with some deep orange iridescence in the protected areas on the reverse. A pleasing specimen with a distinctly prooflike appearance; the devices are satiny and the fields are reflective. Struck from lightly clashed dies. Choice for the grade, with the eye appeal of a finer specimen.

Date logotype well centered.

On the reverse the O mintmark is deeply impressed into the die. It overlaps the feather, with a tiny portion of the feather visible on the right side of the interior. The mintmark is very close to the fraction bar, but relatively distant from the 1 in the fraction.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 23, 1971.

115 **1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4. MS-60.** Bright and lustrous yellow gold. Yet another attractive specimen of the date with strong eye appeal for the grade.

Date logotype well centered. The mintmark is distant from the tip of the fraction crossbar and the numerator.

On the obverse, a thin crack unites the bottoms of the date numerals, and another crack unites stars 4, 5, and 6. Other fine cracks connect stars 7, 8, and 9 to the rim, while another continuous crack unites stars 10, 11, 12, and 13.

Purchased from Mal Varner, August 11, 1972.

116 **1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4. MS-60.** Highly lustrous yellow gold with a touch of olive toning. Somewhat prooflike in appearance. Struck from rusted dies. Another attractive Mint State specimen with the overall appeal of a higher grade, and certain to please as such.

Struck from rusted dies. Obverse with several small, raised "dots" or lumps on Liberty's jawline and in the field, mainly the former. On the reverse, a sizeable lump appears in the field below the ME of AMERICA.

Date logotype high and nearly twice as close to the neck truncation as to the dentils. Reverse with O mintmark overlapping feather, and with a small part of the feather visible at the right side of the interior. The mintmark is distant from the tip of the fraction crossbar and the numerator.

From Paramount's sale of November 1971, Lot 994.



- 117 **Quartette of Liberty quarter eagles:** ☆ 1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4. AU-53, cleaned ☆ 1847-O EF-45. Attractive surfaces ☆ 1850 AU-55. Obverse die crack from 2:30 to 7:30 ☆ 1851 AU-53. Pale golden orange surfaces. (Total: 4 pieces)
- 118 **Pair of quarter eagles:** ☆ 1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4. AU-50 ☆ 1847-O EF-45. Both display yellow gold surfaces with some lustre remaining. (Total: 2 pieces)
- 119 **Grouping of quarter eagles:** ☆ 1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4. VF-30, cleaned ☆ 1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4, Repunched Mintmark. AU-50, cleaned ☆ 1845 AU-50, scratches ☆ 1847-O VF-35 ☆ 1851 EF-45. Rich bluish lavender toning on both surfaces. (Total: 5 pieces)

## Lustrous 1843-O Quarter Eagle

Large Date, Plain 4  
Especially Scarce Variety



- 120 **1843-O Large Date, Plain 4, Repunched Mintmark. AU-55.** Lustrous yellow gold surfaces exhibit traces of an old cleaning, but the overall appeal is still substantial. An obverse rim flaw, probably as made, appears at 9:00. Struck from clashed dies, with evidence of such plainly seen on both sides. Considerably rarer than its Small Date counterpart, perhaps on the order of *five to seven times* more rare. We estimate that 50 to 100 examples of the date are currently known in all grades, most of those in the VF to EF category. An especially worthwhile example of this elusive variety, one that would fit nicely in any quarter eagle collection.

Breen-6173. Large date and mintmark.

Date logotype very deeply punched into the die, resulting in the 1 being large and “bulky,” giving a very distinctive appearance. The date is far to left and low, with the 1 touching the dentil below, and almost extending to the bust point.

Reverse with heavy O mintmark high and into the arrow feather, with the barest trace of the arrow feather visible within the inner area. Mintmark with strong repunching showing at the bottom: this later fades gradually from the die. Additionally, most of the vertical reverse shield lines extend through the horizontal lines above, and into the eagle’s body below the shield as well.

From Lester Merkin’s sale of March 1969, Lot 23.

## Low-Mintage 1844 Quarter Eagle Rarity



- 121 **1844 AU-50.** Lustrous yellow gold with a touch of orange. A low-mintage rarity from the Philadelphia Mint, one of only 6,784 business strikes of the date produced. Typically found well worn, with VF or so being average for the grade. In fact, Walter Breen called this date “Prohibitively rare AU.” A few stray marks are noted, but the overall appeal is still quite fine.

Only one die pair has been recognized for this rare date. The date logotype is large and somewhat distorted, with the tops of the digits being smaller and more delicate than the bases, the final 4 in particular being bottom heavy. The dentils were modified to accommodate the oddly shaped

date, with the curious result that they are indented under the first and last digits. The die also shows some unusual finish lines between the first digit and first star, extending clockwise past the second star. On the reverse the left-most raised line in the vertical stripes, and also the right-most line, extend upward through the horizontal shield stripes.

Purchased from Mike Brownlee, April 17, 1967.

## Mint State 1844-D \$2.50



- 122 **1844-D MS-61 (PCGS).** Lustrous yellow gold with olive highlights in the prooflike fields. Struck from clashed dies. One of the few dates of any denomination from the Dahlonega facility that can be called “available” in Mint State grades; we estimate perhaps two or three dozen Uncirculated specimens can be found today. This is not to imply, however, that Uncirculated examples of this date are always available on a whim, for often long periods go by before a Mint State specimen of this quality is offered. Few examples coming to the market can compare with or exceed the currently offered coin.

PCGS Population: 5; 8 finer (MS-63 finest). The high concentration of submissions at the MS-61 and MS-62 level—in this case 12 of the 14 Mint State specimens certified (a single MS-60 specimen has also been graded)—leads us to believe that a few examples of this date were submitted for grade opinions more than once in the hope of obtaining a higher grade.

Winter-5G. On the obverse the date logotype is far to the left, causing the upper left of the 1 to touch the bust. Although the logotype seems to be the same as used on the 1844 Philadelphia issue, in the present instance it was more evenly impressed into the working die; thus, the numerals are not bottom heavy.

On the reverse the mintmark is heavy and high, tilted to the left, and overlaps an arrow feather, which nearly fills the upper half of the inside of the mintmark. The top of the D mintmark virtually touches the claw and olive branch above, while the bottom of the mintmark is distant (relatively speaking, of course) from the fraction.

Purchased from Superior, March 1978.

## Attractive 1844-D \$2.50



- 123 **1844-D AU-55.** Lustrous honey gold with plenty of brilliance in the recessed areas. A second pleasing example of a popular date. Struck from a different reverse die than the specimen in the previous lot.

Winter-5H. Same obverse die as the preceding lot. Different reverse: the mintmark is only slightly tilted to the left, with most of the feather details above the D, and with only a tiny vestige of the feather present within the inner loop of the mintmark. The top of the D is noticeably distant from the claw and olive branch, while the lower left serif of the D touches the 1 in the fraction, and very nearly touches the fraction bar itself. This variety is perhaps four to five times rarer than Winter-5G.

From Lester Merkin’s sale of April 1970, Lot 662.

- 124 **1845 MS-62.** A frosty and satiny specimen with the overall appeal of a slightly finer grade.

Obverse with logotype high, 1 in date virtually touching truncation. Crack connects stars 3 through 6. Reverse with extensive cracks including from dentil through 2 of fraction to eagle’s claw above; from dentil through the ornamental dot to the right of A (AMERICA) to the stem branch; from the eagle’s wing tip to dentil at upper left; and additional cracks from the border through the right of N (UNITED) to the branch, and from near the end



of the branch to the E (UNITED). A further crack extends from the border to the top of the E (AMERICA), with other faint cracks beginning in various places. The die is on the verge of shattering, and could not have been employed long after this piece was struck.

From Stack's sale of January 1974, Lot 507.

- 125 **1845 MS-62.** Lustrous orange-gold with some deeper areas of toning present. Nicely struck from lightly clashed dies; the reverse die is cracked in several places. An aesthetically appealing example of a plentiful issue.

From essentially the same die states as the coin in the previous lot. The interesting clash marks and cracks provide additional appeal to quarter eagles and other coins of this era.

- 126 **1845 MS-61.** Lustrous honey gold. A small area of diagonal planchet lines, from the planchet rolling process, *as struck*, can be seen across Liberty's portrait.

From essentially the same die states as the coins in the previous two lots. Harry W. Bass, Jr. enjoyed gold coins immensely, and often acquired duplicates, triplicates, and even quadruplicates of a single date, mint, and even die state. Thus, the present sale "releases" into the market many pieces that had been unavailable for a generation.

From Lester Merkin's sale of September 1967, Lot 307.

### Attractive 1845-D \$2.50



- 127 **1845-D AU-50.** Lustrous yellow gold with a touch of olive. Struck from lightly clashed dies. Typically found VF to EF, with AU specimens such as offered here occasionally available as well.

Obverse with date logotype extremely close to and nearly touching neck truncation, notably separated from dentil below, but still close. Logotype punched more deeply into the die at the first part of the date than toward the end, reflective of "by hand" processes in die making of the era. Reverse with D mintmark into arrow feather, but with no traces of the feather within the opening. Lower left serif of D touches 1 in denominator. Moderately heavy clash marks are observed around the eagle, particularly at the upper right of the shield.

From Stack's sale of May 1968, Lot 699.

### Elusive 1845-O Quarter Eagle

Historically Famous  
No Recorded Mintage Figure



- 128 **1845-O AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous yellow gold with a hint of olive toning. Repunched 18 in date, a diagnostic for this rarity. From a small mintage for the date, believed to be just 4,000 pieces, although no record of the date's production is found in Mint records of the year. "Usually in low grades; extremely rare in EF, prohibitively rare above," wrote Walter Breen in his *Encyclopedia* (1988), a notation that still holds true today. Among the finest known examples of the date; in fact, this specimen is finer than the three specimens we offered in Part II of the Harry W. Bass Collection (October 1999), all of which were certified AU-55 by PCGS. A truly landmark quarter eagle

rarity is about to cross the auction block, and we expect a bustling flurry of bidding activity when it does.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (MS-63 finest).

The fame of the 1845-O dates back to the 1890s, when serious collectors of that era were somewhat surprised to find that the date existed. A notation in the December 1894 issue of *The Numismatist*, included the following: "Quarter eagle pieces of 1845, New Orleans Mint, have lately been found, although no coinage that year appears in the *Mint Report*." For years thereafter, the appearance of an 1845-O quarter eagle at auction was a matter for celebration, and much ink was used in descriptions. Later, it was realized that dozens existed, and that while the issue is scarce, it is hardly a landmark rarity. If the successful bidder of this lot would like some historical citations, a note to the editor (QDB) will be sufficient. Today the mintage figure of 4,000 is published and may or may not be correct.

On this die, the date is somewhat to the left, and heavier at the 1 and the 8 than at the 4 and the 5, the last numeral being noticeably thinner than the others. The numerals are fairly well centered between the bust and the dentils, with the latter being slightly cut away under the first digit to accommodate it. From an early state of the obverse, with the 1 and 8 plainly repunched; this later fades substantially from the die, leaving little or no trace in later coins. At the left border between the first digit and star 1 are some prominent diagonal die finish lines, scaling upward horizontally like some tiny garden ladder.

On the reverse the O mintmark overlaps the feather and also is impaled by the top end of the fraction bar (not the numerator—the top numeral in a fraction—as erroneously noted in the Winter reference). In the shield, nearly all the vertical lines extend upward through the horizontal stripes.

From Stack's sale of December 1970, Lot 83.

- 129 **1846 AU-53.** Lustrous honey gold. A nicely struck coin, and a pleasing specimen for the grade.

The date logotype is distinguished by having the 6 heavier and taller than the other three digits, and also leaning slightly to the right. The crossbar of the 4 is oriented slightly upward to the right.

It was apparently "amateur night" at the Philadelphia Mint for much of 1846, at least in the date logotype preparation department, as punches differ in size and quality across the different denominations in copper, silver, and gold. Sometimes the date numerals appear short and squat with irregular shapes, other times tall with thin numerals (a good case in point being the Medium and Tall Date varieties of 1846-O half dollars; various others could be just as easily cited). There seems to be no rhyme, reason, or consistency for the date logo punches of this date.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.

### Impressive 1846-C \$2.50



(2x photo)

- 130 **1846-C AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with faint orange highlights. Struck from clashed and rusted dies. From a small mintage for the date of just 4,808 pieces, with most of the surviving specimens from that mintage in VF or EF; AU examples are very rare. Douglas Winter called this date: "Rare and underrated." Choice for the assigned grade, and a landmark offering at this grade level.

PCGS Population: 2; 8 finer (MS-64 finest).

The date logotype is small and is about centered between the dentils and Liberty's portrait. The upright of the 4 leans to the right, and that numeral seems marginally smaller than the other date numerals. The 6 also leans right, and seems larger than the other numerals. During the year 1846, there was a big "problem" at the Mint regarding date sizes and shapes, and a number of notable varieties were created. The present logotype may have been made by a novice in the die department.



The surface of the coin shows extensive rust marks (translated into the raised areas on the struck coins; the rust marks were recessed in the *die*), particularly in the lower area around the date, where it is plain between the first star, across the date, and then to the final star, as well as at the fourth through eighth stars. Several raised lumps of varying size are seen in the field, the largest of those above star 13.

On the reverse, the C mintmark is very high and about half embedded in the branch and arrow feather. Moderately heavy clash marks are seen around the eagle, most intensely above the upper right corner of the shield. Raised lumps from die rust are seen there as well, most prominently below the first T in STATES, and below the eagle's right (viewer's left) wing. Other lumps can be seen in and around the denomination. Die striae are evident and probably in this instance are a result of relapping in the machine shop at the Charlotte Mint, not from original die preparation.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 28, 1967.*

## Delightful 1846-D Quarter Eagle

### Normal D Mintmark



- 131 1846-D Normal Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).** A lustrous honey gold specimen with plenty of brilliance present on both sides. Nicely struck. A popular date from Georgia's famous mint. Raised diagonal die striae run from 11:00 to 5:00 on the reverse, with other die finish lines radiating from the tops of most of the letters in the legends outward to the rim. About as nice as the advanced collector can reasonably hope to acquire for an 1846-D—combining a generous measure of eye appeal with a high grade, certainly among the finest at its numerical level and in terms of complete satisfaction, quite possibly finer than some graded higher.

PCGS Population: 10; 3 finer (MS-63 finest).

Breen-6184. Normal mintmark; another variety is known with a broadly repunched D mintmark.

In *Gold Coins of the Dahlonega Mint 1838-1861*, Douglas Winter enumerates four distinct reverse varieties for this date. One of those, variety 7J, is the variety with doubled mintmark; the other three reverses all have the "normal" D mintmark. The variety offered here corresponds to Winter's reverse 7-I.

Obverse with low date, much closer to dentils below than to truncation above. The date numerals are relatively thin and well formed for an 1846 issue. Lower left serif of 1 in date centered over a dentil. On the reverse, the mintmark is nicely centered between the olive branch and the eagle's claw. The top of the D touches the lowest feather and the shaft, with no details of either showing in the hollow center of the D. The fraction bar tapers to a point and ends below the D, on a line with the inside upright of the mintmark. Virtually all of the vertical shield lines pierce the horizontal lines above.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of September 1967, Lot 310.*

## Another Impressive 1846-D Quarter Eagle



- 132 1846-D Normal Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).** A lustrous yellow gold specimen, free of all but some trivial marks. Struck from lightly clashed dies. A thoroughly pleasing example of the grade and date. A very rare variety, struck from completely different dies than the preceding lot (see note below). According to the Winter reference, "An example of this variety was discovered in 1996 in the Pittman Collection (and published in 1998). It appears to be very rare."

Breen-6184. Normal mintmark; another variety is known with a broadly repunched D mintmark.

Obverse with low date, lower left serif of 1 over a space between dentils, 184 in date broadly repunched, the remnants of the first numerals higher than the primary numerals. The dentil below the 1 has been lightly reshaped to receive the numeral. This particular obverse is not listed by Winter. On the reverse, which corresponds to Winter-8K, the D mintmark is high and embedded in the feathers, distant from the claw and touching the olive branch. Feather details show within the center and in the field behind the upright of the D. The end of the fraction bar is squared and ends directly below the center of the upright of the D. No vertical shield lines penetrate to the horizontal lines above.

In the Pittman Collection catalogue, May 1998, Lot 1753, David Akers quoted John McCloskey, a specialist in early U.S. gold issues: "I am amazed by this piece. I own examples of three other varieties from three different reverses and this piece doesn't match any of them. On the obverse, the 6 in the date is centered in the field between the neck and the denticles. All three other varieties have a low date with the 6 closer to the denticles. This variety would have to be very rare."

The collecting of Dahlonega Mint quarter eagles by *die varieties* is a rather obscure pursuit, but one that is a fascinating endeavor, the desirability of which is enhanced the fact that today on the market there is not much differential made between a scarce die combination and a common one, within a given date. As time goes by, more numismatists are discovering the excitement of examining under magnification dies such as described here, observing their idiosyncrasies not only in their manufacture but in their later use, and relating them to other dies in the series. Today in the year 2000, studies of dies have been popular for a long time in such series as copper and silver coins, often detailed in specialized articles as *Penny-Wise*, *the JRCS Journal*, and *The Gobrecht Journal*. There is no specifically dedicated forum at present for the sharing of information on gold coin die varieties of the 1840s, and perhaps this indicates a possibility for someone.

In the entire study of American gold coins the editor (QDB) has come to realize that there is a great need to interrelate denominations, die punches, and letter punches—as many were used on more than one denomination. Some beginning in this direction has been made by Dr. John McCloskey in *The Gobrecht Journal*, but mostly in relation to Liberty Seated silver coins. The entire field is one that is begging for detailed study, perhaps most easily accomplished by creating a grid listing different number and letter fonts and denominations, and filling in spaces to indicate where they were used.

*Purchased from Paramount, March 31, 1967.*

## A Third 1846-D \$2.50



- 133 1846-D Normal Mintmark. AU-50.** Lustrous, partially the result of a light brushing, partially a natural occurrence. Still attractive overall, in fact, above average for this date, mint, and grade level. Winter-7G, from a reverse die that differs from the previous lots, and is called "rare" in the Winter reference. This reverse was also used in 1843, 1844, and 1846.

Breen-6184. Normal mintmark; another variety is known with a broadly repunched D mintmark.

Winter-7G. Obverse with low date, much closer to dentils below than to truncation above. The date numerals are relatively thin and well formed for an 1846 issue. Reverse with mintmark high and tilted dramatically left, top serif touches claw, top of D virtually touches olive branch. Feather details fill upper half of D, but do not extend beyond the upright. Top of fraction bar squared and evenly centered below the middle of the D. Several vertical shield lines extend upward through the horizontal lines.

*Purchased from Mike Brownlee, April 17, 1967.*



- 134 **1846-O AU-55.** Lustrous yellow gold with olive iridescence. Reverse die alignment 90° instead of the normal 180°. A very attractive specimen with a lot of “life”—lustre, frost, and a nice overall appearance. Head and shoulders above the typical surviving example of the 1846-O which averages VF grade.

On a specimen with “normal” or 180° die alignment, the eagle’s head would point to the 12:00 position.

The obverse displays the logotype punched very deeply into the die, exaggerating the strength of the last two digits. Repunching within the last digit, seemingly B-6186, “overdate,” described as “Repunched 4, microscopic traces of 4 within 6” in Breen’s *Encyclopedia* (1988). Regarding those characteristics, Douglas Winter in *New Orleans Mint Gold Coins: 1839-1909*, comments: “It has long been claimed that an 1846/44-O overdate exists. In my opinion, such pieces are not overdates...” What is the stub under the 6 in the date? Upon examination of this piece (as well as others from this logotype punch), it appears the logotype was shifted and repunching occurred. A small line in the top of the 6 certainly resembles the diagonal from a 4, but within the base of the 6 the repunchings are all curved or circular in appearance, indicating a repunched 6, not a 4. Related repunchings, differing in some detail, occur among other dies (but not for the just-offered 1846-D quarter eagle).

Reverse with O mintmark high.

- 135 **1846-O AU-50.** Bright and lustrous honey gold. Very faint “seawater” surfaces, quite possibly a Mint State coin that was recovered from a sunken ship. A very beautiful specimen, far nicer than usually seen.

From the same dies as the preceding lot.

*Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, September 14, 1967.*

- 136 **1847 Repunched 18. AU-58 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous honey gold with prooflike reflectivity in the protected areas. A scarcer date than its mintage of 29,814 business strikes implies, particularly so in AU or finer, where *rare* becomes the operative word. Another specimen with a lot of “life,” a lot of “personality,” a piece that was selected by Harry Bass as one of the finest seen. A thoroughly satisfying example, one that will delight its next owner.

Breen-6188. “Heavily repunched 18.”

Obverse with large date logotype, top of first digit embedded in the bust of Miss Liberty, touching a dentil, and double punched at the bottom. The upper right corner of the 7 just touches the lower part of the truncation. The logotype was casually made, and the 8 and 4 lean slightly right—the type of workmanship that Walter Breen was fond of laying at the doorstep of James B. Longacre, although in all probability a novice Mint employee was responsible (especially in view of the fact that major errors in date logotypes began occurring in a significant way in the year 1843, which was a year before Longacre was hired at the Mint).

On the reverse a crack bisects the die, extending from the dentils through the 1 of the fraction, through the eagle, and then out through the wing tip at the upper right to the dentils.

*From Abe Kosoff’s sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 1737.*

- 137 **1847 Repunched 18. AU-53.** Warm honey gold. A second pleasing specimen of a popular date.

From the same die pair as the previous lot.

*From Stack’s sale of May 1972, Lot 1626.*

### Popular 1847-C Quarter Eagle



- 138 **1847-C AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous yellow gold. An attractive coin for the grade. Struck from lightly clashed dies. Raised die finish lines can be seen around Liberty’s portrait. One of the more available Charlotte issues, a variety that is seen with some frequency at the AU level and even in Mint State. Ac-

cordingly, the present piece offers an opportunity to the systematic collector of Charlotte coins as well as someone who might enjoy having a C mintmark quarter eagle in a basic type set, as the value of the coin is in the low four-figure range.

Obverse from standard four-digit date logotype used on the quarter eagle, with central figure leaning right. Date placed high in the die, with the 1 and 7 piercing the outline of the neck truncation, both figures being free of the dentils below.

C mintmark high, embedded in the branch and arrow feathers. Crack from border to eagle’s wing at left; similar crack from border to eagle’s wing at right. Light clash marks visible on the reverse. Die finish lines run diagonally above and through MERIC. Two tiny lumps, caused by die rust, appear at the fraction, one below the numerator, the other to the viewer’s left of the denominator.

Three different die pairs were shipped from Philadelphia to Charlotte for this year’s coinage, but the literature is silent as to the number of varieties actually produced. All of the examples of this date in Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, as well as the specimens offered in this sale, are from a single set of dies.

*From Abe Kosoff’s sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 1815.*

- 139 **1847-C Net AU-50;** sharpness of MS-60, lightly cleaned. Medium yellow gold. An attractive coin overall despite a few scattered marks—as even a quick in-person examination will reveal. In terms of quality—lest someone be frightened by our “lightly cleaned” comment—the present 1847-C is about the average seen in specialized Charlotte collections over the years.

From the same dies as the previous lot but with signs of heavy rust present on the reverse. The rust at the fraction appears as several raised lumps around the numerals and the D of the denomination. Other sizeable patches of rust can be seen at the N of UNITED, below the eagle’s right (viewer’s left) wing, below the first T of STATES, and at NI in UNITED.

Interestingly enough, there are no die cracks from the eagle’s wing tips, as noted in the previous lot. Conversely, there are no die finish lines at MERIC. Evidently, the specimen offered here is thus from an earlier state of the die, but with prominent rust features which must have been removed by lapping from the *later state* described earlier. The coin in the previous lot is from the later state of the die, after the rust has been worked out of the die. This would seemingly account for the heavy die finish lines at MERIC on that specimen, as well as the die cracks at the wings; they probably appeared after the die had been placed back into use after being “relapped.” A coin such as this can be studied for a long time, and every once in a while a new insight is gained.

*From Abe Kosoff’s sale of October 1968, Lot 748.*

### Attractive 1847-D \$2.50



- 140 **1847-D AU-55 (PCGS).** A lustrous yellow gold specimen with some prooflike reflectivity in the fields. A thoroughly attractive, high-grade example of this Dahlonega Mint issue.

Only one die combination is known for this date. Obverse with date logotype high, 1 and 7 piercing the neck truncation, both free from the dentils below, but still quite crowded—simply because the logotype this year was too large to comfortably fit on the quarter eagle. Many raised die finish lines are evident; one particularly prominent line connects the second and third stars, terminating near the fourth star. Faint traces of clash marks are noted on both sides. What may be the vestige of previously punched numerals can be seen at the bases of the 4 and 7 in the date. D mintmark touching the olive branch and claw, with the interior of the mintmark half-filled by the arrow feathers. Many prominent raised finish lines are seen, especially at NITED and STAT. Apparently on the first try the date logotype was positioned slightly to the left of the final, as there are tiny raised artifacts to the left of the bases of the 4 and the 7.

*Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 17, 1968.*



- 141 **1847-O AU-50.** Lustrous deep honey gold with much mint brilliance in the recessed areas. A date that is mostly found in VF or so. Douglas Winter called this date “much scarcer than its relatively large mintage figure would suggest,” also noting that the date is “very rare in About Uncirculated.”

Obverse with date high, the 1 and 7 piercing the neck truncation; lower left of 1 barely touches a dentil. Subtle traces of a clash mark from the eagle’s wing are seen in the field close to the head of Miss Liberty, opposite star 12. A faint crack runs from the top of Liberty’s head to the star immediately above.

On the reverse the O mintmark is clear at its center, save for a tiny nuance of feather detail at the upper right; at the lower left the outside of the mintmark touches the numerator. Heavy diagonal die lines are seen through the branch and UNI, extending to the viewer’s right and to the arrowheads as well.

*Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, June 25, 1968.*

## Important 1848 Quarter Eagle

### An Unsung Rarity



- 142 **1848 AU-50.** Warm orange-gold with substantial lustre present. Somewhat prooflike in the protected areas. An unsung rarity. Only 7,497 business strikes of the date were produced, with survivors from that small mintage typically found in VF or so.

Walter Breen noted that “the rarity of this date has been recognized since about 1958, when J.F. Bell circulated want lists including this date; dealers found none in stock, and the hunt was on.” However, the historical record reveals many comments in the same vein made earlier by other people.

Over a long period of time, the 1848 has been ignored due to the status of its sister coin, the famous 1848 CAL. It might come as a surprise to learn that the piece offered here is significantly rarer at the AU and Mint State level than is the CAL. variety! A rare, important quarter eagle that is deserving of a high bid.

Date high, top of 1 touches truncation above, all numerals away from dentils below. On the reverse, fairly heavy die striae are noted in the reflective fields, running uniformly from 4:00 to 10:00.

*Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 19, 1968.*

- 143 **1848-C AU-58.** Bright yellow gold with lively olive highlights. Fully prooflike in appearance, with frosty motifs and reflective fields. Proof surface within the shield on the reverse. To be technical about things—as we try to do in our cataloguing, the piece was lightly brushed at one time, but most would not even mention this, and overall the coin is still very *choice* and has a generous measure of old fashioned eye appeal. Moreover, it is an above average strike, with just a hint of lightness here and there. All told, this is an *exceptional* 1848-C! As a parting comment, we note that Douglas Winter observed that the 1848-C is “Characterized by an uneven strike. Many pieces are particularly soft at the center, the stars, and the hair above Liberty’s forehead.” The present coin is a pleasing exception—the precise reason why Harry Bass added it to his collection.

Obverse with high date, top of 1 touching truncation above, all numerals free of the dentils below.

From the reverse die used in 1846 and 1847, with rust noted near the fraction on the reverse. The tiny die breaks from the points of the eagle’s wings have now advanced; the crack at the eagle’s left (viewer’s right) wing now runs through the wing, jutting to the horizontal and joining the next-to-lowest horizontal shield line.

*From Stack’s sale of March, 1976, Lot 350, later acquired by Harry Bass in a trade transaction.*

## Lustrous 1848-D Quarter Eagle



- 144 **1848-D AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous yellow gold. A pleasing coin overall, with a few negligible marks noted for accuracy. Struck from a reverse die rotated to the 220 position (instead of the normal 180°). The scarcer of two die varieties listed by Douglas Winter. While the basic appeal of this lot is for someone seeking an 1848-D quarter eagle, its die variety makes it even more interesting.

Obverse with high date, 1 touching truncation above, nearly touching dentils below. Final 8 in date distant from truncation, close to dentils. Winter’s reverse 10-L, D mintmark high, opening in D half filled with feather details. The tip of the fraction bar extends to a point below the center of the D. On this specimen, a faint die crack runs from the rim at 3:00, crossing the left upright of the M, then crossing the eagle’s wing and terminating in the feathers there.

*From Superior’s sale of February 1973, Lot 162.*

- 145 **1849 AU-50.** Lustrous honey gold. Lightly cleaned long ago. Bright, and fairly attractive overall.

With an interesting area of significantly *raised* die lines at the dentils beneath the date, quite possibly why Harry Bass bought the coin. Reverse with die striae in a vertical position. Some little digs on the reverse, scarcely noticeable except under magnification, at the upper left corner of the shield.

*From Abe Kosoff’s sale of August 1968, Lot 803.*

## Impressive 1849-C Quarter Eagle



- 146 **1849-C AU-55 (PCGS).** A satiny and lustrous honey gold specimen with plenty of mint frost in the recessed areas. Struck from clashed dies. Somewhat prooflike on both sides, with fairly obvious planchet striae in the fields. An underappreciated rarity, a date that is considerably more elusive in AU than its low mintage of 10,220 pieces indicates. “Usually VF or EF; prohibitively rare AU” wrote Walter Breen regarding the issue, and that statement still rings true today. “Any 1849-C quarter eagle grading Extremely Fine or higher is rare” wrote Douglas Winter. A great rarity at this level, with just a few pieces known in a finer grade. In fact, only *two* Mint State examples of the date have been certified by PCGS, one of those being from our sale of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, Part II (October 1999, Lot 422). Yet another splendid opportunity for the advanced quarter eagle collector.

Some extraneous “material” is seen around the 49 in the date, suggesting repunching, but in fact a characteristic of the basic date logotype and used on all dies from all mints (although on light impressions of the logotype into the die—of which this is not one—the material is not as evident).

PCGS Population: 7; 5 finer (MS-63 finest).

Extraneous lines and roughness around the 49 in the date, suggesting repunching. Reverse with obvious clash marks around the eagle’s head; that area of the coin shows off the die striae to full advantage. C mintmark high in crotch of branch, overlapping the claw and leathers, touching the branch above. The back edge of the lowest leather closes the front of the C. The fraction numerator is centered nearly under the C mintmark above, being just slightly left of center.

*From Abe Kosoff’s sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 1817.*



## Attractive 1849-D \$2.50



- 147 **1849-D AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous medium yellow gold with some olive highlights. Nicely struck, with fairly full details present in all places except the reverse dentils at 3:00 to 6:00. A scarce date with a modest mintage of 10,945 pieces; most of the survivors from that number are VF, with some smaller proportion at EF. At AU or higher, the *scarce* changes immediately to *rare*.

Obverse with high date, 1 much closer to bust than dentils. Logotype artifacts around 49 in date, as is common. Date slopes progressively downward from left to right. D mintmark high and touching branch, inner loop of D about half filled with feather details. Tip of fraction bar under right inside upright of D.

From RARCOA's sale of August 1970, Lot 1463.

- 148 **1850 MS-62.** Lustrous medium gold with a prooflike appearance. Reflective fields display diagonally aligned striae to their fullest advantage. Some lightness of strike present on both sides. Very attractive for the assigned grade. Perhaps lightly brushed long ago, with a few marks here and there—not at all unusual for the MS-60 grade. A very pleasing coin from an aesthetic viewpoint, one of the nicest seen. The specialist will be quite content to have the 1850 niche in his collection filled by this coin.

Obverse with logotype placed low, lower left serif of 1 nearly touches dentil, top of 1 distantly separated from point of bust above, top of 0 in date distant from truncation, very close to dentil. An obverse die crack begins very faintly at the rim between stars 9 and 10, becoming bolder in the field as it juts toward the back of Liberty's hair bun. It passes through the upper loop of her bun, piercing the third lowest bead in her hair tie, then passing through her hair, the Y of LIBERTY, and the curls just below her ear. The crack then crosses her neck, terminating on the point of her bust.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, May 7, 1969.

- 149 **1850 MS-60.** Lustrous honey gold. Cleaned long ago with a few scattered marks noted for accuracy. Visibly finer to the unaided eye than the description implies.

Obverse with high date, top of 1 nearly touches truncation, lower left serif of that numeral relatively high above space between two dentils. The top of the 0 is distant from the truncation and much closer to a dentil at the bottom than is the 1. On the reverse, the second stripe in the second pair of vertical stripes is thin and attenuated, almost missing completely at its bottom.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 148.

## Rare 1850-C Quarter Eagle

Winter: "Extremely Rare"



- 150 **1850-C AU-50.** Warm orange-gold with some deep orange highlights present in the protected areas. Regarding this date, Douglas Winter noted: "Specimens which grade About Uncirculated are extremely rare." Only 9,148 examples of the date were struck, and most of the survivors from that mintage are in the VF range. A great opportunity.

Obverse with date logotype deeply impressed into the die (quite a contrast with the preceding lot—as even a quick comparison will verify), with cen-

tered date slightly to left, 1 infinitesimally closer to dentil than truncation. The 0 is centered nicely between the truncation and dentils, and is marginally lower than the other digits. The C mintmark is well centered between the claw and branch, high, with the lowest tip of the arrow feather visible at the top of the opening in the C. The tip of the fraction bar is centered below the middle of the mintmark and nearly touching it.

From Stack's sale of May 1971, Lot 1234.

## Outstanding Mint State 1850-O \$2.50

Among the Finest Certified

Winter: "Probably Most Underrated"



- 151 **1850-O MS-62 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous yellow gold with some iridescent olive toning highlights. A few faint marks account for the assigned grade. Douglas Winter called this date "Probably the most underrated New Orleans quarter eagle in AU-50 and higher grades." A notable rarity in AU, with Mint State specimens of the date exceedingly rare; we estimate perhaps just five to 10 are known at MS-60 or finer. For the record, the only finer specimen of this date we have handled was—what else?—the specimen in our sale of Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection (Lot 435), formerly in the Louis E. Eliasberg Collection (which we also sold). Here is an opportunity that may not be repeated for a considerable length of time, and we suspect alert bidders will do their homework accordingly.

PCGS Population: 3; one finer (MS-63).

For the specialist interested in die varieties, the date logotype provides an interesting and somewhat scarce (in the quarter eagle series) illustration of the die making procedure: the logotype was punched very deeply at the upper left corner of the date, and lightly at the lower right, affecting the depth and boldness of the numerals accordingly. With the top of the 1 being very deep and heavy in the die, the bottom being lighter, and the lightest of all numerals being the final digit, the 0. A truly fascinating piece from a technical viewpoint. The 1 is fairly well centered between the bust and the dentils; the 0 is slightly closer to the neck truncation than the dentils.

A small chunk has fallen from the die at 12:00 on the rim, causing a cud to appear there. Perhaps most curious about the obverse is the apparent buckling of the die at the date area.

When the coin is held at an angle to the light, there is a slight bulge or buckling under the 18 numerals, perhaps from the overly aggressive deep punching of the logotype—but awaiting confirmation with the examination of additional specimens from this die to see if all have the same characteristic.

On the obverse, a substantial chunk of the die has fallen away on the flat rim comprising most of the area from opposite star 7 to star 8, another unusual feature hardly ever seen on any gold coin of the era. On the reverse, The O mintmark is high and well centered, and touching the branch and claw above. A small portion of the feather details can be seen in the hollow center of the O.

Although the present 1850-O stands tall and proud as a Mint State example of an issue which is scarcely ever seen in this grade, in our opinion the technical aspects are just as interesting, and any owner of a coin who appreciates studying his or her possessions will delight in the acquisition of this memorable piece.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation at an unspecified date; ex our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1522.



- 152 **1850-O Recut 5. AU-55.** Lustrous honey gold. Some lightness of strike present at the centers, as usual for the date. “Extremely rare in AU,” according to Walter Breen, and Douglas Winter called the date “A genuinely scarce and very underrated issue.” A nice example of an elusive branch mint issue.

Obverse with date logotype significantly to the right, with the first digit about equidistant between the dentils and truncation, flag of 5 repunched on its under side, all that remains from what, obviously, must have been a wider repunching, as a single number on its own cannot be repunched solo. On the reverse the O mintmark is high and has just a whisper of feather detail at the upper right of the interior.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 21, 1968.*

### Lovely 1851 Quarter Eagle



- 153 **1851 MS-64.** A superb specimen for the grade, with strong cartwheel lustre on satiny golden surfaces. A few insignificant marks are all that keep this from a finer grade designation; perhaps we are being conservative in our judgment of this near-pristine beauty. A plentiful issue in lower grades, but at the MS-64 level, combined with the magnificent eye appeal of the present piece, a *rarity*.

With regard to varieties, Walter Breen noted that 10 obverses and nine reverses were made available for use this year. Thus, they probably never will all be identified or catalogued. Even so, we continue pointing out certain salient features.

Flag of first 1 in date slightly right of point of Liberty’s bust, top of that numeral embedded in the truncation, bottom of the numeral just misses touching the dentil below. Top of the final 1 distant from truncation, touching dentil below which has been partly cut away to accommodate the numeral’s base. Reverse from a perfect die.

Any quarter eagle collector desiring to become immersed in the fascinating (in our opinion) world of logotype variations need but study the size and numerals of the wide, open, and somewhat large 1851 date logotype with the small and compact 1849 logotype.

*From Lester Merkin’s sale of March 1969, Lot 45.*

- 154 **1851 MS-63.** Lustrous yellow gold with a hint of olive iridescence. A pleasing representative of the date and grade.

Obverse with high date. Flag of first 1 even with tip of Liberty’s bust, top of that numeral embedded in the bust, bottom of the numeral fairly distant from the dentils. Second 1 in date midway between truncation and dentils, perhaps a shade closer to the latter. On the reverse, a thin network of spidery die cracks meanders through the tops of much of the peripheral legends.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation at an unspecified date; ex our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1526.*

- 155 **Quartette of MS-62 quarter eagles:** ☆ 1851. Lustrous yellow surfaces with just a touch of rose at the obverse rim ☆ 1852. Lustrous with pale olive green toning at the peripheries ☆ 1853. Lustrous, faint copper spots on obverse and reverse ☆ 1854. Lustrous with orange toning at the peripheries. A truly *delightful* group of quarter eagles—one that will be a joy to own. Each one bespeaks *quality*, a characteristic of most all coins in the Bass cabinet. (Total: 4 pieces)

- 156 **Half dozen quarter eagles grading AU-58, except where noted:** ☆ 1851. Frosty lustre ☆ 1852. Lustrous ☆ 1853. Frosty surfaces ☆ 1854 AU-55. Yellow surfaces ☆ 1855. Lustrous ☆ 1856. Subdued lustre. Another very nice group of thoroughly attractive examples, each being above average for its grade. (Total: 6 pieces)

### Scarce 1851-C \$2.50



- 157 **1851-C Net AU-50;** sharpness of AU-55, cleaned. Lustrous honey gold with a hint of orange. Lightly cleaned long ago. A few scattered marks are noted. A brilliant piece that is quite attractive, one that is about average for an 1851-C at this grade level—as a visual inspection will verify.

Walter Breen reported that of three pairs of dies available for quarter eagle coinage this year, just three pairs were sent from Philadelphia to Charlotte anticipating the coinage of this year, but just one die pair is known to have been used.

Date logotype lightly impressed into die and quite far to the left, with the tip of the first 1 embedded into bust of Liberty, flag of that numeral even with point of the bust. The base of the 1 is fairly distant from a dentil, but seemingly connected to it with a very light die line. The base of the second 1 is nearly equidistant between the truncation and the dentils.

Reverse with C mintmark high and overlapping the claw, upper serif touching branch. The back of the lowest feather closes the opening of the C.

*From Abe Kosoff’s sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1819.*

### Underrated 1851-D \$2.50



- 158 **1851-D AU-50.** Warm orange-gold with deeper highlights in the protected areas. A few scattered marks are seen, but the overall quality is still quite strong. Regarding this date, Douglas Winter wrote: “In my opinion, the 1851-D is one of the more undervalued Dahlonega quarter eagles.” He also notes the date is rarer than the 1849-D or 1850-D issues, especially in AU or finer. The mintage for the date is 11,264 pieces, a modest figure for the Georgia mint.

The circulation for this date was extensive, with the result that the typical specimen encountered today is apt to be VF or EF, with a higher grade occasionally encountered.

The date logotype is deeply impressed into the die, giving the numerals a bold aspect. At this point the editor (QDB) interjects a thought: it seems to be more or less characteristic that Charlotte and Dahlonega gold coins of this era have more deeply impressed logotypes in the die than do their Philadelphia Mint cousins. Might it be the case that this was deliberate, so that dies sent to these distant mints could be resurfaced once, twice, or even more often, and still retain the bold date? In contrast, dies at Philadelphia could be replaced quickly and did not need to be relapped (and rarely were in this era).

Orientation of the 1851 date is slightly low and too far to the left, peak of the first 1 embedded in the bust, lower left serif of the same digit touches a dentil. A little dash or serif-like raised element is at the lower right of the 5—probably a stray impression from a corner of the date logotype, although so delicate it may have been from another punch. To the uninitiated these may seem to be defects, but all authentic examples of the date have them and thus they serve as important diagnostics. On the reverse some light clash marks can be seen at the junction of the eagle’s neck and wing at the upper right corner of the shield.



All authentic examples of the 1851-D have these characteristics, and thus they are diagnostic.

*From Stack's sale of May 1972, Lot 1638.*

- 159 1851-O Doubled Date. AU-58.** Lustrous honey gold with a few scattered marks. Plenty of mint brilliance present on both sides. A popular New Orleans Mint issue, a date that is fairly plentiful in all grades up to EF; in AU the date becomes quite scarce, and Mint State pieces are extremely rare. "This date is rare and undervalued in About Uncirculated," wrote Douglas Winter, a statement that echoes our own findings. From an early state of the obverse die.

Breen-6214. "Date first punched slanting down to right, then corrected level."

Very early obverse die state showing traces of an earlier logotype on three digits including a trace of a serif to the left of the first 1, an arc to the lower left of the 5, and prominent evidence of the stand of the final 1 under that digit.

The logotype was lightly punched into this die, giving it a significantly different appearance than the logotype on the 1851-D just offered (although the logotype punch was the same, the differences are so dramatic due to the depth of punching that a casual observation may seem to be quite different).

The reverse die shows some very minor evidence of clashing.

*Purchased from Aaron Gozan, February 28, 1967.*

- 160 1851-O Doubled Date. AU-55.** Lustrous. A second attractive example.

Breen-6214. "Date first punched slanting down to right, then corrected level."

Late obverse die state, this showing only traces of an earlier logotype at the stand of the final 1 in the date.

The reverse die shows some very minor evidence of clashing.

*Purchased from Don W. Jensen, June 22, 1967.*

- 161 Grouping of quarter eagles dated in the 1850s:** ☆ 1852 AU-58. Lustrous with obverse die cracks ☆ 1853 AU-50. Reddish orange toning at the rims ☆ 1854 AU-55. Lustrous ☆ 1854-O AU-55. Yellow gold surfaces ☆ 1855 AU-58. Lustrous yellow gold surfaces. Another delightful group—each one having a very generous quotient of old-fashioned *eye appeal*. (Total: 5 pieces)

- 162 Grouping of About Uncirculated quarter eagles:** ☆ 1852 AU-55. Lustrous. Interesting die breaks at lower obverse ☆ 1853 AU-50. Orange-gold surfaces. Die breaks through the date and star 1; tracery of breaks at upper left of reverse ☆ 1854-O AU-53. Yellow gold surfaces. Seemingly struck from a die that was kept in the presses slightly longer than optimally, with wear or stress marks around the dentils on both sides—probably why Harry Bass acquired it ☆ 1856 AU-53. Pale magenta toning at the peripheries. A perfect die ☆ 1857 AU-55. Lustrous. Hints of a die break at the top of the reverse—in its incipient stage. Another very pleasing group—one that will afford a great deal of enjoyment to its owner. (Total: 5 pieces)

- 163 Half dozen quarter eagles:** ☆ 1852 AU-50. Copper spots visible on the reverse ☆ 1853 Double base of 1. AU-50. Lightly brushed ☆ 1854 AU-50. Lightly brushed ☆ 1854-O AU-50. Lightly polished ☆ 1856 AU-53. Lightly polished. Date logotype high and to the left, creating an off-balance appearance to the die ☆ 1860 Type II Reverse. AU-50. Splashes of orange toning on both surfaces. (Total: 6 pieces)

## Important 1852-D Quarter Eagle Low-Mintage Rarity



(2x photo)

- 164 1852-D AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous yellow gold with some honey gold highlights. The fields are somewhat prooflike. A few faint marks are seen, but the overall quality is really excellent for the assigned grade. Nicely struck, with fairly strong details in most areas. A very nice representative of the date, mint, and grade—a lovely coin which will take a justly deserved prominent spot in any advanced cabinet. In this and most other Bass coins, it is to be remembered that Harry Bass, working with a virtually unlimited budget, and with just about every dealer in America on hand to supply his needs, cherrypicked for quality over a period of decades. Today in the present Bass III sale you are the beneficiary!

For the 1852-D, the mintage was just 4,078 coins. Today, survivors are apt to be VF and EF, seldom higher. Perhaps 100 to 150 exist all told. At the risk of being redundant, we note that Douglas Winter commented: "It is very rare in About Uncirculated."

PCGS Population: 4: 8 finer (MS-63 finest).

Date high in field with the 1 perhaps three or four times closer to the truncation above than to the dentils below. The base of what conventional wisdom would suggest is a previously punched 1 can be seen at the base of the existing 1. *However*, in a recent conversation with Bill Fivaz (January 2000), Bill mentioned that in his opinion on certain 19th-century dies, very tiny dashes were placed on the blank die in the date position, as a guide to where the logotype should be placed. This seems to be particularly evident on certain silver series, less so on gold issues, but it would neatly explain why the protruding part has no serifs. Such a punch could also explain the earlier mentioned little artifact or dash protruding from the lower right side of the numeral 5 (see description under 1851-O) probably soon faded from the die. On the present example the 2 in the date is essentially equidistant from the truncation and the dentils. A noticeable die line runs from the rim diagonally across the two innermost points of the third star, terminating in the field above the second star; this is diagnostic for all genuine examples of the date. Reverse of 1847-D, D mintmark high in field, touching branch, portion of arrow feather within opening of D.

At this point we mention that Bill Fivaz has been of immense help in the gold coin research project.

*Purchased from Jack H. Klausen, June 19, 1968.*

- 165 1852-O Normal Mintmark. AU-53.** Lustrous light orange-gold. A few light marks are mentioned for accuracy.

Breen-6218. "Normal mintmark."

Obverse with date high, top of 1 nearly touching truncation, bottom of that numeral distant from dentils. Reverse with nicely centered mintmark placed high, touching branch. Arrow feather details fill top third of inside of O, tip of fraction bar below inside left curve of O.

*From Paramount's sale of November 1971, Lot 1015.*



## Outstanding Gem Mint State 1853 \$2.50

Finest Graded by PCGS



- 166 **1853 MS-66 (PCGS).** A high degree of intense cartwheel lustre graces the satiny surfaces of this beautiful gem. When viewed under low magnification, the surfaces take on a near matte-like appearance. Nicely struck in all areas. A simply superlative specimen of what is otherwise a plentiful issue, the present coin is certainly in the running for *finest known* honors for the date! Indeed, PCGS has not seen its equal, nor do we recall an example of equal quality appearing anywhere in the past several years. If your goal was to have just one early Coronet quarter eagle in your collection, a coin of superior quality and eye appeal, a coin that *says it all* where the design type is concerned, we would certainly direct your attention toward this lovely gem. A winner!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Date logotype strongly repunched at left, particularly noticeable at the base of the 1 and in the upper loop of the 8. Top of 1 closer to neck truncation than to dentils, with the neck truncation having a little "scoop" removed to accommodate the digit. Many parallel die striae are seen, particularly around Liberty's portrait; other striae can be seen on the reverse. A faint die crack connects the bottoms of the date numerals and the final three stars. On the reverse, the rightmost stripe of the second vertical group of shield stripes has been nearly completely polished from the die.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 23, 1973.*

- 167 **Group of quarter eagles:** ☆ 1853 AU-50. Obverse marks ☆ 1856 AU-53. Yellow gold surfaces. Date logotype punched deeply into the die at the right side, making the 6 appear overly heavy ☆ 1857 AU-55. Lustrous yellow surfaces ☆ 1862 AU-50, cleaned ☆ 1871-S AU-50. Splashes of orange toning. A very nice group offering an interesting run of dates. (Total: 5 pieces)
- 168 **Grouping of quarter eagles:** ☆ 1853 EF-45 ☆ 1854 EF-45. Rim bruise at 10:00 ☆ 1854-O EF-45 ☆ 1857 EF-45. Reverse scratches ☆ 1873 Closed 3. EF-40. Lightly brushed. Various dates, various logotype styles, etc.—an interesting group. (Total: 5 pieces)

## Unusual 1854 Quarter Eagle

Extra 8 on Rim Below Date

New Discovery



- 169 **1854 MS-63.** The top of an errant 8 can be seen on the obverse rim. Satiny honey gold surfaces display strong lustre and a generous dash of eye appeal. Pale olive iridescence adds to the overall charm. Sharply struck in all areas. A small group of parallel striations can be seen under low magnification, and account for our conservative grade. Somewhat resembling adjustment marks and very likely as struck, the lines run diagonally across Miss Liberty's cheek. All things considered, this is still an exceptional specimen for the grade.

This variety, identified by Frank Van Valen during the cataloguing process, was not noticed by Harry Bass, who primarily studied earlier dates of Coronet quarter eagles. The variety has the top of an errant 8 plainly visible on the flat rim directly below the space between the existing 8 and 5 of the date. Under low magnification the effect is rather spectacular.

Other particulars of this die combination include a high date on the obverse. The top of the 1 is embedded in the bottom side of Liberty's bust. The lower left serif of that numeral is fairly distant from the dentil beneath, the edge of that serif over the center of the dentil. The 5 and 4 very nearly touch. The 4 is about equidistant between the truncation and the dentils, with the right edge of the base of that numeral over the right edge of a dentil. A spidery network of faint die cracks connects the date as well as many stars. Other fine cracks connect portions of the reverse legends. The dies are perfect otherwise, free of clash marks or other injuries.

*From Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 1984, Lot 981.*

## Memorable 1854-C \$2.50 Rarity



- 170 **1854-C AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with attractive orange highlights in the recessed areas. Some reverse weakness is noted, as virtually always seen for this date; the obverse is somewhat sharper than typically found. An impressive, indeed *memorable* example of this rarity; just 7,295 pieces were struck, the typical survivor being VF. We estimate that just 70 to 100 or so examples of the date can be found in all grades.

The presently offered coin is one of the very finest examples in existence. A small handful of coins surpass it in *numerical grade*, but when the combination of the present high numerical grade is added to a very generous quotient of eye appeal, this coin will hold its own with just about any other example. Indeed, it rivals the piece we offered as Lot 466 in our Bass II sale.

PCGS Population: 6; 2 finer (MS-62 finest).

All known 1854-C quarter eagles are from a single die pair. The date logotype is high, with the top of the 1 piercing the neck truncation above. Some slight evidence of clashing is seen on both sides.

On the reverse a barely perceptible crack extends from the border to the tip of the fraction bar.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.*

- 171 **1854-O AU-58.** Lustrous medium gold with lightly reflective fields. A touch of orange glows in the recessed areas. This fairly plentiful date is usually found in VF or EF, and AU or finer specimens can be considered elusive. *An absolutely fascinating coin from a technical viewpoint*, as will be seen below—possibly a piece that should be acquired by the American Numismatic Association Museum for use as a study piece in educational classes. For the specialist, this is indeed an exciting piece.

Date logotype "rocked" vertically into the die, thus giving extra depth and thickness to the top and bottom of the date numerals; they are thinner and lighter through the center line. Date low in the die, lower left serif of 1 embedded in two dentils, nearly resting on a third, 5 and 4 distinctly separated from each other. Lower right serif of 4 close over center of dentil below. Some "orange-peel" roughness on the obverse between the rim and stars; this die was a candidate for relapping. A fairly faint die crack runs vertically from the rim at 12:00 through the star immediately above Liberty's head, and from there to the top of her hair. Reverse with mintmark lugh, and with just the barest hint of an arrow feather at the inside right.

*Purchased from Joe Flynn, September 19, 1973.*



- 172 **1855 MS-63 (PCGS).** Frosty honey gold with delightful cartwheel lustre and a whisper of olive iridescence. Nicely struck save for a hint of weakness on the eagle's right (viewer's left) leg. A decidedly lovely specimen, one of the finest seen at this grade level.

Date logotype with italic 5s as used on all dies this year. Date high, top of 1 nearly touching the neck truncation, edge of lower left serif of that numeral distant from and over the left edge of a dentil. Upper right top of 5 fairly close to truncation. Reverse with some very faint cracks at STATES OF.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1970, Lot 668.*

- 173 **1855 MS-63.** Satiny honey gold with strong lustre. Another pleasing specimen of a popular Philadelphia Mint issue.

Obverse with centered date, top of 1 and lower left serif equidistant from truncation and dentil, lower left edge of serif over right side of dentil. Italic 5s, second 5 also equidistant. A tiny spur projects into the field from the left edge of the ball of the second 5. Rightmost stripe in second vertical pair on reverse shield mostly missing. Faint clash marks noted near eagle's neck.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, April 28, 1972.*

### Rare 1855-C Quarter Eagle Notable Quality



- 174 **1855-C AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous medium gold with a hint of orange toning. Typical strike for the issue, with some areas of weakness at the central details.

The 1855-C quarter eagle is difficult enough to acquire at this grade level, and to find a piece with equivalent eye appeal—a very attractive example—poses even greater difficulty. The two considerations come together in the present coin. The advanced specialist will delight in the opportunity to bid on this, while the reader who has not yet commenced a cabinet of Charlotte quarter eagles, but who wants to take a giant step in this sale, would do well to bid liberally. One of just 3,677 examples of the date struck, the second lowest quarter eagle production figure from the Charlotte Mint for the design type. We estimate that perhaps just 60 to 80 or so examples of the date can be found in all grades today. Walter Breen noted that this date was "Usually VF; extremely rare above." Difficult to locate at the assigned grade (or higher), and certain to cause a stir when it crosses the auction block.

PCGS Population: 8; 6 finer (MS-64 finest).

Top of 1 in date slightly closer to neck truncation than to dentils, with an indentation in the truncation to prevent contact with that numeral.

Mintmark fairly high, upper right top embedded in feathers, lower right curve touches tip of fraction bar. Part of feather extending as a spike into the opening of the C. Some clash marks are seen.

*From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 650.*

- 175 **1856 MS-63.** Some light lines in the field keep this from a higher grade. Lustrous honey gold surfaces, very attractive overall—one of the nicest seen at this level. A nice coin overall.

Obverse with small date numerals, as always seen (a Large Date variety was reported years ago and never confirmed; it may not have been reported correctly in the first place). Italic 5 in date, as are all of this issue.

Obverse and reverse dies with light clash marks.

*Received in trade from Mike Brownlee, October 13, 1977; ex our sale of the Fairchild Collection, October 1977, Lot 1551.*

- 176 **Quartette of quarter eagles:** ☆ 1856 AU-53, cleaned ☆ 1859 Type II Reverse. AU-50, lightly brushed ☆ 1862 AU-55. Raised die polish lines ☆ 1871-S AU-50, reverse scratch. (Total: 4 pieces)

### Elusive 1856-C \$2.50



- 177 **1856-C Net EF-45;** sharpness of AU-53, cleaned. A few scattered marks are noted as well. Honey gold. Nicely struck for a date that Douglas Winter called "Among the most poorly struck of all Charlotte quarter eagles." Only 7,913 examples of this scarce date were produced, with survivors from that mint-age typically VF or so.

Date logotype slightly low and to the left, faint traces of double punching on right side of final digit.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 62.*

### Elusive 1856-O \$2.50



- 178 **1856-O AU-55.** Lustrous honey gold with much mint brightness in the recessed areas. From a small mintage of 21,100 pieces, far and away the smallest mintage from New Orleans for the denomination since 1845. VF or so is the norm for this penultimate date from New Orleans. While the low mintage handily accounts for the rarity of the piece today, certain authorities, Walter Breen among them, have noted that the 1856-O is even rarer than the production figure suggests. The present coin is far above the median in terms of pieces that have come to market.

Obverse with centered date slightly to left, the only obverse known for the issue. Reverse with O mintmark nicely centered and high, arrow feather covering upper left portion of the mintmark.

*From Stack's sale of May 1968, Lot 735.*

### Mint State 1856-S \$2.50 Rarity



- 179 **1856-S MS-62 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous honey gold with delightful pink iridescence on both sides. Well struck in all areas. A pleasing example of the denomination from the early days of San Francisco Mint operations. An elusive quarter eagle issue, a date that becomes a notable rarity in Mint State. Much scarcer than its mintage figure of 72,120 pieces indicates. Walter Breen described the date as "Extremely rare in Uncirculated." Literally, the first collectable date of the denomination from our westernmost mint, the 1854-S quarter eagle rarity being essentially unobtainable followed by no coinage at all for 1855-S. A delightful representative example of the date and grade, a coin that should see enthusiastic bidding when it crosses the auction block.

PCGS Population: 4; 8 finer (MS-65 finest).

Obverse with small date (as always) nicely centered both horizontally and vertically in the die, top of 1 very slightly closer to truncation than bottom of that numeral is to dentils. Left edge of lowest serif of 1 just to right of left edge of dentil below. Right edge of lowest curl on Liberty's neck just left of right edge of 6 in date. Half-moon shaped hole in Liberty's ear (most noticeably resembling a D mintmark). Italic 5 in date. Reverse with S mintmark high in



the die, nearly touching branch above. Back of upper curve of S touches talon, front of upper serif touches arrow shaft, back edge of lower serif directly over center of upright of fraction numerator and somewhat distant.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 63.

- 180 1856-S AU-53.** Lustrous orange-gold. A few light marks are visible under low magnification. A very attractive 1856-S, one that is head and shoulders above the typical quality encountered in auction catalogue appearances of the past century.

Obverse with small date, top of 1 very noticeably closer to truncation than bottom of that numeral is to dentils. Left edge of lowest serif of 1 high over space between dentils. Deep, round hole in Liberty's ear. Right edge of lowest curl on Liberty's neck slightly past right edge of 6 in date. Italic 5 in date. Same reverse die as the previous lot, with identical mintmark placement.

From RARCOA's sale of February 1972, Lot 778.

- 181 1856-S AU-50.** Lustrous honey gold with plenty of brightness in the recessed areas.

Obverse with small date, more deeply punched into the die on the right side than on the left side; top of 1 about equidistant between truncation and dentils. Left edge of lowest serif of 1 over center of dentil below. Half-moon shaped hole in Liberty's ear, a tiny triangular earlobe present. Right edge of lowest curl on Liberty's neck noticeably past right edge of 6 in date. Italic 5 in date. Reverse with S mintmark far to right. Upper right curve of S close to feather, upper right serif twice as far from branch. Lower right curve of S close to upper right serif of D in the denomination, lower left serif close to tip of fraction bar.

From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 823.

- 182 1857 MS-63.** Satiny honey gold with a high degree of cartwheel lustre present. Nicely struck and aesthetically appealing. A lovely coin for the grade.

Date nicely centered horizontally and vertically. Base of 7 closer to dentil than base of 1. Tiny notch out of lower right side of 8; this is seen on certain other (but not all) 1857 quarter eagle dies. Reverse unremarkable, free of die clash or cracks.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 175.

## Low-Mintage 1857-D \$2.50 Rarity

### Exceptional Eye Appeal



- 183 1857-D AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with much mint brilliance in the recessed areas. A rare date from Dahlonega with a small mintage of just 2,364 pieces. Most of the survivors from that mintage are in VF and EF, although this rare date is sometimes encountered at the AU level.

The present coin is a very pleasing specimen overall, an attractive piece with plenty of eye appeal, just a trifle lower in overall quality than the AU-58 specimen we offered as Lot 490 in our sale of Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection in October 1999. An attractive coin with plenty of eye appeal, a coin that will be a showpiece in an advanced Liberty quarter eagle collection. Quality such as this is very difficult to locate—combining a high numerical designation with aesthetic appeal.

Obverse with date nicely centered horizontally and vertically. Tiny notch out of lower right side of 8 (a characteristic of the logotype; this occurs on all dies from all mints). A faint crack unites the bottoms of the date numerals, extending to the right through the final three stars. Several stars show tiny die artifacts around the outer edges, particularly the first three stars. Visible die finish lines are present at various places near the dentils, most spectacular of these a vertical line that stretches the length of four dentils between the third and fourth stars. Reverse with D mintmark high, as on 1847-D and later.

This is another quarter eagle that reveals to the observer a wealth of fascinating detail when examined under magnification. Louis Agassiz would have loved it!

From Pine Tree Auction Co.'s sale of March 1974, Lot 73.

- 184 1857-O MS-60 PL.** Lustrous golden orange surfaces. Lightly cleaned, with light brush marks showing in the prooflike fields. One cannot be too choosy when selecting New Orleans Mint gold coins of this era, and delving into the auction catalogues of yesteryear will reveal that this piece is among a very few high quality 1857-O quarter eagles ever auctioned. Most numismatists who have formed "name" collections, have had to be satisfied with such grades as VF-EF. Even AU coins are rare.

Obverse with date evenly centered horizontally and vertically. Tiny notch out of lower right side of 8. Reverse with O mintmark high and to right, with lowest arrow feather covering the upper right curve of the O, and evenly centered between the tip of the fraction bar and the upper left serif of the D in the denomination.

From Lester Merkin's sale of September 1967, Lot 333.

- 185 1857-O AU-55.** Lustrous honey gold with yellow brightness in the recessed areas. Typically found in VF to EF, with AU specimens quite scarce. A pleasing specimen of the final date of quarter eagle coinage from the New Orleans Mint.

From the same dies as the preceding lot.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, June 25, 1968.

- 186 1857-S AU-55.** Lustrous medium gold with orange toning highlights. A tiny obverse rim bruise is noted at 2:00. A scarce and popular San Francisco Mint issue; Walter Breen called this date "Extremely rare above EF." A nice opportunity to acquire an example which has had few auction precedents.

Obverse with date nicely centered both horizontally and vertically. Reverse with thin S mintmark high in the die, back upper curve of S touching talon, top of upper right serif virtually touching neck of arrow shaft, numerator in fraction below back curve of S and relatively distant.

Purchased from Fred Sweeney, September 18, 1972.

- 187 1857-S AU-53.** Lustrous honey gold with a hint of rose iridescence. Some scattered marks are noted on both sides. Still a lot of coin for the grade.

Obverse from same die as previous lot. Reverse with S mintmark high, back of mintmark far from talon, upper right serif embedded in lowest arrow feather, bottom of the mintmark relatively distant from numerator and fraction bar.

From Stack's sale of May 1968, Lot 740.

- 188 1858 MS-61.** A frosty, satiny pale golden specimen with a blush of rose iridescence. Choice for the grade. Walter Breen called this date "Much scarcer than its mintage figure (47,377 business strikes) suggests; rare Uncirculated."

From an unremarkable die pair. Obverse with nicely centered date, top and bottom of 1 about equidistant between truncation and dentils, bottom of second 8 same distance from dentils as 1. Reverse free of cracks or other remarkable diagnostics.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1748.

- 189 1858 AU-55.** Lustrous medium gold with rose iridescence. A few scattered marks and lines are noted.

Obverse with date high, top of 1 noticeably closer to truncation than bottom is to dentils, final 8 broader than other numerals, indicating that the right side of the logo was more deeply impressed than the other three numerals.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of August 1968, Lot 817.

- 190 1858-C Net EF-40;** sharpness of AU-50 or so, but lightly cleaned, giving the overall appearance of seawater surfaces. A rare date with a mintage of 9,056 pieces. Regarding rarity, Douglas Winter wrote "This date is greatly underrated." How marvelous it is that in a series of auction sales of the Bass Collection you can from the comfort of your armchair bid on "underrated" and other desirable coins that took many years to acquire one by one.

Date logotype very deeply punched into the die, slightly closer to the dentils than to the neck truncation, and somewhat to the left.

Reverse with upper right of C mintmark embedded in arrow feather.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 68.



## Superb Proof 1859 \$2.50 Rarity

A Splendid Gem

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



191 **1859 Proof-66 (PCGS).** A splendid golden Proof with deep mirror fields and frosted motifs. A delightful gem of impeccable quality and preservation; this particular specimen was evidently treated with kid gloves over the past 141 years. Indeed, that a coin so splendid exists from this era gives great testimony to the quality of the cabinets it has graced over the decades.

The Proof mintage for this date is unknown, but we estimate that it was very small. We believe that fewer than a dozen or so Proofs are known today, indicating a tiny mintage. As best as we can, we are trying to track down information concerning gold Proof mintages of the second half of the 19th century, using a combination of the excellent research of R.W. Julian, comments added to catalogues by the Chapman brothers and others, plus other sources. Some interesting surprises seem to be coming to light—generally that just about every early Proof is considerably rarer than conventional wisdom presently suggests.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

In this year the reverse hub was changed. The hub used on the present piece is that of 1840-1858, with the lowest arrowhead very close to the final A (AMERICA), the top two arrowheads touching, etc. The Type II hub was also introduced this year, and has distinguishing differences, including the top two arrowheads separated.

Regarding this Proof 1859, the date logotype is in small figures widely spaced. On this particular specimen it is placed slightly closer to the dentils than to the neck truncation above.

Walter Breen's *Encyclopedia* gives the mintage as a cryptic "80-P," indicating that perhaps 80 specimens of the date were coined in the Proof format, with many of those unsold. His mintage figure is most likely on the high side, as probably fewer than a dozen Proofs of the date are known today. Finer than the Proof-62 specimen we sold in Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, October 1999, Lot 503. Indeed, you may be about to bid on the finest known Proof 1859 quarter eagle; certainly the possibility for such ex-

ists in the presently offered specimen. In 1859, Proof coins were sold individually to numismatists and others who were interested in purchasing them. As might be expected, the greatest demand was for the gold dollar, this being the most widely collected of all gold denominations. Quarter eagles and \$2.50 pieces were next in popularity, followed at a very long distance by \$5, \$10, and \$20 pieces, of which just a handful of each were ordered. As amazing as it may seem today, in the 19th century there was little aftermarket for Proof gold. It was not at all unusual for a quarter eagle to sell for very little above *face value* a decade or two or three after it was issued (this reference being to Proof quarter eagles in general, not specifically to those dated 1859). Accordingly, many pieces were simply spent. Decades later, beginning in a significant way in the 1930s, Proof gold coins of the Coronet style became widely collected, at which time it was found that relatively few were available. Today in the year 2000, as a class gold coins are the rarest of the rare. Although a number of 19th-century gold Proof sets were included in major collections—some citations for 1859 gold Proof sets being given below—in recent decades such pieces have been largely absent from even "name" collections, with just a few scattered exceptions.

An 1859 Proof quarter eagle is available when and where you can find it—and it certainly may be the case that the coin offered here, if not purchased now, may forever elude the grasp of even the most aggressive specialist. For interest, a list of some early offerings and displays of full gold Proof sets of 1859 are given herewith—some no doubt representing the same sets subsequently sold (partial list from our files).

1. May 1864. W. Elliot Woodward's sale of the John F. McCoy Collection, Lot 1990, part of a four-piece set (gold \$1, \$2.50, \$3, and \$5).

2. November 1880. S.K. Harzfeld's 15th Sale, Lot 593a, part of a six-piece gold Proof set of the date.

3. December 1890. Chapman brothers sale of the Thomas Cleney Collection, Lot 407, part of a six-piece gold Proof set of the date.

4. January 1914. Part of the American Numismatic Society Exhibition display of coins from the Society's holdings (a full run of Proof gold from 1859 onward was displayed).

Fast forward to modern times, although some individual citations could be given in the meantime, the Eliasberg Collection sold by us in 1982, traced



its pedigree from the David S. Wilson Collection (S.H. Chapman, March 1907), and remains memorable to this day. Superior's sale of the Ed Trompeter coin, Lot 39 in February 1992, was noted as "either the Boyd, Bell, Wolfson specimen or one not previously auctioned." Joining the select inner circle is also David Akers' offering of the John J. Pittman coin, October 1997, Lot 834, part of an 1859 Proof set, tracing its pedigree to Numismatic Galleries sale of the "Memorable Collection," 1948, Lot 118, and earlier to the "World's Greatest Collection" sale of 1946, Lot 127 (the F.C.C.

Boyd cabinet). Another example, Proof-62, was showcased by us in the Bass II sale.

The editor would be pleased to provide the successful buyer of this lot with a printout of information on 1859 quarter eagles in general and 1859 Proofs in particular, including the previous information plus other listings here and there.

*From Stack's sale of April 1978, Lot 805.*

- 192 1859 Type I Reverse. AU-50.** Warm honey gold with lighter brightness in the recessed areas. A whisper of rose iridescence adds to the overall appeal. From the reverse hub or master die of 1840-1859, apparently scarcer than its Type II counterpart for this date.

Obverse with date nicely centered both horizontally and vertically. Top of 1 and lower left serif equidistant from the truncation above and the dentils below. Left edge of serif over center of dentil. 1 and 8 evenly spaced, 5 and 9 slightly wider. A perfect date size for the denomination.

Type I reverse, arrowheads large and touching, C and final A in AMERICA virtually touching, closely spaced, elongated dentils with rounded ends.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of September 1967, Lot 336.*

- 193 1859 Type II Reverse. AU-58.** A bright and lustrous specimen with plenty of eye appeal for the assigned grade. Type II reverse (see below).

Obverse with date logotype essentially in the same position as on the earlier offered Proof.

Type II reverse. Arrowheads smaller, sharper, and noticeably apart from each other; C and final A in AMERICA evenly spaced; widely spaced, elongated dentils with squared ends, each about a dentil's width from the next.

In this year the reverse hub was changed (for Philadelphia issues; the earlier style remained in effect at the branch mints). The hub used on the present piece is that of 1859 and later.

*Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 19, 1968.*

## Lustrous 1859-D Quarter Eagle Last Dahlonega Quarter Eagle



- 194 1859-D Type I Reverse. AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with yellow brilliance in the protected areas. One of just 2,244 examples of the date struck in this, the final year of the denomination from the Dahlonega Mint. "It is usually seen in Extremely Fine or low end About Uncirculated," Douglas Winter wrote regarding this date. A very appealing specimen combining high numerical grade and a very generous amount of eye appeal—a truly *marvelous* 1859-D that will be enjoyed by its next owner as much as Harry Bass enjoyed it for nearly 30 years.

Type I reverse.

Obverse die notably basined. Logotype quite low, base of 1 closer to dentils than top of 1 is to truncation. On the reverse the D mintmark is deeply impressed into the die and high, with the feather details occupying the upper left 50% of the center. The master die is boldly impressed into the working die, giving the letters and other features special prominence. From a late reverse state, with the O in OF showing a diagonal die break at the lower right, giving OF the curious appearance of QF.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 70.*

## Desirable 1859-S \$2.50



- 195 1859-S AU-53.** Rich honey gold with strong lustre and a touch of pale rose iridescence. An elusive issue that saw a fairly small mintage of 15,200 for the date. We suspect that about 100 examples from that mintage still survive, with the majority of those at the EF level. In fact, when David Akers was preparing the manuscript for his 1975 volume on quarter eagles, he made note that in the seven years preceding publication, only one example of the date had been offered at public auction in a grade higher than EF! A pleasing coin and an exciting opportunity.

Obverse with date logotype low and to left. A tiny thorn from the border past star 11 will hallmark the die for the interested specialist.

Reverse with S mintmark high, extremely deeply punched into the die making it one of the boldest mintmarks seen on a coin of this denomination. With other upper right serif of S embedded in arrow feathers, upper back curve of S away from talon. The loops of the S mintmark are open and unfilled. The hub is of the early 1840-1858 style.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 71.*

- 196 1859-S EF-45.** Lustrous medium gold. A highly collectable example of an elusive branch mint issue.

Same obverse die as preceding.

Reverse from the same die as preceding, but with the mintmark completely filled—the high elevation as flat as a table. The upper right serif embedded in arrow feathers, upper back curve of S away from talon. The loops of the S mintmark are filled. The hub is of the early 1840-1858 style.



## Superlative Proof 1860 Quarter Eagle

Finest Graded by PCGS



(2x photo)

- 197 **1860 Type II Reverse. Proof-66 (PCGS).** A splendid cameo Proof of virtually the highest order. The devices are satiny and the fields are deep golden mirrors. The number of 112 has been published as the quantity of Proofs struck, and we have no immediate repudiation of this, except to say that so few are known today that it seems more likely that only 30 to 40 were actually distributed. As to why 112 Proofs might have been made in the first place (if they were), the dedication of the Washington Cabinet within the Mint Cabinet on February 22, 1860, could have been an occasion and might explain that if pieces were available to those who attended, some who were not numismatists may have spent them later. However, such theories are tenuous at best, and we try to avoid such speculation. Of the few Proof specimens available today, we are not aware of any example that is finer than the piece offered here. For any collection of quarter eagles this will be a tremendous highlight. Similar to our offer made under the 1859 Proof quarter eagle, we would be pleased to send some reading material on the Proof 1860 with respect to historical appearances at auctions, Proof sets, etc., to the *successful bidder* upon application to the editor (QDB). Suffice it to say, this great rarity is a classic. Of those specimens available today, the odds are fairly strong that the current coin is the finest known; it certainly has little competition as far as we know. A rarity, a prize, and a coin to strive for; the addition of this specimen to your personal cabinet will be a memorable highlight, indeed!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of September 1973, Lot 1055.

- 198 **1860 Breen-6252. Repunched 1 in Date, Type II Reverse. AU-58.** Lustrous medium gold.

Date logotype punched lightly into the die. First digit with small extension at the bottom, quite possibly as a position marker—definitely not the base of another 1 digit as it has no serifs (see earlier comment on this situation, inspired by Bill Fivaz). Nicely struck from lightly clashed dies. Base of 1 in date repunched.

Date logotype punched lightly into the die. First digit repunched at bottom. The logotype of this year has the base of the O slightly low and the digit leaning slightly right—this being common to all dies and mints.

The reverse is of the new hub style. Clash marks can be seen at obverse and reverse. Evidence of clashing is seen above both wings of the eagle.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of August 1968, Lot 822.

- 199 **1860-S Breen-6255. Repunched 1 in Date, Type I Reverse. AU-55.** Frosty medium gold with a hint of orange iridescence. A few light marks are seen. A scarce date; perhaps just 100 or so examples can be located in all grades, the majority of those at VF or EF. One of the popular "sleeper" dates from San Francisco, a coin that is not at all expensive, absolutely speaking, but which is a first class *rarity* in this grade.

Breen-6255. "Partly repunched date. Rare. Parts of other digits between 86 and 60." This is a regular repunching involving the four-digit logotype, not a "marker" as mentioned in the preceding lot.

Obverse with nicely centered date, top and bottom of 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils. Repunching shows clearly at the 1, with some die artifacts between the 8 and 6, and again between the 6 and 0 of the date, corresponding to Breen's statement. Type I reverse with large arrowheads that touch. S mintmark high and well formed, tilted noticeably to right, upper right serif blends with arrow feathers, lower right serif seemingly attached to right top of numerator.

There were four obverse dies shipped from Philadelphia to San Francisco in anticipation of this coinage, for this date, with leftover reverses from 1856 already on hand at the San Francisco facility.

As will be explained in some length in the forthcoming multi-volume work on gold coins, the survival rate of Coronet Head quarter eagles of the early period, and the grades in which they can be found today, can be directly attributed to the methods of circulation. In brief, on the eve of the Civil War, late 1860 and early 1861, in the South citizens hoarded gold coins, including many Charlotte and Dahlonega pieces. These were in the grades seen in circulation at the time, with early issues from the 1840s being quite worn, and later ones, from the mid 1850s onward, being in grades that today would be called EF or AU. Some New Orleans coins were hoarded as well, but not as many. In the North, beginning on December 28, 1861, banks stopped paying out gold coins at face value. The Civil War was nine months old, and the easy victory anticipated by the Yankees had not materialized, heavy losses had been sustained by both sides, and the outcome of the conflict was uncertain. As has been done throughout history, citizens hoarded "hard money," starting with gold, then silver, eventually even the lowly "copper-nickel cents." Gold coins taken from circulation were no longer paid out after that time, a situation which continued in effect until December 18, 1878, nearly two decades later. In the meantime, in the East and Midwest gold coins were not available at face value from banks or anyone else. They could be purchased at a premium from the Treasury Department, which, as curious as it may seem today, did a very lively business in the selling of gold coins at a premium—to those who wanted for them for souvenirs, or for export payments, etc. Many details, including Treasury Department profit statements on a yearly basis, are given in the book, *The Treasure Ship S.S. Brother Jonathan*, by Q. David Bowers. At the same time, in the East, and Midwest—including the South—gold coins were hoarded. After December 1878, many pieces were released into commerce, along with freshly minted issues. However, as these coins had not circulated actively for 17 years, their average grade was fairly high.

In sharp contrast, on the West Coast, gold coin payments were not suspended in December 1861 or any other time. Newly minted San Francisco quarter eagles, as well as pieces that had come from the East earlier, plus those that were sent to the West by merchants and others who paid a premium for them during the Civil War, were seen in everyday circulation. Coins wore down rapidly. The preceding scenario gives a reason why a review of quarter eagles in existence today—such review being most easily found in David W. Akers' 1979 study of the series—will reveal that San Francisco Mint quarter eagles surviving from the 1860s typically exist in such grades as Fine to Very Fine, while Philadelphia Mint coins of the late 1850s and 1860s, as well as Charlotte and Dahlonega Mint pieces of the same era, exist in higher average grades.

From Stack's sale of May 1968, Lot 748.



## Choice Proof 1861 \$2.50



(2x photo)

- 200 **1861 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Reflective fields and lightly frosted motifs richly toned in deep orange-gold. Two obverse lint marks and an area of charcoal toning on the rim below the date are noted for accuracy. A very nice example, one of the very finest known, and by any measure an *incredible rarity*.

Again the Proof mintage for the date is not certain, although the figure of 90 has been published. If this many were struck, many fewer seem to have been distributed, or at least put into numismatic hands—perhaps only 25 or so. And, today, the number accounted for is scarcely more than a dozen. Time and again, including the present circumstance, published mintage figures bear no relation to the survivors. It is possible that 1861 quarter eagles could have been produced for some special occasion—the inauguration of President Abraham Lincoln comes to mind—after which people who were not numismatists simply spent them. However, such theories have no factual basis, at least not yet encountered.

We feel that perhaps just 25 or so were actually sold and distributed, with possibly half that number accounted for today. Indeed, this date is rarer overall in Proof than the much heralded Proof-only 1863 quarter eagle, of which just 30 examples were produced. Here is an opportunity that won't be repeated soon, and interested bidders are urged to plan accordingly.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (Proof-66).

Date logotype slightly high, top of 1 noticeably closer to truncation than bottom is to dentils. Final 1 in date decidedly lower than other numerals. Date slightly left as well, right side of lowest curl on Liberty's neck well to right of back of final 1.

Auction appearances and other citations for the Proof 1861 quarter eagle are few and widely spaced over the years, and will be shared *with the successful bidder* upon application to the editor. It might be interesting to include such extensive data here, but to do so for this and other rarities in the Bass Collection would be tantamount to doubling the size of an already substantial catalogue!

*Acquired in trade from Stanley Kesselman, November 1, 1973.*

- 201 **1861 MS-64.** A lustrous golden specimen with attractive olive highlights. Sharply struck from lightly clashed dies. A lovely example of a fairly plentiful issue.

Date nicely impressed and nicely centered below Liberty, right edge of lowest neck curl even with back edge of upright of second 1 in date. First 1 in date slightly closer to dentils than truncation. No hole in Liberty's ear. Reverse from Type II hub, as usually seen. Some clash marks are viewed under close inspection, including on the reverse a virtually full outline of the head of Miss Liberty.

*From Stack's sale of January-February 1974, Lot 529.*

## Attractive Mint State \$2.50 Group

- 202 **Half dozen Mint State quarter eagles:** ☆ 1861 Type II Reverse. MS-62. Raised die striae. Lustrous with splashes of copper ☆ 1891 MS-61. Lustrous orange-gold ☆ 1904 MS-62. Lustrous yellow gold with a faint copper spot below date ☆ 1907 MS-62 ☆ 1926 MS-63. Lustrous with copper spots ☆ 1927 MS-62. Lustrous. A very nice group of Mint State quarter eagles—an excellent way to begin a specialized collection or to add to one you already have. (Total: 6 pieces)
- 203 **Grouping of quarter eagles grading AU-55:** ☆ 1861 Type II Reverse. Advanced obverse die failure, center with multiple breaks, bulging, and one of the most curious, indeed the most *spectacular die states* we have seen on the quarter eagle of this era! An object of desire for the specialist, worth buying this entire lot to obtain! ☆ 1873 Closed 3. Orange-gold with rose highlights ☆ 1873 Open 3. Yellow gold surfaces ☆ 1878-S Orange-gold ☆ 1879-S. Lustrous. (Total: 5 pieces)

## Elusive 1861-S Quarter Eagle



- 204 **1861-S AU-50.** Generous amounts of lustre remain on light orange-gold surfaces. From a mintage of 24,000 pieces, most of which went immediately into the channels of West Coast commerce. "Much rarer in all grades than mintage figure suggests," wrote Walter Breen, who also noted that VF or an occasional EF is the standard condition for this date. AU specimens of the present quality are hardly ever seen, and it is worth noting that "name" collections typically had coins in significantly lower grades. A tremendous opportunity for the connoisseur and specialist.

Obverse with nicely centered date, both horizontally and vertically. Second 1 more deeply impressed into die than the other numerals. Type I reverse.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1863.*



## Splendid Proof 1862 \$2.50

Incredible Rarity  
Superb Condition



- 205 1862 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Deep golden mirrors and bright, frosty motifs. A delightful cameo gem, certainly a coin of the highest quality for the assigned grade. From a small Proof mintage—the figure 35 has reached print—but from a population of fewer than half that number per our notes. Not only is the present piece incredibly rare, but it is also incredibly beautiful. Few equivalent examples exist in all of numismatics.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (Proof-65).

Date logotype sharply and evenly impressed into the die, base of 1 closer to dentil than top of numeral is to truncation. Lower left edge of bottom serif over left edge of dentil below. The 2 in the date is strong and shows some unfinished areas within its curves, undoubtedly Breen's "Partly filled 2; effaced overdate?"

A listing of some famous appearances of this date follows:

1. October 1875. Edward Cogan's sale of the Cohen Collection, Lot 249, as part of a complete six-piece gold Proof set of the date.
2. December 1890. Chapman brothers' sale of the Cleney Collection, Lot 411, as part of a complete six-piece gold Proof set of the date.
3. October 1982. Bowers and Ruddy Galleries' sale of the United States Gold Coin Collection (Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.), Lot 195; ex John H. Clapp, 1942; John G. Mills (Chapman brothers, April 1904).
4. July 1984. Stack's sale of Auction '84, Lot 377.
5. July 1985. RARCOA's sale of Auction '85, Lot 377.
6. February 1992. Superior's sale of the Trompeter Collection, Lot 42.
7. The present specimen.

Similar to our earlier offerings, we would be pleased upon request to give a printout of 1862 quarter eagles, including historical appearances of Proofs and Proof sets, to the *successful bidder* of this lot. However, regarding Proofs the list of *different* pieces is very short!

*Purchased from Abe Kosoff, August 9, 1971.*

- 206 1862 MS-61.** Bright honey gold with intense orange iridescence in the protected areas. Mainly prooflike, with reflective fields and satiny devices. A fairly scarce date in Mint State, although more are available than of the typical years in the 1850s.

The date logotype is excellently made, well spaced and the numeral size looks attractively suited to the quarter eagle denomination. High date, bottom of the 1 twice as far from the dentils as the top of the numeral is from the truncation. Edge of lower left serif of the 1 even with left edge of dentil, center of 2 under right edge of lowest hair curl on Liberty's neck. Prominent raised die striae run diagonally through the fields on both sides, indicating that this specimen was one of the earliest struck by the die pair; such striae are common to virtually all gold and silver coin dies of the era. Dies free of clash marks or other anomalies.

The 1862 quarter eagles did not circulate at par in terms of paper money, but it is likely that many were obtained by citizens early in the year through various channels and connections, paying a slight premium in terms of paper money (later the premium was to increase sharply). Such pieces were tightly held, accounting for the supply of Mint State pieces known today. This represents the last year that Philadelphia Mint quarter eagles were struck for general circulation until the late 1870s. During the Civil War, there was a flurry of activity among the populace with regard to hoarding "hard" money, and although the Treasury Department did not pay out gold coins after late December 1861, it seems that many 1862 gold dollars and quarter eagles were distributed, no doubt to those caring to pay a small premium for them. In any event, high-grade business strikes of 1862 can be located with some regularity in today's numismatic market.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of October 1968, Lot 1444.*

## Lustrous 1862-S Quarter Eagle



- 207 1862-S Type I Reverse. EF-45.** Medium gold with plenty of lustre on both sides. From a relatively small mintage for the date of 8,000 pieces. Numismatic commentary follows the litany so familiar for San Francisco issues of the era: most pieces are in VF grades, and anything higher is scarce to rare.

Date logotype nicely placed horizontally and vertically, top of 1 faintly closer to truncation than bottom of that numeral is to dentils.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1864.*



## Classic 1863 \$2.50 Rarity

Famous Highlight of the Series

Fewer Than 20 Known



208 **1863 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Rich orange-gold mirrors encircle heavily frosted motifs. A truly delightful example of one of the most prominent rarities in the Liberty quarter eagle series. Although the mintage figure of 30 is given, probably no more than 15 to 20 different pieces can be accounted for, many of which are below the present piece in quality. There were no related circulation strikes, so 15 or 20 pieces constitute the entire population—no more! As such, this date handily outranks just about everything else in the series and challenges the two most famous date and/or mint rarities—the 1841 “Little Princess” and the 1854-S. We can readily imagine that if you are a specialist, you will want to bid liberally and add this landmark to your collection, secure in the satisfaction that you have one of the greatest quarter eagles of all time. On the other hand, if you intend *some day* to build a beautiful collection of quarter eagles—rarities get rarer year by year, and become more famous—and what better way to make a grand entry than to compete aggressively for this piece? It combines rarity, beauty, tra-

dition, fame, and excitement—all in one sparkling little gem!

PCGS Population: 5; 4 finer (Proof-65). For the record, PCGS has 15 certification occasions for the 1863 quarter eagle, no doubt including multiple trips to PCGS for certain individual pieces, netting to a lesser number.

The mintage figures for early Proofs are not known with certainty in many instances, but for the 1863 we have the word of W. Elliot Woodward, who in his catalogue of the John F. McCoy Collection noted, “Of the quarter eagle of 1863, I have positive knowledge that only 30 pieces were struck; hence this coin is now one of the rarest of the series. I am also assured that the \$3 piece is scarcely less rare.”

Woodward, who the *American Journal of Numismatics*, called the “lion of the day,” was highly esteemed in his era, with the reputation unequalled by any other rare coin professional. He was early in the auction game, holding his first sale in 1860, scarcely after the dawn of American numismatic popularity, which began in a significant way in early 1857. Woodward took a liking to the 1863 quarter eagle, and from time to time said “nice things” about the rarity in print. As these words are being written your editor continues to build a very nice historical file on the 1863, which we would be pleased to share after the sale with the *successful bidder*.

*Acquired from Leo Young at an unspecified date.*



209 1863-S Net EF-40; sharpness of EF-45, lightly cleaned long ago. A few tiny pin pricks are noted above the date. All of this said, let us add these comments, perfectly true. This is in the top 20% of the finest known examples of 1863-S! The advanced specialist will recognize the veracity of these words, and should anyone else be skeptical, a note to the editor (QDB) will provide backup information. Quarter eagles of the early 1860s simply are major rarities in any grade higher than VF, and of this date just 10,800 examples were struck. Typically found in VF with an occasional EF seen.

Date nicely centered below Liberty, 1 in date marginally closer to dentils than to truncation, date numerals progressively wider apart from left to right, 1 and 8 closer than 6 and 3. Reverse with S mintmark tilted sharply right, upper curve nearly touches feather, upper serif nearly touches branch, lower curve nearly touches upper serif of D in denomination, lower serif nearly touches end of fraction bar.

From Stack's sale of May 1968, Lot 753.

## Famous and Fantastic Proof 1864 \$2.50

A Landmark Rarity

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



(2x photo)

210 1864 Proof-66 (PCGS). A beautiful golden gem. Heavily frosted motifs stand boldly out from deep mirror fields, creating truly superlative cameo contrast. Although the mintage is properly published as 50 coins, we do not have the word of W. Elliot Woodward to say how many may have really been produced. In any event only about 15 or so can be accounted for today—placing it in the same echelon Proof-wise as the 1863. However, the 1864 is not a Proof-only date, as there are some circulation strikes here and there—not many, but a few. Considering only its Proof status, this 1864 is in the high echelon of rarities. Taking its grading number status and visual appeal, it has few equals anywhere. Considering its overall rarity—pieces in all grades—this is one of the most desirable of all quarter eagles. It certainly is unexcelled by any piece we recall ever handling—and here at Bowers and Merena we have had more than our share of rare gold coins.

In the present instance the word *opportunity* may be much more important than the price paid—as today's record price has a way of becoming tomorrow's bargain. In any event, the day after the sale the successful bidder will possess this treasure, whereas other specialists will still be scrambling to buy one—an uncertain prospect at best, and even more uncertain if one aspires to acquire a Proof-66.

PCGS Population: 7; none finer.

Date logotype slightly high, top of 1 marginally closer to truncation above than to dentils below. Nicely centered below Liberty. Upper flag of 1 noticeably repunched on the underside.

Again, if the successful bidder would like some expanded information on the 1864 Proof quarter eagle, a note to the editor (QDB) will take care of it.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, November 30, 1970.

## Amazing Gem Proof 1865 \$2.50

Proof Mintage: 25 Pieces

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



(2x photo)

211 1865 Proof-66 (PCGS). Deep mirror fields and frosted devices. A delightful golden gem with strong cameo contrast present on both sides. One of the finest survivors from a scant Proof mintage for the date of just 25 pieces—per conventional wisdom—the actual distribution may have been smaller, as we can account for only 15 or so *different* today.

Similar to the 1864 and easily compared to it, the 1865 is ultra rare in Proof format, but is also a key issue in circulation strike form—with worn pieces appearing on the market infrequently. Thus, from beginning to end this is a key date. Even the most advanced specialized cabinet of quarter eagles, if lacking this date, will have its overall average quality *lifted* with the acquisition of this fantastic gem!

We estimate that just 15 or so of those coins can be accounted for today. This beautiful Proof quarter eagle rarity stands out as a golden opportunity, which is not an easy feat in a sale that is literally laden with such opportunities.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date logotype fairly high in the field, top of 1 noticeably closer to truncation than bottom is to dentils.

The auction record for this date begins at an early time, and continues thereafter, with a number of "name" collections containing Proofs. Again, if the successful bidder would like some additional information to round out the appreciation and enjoyment of this lovely 1865, just say the word.

Some previous auction appearances of examples of this elusive rarity include:

1. October 1875. Edward Cogan's sale of the Cohen Collection, Lot 252, part of a complete six-piece gold Proof set of the date.
2. December 1890. Chapman Brothers sale of the Cleneay Collection, Lot 414, part of a complete six-piece gold Proof set of the date.
3. May 1922. B. Max Mehl's sale of the James Ten Eyck Collection, Lot 97.
4. March 1980. Bowers and Ruddy Galleries' sale of the Garrett Collection, Part II, Lot 766; ex W. Elliot Woodward (September 1883); Ely Collection.
5. August 1982. Paramount's sale of Auction '82, Lot 1862.
6. October 1982. Bowers and Ruddy Galleries' sale of the United States Gold Coin Collection (Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.), Lot 200; ex John H. Clapp, 1942; John G. Mills (Chapman brothers, 1904).
7. July 1987. Paramount's sale of Auction '87, Lot 388v.
8. March 1988. Our sale of the Norweb Collection, Part II, Lot 2057.
9. August 1990. Stack's sale of Auction '90, Lot 387.
10. February 1992. Superior's sale of the Trompeter Collection, Lot 45.
11. May 1992. Our sale of the Somerset Collection, Lot 729.
12. The present specimen.

From Stack's sale of May 1974, Lot 371.



**212 1865-S AU-50.** Lustrous honey gold with some orange highlights in the recessed areas. A few stray marks are present, but the eye appeal is still fairly strong. While not a common date by any means, it is still one that can be located with some regularity. When found, Fine to VF is the norm, with EF and higher pieces quite rare. A lovely specimen overall—notably above average for an 1865-S—a piece that is finer than those found in many “name” collections over the years.

Breen-6267. “Two varieties (normal or with traces of repunching on date), from three obverses shipped November 1865; reverse of 1863-S.” Date logotype nicely centered between dentils and truncation, perhaps slightly above center and somewhat to left, right edge of lowest curl on Liberty’s neck even with right edge of 5 in date. Base of 8 shows minor repunching.

Type 1 reverse, with S mintmark tilted sharply right, upper curve nearly touches feather, upper serif nearly touches branch, lower curve nearly touches upper serif of D in denomination, lower serif nearly touches end of fraction bar; the same reverse as 1863-S.

From Abe Kosoff’s sale of November 1968, Lot 776.

**215 1866-S EF-40.** Medium gold with pale rose iridescence. Much lustre remains. A small, old scrape is noted in the reverse field near the eagle’s head.

Obverse with high date, top of 1 closer to truncation than bottom is to dentils, edge of lower left serif over center of dentil, right side of lowest curl on Liberty’s neck over inner right curve of loop of final 6. Reverse with S mintmark far right, upper right of S touches bottom side of lowest feather, upper serif nearly touches branch, bottom point of lower serif near top of fraction bar.

From Stack’s sale of the Davis Collection, February 1968, Lot 236.

**216 1866-S EF-40.** Lustrous orange-gold with deeper orange in the recessed areas.

Obverse with nicely centered date, 1 about equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lower left serif over right edge of a dentil, right side of lowest curl on Liberty’s neck even with right side of final 6 in date. Reverse with S mintmark high, similar to the piece offered two lots earlier.

From Lester Merkin’s sale of March 1969, Lot 82.

## Memorable Proof 1866 \$2.50 Rarity

Another Dazzling Showpiece  
A Key to the Series



**213 1866 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Attractive orange-gold with lighter devices. The fields are mirrored and the motifs are somewhat frosty, creating a delightful cameo contrast. A lovely specimen of the date and numerical grade—this plus the generous eye appeal that one has come to expect from a Bass Collection coin.

Conventional wisdom gives a mintage figure of 30 pieces for the 1866 quarter eagle, which may or may not be correct. Certainly the number was no larger, but it could have been significantly smaller. Only about half that number are currently accounted for, seeming to indicate a modest distribution. As a date the 1866 takes its place with the 1864 and 1865 earlier offered—circulation strikes are very rare, this situation placing an extra market demand upon the very few available Proofs.

PCGS Population: 5; 3 finer (Proof-66 finest).

Date logotype nicely centered both horizontally and vertically, 1 perhaps marginally closer at top than bottom. Lower left edge of serif of the 1 over right edge of dentil. Right edge of lowest curl on Liberty’s neck slightly left of right edge of final 6 in date.

From Stack’s sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 845.

**214 1866-S EF-45.** Rich rose iridescence on medium gold surfaces. An attractive example of a popular branch mint issue that is typically seen in VF.

Obverse with nicely centered date, 1 about equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lower left serif over right edge of a dentil, right side of lowest curl on Liberty’s neck even with right side of final 6 in date. Reverse with S mintmark high, upper right of S nearly touches talon, upper serif touches nock of shaft and feather, bottom point of lower serif points to center of upright of the fraction numerator. Mintmark possibly slightly doubled, there might be a stray touch of the S mintmark punch at the top arrow feather, but the present piece is not definitive.

From Abe Kosoff’s sale of October 1968, Lot 1446.

## Incredible Proof 1867 \$2.50

Finest Graded by PCGS  
A Quarter Eagle Landmark



(2x photo)

**217 1867 Proof-67 (PCGS).** Frosty yellow gold motifs and deeply mirrored fields form an outstanding cameo contrast. Miss Liberty and the surrounding stars and date appear to be suspended in midair; the reverse motifs are equally as lovely and well defined. Superbly struck and lovingly preserved for 133 years. From an unknown Proof production run of the date—popularly stated at 50 pieces, but an extreme rarity with only 15 or so known today—suggesting a much lower distribution. Walter Breen called Proofs of this date “Almost as rare as 1863,” an accurate testament to the rarity of the issue. An outstanding rarity with beauty and eye appeal to match, perhaps the finest known specimen of this elusive date. The 1867 Proof joins the dazzling lineup presented thus far in the Bass Collection of quarter eagles—rarity combined with exquisite quality, in the present instance *ultra-rare* quality, for such a grade is almost—but not quite—unknown! Similar to the other Philadelphia issues of the time, circulation strikes are few and far between, placing additional market pressure on the Proof.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Date logotype high, top of 1 close to truncation, upper back point of 7 virtually joined to the rear point of the truncation, right edge of lowest curl on Liberty’s neck even with left edge of upper serif on 7.

From Quality Sales Corporation’s sale of September 1973, Lot 1060.



## Lustrous 1867-S \$2.50

### Notable Quality



- 218 **1867-S AU-55.** A lustrous specimen of a popular branch mint issue, one that Walter Breen called “Extremely rare above EF.” From a modest mintage of 28,000 pieces, most of those placed immediately into circulation with the end result that the average survivor from that mintage is just VF or so. A notable quality example, the present coin is a delight to behold and is head and shoulders finer than typically seen, even in “name” collections.

Date very high with first and last digits fairly close to but not quite touching neck truncation. Logotype deep into die. Reverse with S mintmark barely touching arrow feather, bottom of mintmark close to tip of fraction bar and D of the denomination. Clash marks show around the eagle.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of November 1968, Lot 776.*

- 219 **1867-S EF-45.** Lustrous honey gold. Some marks are present on Liberty's neck and shoulder. Again, the norm for a San Francisco Mint quarter eagle for this area is VF. The present piece is significantly higher and has much original mint frost. Quality such as this is infrequently encountered.

Date very high with first and last digits fairly close to but not quite touching neck truncation. Logotype deep into die. Reverse with S mintmark barely touching arrow feather, bottom of mintmark close to tip of fraction bar and D of the denomination. Clash marks around eagle.

*Purchased from R.R. Johnson, September 14, 1967.*

## Classic 1868 Proof Rarity

### Just 25 Proofs Struck



- 220 **1868 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Rich orange iridescence on lightly frosted motifs and deep mirror fields. A splendid specimen, one of the finest we have ever seen or handled. In Proof format, the 1868 is one of the great rarities after 1860. Although the figure of 25 Proofs has been published, only about half that number can be accounted for in terms of different specimens. Thus, the present coin takes its place as a prime rarity alongside the other notable Proofs of the decade in the Bass Collection. The word *opportunity* comes to the fore.

PCGS Population: 6; 3 finer (Proof-65).

The preponderance of specimens in the Proof-64 and Proof-65 range leads this writer to think a few of those listed specimens may have made more than one trip through the grading process at PCGS.

Date logotype punched deeply into the working die, somewhat to the left, and with top of the 1 nearly but not quite touching the neck truncation; the lower left serif of the 1 is opposite the center of a dentil and distinctly separated from it. Under high magnification, the dies have some interesting raised polish lines including before the lower part of the neck and just below the bottom element of the hair bun. Some other hardly visible lines extend from the forelock and the front of the coronet. The stars are very close to the dentils, with very little field between the outermost ray of star 4 and the border. The reverse is from the same Proof die used to coin quarter eagles earlier in the decade. We give these notes simply for the record, because so few Proof quarter eagles exist that specialists do not often have the opportunity to examine them.

As is true of other Proofs of this decade, such coins have appeared in the auction venue over a long period of time, beginning within a decade of their issuance. We would be pleased to share our notes with the successful bidder.

*From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 217.*

- 221 **1868-S AU-58.** Lustrous honey gold with attractive rose highlights. Lightly cleaned long ago, but scarcely noticeable and mentioned only for the record. Under magnification some marks are seen here and there, especially on the reverse to the lower left of the eagle where there are two little scratches. In keeping with other San Francisco Mint quarter eagles of this decade, the 1868, when seen (which is not all that often) is apt to be in VF, very occasionally EF, and only rarely AU. The present piece is one of the finest we have ever offered.

Obverse with date logotype nicely centered horizontally and vertically, and deeply impressed into the die. Some raised die finish lines can be seen near the date, including a large group that almost appears to be a single line, this connecting the back of the lower loop of the second 8 to the rear point of Liberty's truncation.

Obverse and reverse with light clash marks.

*From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 201.*

## Classic Proof 1869 Quarter Eagle

### Another Classic Rarity



- 222 **1869 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Bright medium gold with attractive light orange highlights. The devices are somewhat frosty and the fields are deeply mirrored, presenting a modest cameo contrast overall. Another Proof rarity in the denomination, one of just 25 pieces struck. Of those, we estimate that perhaps 15 specimens can be located today. Pleasing for the grade. This closes out the complete run of Proof quarter eagles dated in the 1860s and of hand selected quality! The offering is, in a word, *amazing*.

PCGS Population: 8; 2 finer (Proof-66 finest).

Date logotype deeply impressed into die. Bottom of 1 marginally closer to dentil than top is to truncation, left edge of lowest serif close over center of dentil below. On Liberty's coronet, a raised diagonal line connects the right side of the top serif of L in LIBERTY to the lower right foot of that letter. From the master die as it also occurs on San Francisco coinage. Right edge of lowest curl on Liberty's neck above the left side of the digit 9.

*From RARCOA's sale of August 1970, Lot 1447.*

- 223 **1869-S AU-58.** Lustrous honey gold with warm orange highlights. A touch of obverse striking weakness is noted, a typical state for this issue; the reverse is fairly strong in most areas. From a mintage of 29,500 pieces, most of which went immediately into circulation. Typically found in VF or occasionally EF, with AU and finer examples considered quite rare. An attractive coin for the grade, one of the finest we have ever seen or handled.

Date logotype deeply impressed into die. Date very high with flag and top of 1 fairly close to but not quite touching neck truncation, left edge of lowest serif over right edge of dentil below. On Liberty's coronet, a raised diagonal line connects the right side of the top serif of L in LIBERTY to the lower right foot of that letter; from the master die used to make the working dies, and also seen on the Proof quarter eagle just offered. Reverse with S mintmark barely touching arrow feather, bottom of mintmark close to tip of fraction bar and D of the denomination. Clash marks show around the eagle.

*From Stack's sale of the Davis Collection, February 1968, Lot 238.*



## Lovely Gem Proof 1870 Quarter Eagle

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



(2x photo)

- 224 **1870 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Deep golden orange mirrors and frosted design motifs form a strong and endearing cameo contrast. A beautiful Proof quarter eagle in all regards, sharply struck and aesthetically appealing.

This is one of a very small mintage, typically reported as 35 Proof strikings, and no doubt far fewer were distributed—as at present, we are unable to trace any more than a dozen different pieces. By all accounts this date is *rarer* than the more highly recognized 1869 Proof quarter eagle, of which just 25 pieces were produced! A numismatic prize, easily among the finest known examples of the date, and perhaps *the finest* specimen extant.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date logotype only moderately impressed, the numerals appearing fairly thin and somewhat tall. Tip of flag and top of 1 nearly touching truncation above, edge of lower left serif fairly high and over center of dentil below. Raised die polish lines present near Liberty's ear and among the letters of LIBERTY on the coronet. Other raised lines of varying lengths crisscross the fields at random angles, especially on the obverse. A group of small raised dots, no doubt the result of rust, can be seen on Liberty's neck just above the 1 in the date. The reverse die is remarkable for its perfection.

From Stack's sale of May 1974, Lot 373.

- 225 **1870-S AU-55 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous orange-gold surfaces with deep rose iridescence forming a splendid display of brightness. From a modest mintage for the date of 16,000 pieces. Typically seen in VF to EF or so, and a rare date in AU or finer.

Date logotype twice as close to the neck truncation as to the dentils, deeply punched into die. Some raised areas within the words LIBERTY on the coronet, including a diagonal raised area from the L, reminiscent of that used in 1869 (but not on the Proof dated 1870 just offered). It seems that a study of its own could be made concerning minor master die variations. Reverse with S mintmark high and surrounded by much of the motif above. Arrows and other features especially prominent, from the old hub as usual, but in this instance very deeply impressed into the working die.

From Stack's sale of October 1994, Lot 941.

## Choice Proof 1871 Quarter Eagle

A Landmark Rarity

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



- 226 **1871 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Bright, frosted honey gold motifs and mirrored fields display a hint of deeper orange toning. A superb specimen for the assigned grade. This is one of only 30 Proofs said to have been struck, an average mintage figure for the era, but one that has little meaning with relation to the availability of coins today. In fact, the 1871 is even rarer than

the typical date of the 1860s—including the famous 1863! As we go to press, we can account for about 10 to 12 different pieces. For the record, PCGS has certified just *two* Proofs of this date, both of those at the Proof-64 level. We expect serious bidding competition when this important rarity crosses the auction block, and those bidders considering adding this specimen to their numismatic cabinet should plan accordingly.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date logotype impressed fairly strong, date high, top of first 1 near truncation, bottom twice as far from dentils below, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils, right base of second 1 about the same distance from dentils. A prominent raised die lump is seen on Liberty's neck above the center of the date, and two smaller lumps can be seen above her eyebrow; this is a hallmark of Proofs and is extremely curious—indeed *fascinating*. Raised die polish lines can be seen among the obverse stars, and to a lesser degree on the reverse.

Purchased from Julian Leidman at an unknown date; ex Kagin's sale of November 1973, Lot 1783.

- 227 **1871-S AU-58.** Lustrous and satiny honey gold surfaces. A few faint marks present when viewed with a low-power glass. Struck from lightly clashed dies, some weakness present at the centers, as nearly always found for the date. VF and EF are typical grades for this date, although nice AU specimens appear now and then—this being one of the “now” instances.

Date logotype nicely impressed, date nicely centered in all directions, first 1 equidistant between truncation and dentils. Final 1 in date faintly repunched at bottom, perhaps the variety mentioned at Breen-6281: “Douglas Winter reports one with triple-punched 1.” Small raised die lump on Liberty's neck directly above the right side of the 8. Reverse with S mintmark high and surrounded by much of the motif above. Arrows and other features especially prominent, from the old hub as usual, but in this instance very deeply impressed into the working die.

Received in trade from Stanley Kesselman; according to Harry Bass' notes, ex “Miles, '68, Lot 207, Scanlon, '73, Lot 2105.”

## Impressive Proof 1872 \$2.50 Rarity

A Numismatic Classic



- 228 **1872 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Delightful golden orange toning on moderately frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields; the cameo contrast is enchanting in a deep and sultry way. Absolutely choice for the grade. A few light hay marks are seen under low magnification, but the piece still measures up easily to careful scrutiny. From a Proof mintage for the date of just 30 pieces, with perhaps half that number available to today's numismatic community. A glance at this deep golden Proof quarter eagle practically assures the viewer of a deeper appreciation of the coiner's art.

PCGS Population: 6; 3 finer (Proof-66 finest).

Date logotype nicely impressed, date slightly right but centered in field, 1 equidistant between truncation and dentils, base of 1 and 8 come extremely close to each other, right edge of lowest hair curl on Liberty's neck even with inner edge of ball of 2.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of September 1973, Lot 1066.



229 1872-S EF-45. Frosty honey gold with strong rose iridescence in the recessed areas. A coin which seriously challenges the AU level.

The last two digits are low on the logotype (characteristic of all 1872 dies). Obverse with date deeply impressed into die, slightly high, top of 1 close to truncation, left edge of lowest serif fairly high over center of dentil, right edge of lowest curl on Liberty's neck over center of 2; Walter Breen mentioned "two minor positional varieties" for this date in his *Encyclopedia*. Reverse with small S mintmark overlapping end of arrow, lower serif to right of upright of fraction denominator.

*Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 17, 1968.*

### Gem Proof 1873 \$2.50

Closed 3 in Date

Finest Graded by PCGS



(2x photo)

230 1873 Closed 3. Proof-65 (PCGS). Bright yellow gold with some honey gold overtones. The fields are deeply mirrored and lend an air of support to the moderately frosted devices. Scattered obverse lint marks are noted. From a Proof mintage for the date of just 25 coins. We estimate that some 12 to 15 Proofs of the date are extant today, making for a rarity in anyone's estimation. Regarding Proofs of the date, Walter Breen noted: "Possibly 19 survive, some impaired." The present specimen is the finest example of the date certified by PCGS, and undoubtedly a contender for *finest known* honors for the date as well.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Date logotype nicely impressed, date low, left edge of lowest serif close over left side of dentil, top of 1 distant from truncation.

The date logotype for the 1873 Closed 3 is quite curious, as it is shallow across the center and deep at the top and bottom, this being true of all quarter eagle dies at the two mints (Philadelphia and San Francisco). This is caused by "rocking" the numerals to the *matrix* that produced the four-digit logotype punch.

*Purchased from Harry X Boesel, "Mr. 1873," March 12, 1973.*

### Gem Mint State 1873 \$2.50

Closed 3 in Date



231 1873 Closed 3. MS-65 (PCGS). Deep honey gold with strong lustre on satiny surfaces. A reasonably plentiful date in average Uncirculated preservation, but at the gem level, the variety is exceedingly difficult to locate. The present coin is indeed a lovely piece for the grade, and is finer than the MS-64 specimen we offered in Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, October 1999, Lot 579. It takes a Bass coin to top a Bass coin!

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (MS-66).

Date logotype moderately impressed, date nicely centered, 1 virtually equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil, right edge of lowest hair curl on Liberty's neck over center of balls of 3, die clash marks around Liberty's head. Reverse with some faint, spidery die cracks that connect the tops of OF AMERICA and the bottoms of the numerals and the D in the denomination.

*From RARCOA's sale of Auction '79, July 1979, Lot 1186.*

232 1873 Closed 3. MS-62. Lustrous orange-gold with warm rose highlights. A sprinkling of tiny speckles can be seen on the obverse under low magnification.

Same dies as preceding.

233 **Grouping of quarter eagles:** ☆ 1873 Closed 3. AU-50. Hints of orange toning at the devices ☆ 1873 Open 3. AU-55. Pale olive green toning in the fields ☆ 1878-S AU-50. Lustrous with magenta toning at the date ☆ 1879-S AU-50. Scratches before Liberty's mouth with splashes of soft magenta toning at the devices ☆ 1900 AU-50. Small gouge on obverse field behind Liberty. (Total: 5 pieces)

234 1873 Open 3. MS-63 PL. Bright golden orange with decidedly prooflike fields and lightly frosted motifs.

Date logotype lightly impressed, well centered both horizontally and vertically, lower left serif of 1 over center of dentil below, other numerals essentially equidistant as well. The die has been heavily polished where the front of Liberty's neck meets her shoulder, leaving a sizeable area of reflective surface without design details in that area.

*From RARCOA's sale of April 1972, Lot 707.*

235 1873-S Closed 3. AU-50. Lustrous honey gold. San Francisco quarter eagles of the 1870s are considerably more available at the AU level than are those of the 1860s, but still the 1873-S can be considered to be quite scarce. It is probably correct to say that an 1873-S in AU-50 grade is at least a couple hundred times rarer than, say, a 1901 quarter eagle in full Mint State.

Closed 3 in date, as are all of this date and denomination. Date very low and about three times closer to the dentils than to the neck truncation above. Reverse with S high and into the motif.

*From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 2109.*



## Incredible Proof 1874 \$2.50 Rarity

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

Proof Mintage: 20 Pieces



- 236 **1874 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Satiny pale orange-gold motifs stand boldly out from deep mirror fields, the end result being an outstanding cameo contrast. Conventional wisdom has it that 20 Proofs were struck, and in the present case this may have been true, as perhaps a dozen or so exist today—a fitting proportion. For many years the 1874 has been acclaimed as a landmark in the Proof quarter eagle series, and many “name” collections have lacked an example. The present piece is one of the finest in existence, a coin that may well represent the end of a multi-year search by a connoisseur. In one specimen it combines the elements of rarity, beauty, and desirability.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Logotype nicely impressed, date nicely centered horizontally and vertically, bottom portions of the numerals uneven (as though there are chips or unfinished areas there in the die), three tiny raised lumps on Liberty's cheek near her ear, noticeable chips out of the dentils between the fourth and fifth stars, just after the fifth star, above the sixth star, and just before the seventh star.

As is the case with the other Proofs in the illustrious run of Bass Collection coins, we have a nice data file on historical appearances. One can only marvel at such long ago offerings as a complete gold Proof set in Edward Cogan's sale of the Col. Milton I. Cohen Collection, October 1975, and a complete Proof set in Thomas Cleneay Collection sale held by the Chapman brothers in December 1890. Throughout the late 19th century, and extending in a few instances into the early 20th century (most notably with the cabinet of Col. Cummings), a few highly important collections had gold sets. However, it seems to have been the rule, not the exception, that once these sets were auctioned, the buyers broke them up, extracting the quarter eagle to sell to a quarter eagle specialist, the gold dollar to another numismatist, the \$3 to still another, and so on. Today in the year 2000, the American Numismatic Society has a gold Proof set of 1874 along with a number of notable other gold Proof sets, mainly from the collection of J.P. Morgan, earlier from the Brock Collection. The National Coin Collection in the Smithsonian Institution also has gold Proof sets, but, unfortunately, many have been cleaned to the point at which the individual coins have numerous hairlines.

In his long quest to find Proof quarter eagles, Harry Bass was very “fussy” and bypassed impaired Proofs and lower grade pieces, selecting examples such as the present 1874—combining high numerical grade and *equally if not more important*, stunning eye appeal.

*From Stack's sale of May 1974, Lot 374.*

## Landmark 1875 Proof Rarity

Classic Quarter Eagle of the 1870s

Just 20 Struck



(2x photo)

- 237 **1875 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Deep orange-gold. Lightly frosted devices and mirror fields present a modest cameo contrast.

The 1875 is the most famous single date among quarter eagles of the 1870s—both from the standpoint of its absolute rarity as a Proof, plus its rarity *as a date* (as only 400 circulation strikes were made), plus association with the other famous Proofs of the 1875 year—most notably the gold dollar and the \$3 piece, both of which exist in higher numbers today than does the quarter eagle. Often a span of many years will elapse between offerings of a coin of this quality. The present piece, off the market for 27 years, emerges to delight the present generation of connoisseurs for viewing, and a single fortunate individual who captures it with the highest bid.

Twenty Proofs were reported to have been struck, with which number we will not differ, as perhaps 15 exist today—a fair proportion. The related circulation strikes are virtually unobtainable, and in high Mint State level are as rare as the proverbial hen's teeth—placing additional market pressure on the few available Proofs.

Our congratulations in advance to the buyer. We have enjoyed this coin while in our possession and will miss it when it is gone.

PCGS Population: 3; 3 finer (Proof-65).

Date logotype deeply impressed, numerals slightly low and to the right. The 1 is slightly farther from the neck than its base is from the dentils, but the difference is not great. The tip of the flag of the 5 is very close but does not quite touch the neck truncation. Under very high magnification the obverse shows some interesting raised die preparation lines, with a number being somewhat like pickup sticks in front of Miss Liberty's lips, others seeming to emanate from stars 3 through 5, another connecting stars 9 and 10, etc.; these lines are so delicate that they would not show up in a photograph. We record them here simply out of technical interest. All Proofs share these features.

We have located and recorded well over a dozen appearances at public auction of specimens of this great and popular rarity, dating as far back as Edward Cogan's sale of the Cohen Collection in 1875. At that time (the year of issue), the rarity of the gold Proofs of 1875 was not yet understood or appreciated; a six-piece gold Proof set, \$1 through \$20 brought a paltry \$46.50, just \$5 over face value.

As a parting comment, we quote from B. Max Mehl's sale of the William Forrester Dunham Collection in which a similar piece was offered: “Here's one coin the rarity of which has not been appreciated. Only 420 specimens were struck in all. Just how many Proofs were struck, I do not know, but I doubt if more than 5% were Proofs. We find some of the greatest collections that have been sold in the past 50 years did not have this coin in brilliant Proof. The Hale Collection, which was being formed for over 40 years did not have any kind of a specimen. I consider this coin, in brilliant Proof condition, almost as rare as any quarter eagle.”

*Obtained in trade from Abe Kosoff, August 1973.*



## Fantastic Gem 1876 Quarter Eagle

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

Centennial Year Rarity



238 **1876 Proof-66 (PCGS).** A superb gem Proof combining high numerical grade—none finer graded by PCGS—with a very generous quotient of eye appeal, creating an American numismatic landmark. Add to this the appeal and interest of the 1876 as a centennial year coin—a feature which in the 19th century was nearly always mentioned when an example of this issue crossed the auction block—and you have a

prime object of numismatic desire.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Four-digit date logotype deeply impressed in the die, giving a bold appearance. Digit 1 ever so slightly closer to dentils than to neck truncation, same for digit 6.

*From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of September 1973, Lot 1071.*



**Gem Proof 1877 \$2.50**

A Classic Rarity  
Just 20 Proofs Struck



(2x photo)

**239 1877 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A delightful gem Proof with frosty orange-gold devices and deep mirror fields forming a pleasing cameo contrast. A few flecks can be seen at Liberty's truncation and shoulder. A prized rarity, one of perhaps 12 to 15 survivors from a Proof mintage for the date of just 20 pieces. This bright little gem is easily among the finest known of the surviving coins, and worthy of careful examination and consideration as such.

The 1877 Proof quarter eagle combines multiple appeals, as do a number of pieces of this era. First, the 1877 is one of the most famous dates in American numismatics—due primarily to the lower denominations—the Indian cent, nickel three-cent piece, and Shield nickel—which have been highly prized for generations. Second, on an absolute basis, the rarity of the *Proof* 1877 eagle is unquestioned. Mintage figures can't get much smaller than just 20 coins, and the survival quantity is even less. Moreover, related circulation strikes are key issues. Just 1,632 coins were made for general commerce, and most of them became lost, strayed, or melted over the years.

A date run sequence of Proof quarter eagles such as found in the present Bass III is a very rare occurrence in American numismatics, with only a handful of such instances taking place during the past century. With the present sale we are again at a rendezvous with numismatic destiny.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (Proof-66).

Date logotype deeply impressed, date slightly low and to the right, top of 1 noticeably farther from truncation than bottom is to dentils, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils, bases of 1 and 8 even, first 7 lower, second 7 lower still (as on the 1877 Indian cents), upper right of that numeral near back point of truncation. Curiously, the obverse field appears to be lightly buckled below Liberty's chin, at the point of her bust, and around the date. This is a very subtle feature and is noticeable only when the coin is held at an angle to the light, so that the field reflection is in one's eye. No doubt this is common to all Proof strikings, but the auction literature is largely silent regarding minute variations and idiosyncrasies of Proof dies (of any gold coin date).

From RARCOA's sale of August 1978, Lot 702.

**Choice Proof 1878 \$2.50**

Just 20 Struck  
Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



(2x photo)

**240 1878 Proof-64 (PCGS).** A rich golden cameo with frosty motifs and deep mirror backgrounds. The overall eye appeal is that of a Proof-65 quarter eagle (but no example has ever been certified at this level by PCGS).

Similar to the 1877, the 1878 registers a Proof mintage of just 20 examples, with perhaps a dozen traced today. Year in and year out the 1878 quarter eagle has been revered as a prime rarity—and only the most aggressive bidders have ever been able to acquire one.

As is true of all other Proof quarter eagles of this era, the American Numismatic Society Collection contains an example as does the National Coin Collection in the Smithsonian—removing two specimens forever from competition. Some other Proofs have been impaired. The number of truly beautiful choice Proofs, such as the Bass Collection coin, is very small.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Date logotype moderately impressed, date nicely centered horizontally and vertically, lower right serif of 1 noticeably thin and attenuated, bottoms of 8s somewhat slender.

Regarding historical appearances of the Proof 1878 quarter eagle at auction, the editor (QDB) would be pleased to share data with the *successful purchaser*. As these words are being written, information is still being compiled from catalogues ranging from virtually the time of issue down to the present year.

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of November 1970, Lot 1605.

**241 Trio of 1878-S quarter eagles, displaying widely varied mintmark positions:** ☆ AU-58 (2). Both display lustrous yellow gold surfaces ☆ AU-53. Lustrous. (Total: 3 pieces)

This lot illustrates two distinctly different mintmark positions, neither of which greatly increases the rarity of the individual pieces or the value of the lot, but mentioning the varieties is certainly worth our time. The first of these (of which just one example is included here) has a small, compact S mintmark that is fairly well centered and equidistant from the talon and end of the arrow shaft, as well as from the fraction numerator below. The S is positioned just to the right of center in a position directly above the numerator. On the second variety (of which there are two specimens), the same small, compact S mintmark is placed far to the right, between the bottom arrow feather and the olive branch, at a fair distance from those two locators at the top of the S, but perhaps twice as far from them as the bottom of the mintmark is from the top of the D in the denomination. The right side of the mintmark is positioned over the left edge of the upper serif of the D in the denomination, while the top end of the fraction bar is directly opposite the lower serif of the mintmark.

The concept of studying quarter eagles for logotype variations and, in particular, mintmark placement variations is hardly new, and many citations date back to the early 20th century, with some scattered entries even earlier. Among offerings of the second half of the 20th century—by which time there was already a large repertoire of listings—the most prominent is the catalogue of the Thomas G. Melish Collection by Abe Kosoff, 1956.



## Landmark Proof 1879 Rarity

Only About a Dozen Known



(2x photo)

- 242 **1879 Proof-64 (PCGS)**. Rich orange-gold on mirror fields and moderately frosted motifs. A few faint hairlines and a hint of cloudiness in the fields account for the grade. The overall appeal is very strong—a reflection of Harry W. Bass' connoisseurship.

The mintage of 30 pieces is reported, but it might as well have been 20 pieces (which figure may be closer to the actual distribution), for only a dozen or so different are known today. The 1879 is one of the key Proof issues in an era laden with rarities—it joins the other pieces in the present sale as being a numismatic landmark.

PCGS Population: 7; 3 finer (Proof-66 finest).

Date logotype nicely impressed and nicely centered as well, bottom of 8 nearly "filled" with die roughness apparently composed of three horizontal lines.

From Stack's sale of October 1970, Lot 952.

## Memorable 1880 Proof Rarity

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



(2x photo)

- 243 **1880 Proof-65 (PCGS)**. Deep orange-gold with frosted devices and mirror fields. One of 36 Proofs of the date produced, with perhaps two dozen or so of those available to today's collectors. While not as rare as certain other contemporary Proof issues, the demand for Proofs of this date is increased by the low mintage figure for circulation strikes, that being just 2,960 pieces. A pleasing specimen that will surely enjoy spirited bidding activity—another dazzling entry in this truly memorable lineup of Coronet Head quarter eagle Proofs in the Bass Collection.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Date logotype lightly impressed, the numerals thin. Date slightly high, top of 1 moderately closer to truncation than bottom is to dentils.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 692.

## Impressive Proof 1882 \$2.50



(2x photo)

- 244 **1882 Proof-65 (PCGS)**. Delightful orange-gold highlights on frosted motifs and reflective mirror fields. One of 67 Proofs of the date struck, a noticeable increase over the smaller quantities of the previous decade. Perhaps as many as 35 or so examples of this date can be traced, making this one of the more available Proof quarter eagles of the 1880s, but in an absolute sense, any coin of which there are only 35 known is a rarity. An aesthetically appealing coin that stands on its own as one of the nicest in existence.

PCGS Population: 8; 5 finer (Proof-66).

Date logotype lightly impressed, slightly lighter at the top than the bottom, 1 in date moderately closer to dentils than truncation, left edge of lower serif over center of a dentil, date also slightly right.

Purchased from William Youngerman, February 17, 1972.

## Gem Proof 1883 Quarter Eagle



(2x photo)

- 245 **1883 Proof-65 (PCGS)**. Rich yellow gold with warm orange highlights. The moderately frosted design elements form a modest cameo contrast with the deep mirror fields. From a Proof mintage for the date of 82 pieces. Considerably rarer today than the mintage figure suggests, with about 30 or so different pieces known to exist. The typical example is apt to be Proof-60 or thereabouts, with gems such as the Bass Collection coin being in the distinct minority.

As is true of nearly all quarter eagles of this decade, Proofs are sought by numismatists who desire a high-grade example of the date, for circulation strikes are exceedingly rare at the gem level. In the present instance, only 1,920 circulation strikes were made—creating a notable rarity. Yet another opportunity for the connoisseur and specialist.

PCGS Population: 7; 3 finer (Proof-66).

Date logotype nicely impressed, date centrally located between truncation and dentils, and placed slightly right of center. In his *Encyclopedia*, Walter Breen notes: "Proofs come with high or low date." The present obverse may represent Breen's high or low date, in which case the other obverse would have to have the date placed noticeably higher or lower than the date is on the current specimen.

As a rule the Proof mintage figures for quarter eagles after 1880 increased dramatically above the production figures from earlier decades, reaching a high of 223 Proofs in 1901.

In our ongoing survey of American gold coins it has become dramatically



evident that while gold dollars of the 1880s were saved by numismatists, jewelers, investors, and others, and today exist in most instances in fairly generous proportion to their original mintages (and the same is somewhat true for certain \$3 pieces of the era), quarter eagles are an exception. Writing on another subject, (that of mintmarked issues) in 1893, Augustus G. Heaton stated that he did not know of a single numismatist who collected eagle-reverse coins by mintmark sequence (the eagle reverse referring to pieces with a Coronet Head obverse). Seemingly, although Proof Coronet Head quarter eagles were acquired by collectors who saved such pieces by *date*, the concept of saving or investing in circulation strikes was not known. Probably this is because the \$1 and \$3 denominations, which *were* saved, were targets for discontinuation, and available supplies were squirreled away in anticipation that the \$1 and \$3 would become rare. However, no plans were aired (regarding the discontinuation of the quarter eagle), and thus it was simply an *ordinary* denomination attracting no investment interest. For numismatists interested in such things, we further mention that after the discontinuation of the gold dollar and \$3 piece in 1889, the quarter eagle became the lowest denomination gold coin of the realm. Thus, from 1890 onward this denomination was popular for gift giving and largely took the place of the gold dollar in this regard. Because of this, and also from other considerations, most but not all Coronet Head quarter eagles of the 1890s and early 20th century are relatively easy to find in such grades as MS-63, MS-64, and in most instances, MS-65. Learning how gold coins were actually used in commerce and elsewhere has been one of the most fascinating parts of our current gold coin research. Many fascinating aspects have come to light through long forgotten newspaper articles, banking journals, Treasury Reports, Mint correspondence, and other sources.

From Harmer-Rooke's sale of October 1979, 3130.

### Gem Proof 1884 Quarter Eagle Another Classic Rarity



(2x photo)

- 246 **1884 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A delightful golden cameo with frosty motifs and mirror fields in pleasing contrast to each other. From a fairly sizeable Proof mintage for the date of 73 coins, with about 40 or so specimens from that mintage accounted for today. Of the available specimens, some are known to be impaired, making gem Proof specimens of the date even more appealing. The rarity of *circulation strike* 1884 quarter eagles is notable, with gems being almost unobtainable from the tiny production of 1,950 pieces. See our little "essay" under the preceding lot for details.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (Proof-66).

Date logotype nicely impressed into die. Date well centered horizontally and vertically, 1 marginally closer to truncation than to dentils, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. A fine die line connects the lower point of the 4 to the lower loop of the 8. Upon close inspection it would seem that the portrait of Miss Liberty has a fine granular or matte surface, giving it a very nice aspect; the interior of the ear has a highly polished Proof surface.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of September 1973, Lot 1083.

### Exciting 1885 Proof \$2.50 Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS Incredibly Low Related Circulation Mintage



(2x photo)

- 247 **1885 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Delightful orange-gold brightness on both sides. A superbly beautiful gem Proof quarter eagle. The frosty devices and mirror fields present a pleasing cameo contrast. From a Proof mintage for the date of 87 pieces, with perhaps half that number available to today's collecting community. Of the survivors from that mintage, some are known to be impaired. Easily one of the finest known Proofs of the date. We do not recall ever seeing a nicer one.

Again we are confronted with a rarity of multiple appeals, in the present instance there being *only 800 circulation strikes*, making the 1885 a key date in *any* format or grade level. We can readily imagine that this piece will be one of the foremost treasures in the cabinet of the successful bidder.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Date logotype evenly (if somewhat lightly) impressed into the die, date fairly high. Top of 1 close to truncation; a small notch has been taken from there to allow the numeral to fit. Left edge of lower serif of 1 over center of a dentil. On the reverse, some horizontal lines are seen near the top of the vertical shield lines.

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 2133.

### Gorgeous Gem Proof 1886 Quarter Eagle



(2x photo)

- 248 **1886 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Rich orange-gold highlights on frosty motifs and mirror fields. A nearly flawless Proof except for some marks above the eagle's head on the reverse (might the coin have been called Proof-66 otherwise?). A rare date in any format; just 88 Proofs and 4,000 business strikes were produced. We estimate that about 40 or so Proofs of the date can be located today, making it one of the more available Proof issues but, in an absolute sense, a *rarity*.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (Proof-66).

Date logotype evenly punched, if somewhat lightly; the low-profile numerals seem to float on the mirror field. Top of 1 marginally closer to truncation than bottom is to dentils, edge of lower left serif over right side of dentil, small knob of 6 nearly touches loop below. On the reverse, a series of faintly raised lines joins the rim to the tip of the eagle's wing and the tops of AMERI; they seem to be continuation lines of the dentils, perhaps remnants of the die engraving stage.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, December 21, 1971.



## Impressive Gem Proof 1887 \$2.50

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



(2x photo)

249 **1887 Proof-65 (PCGS)**. A beautiful coin in all regards. Rich orange-gold mirrors support frosty motifs. From a Proof mintage for the date of 122 pieces, of which perhaps three or four dozen are known today. Likely, many and possibly the majority were spent or unsold. The present specimen is easily one of the finest Proofs of the date extant, a coin that matches the quality of the specimen we sold in the Childs Collection (August 1999, Lot 619). Worthy of close attention by the buyer who appreciates the incredible combination of high grade, rarity, and beautiful eye appeal.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer.

Date logotype entered sharply but not deeply, date numerals high, 1 nearly touches truncation, a small notch provided for the top of the numeral, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil, top right of 7 nearly touches truncation as well, bottom of the numeral nicely away from dentils.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 700; ex B. Max Mehl.

## Gem Proof 1888 Quarter Eagle

Another Marvelous Classic



(2x photo)

250 **1888 Proof-65 (PCGS)**. Bright golden orange with mirrored fields and lightly frosted motifs forming a delightful cameo contrast. Sharply struck and aesthetically appealing. One of 97 Proofs of the date struck (see below), with perhaps as many as 50 of those still accounted for. One of a small cadre of dates in the quarter eagle series that might be called *available* in Proof format—that is, one does not necessarily have to wait years to acquire a gem specimen. However, gem Proofs of any date are an entirely different story, and the present specimen is certainly a cut above the typically offered Proof of this date.

PCGS Population: 6; 3 finer (Proof-66).

Date logotype nicely impressed and centered, date a tiny bit higher than center, top of 1 marginally closer to truncation than bottom is to dentils, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil, a noticeable notch can be seen in the upper outer edge of the lower loop of the second 8, a diagnostic not seen on Proofs of the previous or following years. Both the *Guide Book* and the David Akers reference on the quarter eagle denomination give the Proof mintage for this date as 97 pieces, while Walter Breen's *Proof Encyclopedia* and his 1988-dated *Complete Encyclopedia* give the mintage as 92 pieces.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 702.

## Lovely Gem Proof 1889 \$2.50

A Classic Proof Rarity



(2x photo)

251 **1889 Proof-65 (PCGS)**. Rich orange iridescence on deep golden mirrors and lightly frosted motifs; the cameo effect is modest yet enchanting. From a fairly small Proof mintage for the era, one of 48 Proofs of the date produced, a sharp drop from the stated mintage of the previous year. Only about two dozen or so of that number can be traced today. "One of the real 'sleeper' dates in the series in Proof," notes the timeless David W. Akers reference. It is difficult to imagine a nicer example of the date at the assigned grade level.

PCGS Population: 5; 1 finer (Proof-66).

Date logotype entered heavier at the 1 than at the 9, date nicely centered both horizontally and vertically, left edge of lower serif of 1 over right edge of dentil. Some diagonal die finish lines can be seen on the reverse among the vertical shield stripes.

Although the facts are not known, it probably was the case that by 1889, the Mint had grown tired of striking Proofs on speculation, keeping them in drawers where they awaited possible sale, and then melting or spending the unsold pieces later. The production quantity for 1889, just 48 pieces, may have represented the *actual demand* for examples of the date. If so, it might be logical to assume that the Proof mintage for the previous year, 97 (or 92) pieces, may have yielded sales of just 48 or 50 coins. Conversely, there may have been a demand for more than the 48 Proofs struck in 1889, and perhaps the Mint decided it was better to have too many on hand than too few, for the Proof mintage rebounded the following year to 93 pieces. Unfortunately, the facts are few where the issue is concerned.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 704.

## Outstanding Gem Proof 1890 \$2.50

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



(2x photo)

252 **1890 Proof-66 (PCGS)**. Delightful orange-gold iridescence on both sides. An impressive cameo Proof with deeply mirrored fields and heavily frosted devices in lovely contrast to each other. From a Proof mintage for the date of 97 pieces, slightly more than double that of the preceding year. Estimates as to surviving Proof examples of the date range from 25 to 50 pieces; we suspect the higher of those two figures is closer to the truth. Regardless of the actual quantity known today, the interested bidder will be hard pressed to find a finer example than that offered here. A beautiful coin with outstanding aesthetic appeal.



PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Date logotype deeply impressed, date slightly low, top of 1 about twice the distance from the truncation as the bottom is from the dentils, lower left edge of serif over center of dentil.

From Paramount's sale of February 1973, Lot 997.

### Attractive Gem Proof 1891 \$2.50

Another Spectacular Rarity



(2x photo)

**253 1891 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Attractive yellow gold with some deeper orange-gold highlights. From a Proof mintage for the date of 80 coins; from which number about two dozen or so can be traced. By any accounting, the 1891 Proof is a rarity at any numerical level, and with the Proof-65 designation it is a *prime rarity*.

PCGS Population: 10; 1 finer (Proof-66). The density of population at the Proof-65 level suggests that one or more of those specimens may have been submitted more than once to PCGS for a grading opinion.

Breen-6311. Repunched date.

Date logotype deeply punched and nicely centered, both horizontally and vertically. Bases of 891 boldly repunched; this later fades from the die.

From Harmer-Rooke's sale of October 1970, Lot 3113.

### Superlative Proof 1892 \$2.50

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



(2x photo)

**254 1892 Proof-66 (PCGS).** A glittering golden orange gem with deep mirror fields and frosted motifs forming a strong and pleasing cameo contrast. The strike is sharp and the overall appeal is substantial. A few tiny copper toning areas are noted on the reverse. From a Proof mintage for the date of 105 pieces, with perhaps up to half of that mintage currently known. The presently offered coin is the ready equivalent of the beautiful gem Proof specimen we offered as Lot 624 in our sale of the Walter H. Childs Collection in August 1999. How marvelous it is that another specimen has come to hand—another gem that will attract wide attention.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Date logotype deeply impressed. Large, wide date with generous spacing between the numerals, top of 1 close to truncation, lower left serif closer yet to dentils, edge over right side of dentil, dentils "scooped" to allow the base of the 1 to fit. Liberty's portrait crisscrossed with fine raised die lines. No visible repunching at stars or date.

In the catalogue for Part II of the John J. Pittman Collection (May 1998), David Akers wrote: "Doubling is visible on stars 1 to 4 as well as at the base of the 1 in the date... this is a Proof-only variety, and all Proof 1892 quarter eagles are this same variety." The present specimen is one of the final issues from the die, as any trace of doubling has disappeared in the mentioned areas.

From Harmer-Rooke's sale of October 1970, Lot 3114.

### Superb Proof 1893 Quarter Eagle

Tied for Finest Seen by PCGS



(2x photo)

**255 1893 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Rich yellow gold with lively orange-gold highlights. Lightly toned fields. Of the 105 Proofs of the date struck, only about one third of that number can be accounted for today. A superb gem, a marvelous coin that is exceeded in quality by no other piece examined.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Breen-6314. "Partly double punched date. Lower knobs of extra 93 just left of 93."

From an early state of the obverse, with remnants of all four numerals visible to the left of the existing numerals and within the lower loops of the 8 and 9 (cf. Childs, August 1999, Lot 625, for same die state); this fades later (Breen obviously saw a later die state).

From Harmer-Rooke's sale of October 1970, Lot 3115.

### Gem Proof 1894 Quarter Eagle



(2x photo)

**256 1894 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Deep yellow gold with frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields; the cameo contrast is sharp and delightful. An outstanding gem Proof coin in all respects. From a sizeable Proof mintage for the date of 122 pieces, with perhaps five to six dozen of that number available today; collectors seeking a lovely Proof Coronet quarter eagle will have only a modicum of difficulty locating a specimen of this date to suit their needs, although finding one at the Proof-65 level would be a challenge. Avoid the challenge: bid liberally on the present piece!

The preceding said, we now mention the related low business strike production—just 4,000 coins, one of the smallest of the era, with no smaller figure recorded for the rest of the Coronet Head series. This aspect places additional market demand upon the existing Proofs and increases their desirability.



Date logotype nicely impressed, date nicely centered horizontally and vertically, 1 equidistant and fairly close to truncation and dentils. Tiny round "wart" (Walter Breen's appellation for the die anomaly) on Liberty's chin, a diagnostic of all Proofs of the date and denomination.

From Harmer-Rooke's sale of October 1970, Lot 3116.

### Gem Proof 1895 Quarter Eagle



(2x photo)

- 257 **1895 Proof-66 (PCGS)**. Lively yellow gold with a whisper of olive iridescence on lightly toned fields. The Proof mintage for this date totaled 119 pieces, but probably not all were distributed. About 70 or so are known today, most of which fall far short of the piece offered here in quality. If you have been patiently waiting to acquire a superb gem, this coin beckons. Another date where gem examples are available to those with the patience to wait for one.

Date logotype sharply impressed, date numerals well centered both horizontally and vertically.

From Harmer-Rooke's sale of October 1970, Lot 3118.

### Exquisite Proof 1896 \$2.50

Finest Certified by PCGS



(2x photo)

- 258 **1896 Proof-67 (PCGS)**. Heavily frosted devices appear to float in a deeply mirrored sea of deep gold. A simply superb Proof of the highest order; the physical quality of this piece is outweighed only by its exquisite aesthetic appeal. Probably the finest known survivor from a Proof mintage for the date of 132 pieces. Perhaps half that number is available to today's collectors, and it would certainly take an immensely pleasing and physically perfect coin from among that group to exceed the charm and appeal of the present specimen. The present coin is finer than Lot 628 of our sale of the Childs Collection (August 1999), which was then tied for finest certified by PCGS; this coin takes "finest certified" to a new level. A major highlight in a sale that is chock full of major highlights, and a coin that speaks volumes about the collecting "eye" of Harry W. Bass, Jr.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Date logotype evenly impressed, top of 1 marginally closer to truncation than bottom is to dentils, left edge of lowest serif over left side of dentil, space between date numerals progressively wider from left to right, lower loop of 9 closed, ball firmly joined to top loop.

From Harmer-Rooke's sale of October 1970, Lot 3119.

### Gem Proof 1897 \$2.50



(2x photo)

- 259 **1897 Proof-65 (PCGS)**. Lustrous yellow gold with a touch of orange iridescence. Lightly frosted motifs and mirror fields form a light but pleasing cameo contrast. A tiny lint mark on Liberty's chin is mentioned for accuracy. Although the Proof mintage is recorded at 136 pieces, large numbers must have remained unsold, for today only 50 or so are believed to exist—placing the coin squarely in the *rarity* category.

Date logotype deeply impressed, top of 1 marginally closer to truncation than bottom is to dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of a dentil, numerals widely spaced, 9 and 7 closer than other numerals are to each other.

Reverse with interior of shield mostly matte—with a very slight amount of die polish.

From Harmer-Rooke's sale of October 1970, Lot 3123.



## Impressive Gem Proof 1898 \$2.50

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



(2x photo)

- 260 1898 Proof-67 (PCGS).** Deep yellow gold with lively olive highlights. The devices are heavily frosted and the fields are deeply mirrored, with strong cameo contrast present on both sides. The mintage this year was recorded as 165, but probably far fewer were actually distributed. About half that quantity is known to exist today. Of the remaining pieces, the coin offered here is superb in its aspect and is exceeded in quality by none other of which we are aware.

PCGS Population: 7; none finer.

Date logotype deeply impressed and nicely centered horizontally and vertically, 1 in date slightly closer to truncation than dentils, left edge of lowest serif over left edge of dentil below.

On the reverse the entire center of the shield is completely *matte*,—with not even a hint of die polish—a very unusual feature.

On a visit to the Engraving Department at the Philadelphia Mint in the 1970s, Dave Bowers was shown the original four-digit logotype punch used to make quarter eagle dies of this year; presumably it is still there.

From Harmer-Rooke's sale of October 1970, Lot 3126.

## Superb Cameo Proof 1899 \$2.50



(2x photo)

- 261 1899 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A delightful cameo gem Proof—a coin of fantastic quality and eye appeal. A coin such as this is truly marvelous—and the opportunity to acquire it is almost as rare as the coin itself.

PCGS Population: 5; 1 finer (Proof-68).

Date logotype deeply entered into the die and well centered, 1 equidistant between truncation above and dentil below, raised die line from base of T in LIBERTY diagonally across to center of Y on coronet.

Reverse with Proof polish within the shield elements, in contrast to the style of the preceding two years.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of September 1973, Lot 1104.

## Choice Proof 1900 Quarter Eagle



- 262 1900 Proof-64 (PCGS).** A decidedly choice specimen. Frosted devices are set against a deep mirror background creating a delightful cameo presence. The Proof mintage of this year amounted to 205 pieces, of which perhaps a third survive today, indicating that many must have been spent or were not distributed in the first place. Definitely a choice specimen which, when its fantastic eye appeal is added, will stand right alongside pieces that have been given a numerical designation of Proof-65.

Date logotype deeply entered into the die and well centered. Some microscopic doubling at the first two date digits is mentioned by Breen and is scarcely noticeable. Raised die line from base of T in LIBERTY on the coronet to the hair below that letter. On the reverse, a faint die line extends the point of the olive branch.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 128.

## Gem Proof 1901 Quarter Eagle



(2x photo)

- 263 1901 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Deep yellow gold with frosty devices and mirror fields with light toning. A whisper of olive iridescence adds to the overall appeal. One of 223 Proofs of the date struck, by far the largest Proof figure of the design type. However, most have disappeared into limbo, and today one would be hard pressed to account for more than 100 different examples. Among these, relatively few have attained the Proof-65 number when submitted to a grading service.

Date logotype nicely impressed, first 1 in date about equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lowest serif over center of dentil below, 9 and 0 widely spaced, bottom of 9 higher than bottom of preceding 1, bottom of 0 noticeably higher than the bottoms of all other numerals, raised die lines seen on Liberty's neck and shoulder. Reverse die lines can be seen in the vertical shield stripes.

From Harmer-Rooke's sale of October 1970, Lot 3133.



## Superb Gem Proof 1902 \$2.50



(2x photo)

- 264 **1902 Proof-66 (PCGS).** A highly reflective yellow gold gem (see below). While the Proof mintage for the date is fairly high, with 193 examples being struck, the incidence of high-grade gems such as the present specimen is still quite low. A great opportunity to obtain one of the finest examples of the date extant.

PCGS Population: 5; 1 finer (Proof-67).

Date logotype nicely impressed, 1 in date about equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lowest serif over right edge of dentil below, a small raised lump is seen at the top curve of the 2.

Beginning in 1902, and lasting to the end of the design type in 1907, the portrait of Miss Liberty on quarter eagles has a reflective finish. The Proofs of 1901 and earlier have a cameo appearance as a result of frosted motifs and mirrored fields.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of September 1973, Lot 1112.

## Gem Proof 1903 Quarter Eagle



(2x photo)

- 265 **1903 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A glittering golden orange gem specimen of this popular date. Of the 197 Proofs of the date produced, probably no more than one third of that amount can be traced today. Again we mention that the Bass Collection offers a truly marvelous opportunity—a virtually complete presentation of splendid Proof coins from 1859 onward. Not only is the comprehensive aspect remarkable, but the quality is superb. Except in instances many decades ago when original gold Proof sets were brought out of hiding, uniform high quality such as in the Bass Collection has been rarely seen—except for scattered coins.

Apparently from a different obverse die than the Proof-65 example of the date we offered as Lot 632 in Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, October 1999. The date logotype on the present specimen is nicely impressed and well centered both horizontally and vertically, the 1 equidistant between the truncation above and dentils below, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil below, bottom of 3 somewhat distant from dentils as well.

In this year the person finishing the Proof dies at the Philadelphia Mint decided to lightly polish the portraits on the dies, more so on the quarter eagle series than in 1902 (when the portrait was polished for the first time).

As noted in our earlier description, this became standard for the rest of the Coronet Head quarter eagles.

From Harmer-Rooke's sale of October 1970, Lot 3136.

## Lovely Gem Proof 1904 Quarter Eagle



(2x photo)

- 266 **1904 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Rich golden orange with a modest cameo contrast; this date appears as such occasionally, perhaps more so than any other date after 1902. Scarcer than its mintage figure of 170 pieces indicates; probably only half that number can be accounted for today. Walter Breen noted that this date is "More often than not nicked and scratched and/or cleaned." This lovely high quality gem Proof is in direct contradiction to that statement!

Date logotype deeply impressed, bottom of 1 marginally closer to dentil than top of numeral is to truncation, left edge of lower serif close over center of dentil below. Portrait not as highly polished as on 1903 Proofs.

Purchased from Mike Kirzner, August 11, 1971.

## Choice Proof 1905 \$2.50



- 267 **1905 Proof-63 (PCGS).** Highly reflective yellow gold with some attractive olive iridescence noted. Of the 144 Proofs of the date struck, we estimate 100 or slightly more pieces may still be extant. The present piece is about par for a coin found in a fine collection of Proof gold—not up the level of the other Bass coins, but certainly able to hold its own with most other "name" cabinets.

Date logotype evenly impressed and nicely centered, both horizontally and vertically, bottom of 1 marginally nearer to dentils than top is to truncation, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil below, that dentil lightly "scooped" at the top to allow for the date's placement.

From Paramount's sale of February 1973, Lot 1004.



Lovely Gem Proof 1906 \$2.50



(2x photo)

**268 1906 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold with some attractive orange-gold highlights. The devices are somewhat frosty and present a modest cameo contrast, particularly on the reverse; this date is most often found fully reflective on devices and fields. One of 160 Proofs of the date struck, with perhaps 125 or so specimens known to exist today. The outstanding eye appeal and impeccable physical quality of this gem are certain to generate generous bidding competition.

Date logotype deeply impressed, date high, top of 1 very close to truncation, bottom distant from dentils, left edge of lower serif high over left edge of dentil, 9 and 6 closed, ball of each numeral connected to the loop. Two raised and somewhat prominent die lines can be seen near the rim at the fourth and fifth stars. Two other raised lines of equal prominence jut into the field from the upper bridge of Miss Liberty's nose, and several smaller lines descend downward from Liberty's chin, giving a "whiskered" effect to her portrait.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of September 1973, Lot 1122.

**269 1907 MS-63.** Lustrous honey gold with iridescent olive highlights. A pleasing coin for the grade.

Date logotype deeply impressed, date low, bottom left serif of 1 heavily joined to right edge of dentil, top distant from truncation, repunching seen in upper loop of 9, right top of 7 virtually touches truncation.

From New Netherlands' sale of April 1972, Lot 949.

Lovely Proof 1910 Quarter Eagle

"Roman Finish" Proof Surfaces



(2x photo)

**270 1910 Proof-64 (PCGS).** A delightful Proof with satiny yellow gold surfaces. Sharply defined devices and smooth fields. The mintage was reported as 682, a truly wild figure. Perhaps the first digit was transcribed in error and should have been 182 or 282 (see notes below).

From 1908 to 1915, with the exception of this 1910-dated issue, Proof mintages ranged from 100 to 236 coins, with an average of 164 coins per issue. Furthermore, the average PCGS population for these issues ranges from 34 to 90 coins with an average of 49 coins per issue. For 1910, PCGS has graded 58 coins. The table below illustrates total mintage and population, including our revised estimate of 182 coins for the 1910 issue. An alternative possible mintage of 282 coins is shown in italics.

Date	Mintage	PCGS Population	Percentage Certified
1908	236	90	38%
1909	139	36	26%
1910	182	58	32%
<i>1910</i>	<i>282</i>	58	<i>21%</i>
1911	191	61	32%
1912	197	36	18%
1913	165	36	22%
1914	117	53	45%
1915	100	34	34%

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, December 16, 1971.



## THREE-DOLLAR GOLD PIECES

Welcome to *paradise* in the \$3 gold series! The following offering, brief in length, is the numismatic equivalent of having an art sale that has nothing but Rembrandt paintings in it! From the first offered piece—a glittering Proof 1855 of immense rarity and breathtaking beauty—to the last—an amazing 1887 Proof with a “story” equaled by few other gold coins anywhere—this offering is one that will be remembered for all time. Of course, one must not *overlook* the 1875—the classic rarity of the entire \$3 series! Indeed, in the annals of numismatics the quality and completeness of a high-grade offering of \$3 pieces is usually judged by the presence or absence of the 1875 (one must forget about the unique 1870-S, the only known example of which is held by the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation). And, indeed, in the present sale the 1875 meets the test of quality and significance.

Conceived in legislation in 1853 and first coined in 1854, \$3 was envisioned to join the lineup of American gold denominations, which at the time included the \$1, \$2.50, \$5, \$10, \$20. It was said by some that the \$3 piece would facilitate the purchase in sheets of three-cent stamps and would also make it easy to buy a group of 100 silver three-cent *trime* coins, although such benefits seem tenuous at best—at least in retrospect.

Although hopes were high at the beginning and in 1854 the \$3 pieces were struck at the Philadelphia, Dahlonega, and New Orleans mints, the coins soon proved unpopular, mintages fell, and no more were struck at either Dahlonega or New Orleans. In the next year, 1855, \$3 pieces were struck in San Francisco, and coinage continued intermittently through 1860, seeing extensive service on the West Coast (seemingly more accepted in circulation than their cousins were in the East and Midwest, this based upon the amount of wear observed on extant coins).

Mintages declined and were generally small in the 1850s, as in the channels of commerce the \$3 was redundant to the somewhat close denomination of the \$2.50 quarter eagle. In a word, the \$3 pieces were a *nuisance* to commerce. This made them rare and, of course, they have been anything but a nuisance to numismatists! Indeed, *any* \$3 coin is scarce, some are rare, and some are extremely rare. After December 1861, such coins no longer circulated in the East and the Midwest, and mintages fell even further.

In December 1878, \$3 pieces once again circulated at par, and many were paid out into banking channels. However, they seemed to remain in bank vaults, not to actively enter commerce, and years later Henry Chapman would state on numerous occasions that much of the mintage of 1878, 1879, and 1880 went to the melting pot. For 1878 this did not make a great deal of difference, as the production was generous. However, the mintage figures for 1879 and 1880 were quite restricted to begin with.

Beginning in a significant way in the 1890s, many numismatists became interested in forming sets of \$3 pieces. Prominent in this regard was William H. Woodin, whose cabinet was *absolutely* complete (including the unique 1870-S). In 1911 the set was consigned to New York dealer Thomas L. Elder, who offered it at auction. Woodin was so excited with the results that he penned a long article in *The Numismatist* concerning the fantastic benefits of rare coin investment. Woodin was no ordinary observer. At the time he was the president of American Car & Foundry, manufacturer of railroad and other heavy equipment, and was one of America’s most successful and most prominent industrialists. A renaissance man before the term was invented, Woodin was interested in autographs, music, and numerous other pursuits, autographs, books, music, and other pursuits and, later in life, even composed a symphony and wrote a march. In 1933, newly inaugurated President Franklin D. Roosevelt named Woodin as his secretary of the Treasury, a post he held for nearly a year, until he was forced to resign for health reasons.

Today in the year 2000, the \$3 is as popular with numismatists as it has ever been. Among the various dates and mintmark varieties from 1854 to 1889 (excluding the 1870-S), the “stopper” is the 1875—of enduring fame and brilliance. Next in line for difficulty of acquisition is the 1876, followed by the rather curious (from a technical viewpoint) 1873. After that it is a horse race, with contenders including the 1854-D and several dates in the 1860s and 1870s, all of which are rare, and none of which is impossible to find—although choice pieces may take some effort.

Of all the later (after the early 1830s) gold series, Harry W. Bass, Jr. found the \$3 denomination to be the most fascinating. He kept quite a few notes on observations, a number of which will be shared in the *sylloge* or museum-style catalogue that we are preparing for the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation. There are multiple enigmas, some of which are discussed at length or at least touched upon by Walter Breen in his various writings, most particularly in his 1977 *Proof Coin Encyclopedia* and his 1988 *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*. More research attention has been paid to the nuances of the 1873 \$3 coinage than any other single date, but there are surprises with other years as well. And, who can disagree with our contention that the 1887 double-struck Proof \$3 in the present sale—the final lot in the \$3 offering—is of immense importance and of great curiosity value (we studied it for quite a long time under magnification during the cataloguing process).

Three-dollar gold coins from the Bass Collection, gathered and preserved with care, are now brought to the auction venue for *your* consideration.



## Landmark Proof 1855 \$3

From the Eliasberg Collection



271 **1855 Proof-64 (PCGS).** This impressive jewel has rich reflective greenish yellow fields with frosted bright yellow gold devices. Every detail is boldly rendered. A few very minor hair-line scratches are noted, including two faint scratches at left obverse. Perhaps just four examples are known, the others include the Garrett Collection coin, a third from the F.C.C. Boyd World's Greatest Collection sale, and a fourth offered as part of the Ed Trompeter Collection. First year of a subtype with larger letters in DOLLAR, a font that would continue through the end of this denomination in 1889.

In Thomas L. Elder's March 1911 offering of *this coin* as part of the William H. Woodin Collection, he stated: "1855 Brilliant yellow Proof. First one offered in this condition. Almost unique in this state." If Elder was discussing all previous auction offerings, rather than just those in his own sales, he overlooked at least three 19th-century appearances, including the 1864 McCoy Collection sale, 1883 Woodward 59th Sale, and 1895 Winsor Collection sale. The phrase "almost unique in this state" suggests he was aware of at least one other such coin.

Another interesting side note results from B. Max Mehl's offering of a Proof in his 1950 Golden Jubilee Sale of the Jerome Kern Collection. He stated "I can find no record of auction sale in the past several decades," apparently overlooking the Proof example he had sold six years earlier in his 1944 offering of the Belden E. Roach Collection

The importance of the present Proof 1855 \$3 piece cannot be overstated. As a class, Proofs of this denomination are not generally available until the dates of the 1880s, *except* the 1875 and 1876 (which are the most available of all issues before that time). It may well be the situation that *years* will elapse before

another auction offering of a Proof 1855. Thus, for the present coin the price paid is, of course, very important, but the *opportunity* may be even more so. The day after the sale the successful bidder will possess this coin, while many other serious numismatists may spend the rest of their lifetimes looking without success.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

(At this point we must confess that the research our team of a half dozen or more people has been doing on gold coins, with catalogues dating back to before 1860, has brought to light in one place more citations, old-time comments, and other information than no rare coin researcher or auctioneer—including ourselves—has ever had available before. Among inconsistencies are some in our own catalogues, which in the final text will be pointed out here and there—we mention this simply to be objective.)

On the obverse, full Proof surface is seen among all the letters and their interior parts except for the top of the first A (AMERICA) which is partly filled in, and *part* of the top of the second A. On the neck truncation, just the tops of the JBL initials are available, the rest apparently having been removed by the preparation of the mirror surface of the Proof die (alternatively, by light impressing of the master die).

On the reverse the high point of the right wreath ribbon is below the lower right of the first five; the date is closer to the wreath ribbon than to the letters above it. Date slopes very slightly down to the right, as measured by comparing the distances from the top of the 1 to the L (DOLLARS) above and the top of the second 5 to the letters AR above it. Die highly polished, inside leaf left of date partially missing for lower 2/3 of its distance, part of the right interior ribbon loop mostly missing, significant space at wreath apex. Similar to the obverse, the reverse was highly polished to create the mirror Proof surface.

*From Superior's sale Auction '85, July 1985, Lot 934. Earlier from our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, and from the William H. Woodin Collection (Thomas L. Elder, March 1911).*



## Delightful 1856-S \$3

From the Garrett Collection



- 272 **1856-S Small S. AU-58 (PCGS).** Reverse rotated very slightly counterclockwise. A lovely example with frosty yellow gold lustre. Sharply struck with most details boldly defined. Only a few very minor surface abrasions are noted. Walter Breen noted this variety with small mintmark to be very scarce, usually weak, and in low grades. This is the second San Francisco Mint issue of the denomination, and one of only a handful of collectible issues from this mint. Of 206 submissions graded by PCGS, only eight are finer than this. Among all coins graded by this service, the average grade is just 37.

In the past decade, only five finer examples have appeared for public auction sale. Current estimates suggest 350 to 500 survive in all grades, or just over 1% of the original mintage of 34,500 coins.

A new reference has made its debut: *United States Gold Coinage: Significant Auction Records, 1990-1999* has recently been published, surveying 322 auction sales from held from 1990 to 1999. Compiled by Jeff Garrett and John Dannreuther with Tom Mulvaney serving as project director, this reference is a valuable source of price and pedigree information. In addition, condition rarity and market availability can be derived from this information. As an example, this 1856-S issue is not a rare coin when all grades are considered, with 48 auction appearances last decade. However, just five Mint State appearances (two MS-64 and three MS-61) and four AU-58 sales appear in this listing.

*From our sale of the Garrett Collection, Part I, November 1979, Lot 419. Earlier from William Hesslein, January 20, 1920.*



- 273 **1856-S Small S. EF-45.** Light yellow gold with minor hairlines, perhaps from an old cleaning. Light abrasions and other imperfections are also noted. Another example of the very scarce Small Mintmark variety.

*Purchased from Superior, March 1978.*

## Amazing Gem Proof 1859 \$3

Tied for Finest PCGS Certified



(2x photo)

- 274 **1859 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A lovely cameo Proof with frosted bright yellow devices surrounded by reflective gold fields. Minor granular planchet imperfections, as made, in the obverse field give a slightly frosty appearance.

Probably only a dozen or fewer are known. Mintage is generally reported as 80 coins, however, most of these probably remained unsold and were melted. In Stack's 1962 sale of the Wolfson Collection, they suggested that only six to 10 were struck. Later, in 1995, Stack's reported that 80 were struck but only 35 sold. Only two auction appearances occurred in the past decade, one in Superior's sale of the Ed Trompeter Collection, the other in Stack's sale of October 1995.

It is readily seen that the present 1859 is not only incredibly important in view of its superb high grade, but also for its extreme rarity. Years may pass before another example of equivalent quality becomes available.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer.

Right outer curve of digit 9 is recut. A small raised lump between 3 and second L is the result of a clash mark from Liberty's ear.

*Purchased from Abe Kosoff, August 1973.*

## Mint State 1859 \$3



- 275 **1859 MS-60.** From same reverse die as the Proof in the previous lot with outer curve of digit 9 repunched. An attractive example with lustrous bright yellow gold surfaces and few minor abrasions. Just 15,558 were struck with only 40 to 60 Mint State survivors.

Obverse and reverse dies heavily clashed. On the obverse, traces of the wreath outline are seen in front of and behind the head of Miss Liberty and are quite fascinating to study under high magnification. *The reverse die is identical to that used to strike the preceding Proof*, a remarkable situation. This indicates that the Proof had to have been made at a later date. The reverse die in the present impression is clashed, with the clash mark from Liberty's ear being visible below the 3, but more prominent on this and on the Proof; the 9 is recut, at center. The outline of the portrait of Miss Liberty is seen incuse within the wreath. The leaf to the left of the date is intact, and the interior part of the ribbon bow to the right is complete. After relapping and high polishing, the clash marks of the Liberty portrait were removed, the leaf at the left became lighter, and part of the details within the wreath were lost, etc.

*From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 292.*



### Choice Proof 1865 \$3



(2x photo)

**276 1865 Proof-63 (PCGS).** This delightful Proof has light cameo contrast with reflective mirrored fields and lightly frosted devices. Some minor hairlines are noted, along with lint marks as minted. Regardless of its status as a circulation strike or Proof, this date is one of the most elusive in the entire series of three-dollar gold coins from 1854 to 1889. Just 25 Proofs were struck with approximately half surviving today. Only three auction appearances occurred in the 1990s.

This variety was described by Walter Breen as a restrike, with the obverse used on 1867 and 1868 Proofs. Possibly, however, this was the first year of use for this obverse die, with later use in 1867 and 1868. Our call, not that it makes any difference as the restrike is much rarer, is that the present coin is an original. The entire matter admits of more study, at the conclusion of which perhaps new conclusions will be drawn.

PCGS Population: 3; 7 finer (Proof-65 finest).

Die notes: Obverse from highly polished Proof die. Top interior part of E (UNITED) filled in; ditto for nearly all of top part of "A (STATES); ditto for top part of both A's (AMERICA). On truncation, most of J (JBL) visible except for lower right of curve, the B and L only about half visible.

Reverse with date level, closer to ribbon than to word above, with high part of ribbon being above lower right part of 6. Leaf to left of date complete, part of interior right ribbon detail missing. Wreath barely meets at apex.

*Purchased from Abe Kosoff, August 1973.*



**277 1866 AU-58.** A lovely example with lustrous deep yellow gold surfaces and light pinkish orange toning around certain peripheral details on the obverse. Minor hairlines and abrasions are noted, however, none are serious. A scarce date that is hard to find in nice quality. Just 4,000 coins were minted.

Date slants slightly down to the right (as measured from the tops of the digits to the letters above); right part of base of first 6 over highest part of ribbon.

*Purchased from RARCOA, February 1972.*



**278 1870 AU-58 PL.** Prooflike light yellow gold fields with very lightly frosted devices. Reminiscent of cameo Proofs of this era, however, this example is a circulation strike. Years ago it was common to designate such pieces as *Proof* in catalogues. Light hairlines and minor surface marks are noted. Only 3,500 were minted with very few survivors finer than this.

*From New Netherland's 61st Auction, June 1970, Lot 463.*

### Impressive Proof 1872 \$3



(2x photo)

**279 1872 Proof-64 (PCGS).** A lovely cameo Proof. A small streak of toning is just inside the left wreath branch, extending to the border at 11:00. This is a very elusive issue with just 30 Proofs struck in addition to 2,000 circulation strikes.

Over the years, relatively few Proofs of this date have ever appeared on the market—and often a long period of time will occur between auction presentations. The coin offered here displays superb visual appeal with rarity and the ever-present *opportunity* factor. All too soon, the Bass III sale will be a memory, and holders of the catalogue will consider it to be a "wish bone"—contemplating the treasures offered, and wishing that they had bid more to acquire them. We are already hearing this for coins in the Bass I and Bass II sales!

PCGS Population: 6; 2 finer (both Proof-65).

*From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 2222.*

### Important 1873 Closed 3 \$3

#### Classic Circulation Strike



(2x photo)

**280 1873 Closed 3. AU-58 (PCGS).** An attractive example with lightly reflective fields and lustrous devices. Minor abrasions are visible in the fields. Normal reverse die, not concave as on certain Proofs. Although the present piece displays prooflike surfaces, it also has *raised die striae*, and is believed by us to be a circulation strike, not a Proof. This issue is very rare, whether Proof or circulation strike. Perhaps 50 to 60 examples exist in all grades from an unknown original mintage, as this issue was not included in the *Mint Report*.

Among circulation strikes this is one of the nicest we have seen in a long time. Typically, circulation strikes are seen at the EF level and with nicks and marks.

The "situation" with 1873 \$3 pieces has been widely discussed in the literature including by Harry X Boosel, Walter Breen, David Akers, and the present editor (QDB); for an overview see our *Eliasberg U.S. Gold Coin Collection*, 1982.



Today in 2000 the matter is hardly settled, and it is not known whether there are restrikes in addition to originals, and if so, how they can be differentiated, and when the restrikes may have been made. Further, although it seems likely that several hundred 1873 Closed 3 \$3 pieces were minted and placed into general circulation, the *Annual Report of the Director of the Mint* is completely silent and mentions no such coins. Further, it is conventional wisdom that among *Proof* gold coins of the year 1873, all have the Closed 3 date digit. *However*, certain 1873 *Proof* \$3 coins known to have been distributed early in 1873 as part of full gold sets have the *Open* 3. The present commentaries are simply an introduction to the situation; as noted, a fuller explanation can be given elsewhere.

The present piece is believed by us to be a circulation strike, not a *Proof*. For the record some die characteristics are given herewith:

Obverse: Struck from highly polished, prooflike dies. Top of A (STATES) mostly filled in, exhibiting only a small depression. Top of first A (AMERICA), complete interior of R, and top of second A filled in. Upper 75% of JBL monogram visible. Some raised marks at top of neck near jaw, minor. Some raised marks near bottom of neck.

Reverse: Die with vertical striations, leaf left of date partially missing, interior of right ribbon partially missing but more visible than on most *Proofs* of various dates. Wreath apex with space. 3 with slightly doubled outline. Bottom of 7 to left of highest face of ribbon.

Description of four-digit Closed 3 date logotype: 1 with wide serifs, very close to 8; 73 close but distinctly separated, 87 slightly wider than 73. Top and bottom interior of 8s approximately the same size; 8 leans slightly right. 3 with top knob more prominent than bottom knobs fairly close, base of 3 high.

*Purchased from Abe Kosoff, August 1973.*

## Wonderful Gem Proof 1874 \$3

Tied for Finest PCGS Certified  
An American Numismatic Classic



281 **1874 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Attractive cameo *Proof* with frosty yellow gold devices surrounded by reflective deep yellow fields. A few very minor hairlines are noted, along with a small patch of very fine planchet granularity. Although 1874-dated circulation strikes are among the most common of this denomination, *Proofs* are an entirely different story. Just 20 such coins were struck with 10 to 14 surviving today. Numerous “*Proofs*” have appeared in past auction sales, however, it is probable that many of these were actually prooflike circulation strikes.

In the lineup of *Proof* \$3 coins, the 1874 ranks very high—an American numismatic classic offered only when great specialized collections come to market. As a matter of interest, significantly more of the famous 1875 *Proofs* have appeared in sales over the years, and exist today, than do *Proofs* dated 1874! Long existing in the shadow of the 1875, and with its limelight taken away somewhat by the availability of circulation strikes, the *Proof* has been an orphan. Today, an enlightened generation of buyers recognize exactly how rare the *Proof* 1874 \$3 is. This, in combination with the elegant *quality* of the present coin, yields a piece that is one of the most important in the present offering.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

On the obverse the top of the first A (STATES) is filled in. The top of the first A (AMERICA), about a third of the top of the R, and some *slight* part of the second A are filled in. First left feather in headdress with polished background, isolating just the veins, a situation somewhat reminiscent of contemporary *Proof dollars*. Initials JBL on truncation about 40% visible at their tops. Some tiny evidence of die rust in field past second A (AMERICA), visible only under high magnification. Slight die polishing at front of neck, particularly at the point it joins the jaw. A few raised dots are seen on the neck, as are some disconnected diagonal die lines mainly opposite the front of the second curl.

Reverse from highly polished *Proof* die. Interior of left ribbon bow completely filled in and bottom of right interior filled in, quite unusual for *any Proof* in the series. Date logotype about centered between DOLLARS and highest point of ribbon bow, with highest point of ribbon directly below lower left serif of 4.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 1974.*

## Attractive Mint State 1874 \$3



282 **1874 MS-62 (PCGS).** A delightful prooflike circulation strike in light yellow gold. Pleasing cameo contrast on both obverse and reverse. A few very minor imperfections, including hairlines and abrasions, are normal for the MS-62 grade, and are precisely why the coin is not graded higher. An attractive type coin, with the third highest overall population of any \$3 gold issue, behind 1878 and 1854.

Perhaps the microscopic defects that we often describe as planchet granularity are actually a characteristic of the coinage dies. If several coins show similar defects in exactly the same location, defying the odds of planchets being similarly placed in the die, one after another, then we must assume that such defects are actually in the die itself.

From a different die pair from the preceding, as is logical. The date is lower, closer to the ribbon bow than to the word above it, with the highest point of the ribbon bow between the bottoms of 7 and 4 (1874). Lower left interior of ribbon bow completely filled in, lower right interior of ribbon bow about half filled in—the same characteristic is seen on the *Proofs*.

*From Superior's sale of December 1972, Lot 1915.*



## Famous 1875 \$3 Rarity

Key to the Date Series

An American Numismatic Classic



283 **1875 Proof-64 (PCGS).** A lovely Proof with richly lustrous, deep yellow gold devices and reflective greenish gold fields. Just a whisper of deep orange patina is noted. A beautiful specimen of one of the great classics in American numismatics—far and away the rarest *date* in the entire \$3 series 1854-1889, and on an absolute basis, exceeded in rarity only by the unique 1870-S. Year in and year out, generation after generation, a fine collection of \$3 pieces has been defined by the presence or absence of the 1875.

Three-dollar gold coins of 1875 are only known in Proof quality. Both originals and restrikes were described by Walter Breen in his *Complete Encyclopedia*. He noted that originals have the same obverse used for 1874 Proofs. Perhaps 10 to 12 examples survive with this description. Breen's restrikes are from dies which exhibited prominent rust marks on OL of DOLLARS with 12 to 15 examples known. We cannot dispute the total of 22 to 27 coins, however, feel the mintage is closer to 50 coins, including both varieties. Regardless of specific totals known or minted, actual time of mintage is not specifically identified, with the exception of February 13, as recorded by Breen.

Walter Breen raised the thought that although 20 Proofs were reported to have been delivered on February 13, 1875, some additional pieces were made later. These later pieces are sometimes called "restrikes," but it is not at all certain whether they were made after 1875 or within the year 1875, but later

than February 13. Research is ongoing. To a large percentage of potential buyers, this entire point is moot and perhaps should not even be mentioned. Indeed, the vast majority of American auction catalogues, including those of recent times, don't even take up the question. However, we like to be technical, feeling that this contributes to the overall desirability of a specific issue.

As to whether the present piece is an "original" or a "re-strike" cannot be determined with precision. Printed data including that by Walter Breen, vary. The present piece is definitely from the obverse used to coin the 1874 Proof \$3. By this definition the coin qualifies for an original by Breen. However, the reverse does have some raised "rust marks" at OL (DOLLARS), which per Breen puts it into the restrike category. Concerning the date position, our evaluation of it is given in the notes below.

Harry W. Bass studied this piece and stated that the obverse is the same as that used to strike the Proof 1873 Open 3 gold coins (which are known to have been included in the full gold Proof sets of that year). The reverse was noted by Harry as having raised "rust humps" on part of DOLLARS, suggesting a restrike connection.

As is seen, the difference between "originals" and "restrikes" is a bit fuzzy as per contemporary literature, and perhaps if more details are learned from *other* specimens, the situation would become more clear.



In the meantime, and forever, the 1875 \$3 stands tall and proud as *the* coin that everyone wants, but few people can have!

The Bass Collection offered here is from the Louis Eliasberg Collection. A finer pedigree cannot be imagined!

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (Proof-65).

Further notes regarding this coin are by present cataloguers (Mark Borckardt and Dave Bowers) with the incorporation of certain notes gathered years ago by Harry W. Bass, Jr.:

Obverse from the identical die used to coin the Proof 1874 \$3 earlier offered, but with some minor differences in characteristics. On the present coin the bottom of the first S (STATES) and top of A are filled in. The top of the first A (AMERICA), part of the top of the R, and partially the top of the final A are filled in. Minor microscopic raised marks are seen in the field

past the final A. Truncation letters JBL visible only at the tops. Same die characteristics as described for the 1874, with some raised areas, light Proof polish at the top of the neck, diagonal lines on the neck in front of the second curl, etc.

Reverse die: field highly polished, opening at wreath apex, lower left of wreath ribbon filled in and left 40% of right ribbon interior filled in—interesting characteristics. Leaf at left of date intact. Date 1875 low and slants very slightly down to the right. 1 (1875) is closer to the left serif of the L directly above it than the 5 is to the right stand of the A above it. On the uprights of the O and first L are some scarcely visible “lumps” which Walter Breen has described as “prominent rust marks.”

*From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., Collection, October 1982, Lot 301. Earlier from the Charles S. Wilcox Collection (Chapman brothers), November 1901; John H. Clapp Collection.*

## Lovely Choice Proof 1881 \$3

Classic Rarity  
Incredible Low Mintage



(2x photo)

284 **1881 Proof-64 (PCGS).** A wonderful cameo Proof with bright yellow gold devices and deeply reflective fields. This is one of the rarest three-dollar gold coins regardless of manufacturing method. Just 500 circulation strikes and 54 Proofs were struck. Perhaps 15% of the circulation strikes survive today, and about half the Proofs. All told, the surviving population in all qualities is fewer than 100 coins. Since all known circulation strikes have prooflike surfaces, many have been confused with actual Proofs. Resultant from this, true Proofs such as that offered here are much rarer than generally believed.

Year in and year out, the 1881 \$3 has been the apple of the eye of many a connoisseur. Most have had to be content with such grades as EF, AU, or lower grade Proofs. The present coin is indeed exceptional, combining high numerical designation with generous eye appeal—a delightful specimen of one of the great classics.

Obverse: Deep mirror surfaces generating the familiar “orange peel” fields typical of Proofs of this era. Top of A (STATES) filled; top of first A (AMERICA) and part of top of second A filled. Initials JBL on truncation vary from about 80% of the first letter, J, to about half of the final, L. The portrait has polished Proof surface below the ear and on the neck and the intersection between the first and second curls.

Reverse with die highly polished, space at wreath apex, inner parts of wreath bows brilliant, including at the center (more so than on typical earlier-dated Proofs), leaf at left intact. Date 1881 low and slanting up to the right (as measured by the distance from the first 1 to the O (DOLLARS) above and the distance from the second O to the right foot of A; highest point of ribbon over right side (not edge) of second 8.

*Purchased from Abe Kosoff, August 1973.*

## Attractive Cameo Proof 1882 \$3



(2x photo)

285 **1882 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Normal date without repunched 2, characteristic only of Proof examples. Deep greenish gold fields surround lightly frosted yellow devices. A delightful cameo Proof example for the specialist or type collector. Very slight scuff marks are noted on Miss Liberty’s cheek and are no doubt why PCGS did not grade this as Proof-65 or Proof-66. Overall this is a truly *gorgeous* specimen, one of the very finest we have ever seen—from a combination of a high technical grade plus aesthetic appeal. Another rarity (as are all Proof three-dollar gold coins) with only 25 to 35 examples known from a mintage of just 76. Note: for the entire run of Proofs from 1854 through 1889, fewer than 1,000 exist today.

The top (flat) surface of 188 in the date have tiny abrasions that may have been a characteristic of the die. On no other point of the design are similar abrasions found. *Gorgeous!*

Obverse Proof from different die than the earlier-described 1881. Left interior bottom of E (UNITED) partly filled. Top of A (STATES) filled. Top of first A (AMERICA), top and bottom of R, and top of second A filled. Initials JBL on truncation are nearly complete for the first and last letter and with the B about 75% complete. No areas of Proof polish in the die below ear or in front of curls.

Reverse with date level, slightly closer to ribbon than to word above. Interior leaf at left intact. Opening at wreath apex. Interior parts of ribbon bows polished left and right, less so at the center, partly frosty at the band rising within at the left. In date, top of 8 partially filled. 2 perfect (not repunched).

*Purchased from Abe Kosoff, August 1973.*



Incredible Quality 1887 \$3

PCGS Proof-66

Tied for Finest Certified



(2x photo)

286 **1887 Proof-66 (PCGS).** This superb gem example has nearly flawless watery fields and lustrous, bright yellow gold devices. A coin for the connoisseur. Clearly the highlight, in the terms of ultrahigh grading numbers, of the present offering of Proof \$3 gold coinage. Toward the end of this denomination, Proof mintages (and thus current populations) steadily increased. For 1887, 160 Proofs were struck with approximately 50 to 60 known today. Even this quantity of known survivors is rare in the numismatic scheme of things. Consider, for example, that such a population is about 1/10th of that of the famous Proof 1895 Morgan dollar.

This is the second similarly graded example we have handled in the past year. Last August, we sold an example from the Childs Collections, also graded Proof-66. A few other examples have received a similar grade, with all of these representing the finest known examples. Reverse die about 160° different from the obverse (as opposed to the normal 180°).

PCGS Population: 9; none finer.

Obverse: Top of A (STATES) partially filled. Top of first A (AMERICA) filled; top of second A with a small amount of Proof surface, more so than typically seen on any Proof. Initials JBL with J nearly complete, B about 50% present, and L about 60% present. Unusually smooth and satiny facial features.

Reverse: Wreath apex barely closed. Leaf left of date intact. 1887 quite low and with high point of ribbon over lower right interior edge of second 8. Interior of wreath bows, including center, with high Proof polish. A pair of "showcase" Proof dies from a technical viewpoint—much care having been taken in their preparation. On the date, the high parts of the first two digits are somewhat irregular, probably from the die not filling completely. All of the numerals are slightly rounded on their top surfaces, in contrast with the plane surfaces of the next offered lot.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 789.

Intriguing Triple Struck 1887 \$3

Choice Cameo Proof



(2x photo)

287 **1887 Breen-6403. Triple Struck. Proof-64 (PCGS).** Arguably the most interesting coin in the present catalogue! Choice cameo Proof with greenish gold fields and frosty yellow gold devices. A few minor abrasions are noted.

Completely triple struck with the reverse die inverted between impressions. The obverse doubling is offset about one millimeter while the reverse is perfectly inverted. A third strike is also visible. Three varieties of 1887 Proof \$3 exist, based on die alignment. A few Proofs are known with medallic alignment, many more with normal coin alignment, and two or three (including the coin offered here) struck once with medallic alignment and then with coin alignment, the reverse die (or the obverse die as the results would be the same) being rotated 160° between strikings (should be 180°, and sometimes noted as such in the literature, but the die alignment is the same as the preceding lot and is slightly off register from 180°). The first catalogue appearance of this variety of which we are aware was in Lester Merkin's November 1965 sale.

Notes by Harry W. Bass, Jr., below tell us more about this exciting coin.

BASS NOTES: PROOF. Twice minted! First, struck with medal die alignment, upset 180° [sic; actually 160° is closer] as 1(a)/A(b). Then restruck twice with dies in normal coin alignment. OBV. TWO previous strikings preceding final striking. One earlier strike evidenced by portions of letter images slightly to right of final letters. Another earlier strike evidenced by additional portions of letter images appearing well to right of final letters, that of (C)A being almost entirely visible. In particular, note UNITED and AMERICA. Locations will vary as these images result from hand placement of the flan into the press. Thin vertical die lines in front of ear and small curl, as well as one below ear lobe. Diagonal line connects TY. 50% of J.B.L. visible. REV. TWO prior strikings here as well. One with images of devices upset 180°, the other oriented as final strike but rotated a bit. Second 8 centered over loop below.

From Stack's sale of the Ullmer Collection, May 1974, Lot 431.



## HALF EAGLES

Welcome to the half eagles in the Bass III Sale. As you probably expect, a wonderful treat awaits you!

The offering begins with the first year of issue, 1795, and continues from there, offering selected earlier pieces after which the selection becomes extensive and truly memorable. The area of numismatic elegance in the pages to follow is in the Coronet Head series, in which Charlotte, Dahlonaga, New Orleans, and San Francisco pieces are offered in extraordinarily high quality—often accompanied by additional features such as interesting logotype variations, repunchings, and die states. For the specialist, the Coronet Head half eagles from 1839 onward represent a dream come true—the opportunity to compete via this catalogue for coins that Harry Bass took 30 years to consider, hand select, and purchase. For specialists and for future reference, many notes have been made concerning die peculiarities and die states. As if this serving of numismatic pleasures is not sufficient, scarce and rare Carson City coins beckon.

For the more casual, yet enthusiastic collector the presentation offers the possibility to add to a basic set of dates and mintmarks. Among all 19th-century coins, Charlotte and Dahlonaga half eagles have been especially popular for a long time. There are no “impossible” rarities with which to contend, but many pieces are very elusive—particularly in the high grades offered in the Bass Collection. The New Orleans pieces are often every bit as rare as their counterparts from the mints in North Carolina and Georgia, but are not as noticed by the numismatic fraternity, and thus are apt to be less expensive. Perhaps this translates into an *opportunity* to obtain some truly fine pieces while the market isn’t looking. The same can be said for the San Francisco coins. There are many scarce and rare pieces the significance of which is not widely appreciated by catalogue listings or the general market. Over the years some of the finest collections have been formed to advantage by purchasing at times when others were distracted by more popular things. So it may be for certain of the Coronet Head half eagles. And, the Philadelphia Mint coins also offer many interesting varieties and purchase possibilities.

Apart from *Walter Breen’s Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* and the specialized works by Douglas Winter, little is available in print concerning die peculiarities of Coronet Head coins. The field is untapped, and even with the

excellent Winter books at hand, a specialist can soon find an unlisted variety or two—it has happened many times. In contrast, for the collector of early copper cents 1793-1814 it would be a *lifetime achievement* to find a new variety. The point of this is that today at the Bass Collection sale, there is an opportunity to acquire scarce, rare, interesting, and sometimes unlisted pieces—coins that will be enjoyed for a long time. During the cataloguing of these pieces Mark Borckardt and the editor (QDB) lingered long over many of the coins—sometimes comparing notes, other times taking a second or third look under a stereomicroscope, still other times jotting down notes for posterity. All of this has been very enjoyable.

The half eagles collected by Harry W. Bass, Jr. are now awaiting your perusal, consideration, and bids. Welcome to one of the most interesting, most extensive series in 19th-century numismatics.

### Pleasing 1795 Small Eagle \$5



- 288 **1795 Breen-6412, Breen-2C. Rarity-5. Small Eagle. AU-50.** Surfaces lightly polished long ago. Overall, this is a very attractive half eagle issue—the first federal American gold coin. For many years this date has been highly regarded as a true classic. Today, 12 varieties of 1795 Small Eagle \$5 are known to exist, furnishing an arena for study that has captured the interest and imagination of such scholars as J.C. Randall (the first to delineate die varieties), William H. Woodin, John H. Clapp, Edgar H. Adams, and Walter H. Breen (seemingly, one needs to have an “H” as a middle name in order to accomplish much of this study!). As is true of other gold coins of the period, each 1795 was struck from hand-cut dies with many idiosyncrasies including differences in the placement of stars and letters, arrangements of berries in the wreath, etc.

Although the mintage was posted as 8,707 coins, little attention was paid to striking coins in the calendar year covered by each *Mint Report*. Thus, it is quite likely that given the number of dies and varieties, some of the mintage figures for later years also include coins bearing the 1795 date.

On the obverse there is extensive evidence of die rust, most prominent in the lower areas of the curls and in and about stars 1-3.

*From New Netherlands’ sale of June 1970, Lot 467.*



## Outstanding 1795 Heraldic Eagle \$5

An American Classic



(2x photo)

- 289 1795 Breen-6423, B-7X. Rarity-5+. Heraldic Eagle. MS-61 (PCGS). An attractive, sharply struck example of this rarity with very slight central weakness. Greenish gold surfaces are very slightly reflective. Few very minor surface marks are noted.

For many years, indeed *generations*, a 1795 Heraldic Eagle, or *Large Eagle* as it used to be called, has been recognized as one of the foremost rarities in the early eagle series. One can peruse any number of 19th-century catalogues and find this variety conspicuous by its absence or, when offered, the subject of enthusiastic commentary. Today it is recognized that there are three die varieties known, of which B-7X is the one most often encountered, but with offerings being widely spaced. The exact number known of B-7X is not known, but the cataloguer (Mark Borckardt) estimates that perhaps up to 40 could be accounted for, with perhaps a dozen or two others. Of the few examples of B-7X that have passed through our hands, the present coin is the finest we recall, and is certainly one of the best known anywhere. In Part II of the Bass Collection, Lot 716 was an example from the same die pair, graded AU-58.

It is not known when the 1795-dated half eagles with the Heraldic Eagle reverse were made, but a likely scenario is in 1797 or 1798, after the Small Eagle coinage was completed. Further establishment of an emission sequence will help pinpoint the time. Elsewhere in numismatics, the Heraldic Eagle motif made its debut on federal coinage with the 1796 quarter eagle, but it was hardly a new design at that time, having been adapted from the Great Seal of the United States, and used elsewhere (certain Washington pieces of 1791-1792 come to mind). The writer is engaged in a study of early gold coins in connection with the *sylloge* being prepared for the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation, and perhaps for an expanded "popular" text, as well as working with Dave Bowers on the gold coin book series. Already, much information has come to light, and doubtless there is more to be found.

Earlier die state than Lot 716 from Part II of the Bass Collection. The obverse has a light die crack through the cap and hair curls, very faintly past star 10 to the border at 10:30. Reverse has several thin die cracks towards 6:00, through ICA and tail feathers, claw holding branch, and arrows. An unfinished area is noted between the vertical shield stripes.

From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 329.

## Outstanding 1798 Half Eagle

14 Reverse Stars



- 290 1798 Breen-6427, B-2C. Rarity-6. 14 Stars. AU-55 (PCGS). Lustrous light yellow gold with a hint of orange patina. Moderate surface marks are noted. A well-centered example of this rare and popular variety. This is the third example from the Bass Collection to cross the auction block and only the 11th offering of this variety by our firm.

Die state equivalent to Lot 725 from Bass II. The reverse is cracked with considerable design detail missing due to lapping and polishing of the die.

This star count was a die cutting blunder, as by 1798 the number had been standardized at 13, representing the original colonies.

From Superior's 1975 ANA Sale, Lot 1498.

## Important 1799 Half Eagle

Small Reverse Stars



(2x photo)

- 291 1799 Breen-6435, B-3E. Rarity-4. Recut 9. MS-61 (PCGS). Lustrous greenish gold with slightly reflective fields and light cameo contrast. A few very minor marks are noted on both obverse and reverse. Half eagles of this coinage date are considerably scarcer than often recognized, as this is not a publicized rarity. Very few Mint State examples are known, possibly only 20 to 30 in all grades.

The obverse has a faint crack from border to left top of B, left base of same letter, through the cap and hair, to the border left of digit 1. Another minor crack from the border at 4:30 joins the drapery. Reverse has a short crack from the border to left side of A in STATES.



### Mint State 1800 Half Eagle



292 1800 Breen-6438, B-1D. Rarity-4. MS-62 (PCGS). A lovely example with bright yellow gold lustre and reflective fields, fully prooflike in nature. A few very minor hairlines are present. Sharply struck with considerable aesthetic appeal.

Two obverse dies exist, this with blunt 1 in date, and another with pointed 1. The latter is very rare. Half eagles of 1800 begin an era of higher populations. In addition to 37,628 half eagles coined in calendar year 1800, an additional 26,006 coins were coined in 1801. All 63,634 coins were likely dated either 1799 or 1800.

Light obverse clash marks are present. A minor obverse crack connects the right upright of I with bases of BER. Reverse die is perfect.

*From Superior's 1975 ANA Sale, Lot 1499.*

### Prooflike 1800 Half Eagle



293 1800 Breen-6438, B-1D. Rarity-4. AU-58 (PCGS). Fully prooflike fields with light die striae. Moderate surface abrasions and hairline scratches are noted and were factored in by PCGS when assigning the grade. A pleasing candidate for the date or type collector, a coin with a lot of "life."

Light obverse clash marks are present. A minor obverse crack connects the right upright of I with bases of BER. The reverse has a short crack from border to top of R.

*From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 2250. Earlier from Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968.*

### Attractive 1800 Half Eagle



294 1800 Breen-6438, B-1D. Rarity-4. AU-55. Frosty light yellow gold with a hint of reflective prooflike surfaces. Sharply struck with only very minor abrasions. The present sale offers three different 1800 half eagles, each from the same die pair.

Light obverse clash marks are present. A minor obverse crack connects the right upright of I with bases of BER. Perfect reverse.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 17, 1971.*

### Lovely 1802/1 Half Eagle

#### High Overdate



295 1802/1 Breen-6440, B-2I. Rarity-4. High Overdate. MS-62 (PCGS). A delightful example of this overdate variety with brilliant, frosty greenish gold lustre and very pleasing surfaces for the grade. Very faint adjustment marks cross OF and the cloud below. Of all nine 1802/1 varieties, the total Mint State population is estimated at 55 to 85 coins. Only two obverse dies are known for the 1802/1 overdate coinage. The first is described as the Low Overdate, and is known in combination with five reverse dies. The second, offered here, is the High Overdate, known in combination with four reverse dies. Only one reverse die has been seen with both obverse dies.

Obverse clash marks are visible at Liberty's ear. Reverse cracked through UNIT with moderate clash marks.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 3, 1973.*

296 1802/1 Breen-6440, B-2I. Rarity-4. High Overdate. Net AU-50; sharpness of AU-58, lightly polished. Bright greenish yellow gold surfaces. A third 1802/1 half eagle offered in the present sale, all three from the same die combination.

Obverse clash marks are visible at Liberty's ear. Reverse cracked through UNIT with light clash marks.

*From Superior's sale of the Charles Ruby Collection, Part I, February 1974, Lot 1789A.*

### Lustrous 1802/1 Half Eagle



297 1802/1 Breen-6440, B-2I. Rarity-4. High Overdate. AU-50. Pleasing light greenish yellow gold with minor surface marks. Considerable lustre remains on obverse and reverse. A pleasing example of the High Overdate obverse.

Obverse has light clash marks. Reverse has a faint crack through UNIT.

*From Abner Kreisberg's sale of the John H. Beck Collection, Part II, February 1976, Lot 355.*

### Mint State 1803/2 Half Eagle

#### Broken T in LIBERTY



298 1803/2 Breen-6441, B-1D. Rarity-4. Overdate. MS-62 (PCGS). A lovely Mint State example with frosty, lustrous orange-gold surfaces. Sharply struck with minimal abrasions. An attractive



date or type collectors' coin. Not a rarity. However, B-1D is quite scarce in Mint State with an estimated population of 80 to 120 coins, distributed across four known varieties.

Perfect obverse and reverse.

From Pine Tree's sale of March 1974, Lot 144.

### Desirable 1803/2 Half Eagle

Perfect T in LIBERTY



- 299 **1803/2 Breen-6441, B-2D. Rarity-4. Overdate. AU-55.** Lustrous bright greenish gold with light surface marks. A few very minor rim bruises are noted. From the second overdate obverse, more common than once believed. When Walter Breen prepared his monographs, only one obverse die was identified, with or without a crack through the date. Eventually, it was *rediscovered* that two different overdate obverse dies exist, the second considered quite rare. It is now known that this second obverse is relatively common. Interestingly, in 1885 W. Elliot Woodward described 1803/2 half eagles from two different dies: "1803 No. 1 Die altered from 1802" and "1803 No. 2 Die altered from another 1802."

Obverse has a die crack through base of the date, lighter than generally seen, extending very faintly to left and right of date digits. Reverse lightly cracked from border through E of AMERICA to wing.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1934.

### Pleasing Mint State 1804 \$5

Blundered Date



- 300 **1804 Breen-6442, B-1B. Rarity-5+. Small Over Large Date. MS-62 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with reflective greenish gold lustre and wisps of deep coppery toning. A few minor abrasions are noted. When this obverse die was engraved, numeral punches intended for eagles were first used, then the die was lapped to remove as much of the erroneous 180 as possible, with new smaller numerals entered.

Perfect obverse. The reverse has two prominent die cracks. First, from bottom of O, crossing cloud 7, scroll, eagle's wing and right shield border, to tip of leaf below. Second, from star 2, through stars 7 and 12, to scroll, left shield border, wing, and arrows. A few small rust lumps are noted.

From RARCOA's sale of the Kaufman Collection, August 1978, Lot 788.

### Lovely 1804 Half Eagle

Small Date



- 301 **1804 Breen-6443, B-3E. Small Date. AU-58.** Bright yellow gold with slightly reflective obverse and reverse fields with very slight splashes of faint orange toning. Light to moderate surface marks are present on obverse and reverse. Similar quality to Lot 759 of Bass II.

The obverse has a crack from the border through star 10 to Liberty's mouth, curving down through her cheek and hair, to digit 8 and the border. The reverse has a crack from the border at 3:00, through E of AMERICA, left wing, shield, right wing, and scroll, to border at 10:00. Die state similar to Bass II, Lot 760.

Purchased from Abuer Kreisberg, April 13, 1972.

### Delightful 1805 Half Eagle



- 302 **1805 Breen-6445, B-3D. Rarity-4. Close Date. MS-63 (PCGS).** A lovely choice Mint State example with satiny greenish yellow gold lustre and few very minor abrasions. This is probably the most common of all 1805 half eagle die varieties. However, it is still only known to the extent of 100 to 150 coins.

Bisecting obverse crack from left foot of B, through bust, to digit 0 and border. Reverse has a rim break on U, along with a crack from the right top of N joining tops of ITE.

Purchased from Steve Ivy, August 28, 1978.

### Pleasing 1805 Half Eagle



- 303 **1805 Breen-6445, B-3D. Rarity-4. Close Date. AU-58 (PCGS).** Frosty greenish gold with nearly full lustre remaining on both obverse and reverse. A lovely example for the date or type collector.

Bisecting obverse crack from left foot of B, through bust, to digit 0 and border. Reverse has a rim break on U, along with a crack from the right top of N joining tops of ITE.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 336.



## Lustrous 1805 Half Eagle

Close Date



- 304 1805 Breen-6445, B-3B. Rarity-4+. Close Date. AU-55. Light greenish yellow gold with minor surface abrasions. A pleasing example with considerable lustre. Slight central weakness, otherwise, all details are very sharp. Only two reverse dies are known for half eagles of 1805, Breen's reverses B and D, with both offered in the present sale. The literature has described up to five different reverse descriptions for these two dies.

Bisecting obverse crack from left foot of B, through bust, to digit 0 and border. Light die rust is visible at LI.

From Lester Merkin's sale of October 1969, Lot 425.

## Important Mint State 1806 \$5

Breen-3D Rarity

Scarce "Pointed 6" Style



(2x photo)

- 305 1806 Breen-6447, B-3D. Rarity-6+. Pointed 6, Stars 8X5. MS-63 (PCGS). A lovely example with deep orange-gold lustre and few minor surface marks. Some central weakness with sharp peripheral details. Three examples appeared in Bass II, Lots 771, 772, and 775. This example is finer than any of those, and may be finest known for this die marriage.

Obverse has a thin vertical die crack through cap and hair. Reverse has a retained cud over T of UNITED.

During more than three decades of collecting, Harry W. Bass, Jr., was given first chance at many items offered by private treaty, and, in addition, was an active participant either personally or through agents at just about every important sale containing gold coins. Early half eagles were among his favorites, and he often felt that if one piece was nice to own, two were nicer yet, and three were even more enjoyable. These furnished objects of study and comparison while at the same time were an excellent store of monetary value.

Regarding the half eagles of 1806, they have been divided into the "Pointed 6" and "Round Top 6" styles. This nomenclature does not do justice to the differences involved, as it indicates simply the style of a single numeral. Much more important is the basic arrangement of the stars on the obverse, which on the Pointed 6 is 8 to the left, and 5 to the right, while on the Round Top 6 the stars are 7 to the left and 6 to the right. Of the two styles, the variety with 8X5 stars—the Pointed 6—is by far the more elusive, this being especially true in high grades. Some of the largest "name" collections offered during the past century have lacked an example in Mint State.

Purchased from A-Mark, March 16, 1978.

## Pleasing 1806 Half Eagle

Round Top 6



- 306 1806 Breen-6448, B-5E. Rarity-3-. Round Top 6, Stars 7X6. AU-58 (PCGS). Lustrous greenish gold with a hint of orange patina. Considerable central weakness, especially on the reverse. Surfaces have a few minor marks and light scratches.

Perfect obverse. Minor reverse clash marks and a crack through left up-right of N, cross arrows. This is very faint.

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of January 1975, Lot 360.

## Lustrous 1806 Half Eagle

Round Top 6



- 307 1806 Breen-6448, B-5E. Rarity-3-. Round Top 6, Stars 7X6. AU-58 (PCGS). Bright yellow gold with a hint of green. Nearly complete lustre remains, with only a few very minor imperfections. Clearly the most available variety among Draped Bust half eagles. However, in the general context of American coins, a specimen of which a few hundred pieces are known is rare on an absolute basis.

Faint reverse clash marks only.

Regarding the pedigree, John Beck was one of the most active buyers of gold coins from about the 1890s until the early 1920s. A Pittsburgh industrialist, Beck spent his free time collecting many different interesting things, somewhat reminiscent of Col. Mendes I. Cohen. Similar to Harry W. Bass, Jr., Beck enjoyed acquiring pieces in multiples. Perhaps he was the successor to Thomas Cleney, the Cincinnati collector whose coins were sold at auction in 1890, who also enjoyed quantities and groups. In Beck's own era, Virgil M. Brand, the Chicago brewer, was a coin hoarder, and to a lesser extent George H. Earle, a Philadelphia banker, did likewise. Each of these individuals or their estates or heirs came to realize that placing money in gold coins was one of the best possible investments that could have been made.

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of the John Beck Collection, Part II, February 1976, Lot 369.



## Important 1807 Draped Bust \$5

Late Die State



- 308 1807 Breen-6449, B-1A. Rarity-5. Bust Right. AU-58. Frosty light yellow gold with nearly complete lustre. Minor abrasions and scratches are noted. A pleasing example of this rarity, among the finer known.

The obverse has extensive faint clash marks. A series of fine die cracks joins LIBERTY and the border. The reverse has several small die cracks, clash marks, and a rim break over T in UNITED.

## Lustrous Mint State 1807 \$5

Capped Bust



- 309 1807 Breen-6453, B-5D. Rarity-3. Bust Left. MS-61 (PCGS). This lovely example of John Reich's Capped Bust design has lustrous, frosty light yellow gold surfaces. This was one of Reich's very first coinage projects, as he was hired by the Mint this very same year. Use this example to start a date set of Capped Bust half eagles. In fact, four of the six dates from 1807 to 1812 are included in the present sale, each an attractive Mint State coin.

Very light clash marks are only visible on the obverse.

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of the John Beck Collection, Part II, February 1976, Lot 380.

## Choice Mint State 1810 Half Eagle

Large Date, Large 5



(2x photo)

- 310 1810 Breen-6459, B-1A. Rarity-3. Large Date, Large 5. MS-64 (PCGS). A lovely, sharply struck example with frosty deep yellow gold lustre. Very pleasing surfaces with only a few microscopic marks. An outstanding example of this popular variety, clearly the most available of this coinage date. Truly a coin for the connoisseur.

Perfect dies.

From Superior's sale of the Charles Ruby Collection, February 1975, Lot 1153.

## Choice Mint State 1811 \$5



- 311 1811 Breen-6463, B-1A. Rarity-4. Tall 5. MS-63 (PCGS). Soft frosty greenish yellow gold with a hint of pale orange patina. Minor surface marks are noted. Two varieties of 1811 half eagle are known, the other simply described as Small 5. This Tall 5 variety has the bottom edge of 5 joined to the border. The Small 5 reverse has clear separation between the bottom curve of 5 and border.

A short die crack joins the outer points of stars 9 and 10.

From Superior's sale of the Charles Ruby Collection, February 1975, Lot 1154.



## Lovely Mint State 1812 \$5

Wide Denomination



(2x photo)

- 312 1812 Breen-6466, B-1B. Rarity-3+. Wide 5D. MS-64 (PCGS). Brilliant, frosty yellow gold lustre with very few surface marks or abrasions. Sharply struck except for very minor central weakness. This is a relatively available variety, however, still a rarity in choice Mint State grades.

A short die crack from the border passes left of the first A in AMERICA to the wing.

The N.M. Kaufman Collection was last added to in 1927, after which it was displayed for a long period of years in a bank board room in Marquette, Michigan. Harry X Boosel, the Chicago collector, had an entrée into the situation, and in the 1970s acted as an intermediary, placing the collection with RARCOA, which held a highly successful sale. The pieces, generally not accompanied by pedigrees (it was unfortunate that they were not retained), was a numismatic time warp—pieces that had last changed hands over a half century earlier again came on the market.

From RARCOA's sale of the Kaufman Collection, August 1978, Lot 802.

## Pleasing Mint State 1818 Half Eagle

STATESOF Reverse



- 313 1818 Breen-6470, B-2B. Rarity-4. STATESOF. MS-62 (PCGS). Satiny light greenish gold with a few light abrasions noted, along with very faint lines across Liberty's cheek.

Obverse bisected by a crack from border through star 6 and the bust, to final 8 and lower border. Reverse appears perfect.

From our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1765.

## Scarce 1818 Half Eagle

Normal Reverse



- 314 1818 Breen-6471, B-1A. Rarity-5. Normal Reverse. Net EF-40; sharpness of AU-58, cleaned with an abrasive and heavily hairlined. Greenish gold surfaces with very few other imperfections. This is one of three distinct reverse dies used for the coinage of 1818 half eagles. Described as Normal Reverse to distinguish this from the other two reverse dies, each of which has a blunder. A second die has the words STATESOF crowded together while a third has the denomination, 5D, cut over 50.

The obverse has light to moderate clash marks. The reverse has a crack from the border left of digit 5, to the eagle, continuing through the eagle to scroll below S. Another crack connects the bases of all letters in AMERICA to D in denomination.

Purchased from Jack Klausen, August 30, 1972.

## Mint State 1820 Half Eagle

Curl Base 2, Large Letters



- 315 1820 Breen-6477, B-6C. Rarity-5+. Curl Base 2, Large Letters. MS-61 (PCGS). Reflective greenish gold, the surfaces moderately abraded and hairlined. Three major design groups occur with half eagles of this date, the others are Curl Base 2, Small Letters, and Square Base 2. These formed a basis for an expanded group of interlocking die varieties, some of which are quite fascinating.

Faint obverse clash marks.

From Paramount's sale of May 1976, Lot 1077.

## Choice 1834 Half Eagle



- 316 1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-63 (PCGS). Sharply struck with brilliant yellow gold lustre. A splash of coppery orange toning is in the left obverse field. Although this is not a rare variety in worn grades, this die combination is seldom seen in Mint State.

McCloskey-3B. Perfect dies.

Until the implementation of the Act of June 28, 1834, gold coins had not circulated at par in the United States since the early 1820s. Instead, nearly all were struck to the order of bullion depositors who primarily used them in the export trade. Certain Treasury Department documents register complaints in this regard, noting that the Philadelphia Mint was but a conve-



nience for merchants, and did little to serve the American public. Interestingly, gold coins were not produced at a profit, but were simply provided at a nominal coinage and processing charge. In contrast, copper coins were a "profit center" and paid many expenses.

After the new legislation was passed, with an implementation date of August 1, 1834, half eagles and quarter eagles were struck at a new lower authorized weight, after which they readily circulated at face value and became an important part of American commerce—this situation lasting through the eve of the Civil War. Thus, coins of the Classic Head style minted beginning in 1834 are often encountered today in worn grades, while half eagles of the 1820s and 1830s, when found at all, are usually in higher levels of preservation such as AU and Mint State.

Mike Kirzner was active in the Boston numismatic scene and had an upstairs office on Bromfield Street, in an area in which several coin dealers were located only a few steps away from each other.

*Purchased from Mike Kirzner, August 11, 1971.*

### Prooflike 1834 Half Eagle



- 317 **1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-61 (PCGS).** Fully prooflike with cameo contrast. Sharply struck with greenish gold fields and very faint orange toning. Possibly struck as a Proof and from the same dies as several Proofs known.

McCloskey-1A. Perfect dies.

The delineation between circulation strikes struck from *Proof dies* and pieces actually intended to be presentation coins is blurred, and over the years there have been certain pieces that have been called one way or the other interchangeably.

*Purchased from Fred Sweeney.*

- 318 **1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. AU-58.** Light yellow gold lustre with slightly reflective surfaces. Faint orange toning with a few minor hairlines and other marks. A few reverse rim nicks are noted. An important opportunity for the specialist, or for the date or type collector.

McCloskey-3B. Perfect dies.

*From Stack's 1971 ANA Sale, Lot 2141.*

- 319 **1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. AU-53.** Brilliant and lustrous greenish gold with moderately abraded surfaces.

McCloskey-1A. Several small cracks from rim to rim pass through stars 4, 5, and 6.

For a long time Dan Messer was associated with Bob Jenove in the operation of the Franklin Square Coin Company located not far from New York City. Jenove was an advertising executive. Later, the arrangement was dissolved, and Messer joined with Joel Coen to form the Coen-Messer Company in New York City, which continued to do much business.

*Purchased from Dan Messer, August 16, 1971.*

### Group of Varied \$5 Issues 1834-1895

- 320 **Selection of half eagles grading EF-40:** ☆ 1834 No Motto ☆ 1836 (2) ☆ 1840 Narrow Mill ☆ 1843 ☆ 1844-O ☆ 1848 ☆ 1895-S. (Total: 8 pieces)

### Choice Mint State 1834 \$5

#### Classic Head Style



- 321 **1834 Breen-6502. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-64 (PCGS).** Slightly reflective light yellow gold surfaces with full lustre. A splash of brown toning is at stars 12 and 13. Central obverse weakness is typical of this design. A few minor marks are noted. Quality similar to Bass II, Lot 832.

McCloskey-2A. A common variety. Perfect dies.

*Purchased from William Fox Steinberg, August 16, 1971.*

- 322 **1834 Breen-6502. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. AU-50.** Granular with dull yellow surfaces. We suggest in-person examination prior to bidding on this lot.

McCloskey-2C. Cracked through the bases of NITED.

*Purchased from Mike Kirzner, October 27, 1971.*

### Nice \$5 Group 1834-1850

- 323 **Grouping of half eagles grading EF-45:** ☆ 1834 No Motto, Recut 4 ☆ 1835 ☆ 1836 ☆ 1844 ☆ 1844-O ☆ 1847 ☆ 1850. Each displays attractive surfaces. (Total: 7 pieces)

### Pleasing 1835 Half Eagle



- 324 **1835 Breen-6504. MS-60.** Frosty light yellow gold surfaces with sharp design details and light abrasions. A pleasing example from the famous Garrett Collection. An ideal candidate for the date or type collector.

McCloskey-2D. A common variety. Perfect dies.

*From Stack's sale of the Garrett Collection, March 1976, Lot 368.*

- 325 **1835 Breen-6504. AU-58.** Sharply struck in greenish gold with light hairlines.

McCloskey-2D. Perfect dies.

Not only does the present section of the catalogue afford the opportunity for the specialist to acquire interesting die combinations, but in a broader sense, the type collector can take advantage of an offering of many high quality examples. In general, a coin from the Bass Collection tends to be nicer overall than seen elsewhere.

*From Abner Kreisberg's sale of September 1973, Lot 1169.*

- 326 **1835 Breen-6504. AU-50.** Slightly reflective greenish gold with moderate marks.

McCloskey-2C. Light obverse clash marks.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, July 31, 1967.*

- 327 **1835 Breen-6504. AU-50.** Greenish gold with light hairlines from an old cleaning. Sharply struck with minor surface marks.

McCloskey-2C. A scarce variety. Light clash marks at central obverse.

*Purchased from Se Ro Coins, March 10, 1969.*



- 328 **1835 Breen-6505. AU-55.** Satiny yellow gold surfaces with sharp design details. Minor hairlines and other very light marks.

McCloskey-3D. One of the more readily available varieties. Light clash marks. First S is filled at top.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, June 1974.*

- 329 **1835 Breen-6505. AU-50.** Greenish gold surfaces with a few minor marks and rim nicks.

McCloskey-3D. Perfect dies.

*From Stack's sale of April 1967, Lot 1646.*

### Prooflike 1836 Half Eagle

Possibly a Proof



- 330 **1836 Breen-6507. MS-62 (PCGS).** Sharply struck and fully prooflike with moderate marks. An attractive example and very possibly struck as a Proof although from different dies than the Pittman Proof and the two other known 1836 Proof half eagles.

McCloskey-1A. Perfect dies.

Obverse and reverse with full prooflike surface, struck from polished dies, but whether intended as a Proof is not known. On the obverse the die polish extends within recessed areas, including the interior loop of the bottom curl, between the buns in the top curls, between the star points, in the interior of the date numerals, etc. On the reverse the same is true, with prooflike surface within the letter openings (even within the tops of each A), fully within the shield stripes, between the arrowheads, etc. It will probably never be determined what the *intention of striking* was, but the overall aspect is considerably different than a circulation strike.

*From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 839, there described as Brilliant Uncirculated, prooflike.*

- 331 **1836 Breen-6508. AU-55.** An attractive example in greenish gold with faint orange patina. Moderately abraded surfaces as would be expected at this grade level.

McCloskey-5D. Perfect dies.

*From RARCOA's 1970 ANA Sale, Lot 1525.*

### Lustrous 1836 Half Eagle



- 332 **1836 Breen-6509. MS-60.** Sharply struck and attractive with brilliant greenish gold surfaces and light marks. This is a common variety in worn grades, very few Mint State examples survive.

McCloskey-4D. Perfect dies.

In Harry Bass' notes he made the indication: "Proof? Impaired."

*Purchased from Stezer, March 10, 1969.*

### Lovely 1836 Half Eagle



- 333 **1836 Breen-6509. MS-60.** Lustrous deep yellow gold surfaces with sharp design details. An attractive example of this design, suited for the date or type collector.

McCloskey-6E. A relatively plentiful variety. Cracked from a dentil between 83, to the curl left of the ear.

*Purchased from Stack's, July 1971.*

- 334 **1836 Breen-6509. AU-50.** Attractive greenish gold surfaces with light hairlines and moderate marks.

McCloskey-2B. A rare variety. Cracked from the border through digit 6, low curl, T, and star 8.

*From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 364.*

- 335 **1836 Breen-6509. AU-50.** Dull yellow surfaces, probably a result of "seawater" storage, or more appropriately from the effects of sand movement in the ocean. Rough surfaces with moderate marks.

McCloskey-4C. Perfect dies.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of September 1967, Lot 730.*

- 336 **Selection of Classic and Liberty Head half eagles:** ☆ 1836 VF-35 ☆ 1844-O VF-35 ☆ 1847 VF-25 ☆ 1849 Doubled 49. VF-35 ☆ 1873-S Closed 3. VF-20 ☆ 1877-S VF-35 ☆ 1886-S F-12 ☆ 1887-S VF-30 ☆ 1902-S VF-35. (Total: 9 pieces)

### Important 1837 Half Eagle



- 337 **1837 Breen-6512. Large Date. MS-62.** Sharply struck with light greenish gold surfaces. Attractive despite very minor marks. This issue is much scarcer than the earlier date Classic Head half eagles, and is a rarity in Mint State. Aside from the gem example in Part II of the Bass Collection, and a nearly gem example from the Pittman Collection, all other 1837 half eagles recently offered have been, at best, very low quality Mint State or circulated grades.

McCloskey-2B. Perfect dies.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1970, Lot 727.*



- 338 **1837 Breen-6513. Small Date. AU-55.** Light yellow gold with a hint of green. Moderate surface marks are noted. A pleasing example of this scarce date.

McCloskey-3C. Perfect dies.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1968.*



## Choice Mint State 1838 Half Eagle



- 339 **1838 Breen-6514. Large Arrows, Small 5. MS-63 (PCGS).** Lovely satin green surfaces are slightly reflective. Minor hairlines are visible. An important opportunity for the specialist, as choice Mint State 1838 half eagles only appear on the market infrequently. Aside from two gems in Part II of the Bass Collection, only four similar quality examples have appeared on the market in the past decade. It is important to remember that Harry W. Bass, Jr. spent three decades in assembling the coins that are now offered within a space of a year on the market—compressing the time-availability scale and creating many remarkable opportunities.

McCloskey-1A. Very faint reverse clash marks.

From Coin Galleries' sale of November 1974, Lot 554.

## Lustrous 1838-C Half Eagle

### First Charlotte Mint Coinage



- 340 **1838-C Breen-6517. Normal 5. AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous light yellow gold with a hint of green. Minor marks are present. This is the first Charlotte Mint half eagle, from the very first year of operation at the North Carolina mint. Of additional importance as the only Charlotte Mint coin featuring the Classic Head design. Only two finer examples were listed by Doug Winter in his reference *Gold Coins of the Charlotte Mint*. One of those was the Bass coin offered in Part II, the other in the North Georgia Collection.

McCloskey-1A. Perfect dies.

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of September 1973, Lot 1171.

## Rare 1838-D Half Eagle

### First Dahlonega Mint Issue



- 341 **1838-D Breen-6518. Recut Date. AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous light yellow gold with sharp design details. Minor surface marks are visible. Similar in stature to the 1838-C half eagle just offered, this is from the first year of operation at the Georgia mint, and is the only Classic Head half eagle from this mint. Among the top 10 examples known.

McCloskey-1A. Perfect dies.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 843.

## Outstanding 1839 Half Eagle

### First Coronet Head Issue



- 342 **1839 Breen-6519. MS-63 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with brilliant, frosty yellow gold lustre. A few very minor hairlines and other abrasions are present. This is an exceptional example of our first Liberty or Coronet Head half eagle. Only three or four comparable or finer examples of this issue are known, among possibly a dozen Mint State examples in all grade levels. This is a simply *incredible opportunity* for the type collector.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (MS-64).

Two prominent raised rust marks or die chips are visible on Miss Liberty's neck. This is an early die state with the curve and knob of digit 9 connected by a light die line. Considerable fine die polish is visible behind the letters LIBERTY. The F in OF and the F in FIVE are each lightly doubled along the vertical edge of the crossbar. Diagonal die polish is noted around the eagle.

Purchased from Abner Kreisberg, September 1, 1975.

## Lustrous 1840 Half Eagle

### Broad Mill



- 343 **1840 Broad Mill. AU-58.** A wonderful example of the Broad Mill variety, this with bright greenish yellow gold lustre and only a few very minor imperfections. The reverse has small rim bruises at 12:00 and 3:00. The surfaces are very slightly reflective.

Broad Mill: 22.4 mm. 140 edge reeds.

Perfect dies.

Purchased from James A. Hayes, October 1972.

## Pleasing 1840 Broad Mill \$5



- 344 **1840 Broad Mill. AU-55.** Very light yellow gold with reflective, satiny lustre in the protected areas next to design details. The fields are slightly abraded.

Broad Mill: 22.4 mm. 140 edge reeds.

Perfect dies.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of November 1968, Lot 841.



## Mint State 1840 Half Eagle

### Narrow Mill Variety



- 345 **1840 Narrow Mill. MS-60.** Lustrous light greenish yellow gold with sharp design definition. Lovely satin lustre with only a few very minor surface marks, hairlines, and other imperfections. Narrow Mill variety, with planchet diameter just 21.8 mm. The other variety, the Wide Mill or Broad Mill, has a diameter approximately 22.5 mm.

Very nearly perfect dies.

Among seven non-certified half eagles dated 1840, from three different mints, in the present sale, five different diameters are represented. This example is 21.8 mm. Others in the sale are 21.9 mm., 22.0 mm., 22.2 mm., and 22.4 mm. These certainly represent different collars. This coin was struck with a collar containing 104 edge reeds.

It would be interesting to explore the possibility that collars were made at the branch mints, these in addition to collars that seem to have been shipped from Philadelphia. Under our earlier offering of the 1841 quarter eagle note was made of different reeding styles at different mintage locations.

From Stack's sale of the Garrett Collection, March 1976, Lot 372.

- 346 **1840 Narrow Mill. AU-58.** Lustrous light yellow gold with moderately abraded surfaces. Sharply struck, although with very slight weakness of definition on certain high points of the design.

Narrow Mill: 21.9 mm. 104 edge reeds.

The reverse has a die crack from the border at 4:00 through left side of I in AMERICA, upper two arrows, eagle's body and head, continuing very faintly to second T in STATES to the border at 11:30.

Purchased from Lester Merkin, June 26, 1967.

- 347 **1840 Narrow Mill. AU-55.** A pleasing example with light yellow gold and very faint traces of orange toning. Perhaps very lightly cleaned at one time with minor hairlines, hardly worth mentioning. Hair curls below BER are weak, as are eagle's details opposite this point.

Narrow Mill: 21.9 mm. 104 reeds.

Perfect dies.

From RARCOA's 1970 ANA Sale, Lot 1532.

## Impressive 1840-C Half Eagle

### New Die Discovery



- 348 **1840-C 18 in Dentils, Broad Mill. AU-55 (PCGS).** Broad Mill variety as always seen. Sharply defined obverse with very slight weakness on the eagle's neck, claws, and arrows. Rich yellow gold lustre with a hint of green. Minor surface marks are noted, none serious. Probably one of the five or six finest known examples.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (MS-62 finest).

Broad Mill: 22.1 mm. None have been recorded with Narrow Mill.

Obverse has very tops of digits 18 visible in the dentils below and right of final position. This variety was attributed by Frank Van Valen, of our staff. Obverse variety not mentioned by Doug Winter in his reference.

The obverse has an unpublished *misplaced date* with the very tops of the digits 18 visible in the dentils below and to the right of the final position. The curious feature, which is not reflected in Harry Bass' notes, was identified by Frank Van Valen of our staff while working with this specimen. As sometimes happens, it developed that *another* was found immediately—the next lot.

Late die state with a crack from the border through I in AMERICA to tip of the middle arrowhead.

The regular date logotype is punched very deeply into the die, as is the case on many instances throughout Charlotte and Dahlonega coinages—leading to speculation by the editor (QDB) that such dies may have been made with deeper, stronger features for shipment to branch mints, as they were more apt to undergo relapping at those distant locations. On the other hand, at Philadelphia new dies could be procured on short notice if there was a problem—there was no need to keep old dies in service beyond a certain point.

From Stack's sale of the Garrett Collection, March 1976, Lot 373.

## Duplicate 1840-C Half Eagle

### Misplaced Date Variety



- 349 **1840-C 18 in Dentil, Broad Mill. EF-40.** Light greenish yellow gold with moderately abraded surfaces. Although a lesser example than that offered in the previous lot, this is still far above average when all survivors are considered. Doug Winter considers this issue the second rarest of 24 Charlotte half eagle issues.

Broad Mill: 22.1 mm. 103 edge reeds.

From same obverse die as previous lot, however, the reverse is different.

From Stack's sale of February 1968, Lot 270.

## Important 1840-D Half Eagle

### Struck on June 10, 1840



- 350 **1840-D Tall Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).** This delightful half eagle has brilliant deep yellow gold lustre with a hint of delicate green. Very light surface marks are present, however, these do not distract the viewer. This is certainly one of the finer known survivors from a mintage of 22,896 coins. This coin is slightly turned in the holder, giving the illusion that it was struck from a reverse die oriented about 150°, or about 30° short of a 180° normal alignment. Normally, we would mention a situation just in passing, but in this instance it is an important consideration, assigning a *day of striking* to this particular piece (see notes below). Doug Winter noted that this issue is scarce and underappreciated.

Narrow Mill: 21.8 mm.

The obverse has a small raised spur, or die defect, at the border by star 13. Several raised, curved die lines are on the head of Liberty. A very faint die crack connects the southeast point of star 1 and bust tip.

Certain 1840-D half eagles, including the specimen now offered, from a rotated reverse die, are known to have been struck on the specific day of June 10, 1840. This knowledge is the result of an exchange between Dahlonega Mint Superintendent Joseph J. Singleton and Director of the Mint Robert Maskell Patterson. Singleton noted that half eagles struck on June 10, 1840



did not have the head of Liberty opposite the eagle's tail. This was the result of "the turning of the lower die." Maskell ordered the coins released and recommended that Singleton, and his workmen, be more careful in the future.

Recently, John Dannruther has reclassified the nomenclature for Dahlonega half eagles. Previously, this mintmark has been called either Medium or Large. There already are other mintmarks with those designations, so the Tall designation has been adopted for this style mintmark.

From *Superior's sale of the Dr. Charles Ruby Collection, Part 3, February 1975, Lot 1164.*

## Delightful 1840-O Half Eagle

From the Eliasberg Collection

"Railroad Rim"



- 351 **1840-O Small Mintmark. MS-61 (PCGS).** This is a partial collar striking, sometimes known as a "railroad rim" error. At the time this coin was struck, the collar only covered a portion of the planchet circumference. Therefore, around the entire coin, the edge is partially reeded and partially plain. Brilliant yellow gold lustre with extremely sharp design details and delightful surfaces, with only a few scattered marks. Although PCGS lists seven Mint State examples in its *Population Report*, we suspect that this may represent only three or four different coins. This is only the sixth Mint State 1840-O auction listing of the past decade.

PCGS Population: 3; 4 finer (MS-62 finest).

This has the diameter of a Broad Mill coin on the portion of plain edge, however, it was probably struck at the Narrow Mill standard.

Raised die lines are between the border and STATES. A faint clash mark connects the wing and lower beak.

From our sale of the *Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, Lot 415.*

- 352 **1840-O Large Mintmark. AU-50.** In any other sale, we would describe this as an important opportunity to acquire a rarity that only occasionally appears on the market.

Narrow Mill: 22.0 mm. Actually between the standard diameters for narrow and broad mill. 105 edge reeds.

Faint clash marks are visible on the reverse.

New Orleans Mint half eagles of this era were used intensively in circulation, with not a single piece saved at the time of issue for numismatic purposes—not even the Mint Cabinet (formed in June 1838) desired to have an example. In time, such varieties as the 1840-O wore down to grades we now know as VF, occasionally EF, but only rarely AU. The Bass Collection affords opportunities to acquire any number of different high level EF, AU, and even Mint State half eagles of the 1840s and 1850s—grades seldom encountered. Moreover, it is usually the case that if Harry W. Bass, Jr., purchased a coin there was something *special* about it—it either had an above average eye appeal, or had some interesting die characteristics such as cracks, repunchings, or something else that contributed to the fascination of its ownership.

From *Abner Kreisberg's "Quality Sale" of September 1971, Lot 1031.*

## Choice Mint State 1841 \$5

Low-Mintage Issue



(2x photo)

- 353 **1841 MS-64 (PCGS).** Just 15,833 were struck with not more than 20 Mint State examples known, this tied for finest certified by PCGS. Frosty and brilliant yellow gold lustre with very slightly reflective fields. A few scattered surface marks are noted. Very sharply struck obverse and reverse. Although not as rare as earlier issues, this is an elusive date in Mint State with the present example among the finest in existence. Similar in overall quality to the example in Part II of the Bass Collection, Lot 895.

PCGS Population: 8; none finer.

The lower points of star 7 are very slightly recut. Very fine vertical striae are noted on the reverse. Otherwise, perfect dies.

A "small hoard" of these was uncovered in 1953, according to Walter Breen, who in his *Encyclopedia* failed to record any further details. If any present readers have information concerning this or any other gold hoards, especially those that are not published, the editor would appreciate learning more. The "reward" will be great appreciation plus a credit line in the new series of gold coin books.

Purchased from *Dan Messer, August 16, 1971.*

- 354 **1841 EF-45.** Light greenish gold with abraded surfaces. Very faint traces of orange patina are visible. An opportunity for the date collector. This issue is much scarcer than generally believed.

Perfect dies.

From *Abe Kosoff's sale of November 1968, Lot 843.*

## Prooflike 1841-C Half Eagle



- 355 **1841-C AU-55 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with fully prooflike yellow gold surfaces. This is an extremely attractive example, especially given the assigned grade. Light hairlines suggest this may have been cleaned in the past, however, such a situation is hardly unusual for these early rarities. In terms of Charlotte Mint half eagles, this issue is middle of the road for rarity, ranking 11th out of 24 different varieties, according to Doug Winter.

Broad Mill: 22.2 mm. The Broad Mill format continued through 1843 at the Charlotte Mint, although abandoned at other mints after 1840. Very slight doubling is noted on most letters on the reverse.

Die striae from the die preparation process, plus some normal light hairlines acquired after the piece was made (thereby placing it in the AU-55 category rather than Mint State)—an interesting piece to view under magnification.

Purchased from *Stanley Kesselman, April 4, 1968.*



## Choice Mint State 1841-D \$5

Tall D Mintmark  
An Important Rarity



- 356 **1841-D Tall D Mintmark. MS-63 (PCGS).** Rich greenish yellow gold with brilliant, frosty lustre and few minor surface marks. This is an extremely important opportunity for the specialist. Two reverse dies are known, one with a tall mintmark (PCGS describes this as Medium D) being extremely rare, the other with much smaller mintmark being quite common. This is the larger mintmark variety and the present example is the single Mint State example from this reverse currently certified by PCGS. Part II of the Bass Collection included five 1841-D half eagles, all with the small mintmark. Probably the finest known 1841-D Medium (or Tall) D variety, and possibly the only such example surviving in Mint State.

Two obverse dies are known, with similar but slightly different die cracks. According to author Clair M. Birdsall, in *The United States Branch Mint at Dahlonega*, one obverse die cracked during the coinage of 1,131 coins delivered on January 18, and another obverse die cracked prior to the delivery of February 22, during mintage of an additional 2,974 coins. The balance of 25,287 coins were struck much later in the year. As this obverse does not have any trace of a die crack, coinage can be conclusively dated prior to February 22, 1841.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

The obverse has circular raised lathe marks resulting from die finishing, not during the *portrait lathe* process, but most probably on this particular working die itself, (unless identical marks can be found on a different working die), no doubt acquired by placing the die in a lathe chuck during the basining process. In the machine shop at the Dahlonega Mint, the die could have been turned to remove oxidation (less likely, as no evidence of oxidation is seen on the portrait). Perhaps after this catalogue is prepared we will study the die further and make notes.

Light repunching is visible below all four date digits. There are no traces of die cracks or other die defects. Star 8 is very slightly recut.

From *Stack's 1976 ANA Sale, Lot 2955.*

- 357 **1841-D Tall D Mintmark. EF-40.** Another example of the very rare Tall Mintmark variety, for the specialist. Natural greenish gold with a hint of orange patina. Very minor hairlines and other abrasions are noted. About average for this date, mintmark, and grade.

Perfect obverse die, struck early in the year.

From *Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2053.*

- 358 **1841-D Small D Mintmark. VF-20.** Very pleasing greenish gold, deeper in the fields, creating a two-tone effect. Minor circulation marks and other abrasions are noted, however, none are serious. This is a later die state as noted below, and is an example of the usually seen Small Mintmark variety.

Repunched date. The obverse has a bisecting crack from 12:00 to 6:00, passing between 8 and 4 but touching neither.

Purchased from *Hawaii Stamp and Coin, August 19, 1968.*

## Scarce 1842 Half Eagle



- 359 **1842 Small Letters. AU-58.** Nicely defined with lustrous yellow gold surfaces, and only very minor abrasions. Perhaps lightly cleaned in the past. With a low mintage of 27,578 coins, this is a scarce issue. The proportion of Small Letters examples is unknown. In any event, a coin of AU quality such as this is seldom seen.

All Philadelphia Mint half eagles have Small Date obverse. *Some* from Charlotte and Dahlonega also have a Large Date obverse.

Minute recutting is visible on 8 and 4. Reverse has a die crack through tops of FIVE D, extending left through UNIT and right through CA. Another crack extends through lower part of ERICA.

From *Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1973.*

## Quantity Half Eagle Lot

- 360 **A quantity lot comprising a dozen half eagles**, each with some problems such as being lightly cleaned, having scratches, or having "seawater surfaces—pieces acquired here and there by Harry Bass, no doubt for date and die state studies, but not for their quality. Ideal for the bargain hunter, the seller of low-priced coins on the Internet, or other vendor whose clientele is more oriented toward price than quality—indeed, there is a market for everything. All told, a lot of interesting varieties are included: ☆ 1842 Small Letters. F-15. Scratches ☆ 1844-O VF-20. Saltwater surfaces with some rim damage ☆ 1845 Net VF-20; sharpness of EF-45, heavy reverse scratches ☆ 1856-S Medium S. VF-20. Saltwater surfaces ☆ 1857-S Large S. VF-30. Saltwater surfaces ☆ 1859-C Net VF-35; sharpness of AU-55, burnished ☆ 1880-S VF-30. Scratches ☆ 1884-CC VF-20, cleaned ☆ 1888-S Net F-12; sharpness of VF-35, burnished ☆ 1894-S Doubled Mintmark. VF-30, cleaned ☆ 1896-S Net VF-35; sharpness of AU-50, harshly cleaned ☆ 1896-S Net VG-8; sharpness of EF-40, heavy scratches. (Total: 12 pieces)

- 361 **1842 Large Letters. VF-20.** Light yellow gold, perhaps cleaned, with minor hairlines. Two short scrapes are present in the left obverse field. This variety with Large Letters reverse is scarcer than the Small Letters variety.

Perfect dies.

As a general rule, coins pedigreed to the Shuford Collection are about average in quality, sometimes less—Shuford was a "bottom feeder" when he bought for his collection (as the cataloguer, Abe Kosoff, readily admitted), and sought price more than quality. However, by the luck of the draw he acquired many nice pieces as well, a few being above average (of which this particular specimen is not).

From *Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1974.*



## Rare 1842-C Half Eagle

Small Date, Small Letters



362 **1842-C Small Date, Small Letters. AU-53 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with frosty bright yellow gold lustre, especially in the protected areas around devices. A few minor surface marks are noted, however, none are serious in nature. A diagonal mark on Liberty's chin and two others in the upper right reverse field will serve as convenient pedigree markers. This is considered the rarest of all Charlotte Mint half eagles, according to Doug Winter and others. In fact, Winter described this issue as "the rarest collectible coin from Charlotte." One example is known in strict Mint State preservation, with only a

few others in AU grades, including the present coin which is probably fifth or sixth finest known.

PCGS Population: 4; 4 finer (MS-62 finest).

The obverse has a raised rim break around the border, centered over star 7, in effect giving a high edge at this point—very unusual. The feature extends from midway between stars 6 and 7 to midway between stars 7 and 8. Otherwise perfect dies. The majority of known examples are from this die state.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2029; one of his "nicer" coins.*



## Delightful 1842-C Half Eagle



- 363 **1842-C Large Date. AU-55 (PCGS).** This lovely Charlotte half eagle has light greenish yellow gold lustre with pleasing surfaces. A few light hairlines and other abrasions are noted, and mentioned for accuracy. From a larger date font than the Philadelphia Mint coins of this year. Also from the Broad Mill layout discussed above at 1840 Philadelphia Mint half eagles. Total mintage was 27,432 coins, with most of these the Large Date variety.

Small Letters reverse layout with all letters widely spaced except FIVE and AM.

Perfect dies.

The formation of a complete set of Charlotte Mint half eagles is a realistic goal, and has been attempted with success many times. There are no “impossible” or even super-difficult rarities, although some of the lower mintage issues do require some searching. At the AU level and higher the population thins out, and although such coins await the patient searcher, they cannot be gathered quickly.

Although no one single rule fits Charlotte coins, in general they are of a lighter gold color, due to natural alloy of silver, than are those of Dahlonega (which often tend to be reddish gold).

The best way to go about collecting Charlotte coins is to read about them. *Walter Breen’s Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*, 1988, furnishes a convenient starting point. After that, a copy of Douglas Winter’s *Gold Coins of the Charlotte Mint* is essential (both available from our Publications Department).

From Abe Kosoff’s sale of November 1968, Lot 845.

- 364 **1842-D Small Date. Net EF-40; sharpness of AU-50, reverse rim nicks.** Deep green-gold with light orange patina. Light hairlines and other abrasions are noted. An acceptable example—about average—despite the minor imperfections.

Small Letters reverse as previously described.

From Lester Merkin’s sale of March 1967, Lot 463.

## Important 1842-D Large Date \$5

Not Offered in Bass II Sale



(2x photo)

- 365 **1842-D Large Date. AU-53 (PCGS).** This is a very rare variety whose true rarity is often not recognized. Douglas Winter rated this as *second* among 26 issues in terms of overall rarity. Bright greenish yellow gold with some marks, etc. as is normal for the AU-53 level.

Although the total mintage for the year was 59,608 coins, only a small percentage of the total was this variety. At the time Winter wrote his book he was not aware of a Mint State piece, although we note that at present PCGS describes an MS-61.

The present coin—most important as it is now for sale—is believed to be among the best four or five known. Only a couple nicer examples have come to market in the past decade. Our memorable Bass II sale did not have one in any grade.

PCGS Population: 6; 4 finer (MS-61 finest).

Perfect dies. Reverse with Large Letter font.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 1, 1968.

## Prooflike 1842-O Half Eagle

Small Date, Small Letters



- 366 **1842-O MS-60.** Fully prooflike with attractive cameo contrast. Light yellow gold displays a trace of green. The obverse is marred by a series of small scratches from the upper left field, across the hair curls below the coronet. A few other surface imperfections are noted. The entire mintage of 16,400 coins was accomplished from one pair of dies, sent to New Orleans late in 1841. Possibly a reverse from a previous year may have also been used. This issue is extremely rare in Mint State with just two or three such coins known. Finest known for the variety is from the Eliasberg Collection, later sold by Stack’s as part of the Milas Collection in 1995. That coin is graded MS-63 by NGC, although was graded just AU-55 when offered as part of the Eliasberg Collection. Another example appeared in Part II of the Bass Collection, graded MS-61. This example, which is very sharply struck, is probably one of the top five or six known. Slight weakness only appears on the usual points of the reverse, the claws and other lower details.

Narrow Mill: 21.9 mm.

All known examples of this issue are the Small Date, Small Letters style.

From Abner Kreisberg’s sale of November 1970, Lot 1700.

## Scarce 1842-O Half Eagle



- 367 **1842-O EF-45.** Very light greenish yellow gold with minor hairlines and other imperfections. Slight central weakness is noted on the highest hair curls and among details of the eagle, representing the deepest recesses in the coinage dies. This issue had a very low mintage of just 16,400 coins, with less than 1% remaining today.

Perfect dies.

From Abe Kosoff’s sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2076.



## Scarce Mint State 1843 Half Eagle



- 368 **1843 MS-62 (PCGS).** A delightful example with bright, frosty yellow gold lustre and few minor surface marks. Sharply struck with considerable aesthetic appeal. This is truly a rare coin in an absolute sense, in the spectrum of gold coins, it is one of the more available Mint State Liberty half eagles without motto.

The reverse has a crack from the border through second T in STATES to the eagle's head, and another (or possibly the same crack) from the arrow feathers to V.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, July 17, 1967.*

- 369 A group of study pieces that is ideal for the buyer—and their numbers are legion—who are more concerned with numerical grade than with surface quality. These were coins acquired here and there by Harry Bass in his study of date logotypes and minute varieties: ☆ 1843 Repunched 18 (the underdigit 18 seems to be *from a smaller logotype, intended for a smaller denomination*, and as such is of more than passing interest—a coin worthy of close bidder attention). AU-58, cleaned ☆ 1847 MS-62. Scratches below date. A truly lovely coin *except* for the all important marks—'tis a pity ☆ 1861 AU-58, cleaned. Harry Bass made note of some very interesting raised lumps within the vertical shield stripes—interesting ☆ 1880-S MS-60. Light scratches ☆ 1887-S AU-58. Scratches. (Total: 5 pieces)

## Pleasing Group of Coronet \$5

- 370 A pleasing group of Coronet Head half eagles ranging from AU-55 to AU-58, each highly lustrous and attractive—a delightful run that would well form the basis for a specialized collection of this design or, alternatively, for close study of logotype and other variations: ☆ 1843. Bright and lustrous. Some toning at upper right obverse and marks near star 13 ☆ 1847. Bright yellow gold. Interior of shield stripes somewhat prooflike and with interesting break at top of left most element in second stripe ☆ 1852. Frosty and brilliant. ☆ 1873 Closed 3. Pale gold surfaces, cleaned long ago. Some marks on cheek and on reverse. Technically EF perhaps, but value of EF-40. Reverse with very interesting vertical shield stripe elements, very delicate—perhaps worthy of further study. Harry Bass commented, “straw in shield, making note of its highly unusual character ☆ 1880. Brilliant and frosty, a nice piece which some might call MS-60 ☆ 1883 ☆ 1887-S. Very lustrous and frosty, a high-end example ☆ 1888-S. Numerous bagmarks in the field—probably kept in a bag in a bank vault for decades ☆ 1895 Marks here and there, characteristic of the AU level. Fairly nice overall ☆ 1900. Bagmarks keep this from the Mint State level. Nearly all frost still remains ☆ 1906-S. Each displays lustrous and attractive surfaces. Marks here and there, especially on neck, value of say, EF-40, although AU from a numerical viewpoint. (Total: 11 pieces)

- 371 Grouping of AU-55 half eagles, each has been cleaned at one time except where noted. Another nice “study group” for the specialist or a commercial group for the bargain seeker: ☆ 1843 ☆ 1848. Whizzed ☆ 1861 ☆ 1879 ☆ 1879-S ☆ 1883 ☆ 1885-S ☆ 1886-S. Light scratches ☆ 1893-S. Scratches. (Total: 9 pieces)

- 372 **Baker's dozen of AU-50 half eagles:** ☆ 1843 Repunched 18 (Small 18 from different logotype, as described earlier) ☆ 1845 ☆ 1846 Large Date ☆ 1847 Doubled 7 ☆ 1855 ☆ 1880 ☆ 1881-S ☆ 1884 ☆ 1892-CC ☆ 1894 ☆ 1898-S ☆ 1903 ☆ 1907-D. Each displays lustrous surfaces, a well matched grouping. (Total: 13 pieces)

- 373 1843-C AU-58. Sharply struck with considerable greenish gold lustre, and reflective fields which display minor hairlines and other evidence of light cleaning. A few other minor scratches and imperfections are also noted. Although a rarity as are all Charlotte and Dahlonega gold coins, this is one of the more available half eagles from the North Carolina mint.

Broad Mill: 22.3 mm.

Perfect dies.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of June 1970, Lot 444.*

## Mint State 1843-D Half Eagle

### Medium Mintmark Variety



- 374 **1843-D Medium Mintmark. MS-61 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with frosty bright yellow gold lustre and reflective fields. A lovely example of this issue, and seldom seen in such quality. Although a few hundred examples exist from the mintage of 98,452, only eight or nine Mint State examples survive today. Doug Winter noted: “This is one of the best manufactured Dahlonega half eagles. It is possible to locate an example that is well struck, lustrous, and attractively toned. Finding one with clean surfaces, however, is quite challenging.” Although the surfaces of this example are not perfect, it still seems to meet the “Winter Challenge.”

PCGS Population: 3; 3 finer (MS-64 finest).

Previously, this style mintmark has been designated as Large, but the true Large Mintmark was not employed until 1845.

*From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973.*



## Amazing 1843-O Half Eagle

Large Letters  
Among the Finest Known



(2x photo)

- 375 **1843-O Large Date, Large Letters, Plain 4. MS-64 (NGC).** Warm golden orange toning on lustrous surfaces. Prooflike in appearance, with frosted motifs and mirror fields presenting strong cameo contrast. A landmark rarity from the New Orleans Mint, at least where condition is concerned.

Regarding the rarity of the 1843-O at the present level, David Akers, who saw and studied many things, wrote: "Strictly Uncirculated examples may exist, but I have personally never seen one." This was prior to the appearance of the present coin on the market.

This may be the finest known specimen. At least we do not recall ever seeing a nicer one.

NGC Population: 2; none finer.

The obverse has several very fine die cracks, while the reverse has minute rust marks and microscopic clash marks. On the obverse: a crack joins border and bust, through digit 1, touching extreme left foot and crossing top at junction of upper left serif and upright. Three short cracks from border join outer points of stars 2, 3, and 4. Another passes through star 6 to junction of hair curl and coronet. A thin crack from star 12 joins lowest curl behind neck. Seldom do examples of these early half eagles appear in grades high enough to document all the fine die cracks.

From Stack's sale of the Milas Collection, May 1995, Lot 452.

## Desirable 1843-O Half Eagle



- 376 **1843-O Large Date, Small Letters. AU-55 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with reflective greenish gold lustre and very faint orange patina. A few very minor surface marks are noted, typical of these early gold coins. This example is well within the top 10 finest examples of this variety, with a small group of Mint State coins discovered in Louisiana last year at the top of the list. Prior to that discovery of four coins, this variety was virtually unknown in full Mint State preservation. In fact, when we offered a similar AU-55 grade example in Part II of the Bass Collection, we described the coin as one of the finest known examples.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (AU-58).

Purchased from James Cohen, August 20, 1968.

## Lovely Mint State 1844 Half Eagle



- 377 **1844 MS-62.** Frosty light yellow gold surfaces with brilliant lustre. Sharply struck with all details fully defined. Very minor hairlines and other imperfections are noted. This is an aesthetically pleasing example, one of a handful of Mint State survivors, perhaps in the range of 30 to 50 coins. Originally, 340,330 coins were struck, with this issue the most plentiful of any produced from 1839 to 1844.

An interesting feature involves the shield on the reverse. All vertical lines in the shield extend completely through the horizontal lines to the top shield border. Obverse with date heavily punched in die.

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1970, Lot 734.

## Pleasing Mint State 1844 \$5



- 378 **1844 MS-62.** Satiny light yellow gold with fully brilliant lustre. A few very minor abrasions are consistent with the grade. Very scarce in Mint State, with only about one such coin existing today for every 10,000 pieces minted over a century and a half ago.

Date lightly punched in die, making the logotype appear quite different in spacing than that described above. However, upon close inspection the proportions and alignment seem to be the same, and we believe that the same punch was used. Obverse with a ring attached to Liberty's earlobe. Reverse similar to preceding with unusual extension of the vertical shield stripes. Possibly a different die with additional curious spikes extending upward from the junction of wing and neck, just left of the shield.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, April 13, 1973.

## Interesting Half Eagle Group

- 379 **Dozen half eagles grading net AU-50;** sharpness finer, cleaned at one time, except where noted. A very interesting group that will reward the buyer who studies the pieces under magnification ☆ 1844 ☆ 1845 Recut 8. Saltwater ☆ 1857 ☆ 1861 ☆ 1879. Harshly cleaned ☆ 1880 ☆ 1881-S/O ☆ 1893-S ☆ 1898 ☆ 1900-S. Brushed ☆ 1901 Repunched 1. Light scratches ☆ 1906-D. (Total: 12 pieces)

## Another Interesting \$5 Group

- 380 **Dozen AU-50 Liberty half eagles:** ☆ 1844 ☆ 1846 Large Date (2) ☆ 1852. Cleaned long ago ☆ 1873 Closed 3 ☆ 1881 Doubled Date ☆ 1881-S ☆ 1892-CC Doubled Mintmark ☆ 1893-O ☆ 1897-S S Over S (best seen under high magnification). Scattered marks. ☆ 1901-S ☆ 1903-S. Each with lustrous surfaces. Again, these pieces can be very fascinating to own if each is carefully studied under magnification. Over the range of years indicated there are numerous variations in logotype sizes, styles and positions, some double dates, and other differences. (Total: 12 pieces)



## Lustrous 1844-C Half Eagle



- 381 **1844-C AU-55 (PCGS).** Lightly abraded yellow gold surfaces (taken care of by the assignment of the AU-55 grade) with a hint of greenish lustre. A delightful example, nevertheless, with outstanding aesthetic appeal. This is a scarce issue which is quite elusive in higher grades.

PCGS Population: 2; 7 finer (MS-63 finest).

The reverse has a die crack from the border through first A in AMERICA to eagle's wing and neck. Another crack, or extension of the first, arcs down through the eagle's neck and shield.

Douglas Winter discusses an article by Anthony Stautzenberger which states that the public had lost their faith in Bechtler coinage by this time, and gained increased confidence in Charlotte Mint gold. As a result, and also a result of a fire the following year within the mint, this 1844-dated issue saw extensive circulation.

We would enjoy seeing an original report, newspaper article, or documentation circa 1844 about this.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 228.*

- 382 **1844-D AU-55 (PCGS).** Brilliant green-gold lustre with slightly reflective fields and frosty design motifs. Sharply struck with full obverse and reverse definition. A few very minor surface marks are noted, none serious. Not as rare as earlier issues, however, certainly far from a common date. Although 88,982 coins were reported as struck, it is not certain that all coins were actually dated 1844.

Perfect dies. Medium D mintmark, recently reclassified from the Large designation.

*Purchased from Jack Klausen, June 19, 1968.*

## Choice Mint State 1844-O Half Eagle

Among the Finest Known



- 383 **1844-O Normal Stars. MS-63 (PCGS).** With the exception of a single Proof example, and a gem MS-65 coin which we sold in Part II of the Bass Collection, this is one of the very finest 1844-O half eagles in existence. Very sharply struck with rich, frosty yellow gold lustre. Very minor hairlines and other minute abrasions are noted. This is the only No Motto New Orleans Mint half eagle that is readily available in Mint State. Actually, in an absolute sense these pieces are very hard to find. It has been our experience that year for year, New Orleans pieces are more difficult to find in grades such as AU and Mint State than are those of Charlotte and Dahlonega. Without going into great detail, the general reason seems to be that New Orleans coins circulated far and wide, whereas many Charlotte and Dahlonega pieces stayed in their regions, tended to change hands less frequently, and on the eve of the Civil War were hoarded by citizens.

PCGS Population: 5; 1 finer (MS-65).

The reverse has minute die cracks through the bases of most letters.

## Mint State 1844-O Half Eagle

Breen's "Small Thin Stars"



- 384 **1844-O Small Thin Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).** An outstanding example with lustrous greenish yellow gold surfaces and very minor surface marks, consistent with the numerical grade. This variety is actually best considered a die state of the Normal Stars obverse with the die lapped.

In general, New Orleans Mint half eagles in Mint State are exceedingly rare—and the opportunity to acquire attractive ones, such as this, occurs only at widely spaced intervals.

Breen 6554.

Reverse with light bisecting die crack from ES, through eagle, to left serif of U.

*Purchased from Jimmy Hayes, August 17, 1972.*

- 385 **1844-O Small Thin Stars. AU-55.** A pleasing example with considerable frosty lustre, especially in the protected portions near the central motif, around stars, date digits, and letters on the reverse. A few very minor handling marks are noted.

Breen-6554

The reverse die is shattered, including a diagonal bisecting crack through ES to the eagle's head, wing, leaves, and left serif of U.

*From Abner Kreisberg's "Quality Sale" of September 1971, Lot 1035.*

## Choice Mint State 1845 Half Eagle

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



- 386 **1845 MS-64 (PCGS).** Satiny greenish yellow gold with sharp design details. An attractive example of an issue that is quite underrated in Mint State preservation. In Part II of the Bass Collection, we offered the Norweb example. These two coins represent two of the very finest known 1845 half eagles. A month after the previous Bass offering, in November 1999, we offered a third PCGS-graded MS-64 example—perhaps violating the rule that good things sometimes come in pairs. Regardless, even though unusual pieces sometimes come on the market in twos or threes, at other times there can be a long dry spell with no pieces offered at all. As always, *opportunity* is the key word.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Minute die cracks extend through several obverse stars. The reverse has several small die cracks through bases or tops of many letters.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of October 1968, Lot 1567.*



## Choice Mint State 1845 Half Eagle

### Very Heavy Date



- 387 **1845 MS-63 (PCGS).** Brilliant, frosty yellow gold lustre with slightly reflective fields, resulting in an attractive cameo appearance. The date was deeply and remarkably punched far into the working the die—creating a very “heavy date,” unusual for its boldness. This lovely half eagle has a few very minor surface marks, however, none are serious. Although the mintage was quite high, with 417,099 coins struck, only a couple dozen Mint State examples survive, with three in the present sale.

PCGS Population: 2; 4 finer (all MS-64).

The date is very heavily punched into the die. All numerals are very heavy, with the upper curve and flag of digit 5 very close. The deeper a date logotype is punched into a working die, the closer the spacing of the numerals becomes. However, if a die such as this were to be relapped, the letters would become “thin” and widely spaced on later die states. Trying to determine how various peculiarities of a die were made, or changed, is a fascinating pursuit—one of the joys of cataloguing the Bass Collection.

Diagonal die lines pass through Miss Liberty’s eye.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, January 2, 1980.*

## Third Mint State 1845 Half Eagle



- 388 **1845 Recut 18. MS-60.** Sharply struck in light yellow gold with reflective fields and moderate abrasions. Numerous minor hairlines suggest this was lightly cleaned at some time in the distant past. The opportunity to bid on three Mint State examples of this issue in the same sale is not unheard of (check Part II of the Bass Collection!), but certainly is remarkable. During the past decade, through and including the present offering, only about 15 Mint State 1845 half eagles have crossed the auction block—with seven of these so far in the Bass Collection! Remarkable!

Digits 1 and 8 are recut below; the repunching is from the same size logotype (not a smaller logotype).

*Purchased from J.E. Ryan, August 29, 1973.*

## Mint State 1845-D Half Eagle



- 389 **1845-D MS-61 (PCGS).** A very sharply struck example with outstanding bright yellow gold lustre, featuring a hint of green. Splashes of coppery orange toning are visible on both obverse and reverse. This is an exceptional example with few abrasions of any kind. Although two finer examples were offered in Part II of the Bass Collection, this coin is still one of the finer known examples, certainly within the top 10.

PCGS Population: 1; 5 finer (MS-65 finest).

With this year, the true Large mintmark was first employed.

A crack extends through ERICA, FIVE D, and U.

Foiled by a photograph: Your editor was perusing the Bass II catalogue and came across the illustration of Lot 949, which appears to have a *stanted* 5 in the date—something we did not know when cataloguing this particular piece. Through a fortuitous circumstance we were able to borrow the coin from the successful bidder, only to learn that this particular variety had a normal upright 5, and that it must have been a shadow on the coin or toning that made the photograph look different. We were fooled for a time and thought we had discovered a new variety—after the catalogue was published!

*From Stack’s sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 866.*



- 390 **1845-D AU-55.** Greenish gold with reflective, slightly prooflike surfaces. Obverse and reverse rims have been lightly filed to diminish the effects of bruises or other damage. This is a coin which needs to be carefully examined, for the filing is not as serious as one might imagine. Placed in a plastic holder, the filing would scarcely be noticeable.

Upright 5 in date.

*From Stack’s sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 401.*

## Lustrous 1845-O Half Eagle



- 391 **1845-O Repunched Date. AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous greenish gold with moderately abraded surfaces. Very slightly weak at center of obverse and reverse, however, most details are quite bold. This variety, with 18 in date repunched, is much scarcer than that with normal date.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, April 11, 1972.*

## Mint State 1846 Half Eagle

### Large Date



- 392 **1846 Large Date. MS-61.** Sharply struck with lustrous greenish gold surfaces, very slightly reflective in nature. Faint hairlines and other abrasions are noted, no doubt the result of light cleaning long ago. A pleasing example of the Large Date variety, sometimes also known as Medium Date.

The difference in size between the Small Date and Large Date varieties is not dramatic. In fact, careful measurement of all date digits indicates that the height of each is only about one-eighth mm greater on the Large Date. This Large Date is 6.0 mm wide from left edge of upright of 1 to right edge of lower curve of 6. On the Small Date examples in the present sale, the date width is 5.6 mm.

*From Stack’s sale of the Bartle Collection, October 1984, Lot 1029.*



393 **1846 Small Date. AU-58.** Lustrous greenish gold with light hairlines and abrasions, and a faint scratch in the right obverse field. This Small Date variety is clearly scarcer than the Large Date.

*From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, November 1970, Lot 167.*

394 **Grouping of half eagles grading AU-55.** A nice run of different varieties—displaying interesting peculiarities among date logotypes and other features: ☆ 1846 Large Date ☆ 1847 Doubled 7, the earlier 7 being a *smaller numeral*—perhaps from a tentative touching of a smaller date logotype, interesting! ☆ 1856 ☆ 1878 ☆ 1881 ☆ 1891 ☆ 1896 ☆ 1898-S ☆ 1901/0-S. Each displays lustrous and attractive surfaces. (Total: 9 pieces)

395 **Selection of AU-55 half eagles:** ☆ 1846 Large Date ☆ 1847 ☆ 1873 Open 3 ☆ 1878-S ☆ 1881 ☆ 1895 ☆ 1897 ☆ 1899 ☆ 1904-S Recut S ☆ 1905-S. Each is lustrous with yellow gold surfaces. (Total: 10 pieces)

396 **1846 Small Date. AU-50.** Light yellow gold with a hint of orange. A few minor rim bruises are noted on the reverse.

*Purchased from Edwin Shapiro, April 7, 1969.*

397 **Grouping of half eagles with minor problems.** A group that will be fairly inexpensive for the purchaser, due to the surfaces of the pieces, but which offers interesting logotype positions, minor variations, etc. ☆ 1846 Large Date. Net EF-45; sharpness of AU-55, saltwater ☆ 1849 Doubled 49. EF-45. Rim cut ☆ 1852 Net EF-40; sharpness of AU-53, harshly cleaned ☆ 1856 Net EF-45; sharpness of MS-60, polished ☆ 1878 EF-45, cleaned ☆ 1906-D EF-45. Scratches ☆ 1882-CC EF-40, lightly cleaned ☆ 1884-S EF-40, cleaned ☆ 1891-CC EF-40, cleaned. (Total: 9 pieces)

398 **1846-C Small Date. AU-50.** Sharply struck with green-gold surfaces and minor abrasions. Moderate hairlines seem to be from a long-ago cleaning. In addition, some rim marks and filing marks are noted. This is a piece that invites in-person inspection, as although we try to transmit a word picture by describing salient features that catch our eye, overall the piece has a pleasing aspect—as a quick glance will verify. A scarce issue from a mintage of 12,995 coins.

The collecting of Charlotte Mint half eagles is a popular pursuit, and one that can be completed given time, patience, and a reasonable budget. Unlike the general situation for San Francisco issues of a slightly later period (the 1850s and 1860s), Charlotte coins of the 1840s and 1850s can often be acquired in such grades as AU—as offered here.

### Pleasing 1846-D/D Half Eagle



399 **1846-D Small Date, Repunched Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with lustrous greenish yellow gold surfaces. A few very minor abrasions are noted, however, none are serious. This variety has a very sharply doubled mintmark, described below, and is in demand from specialists and from those who are intrigued by similar die blunders among all denominations. This variety is actually more common than the perfect mintmark, although the latter is not nearly as interesting.

Large D mintmark is sharply doubled with the initial impression much too high and buried beneath the branch stem. The final impression is in a much more appropriate position with the result that this second punch overlaps the bottom third of the initial punch.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of September 1967, Lot 428.*

400 **1846-D Small Date, Perfect Mintmark. Net EF-45;** sharpness of AU-55, surfaces very lightly etched from saltwater submersion. This is the style sometimes called “seawater Uncirculated,” for, presumably, such pieces were Mint State, or close to it, when they were lost at sea. Very sharply struck and quite attractive. Perfect Mintmark variety, which is much rarer than the Doubled Mintmark variety.

Under close inspection, very minute die details can be seen, including a raised line from star 1 to the neck and other artifacts of the die preparation or finishing process. On the reverse the barest trace of a crack is seen through the letters from the final A (AMERICA) continuing clockwise through the denomination, continuing further to U and the upper U (UNITED) and the upper left of N, to the border.

How interesting it would be if we could know the name of the ship in which this pretty little 1846-D half eagle was part of the cargo. However, many if not most undersea treasure recoveries, if not large or important in size and financing, usually go unrecorded—simply because otherwise the litigation, etc., would be more costly than the numismatic value of a handful of pieces found.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of November 1968, Lot 856.*

### Prooflike 1846-O Half Eagle

#### Condition Census



401 **1846-O AU-55 (PCGS).** Very sharply struck with fully prooflike obverse and reverse fields. The devices are lustrous, creating a delightful cameo contrast. All hair details around the face are extremely sharp, with very slight weakness only on the E of LIBERTY. This is a rare issue with the present example among the top 10 known.

*Purchased from Doug Weaver, August 29, 1973.*

### Delightful 1847 Half Eagle



402 **1847 MS-62 (PCGS).** A wonderful example with fully lustrous, frosty yellow gold surfaces. A few very minor marks are noted, consistent with the grade. In Mint State, this is the only readily available date among all issues in the 1840s—and *readily available* must be considered in context, for even an MS-60 1847 half eagle would be far rarer, than for example, a Mint State 1889-CC Morgan dollar (the latter being worth tens of thousands of dollars).

Very faint obverse die cracks.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, June 6, 1969.*



## Lovely Mint State 1847 Half Eagle



- 403 **1847 1 in Neck. MS-61 (PCGS).** Lustrous and frosty bright yellow gold with reflective fields, an attractive cameo presentation. A few very minor marks are noted, however, this is a delightful coin nevertheless. Sharply struck with full obverse and reverse design details.

Variety with misplaced digit 1 at edge of neck. Short raised die file lines follow the obverse border below date and left. Very slight doubling at upper right serif of crossbar of 4. The reverse shows diagonal die striae, indicating that this must be a very early impression from the die.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, May 18, 1971.*

- 404 **1847 Doubled 7. MS-60.** Lustrous light yellow gold with very minor surface marks. A pleasing, example of this popular variety.

The final 7 is much larger than the 7 under it; perhaps the logotype punch intended for a smaller denomination was first used, then the error discovered. A die crack extends from O in OF to right shield tip, though eagle, to E of FIVE.

*From RARCOA's 1970 ANA Sale, Lot 1533.*

- 405 **Selection of half eagles grading AU-58.** A lovely selection which could well form the nucleus for a date and mintmark collection: ☆ 1847 Doubled 7 ☆ 1853 ☆ 1879 ☆ 1880-S ☆ 1886 ☆ 1887-S ☆ 1892 ☆ 1897 ☆ 1900-S. Each is lustrous with attractive surfaces. (Total: 9 pieces)

- 406 **Grouping of AU-58 half eagles:** ☆ 1847 ☆ 1861 ☆ 1879-S Re-cut 8 and 9 ☆ 1880-S ☆ 1886-S ☆ 1888 ☆ 1892-S ☆ 1899-S ☆ 1902 (Perhaps some would call this MS-60) ☆ 1907-D. Each has attractive lustrous surfaces. (Total: 10 pieces)

- 407 **Selection of half eagles grading AU-55:** ☆ 1847 1 in Neck. Lustrous ☆ 1854. Lustrous yellow gold surfaces ☆ 1873 Closed 3. Lustrous ☆ 1878-S. Small but noticeable scrapes on the reverse ☆ 1882. Lustrous reddish orange-gold ☆ 1895-S. Lustrous with splashes of red ☆ 1898. Lustrous ☆ 1899-S. Lustrous ☆ 1905. Lustrous ☆ 1906. Lustrous. Another very nice group that will be a delight to the casual collector and specialist alike. (Total: 10 pieces)

## Scarce 1847-C Half Eagle



- 408 **1847-C AU-50.** Light greenish yellow gold with splashes of orange patina. Minor marks and hairlines are evident, none serious. This is a scarce issue, as are all Charlotte and Dahlonega gold coins, with the majority of survivors in Very Fine or Extremely Fine condition. Generally sharp design details, although weak at the centers, typical of most known examples.

Perfect dies.

Upper right of 7 merges with neck truncation. Flat bottom to 7 (on the logotype, and seen on all dies of this year).

*From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1969, Lot 240.*

## Lustrous 1847-D Half Eagle

### Memorable Quality



- 409 **1847-D AU-58 (PCGS).** Lovely green-gold lustre with reflective fields. Lightly abraded surfaces, however, much nicer than normally encountered. This is likely among the top 10 examples known. Doug Winter noted this issue is "rare in properly graded AU-55 [or finer]." In our opinion this piece is, indeed, *properly graded*.

Date logotype as preceding. Upper right of 7 barely touches neck truncation. Logotype punched deeply into the working die, as seems to be the rule for branch mint issues (so that they can be more easily relapped and kept in service longer?).

*From Stack's 1976 ANA Sale, August 1976, Lot 2967.*

- 410 **1847-D Net EF-45;** sharpness of AU-55, heavy reverse scratches below ES in STATES; test mark on reverse border. A coin that should be inspected before bidding, as the overall "personality" of the piece is nicer than our matter-of-fact description imparts. This issue consisted of an original mintage amounting to 64,405 coins, with less than 1% surviving today.

A thin reverse crack extends through tops of FIVE D. and down to the border.

*Purchased from RARCOA, May 18, 1972.*

- 411 **1847-D VF-35.** An attractive light yellow gold example with typical lightly abraded surfaces.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1967, Lot 467.*

## Outstanding 1847-O \$5 Rarity

### An O-Mint Classic



- 412 **1847-O AU-53 (PCGS).** Similar in quality to Lot 984 in Part II of the Bass Collection. Greenish yellow gold with a hint of orange patina. Few very light hairlines are visible. A most attractive example of this rarity, one of 12,000 coins struck. This issue is unknown in Mint State with only five or six AU examples known. Typical survivors are VF or EF.

This issue is one of the rarest of all Liberty half eagles, regardless of date and mint. An important opportunity for the specialist.

Recently offered examples in AU include two coins in Part II of the Bass Collection, an example sold by Heritage in the 1999 FUN sale, another in the Milas Collection sold by Stack's in 1995, a specimen sold in June 1997 by Spink America, and five or six lower AU grade examples sold during the 1990s, some of which may represent duplicate auction appearances of the same coins.

PCGS Population: 6; 2 finer (both AU-55).

Large date logotype punched high in the field with top of 1 solidly joined to bust and top of 7 minutely separated from bust. Mintmark low in reverse field, closer to FIVE than to arrow feathers. The date logotype is very lightly punched into the working die, giving it a distinctly different appearance with wider spacing than on most dies of this year. As an interesting exercise, simply compare the illustration of this piece with just about any other 1847 \$5.

*From RARCOA's sale of May 1969, Lot 210.*



## Elusive 1848 Half Eagle

### Among the Finest Known



- 413 **1848 MS-63 (PCGS).** This is one of the finest appearing coins in the present sale, an aesthetic delight. The connoisseur will appreciate the brilliant, frosty yellow gold devices, surrounded by reflective, prooflike fields. Under magnification diagonal die striae can be seen on both sides—indicating that this is a very early impression from the die pair. A few very minor abrasions appear in the fields, and are reflected by the mirrored surfaces. Although 260,775 half eagles were struck in Philadelphia this year, only a couple dozen Mint State examples survive. Slightly weak at central obverse and reverse, a common occurrence among coins of this design type.

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (MS-64 although this coin no longer appears in the *Population Report*).

A short projection from the upper right serif of T in UNITED extends up into the space between TE.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, December 13, 1991.*



- 414 **1848 MS-60.** Another attractive Mint State example of this elusive issue, this with light yellow gold lustre, frosty on the obverse and reflective on the reverse.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1980.*

- 415 **1848-C AU-50.** Medium yellow gold with slightly rough, porous surfaces. A so-called "seawater" example which was recovered at some unspecified time from a sunken ship. A few minor dents and scrapes are present, however, these are not distracting. Slight central weakness with most peripheral details sharp.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of November 1968, Lot 861.*

- 416 **1848-C Net EF-45;** sharpness of MS-60 with hairlines from cleaning. Bright greenish gold with moderate abrasions as often encountered. Very slight central weakness, however, generally sharp design definition. This issue is an important rarity in Mint State, and if this particular coin had not been cleaned, it would qualify as one of the very finest known.

*From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 412.*

## Lovely 1848-D Half Eagle



- 417 **1848-D AU-58 (PCGS).** Bright greenish yellow gold with full satiny lustre. Few very light hairlines and abrasions are noted. Slightly weak on the eagle's neck, otherwise very sharply struck. This is an important opportunity for the specialist, as are many lots in the present sale. Although 47,465 half eagles

were recorded for the year, most survivors are well circulated with choice AU and Mint State examples of extreme rarity. Of just six examples certified as AU-58 or finer by PCGS, the Bass Collection yielded two such coins.

PCGS Population: 2; 4 finer (MS-62 finest).

Heavy obverse clash marks.

The date logotype for this variety is very interesting. The ball on the 8 is almost a hemisphere, perhaps indicating that in the matrix from which the logotype is made, the ball on the 9 was augmented by a separate punch; at a later time, it seems that the face of the figures were ground down, removing the hemispherical element to the ball of the 9 and making this and the other figures appear flat on the top surfaces.

*From Stack's 1971 ANA Sale, Lot 2177.*

## Scarce 1848-D Half Eagle

### Heavy Obverse Clash Marks



- 418 **1848-D AU-50.** Greenish yellow gold with moderate abrasions. Intriguing obverse and reverse clash marks may have some other source than this same half eagle design. See the discussion in Part II of the Bass Collection, Lot 995.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, July 1967.*

- 419 **1848-D EF-45.** Bright greenish gold with extensive hairlines from heavy cleaning. Sharply detailed and still desirable. Actually, this piece is about average for a Dahlonega coin in this grade. Most of its contemporaries have been cleaned at one time or another, or have some problems. In some instances, coins with such problems are certified, and other instances they are excluded from certification.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1969, Lot 245.*

## Scarce Mint State 1849 Half Eagle



- 420 **1849 MS-62.** Satiny yellow gold lustre with a hint of orange toning. Minor abrasions and hairlines are noted, suggesting light cleaning at some time. Some central weakness is noted, especially among the eagle's neck feathers. An important opportunity for the specialist.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, July 28, 1972.*

- 421 **1849 AU-58.** Bright and frosty yellow gold lustre with very pleasing surfaces. Slight central weakness is typical of most examples of this design type. Very nearly full Mint State quality and surprisingly rare as such. A small rim mark is present at 11:00 on the obverse.

The obverse has a hole in the ear lobe, suggesting that Miss Liberty was wearing an earring. This hole is at the exact center of the design and served as a type of "center dot" for the layout of this die. Date logotype punched seemingly modified to give the surfaces flat higher areas and removing the hemispheric feature of the ball of the 9 noted on Lot 417.

*From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 176.*



- 422 1849 Doubled 49. AU-50. Rich yellow gold with a hint of green. Considerable lustre remains in the protected areas around design details. Sharply struck with only a few very minor imperfections. An interesting recut date variety, described below.

The final two date digits are noticeably recut below, with the base and crossbar of 4 doubled and digit 9 completely doubled. Both punches are from the earlier version of the logotype, with the “hemispheric” ball on the 9, although not as prominent on the present piece due to the overlapping of the two impressions.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, December 16, 1971.*

## Outstanding Mint State 1849-C \$5

### Condition Census



- 423 1849-C MS-62 (PCGS). Lustrous greenish yellow gold with very few marks of any type, save for a very fine diagonal scratch across the profile of Liberty—hardly noticeable (but without it, perhaps this piece would have been designated a notch or two higher in grade). Very sharply struck with minor weakness only on the eagle’s right leg. This is among the five or six finest known examples despite being the most available Mint State Charlotte Mint half eagle issue of the 1840s.

PCGS Population: 3; 3 finer (MS-64 finest).

Very faint obverse and reverse clash marks are noted. The reverse has a short die crack from the border to a leaf, passing through the upper left serif of U.

Logotype from early state of punch, with “hemispheric” knob to 9, etc.

*From RARCOA’s 1970 ANA Sale, August 1970, Lot 1545.*

## Important 1849-D Half Eagle



- 424 1849-D AU-58 (PCGS). Probably one of the top five or six known examples, despite the population reported below. Lustrous greenish gold with reflective, satiny fields. Minor abrasions are expected at this grade level. This issue is very sharply struck with considerable aesthetic appeal. A coin for the connoisseur.

Regarding this issue, Doug Winter noted: “The 1849-D half eagle is usually found in Very Fine to Extremely Fine grades. It is sometimes seen in About Uncirculated-50 but it is quite rare in any AU grade above this. In full Mint State, the 1849-D is a very rare coin.” He listed just three Mint State examples in his census. One or two others likely exist.

PCGS Population: 5; 8 finer (MS-63 finest). Seven examples are listed as MS-62 and may represent only two or three different coins.

A very light die crack joins the tops of FIVE D. Impression from early four-digit logotype punch state.

*Purchased from Douglas Weaver, August 1973.*

## Scarce 1849-D Half Eagle



- 425 1849-D AU-50. Very light yellow gold with hairlines visible from cleaning. A pleasing example, just the same, and certain to delight the new owner. An above average example of this date, mint and grade.

Early logotype punch style.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.*

## Important Mint State 1850 Half Eagle

### Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



- 426 1850 MS-62 (PCGS). Frosty, brilliant yellow gold with reflective fields, an attractive cameo example. A few minor hairlines and abrasions are noted. Generally very sharp design definition with slight weakness at the centers, especially on the eagle’s neck. Just 64,491 coins were struck with very few surviving in any Mint State grade. A scarce issue that is sure to capture the specialist’s attention. The reverse has a very minor planchet flaw at TE of UNITED.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Date logotype low and left. This year the numerals are very widely spaced and are thin, quite unlike the style of any earlier half eagle.

*From Stack’s sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 179.*

## Rare Mint State 1850-C Half Eagle

### Strong Mintmark



- 427 1850-C MS-62 (PCGS). A wonderful example of this rarity, with frosty greenish gold lustre. Very sharply struck with full obverse and reverse design definition. Only a few very minor abrasions and hairlines are noted. From a mintage of 63,591 coins, however, only six to eight examples survive in Mint State. We estimate that this example is one of the top three or four coins in existence. A true *showpiece* for the connoisseur and specialist. Add to this the illustrious pedigree of having been in the DiBello Collection offered by Stack’s, and you have all the ingredients for a truly winning coin!

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

Minor reverse die cracks are noted.

*From Stack’s sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 882.*



### Scarce 1850-C Half Eagle



**428 1850-C AU-55 (PCGS).** Light greenish yellow gold with exceptional surfaces. Lustre remains visible in the protected areas. Although a relatively common Charlotte Mint half eagle, this issue is seldom encountered in higher grades. An important opportunity to acquire this Strong Mintmark variety.

Perfect dies.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 2038.



**429 1850-D AU-55.** Deep greenish gold with slight reflectivity visible despite having been cleaned. Moderately abraded surfaces. An opportunity for the budget-conscious collector, although to be frank, in the context of Dahlonega Mint issues this piece is closer to the middle than into the bottom. Harry W. Bass, Jr. probably acquired it because of its interesting die characteristics.

Mintmark slightly weak, however, still complete. The reverse has a die crack through the base of FIVE D., extending left through the tops of UNITED STATES. Date logotype punched very deeply into the working die, seemingly the rule rather than the exception for dies for this mint.

Purchased from Jack Klausen, June 19, 1968.

### Lovely 1850-D \$5



**430 1850-D AU-50 (PCGS).** Attractive greenish yellow gold with subdued lustre in the fields. Considerable reflective surface is visible around devices. A few very minor hairlines and abrasions are noted. This is a scarce coin and survives from a mintage of 43,984. Large D mintmark is completely defined (on some known examples, the mintmark is quite weak, and occasionally all but invisible). Examples such as this, with sharply visible mintmark, carry a premium over other examples. Central and peripheral weakness is noted, as is a small scrape between numeral 1 and star 1.

Perfect dies.

From Stack's sale of the Winter Collection, January-February 1974, Lot 646.

### Choice Mint State 1851 Half Eagle

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



**431 1851 MS-63 (PCGS).** Satiny yellow gold lustre with very few minor surface marks. Sharply struck save for very light central weakness. Although 377,505 coins were struck, only two or three dozen examples are known in Mint State. The present example is one of the very finest known of this issue.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer.

A lumpy die crack joins stars 2 and 3. Top surface of the date is not parallel to the fields, with the bottom of the date punched more deeply into the die than the top portion. Date logotype with large, "open," and fairly widely spaced numerals—in the style of 1850, but of no earlier year in the Coronet Head series.

From Stack's 1976 ANA Sale, August 1976, Lot 2971.

**432 1851-C Net EF-45;** sharpness of AU-58, hairlined and scratched. Bright greenish gold with a few other minor abrasions. Very sharply struck with full obverse and reverse details and bold mintmark.

Light clash marks are visible on the reverse.

Date logotype impressed deeply into working die.

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 183.

### Lustrous 1851-D Half Eagle



**433 1851-D AU-58 (PCGS).** A lovely example of this scarce issue with superb yellow gold surfaces and virtually full lustre. Slight central weakness is noted on the hair curls below the coronet, on the eagle's neck, and lower reverse design details. A few minor surface marks are noted. This is a very scarce issue which is quite elusive in higher grades, a true rarity when fully Mint State. As Douglas Winter has pointed out in his writings, there has been a grade escalation in recent years. The present piece is attractive enough that we would not be at all surprised if one of these times it emerged as "MS-60." In other words, right now it is a "high end" AU-58, in our opinion.

PCGS Population: 4; 6 finer (MS-63 finest).

Upper right curve of mintmark joins branch.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, January 26, 1973.



## Lustrous 1851-D Half Eagle

Exceptional Strike  
Bold Mintmark



- 434 **1851-D AU-53 (PCGS)**. Attractive yellow gold with a hint of green. Considerable lustre remains in the protected areas. This is very sharply struck, although slight central weakness is noted. The mintmark was deeply punched in the die and is bold and distinct.

Base of first digit in date overlaps dentils at left. Mintmark right of normal position, with upper right curve joined to branch stem.

Date logotype driven extremely deeply into the working die, giving the figures an altogether different appearance than that seen on the typical *Philadelphia Mint* 1851 half eagle—very interesting to view and contemplate when the two are side by side.

From *Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 422.*

## Lovely 1851-O Half Eagle



- 435 **1851-O AU-58 (PCGS)**. Lustrous bright yellow gold with exceptional surfaces although two tiny vertical scratches are noted, one in each loop of digit 8. Typical central weakness is noted, as often seen on this issue. A rare variety with doubled first 1 in date.

The first digit 1 is sharply doubled, with the original position a half millimeter above the final placement, and merged in the bust.

From *Paramount's 1969 ANA Sale, August 1969, Lot 1925.*

## Lustrous 1851-O Half Eagle

Scarce in any Grade



- 436 **1851-O AU-50**. Attractive yellow gold with light orange patina. Somewhat weak at upper obverse and lower reverse, typical of many Liberty half eagles from this mint. A few light handling marks are consistent with the grade. A very nice coin overall—an exemplary specimen of this date, mint, and grade. Total mintage for this issue was just 41,000 coins and this was the only New Orleans half eagle issue minted during the six year period from 1848 to 1853.

From *Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 418.*

## Desirable Mint State 1852 Half Eagle

From the Norweb Collection



- 437 **1852 MS-64 (PCGS)**. Although a relatively common issue, even in Mint State, examples reaching the MS-64 grade level are few and far between. In fact, none have been certified finer by PCGS. The mintage of 573,901 coins is among the largest in the series from 1839 to 1866. This figure is only exceeded by 1843, 1847, and 1861. Despite this figure, only 50 to 80 are estimated to survive in Mint State, and not over a dozen at this grade level or higher. Frosty light yellow gold with only a few scattered marks here and there. The connoisseur will wish to throw all caution to the wind and bid as liberally as possible—as an opportunity such as this may not recur for a long time.

PCGS Population: 6; none finer.

A faint die crack from star 1 joins bases of 185 and a prominent die line from the bottom edge of the bust extends left over 52.

From *our sale of the Norweb Collection, October 1987, Lot 835.*

## Delightful 1852-C Half Eagle



- 438 **1852-C AU-55**. Deep greenish gold with considerable reflective, prooflike surface in the fields. Usual central weakness is noted on the high points of Liberty and on the eagle's neck. Moderately abraded as expected for the grade. Three small surface scrapes are noted, two in the obverse field and one between RI on the reverse. Although scarce, with a mintage of 72,574 coins, this issue is among the more affordable in the entire series, an ideal candidate for type collectors.

Date is tall and high in the field, with top of 1 touching the bust. Very faint die cracks connect certain letters on the reverse.

From *Paramount's 1969 ANA Sale, August 1969, Lot 1927.*

- 439 **1852-D AU-55 (PCGS)**. Lustrous light yellow gold with very minor surface marks. Central weakness is noted on the example, primarily on the highest hair curls and on the eagle's neck. With a mintage of 91,584 coins and a relatively high survival rate, this is one of the more available Dahlonega Mint half eagles. However, it can be said that the present combination of high numerical grade and outstanding eye appeal is very *special*.

Two varieties of half eagle are briefly described by Douglas Winter. His variety 21-P has digit 1 in date touching bust, with mintmark joined to arrow feather. On his variety 22-Q, the digit 1 does not touch the bust truncation, and the mintmark is free of the feather.

The presently offered example appears to be a combination of obverse 22 and a reverse other than Q. The mintmark position does not exactly match Winter's description. The top of both 1 and 2 are separated from the truncation, yet are each extremely close. The reverse has the mintmark touching the branch stem with the right edge over the center of E. The inside curve of the mintmark is minutely doubled.

A heavy vertical die line extends completely through the right side of the final S in STATES. This is not mentioned in the literature, and is a feature we do not recall seeing on other issues. Of course, this is also not a feature we have specifically looked for in the past!

Purchased from *Stanley Kesselman, February 1, 1972.*



## Another Attractive 1852-D Half Eagle



- 440 **1852-D AU-50.** Light greenish gold with minor obverse hairlines. Typical strike with central obverse and reverse weakness. The reverse shows numerous circular brush marks. Nevertheless, an attractive example from this popular southern mint.

The obverse has artifacts around the digit 1, including an extra tiny serif above the main serif, and short horizontal lines beneath the base.

From *Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 422.*

## Choice Mint State 1853 Half Eagle

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



- 441 **1853 MS-63 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with lustrous deep yellow gold surfaces. A few minor marks are noted, the only prominent mark being just above the eagle's beak. This is a very important opportunity to acquire what may be one of the very finest known examples of the date. In a manuscript copy of Dave Bowers' new gold series, he discusses this issue, providing an estimated Mint State population of 60 to 100 coins: "Plentiful in the context of early Coronet Head half eagles. Most are in lower grades, and any specimen meriting the descriptor *choice* is quite rare." The present piece offers an elegant combination of extremely high grade and unsurpassed pedigree.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer.

Large date logotype is approximately centered between bust truncation and border. A tiny raised artifact is just below center between 1 and 8. This has the appearance of a remnant from a misplaced digit 1. A prominent die line is located in the space between bottom right side of E and hair curls below. Minute raised die lines angle up to right, through upper left serif of B.

From *our sale of the Norweb Collection, October 1987, Lot 837.*

- 442 **Selection of Liberty half eagles grading EF-45:** ☆ 1853 ☆ 1854-O ☆ 1855 ☆ 1884-S ☆ 1892 ☆ 1892-S ☆ 1893 ☆ 1894-O ☆ 1894-S ☆ 1896-S ☆ 1900-S ☆ 1904-S. Highly lustrous and very attractive. The key date of its era, although largely unrecognized. A well-matched grouping with some lustre remaining. Another run of half eagles that will form or add to the nucleus of a specialized collection. (Total: 12 pieces)

## Outstanding Mint State 1853-C \$5

Prooflike Surfaces



- 443 **1853-C MS-61 (PCGS).** This lovely half eagle has deep green-gold surfaces with virtually complete prooflike fields. Very sharply struck, even including the central design details. Minor surface abrasions are noted, and are expected on any coin of this grade level. Although all Charlotte and Dahlonega gold coins are elusive in Mint State, or are outright rarities, this is one of the more available issues in higher grades. As such, this coin is a logical choice for type collectors seeking a representative example from this North Carolina mint. The coin offered here is among the top 10% of all examples certified by PCGS.

Obverse and reverse have very fine, minute, die lines in various directions. A fine die crack from the border below V extends right through base of E, and continues intermittently to CA. Seemingly a fairly early impression from the die pair, despite the cracks.

From *Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 428.*

- 444 **1853-C Net VF-35;** sharpness of AU-50, harshly cleaned with numerous tiny hairlines. Bright greenish gold surfaces. Mintmark is weak but completely visible. A below average specimen that must have been purchased for some unrecorded reason—possibly to illustrate the light mintmark or the die state. We mention this, as it was purchased *after* higher grade pieces had been acquired, including the preceding lot.

From *Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 260.*

## Lustrous 1853-D Half Eagle



- 445 **1853-D AU-58 (PCGS).** Brilliant, satiny orange-gold lustre with a few microscopic hairlines and abrasions. Slight central weakness as normally encountered, however, still far above average in aesthetic quality. Of importance to the specialist are the peripheral details, including complete details of every star, except star 7 which is slightly weak. This is clearly the single most available Dahlonega Mint half eagle in any grade. The present piece has a *rare* combination of high grade and truly outstanding visual appeal—to see it is to love it! We expect that even the most seasoned Dahlonega Mint specialist will want to bid liberally to acquire this remarkable coin.

The three examples of this issue in the present sale are from three distinctly different reverse dies. The obverse die appears to be the same on all three coins. A heavy raised die polish line from the leading edge of the coronet passes left through two lower points of star 6 toward the border. This example is from Winter's dies 23-Q. The mintmark is centered below the arrow feather.

Purchased from *Stanley Kesselman, August 8, 1971.*



## Pleasing 1853-D Half Eagle



- 446 **1853-D AU-55.** Lustrous and attractive with few very minor surface marks, most notably a few small abrasions on Liberty's jaw and neck. Central weakness as usual.

Obverse with die line through lower points of star 6. Reverse has mintmark high and right, touching both the arrow feather and stem. Winter's variety 23-R. The bottom edge of the mintmark is slightly doubled below.

*From Abner Kreisberg's sale of September 1971, Lot 1045.*



- 447 **1853-D AU-50.** Light yellow gold with faint traces of orange patina. Slightly rough surfaces, no doubt from having spent some time with the octopi and sharks beneath the surface of the sea.

Winter's variety 23-S. However, the obverse die has fine finishing lines in different positions from the previous two lots. This may be a different die, although the date placement appears to be the same. Raised die lines are between star 13 and the date.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, December 21, 1971.*

## Exceptional 1854 Half Eagle



- 448 **1854 MS-63 (PCGS).** Frosty light yellow gold lustre with a hint of orange. A few widely scattered abrasions are noted. Very sharply struck and attractive. As with most other dates throughout the 1850s, this half eagle issue is scarce in Mint State and a true rarity when choice.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

Large date elements with the top of 1 firmly joined to the bust. Faint obverse and reverse clash marks. A fine die crack connects E and D in the denomination.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, August 12, 1969.*

## Exceptional Mint State 1854-C \$5

### Bold Mintmark Variety



- 449 **1854-C MS-60 (PCGS).** This is a wonderful example with lustrous, brilliant greenish yellow gold surfaces. A few moderate surface marks are visible. Typical strike with central weakness on the hair curls beneath the coronet and among various reverse design details. Only a few Mint State examples are known, perhaps just five or six. Of these, only two have strong mintmarks, including the presently offered coin. Only 39,283 coins were struck, representing the beginning of a decline in annual mintages at the Charlotte Mint.

Faint obverse clash marks. The reverse has a heavy bisecting die crack from the border through left side of first S, eagle's wing, lower edge of shield, lower design details, and CA to the border.

*From Stack's sale of the James A. Stack, Sr. Collection, October 1994, Lot 1142.*

- 450 **1854-C EF-45.** Moderately abraded light yellow gold surfaces with a hint of orange patina. Although relatively weakly struck, the mintmark is sharp and bold.

From the same dies as the previous lot, with the reverse bisecting crack visible, yet not as advanced.

*From Stack's sale of December 1970, Lot 192.*

## Amazing Mint State 1854-D \$5

### Extremely Sharp Mintmark



- 451 **1854-D Large Mintmark. MS-62 (PCGS).** This is a lovely example with wonderful surfaces displaying only very few hair-lines or other abrasions. Extremely sharp strike with all obverse and reverse design details boldly defined. The central hair details and fine details of the eagle on the reverse are all exceptionally sharp. Rich, satiny yellow gold lustre with a hint of green. Doug Winter notes that this is a common date among Dahlonega Mint half eagles, however, it is an extreme rarity in Mint State. Of course, almost any Dahlonega Mint coin is, in fact, a rarity in Mint State. Warning label: Buying this coin might be dangerous to the remainder of your collection, for it can spoil you—and you might come to expect too much!

PCGS Population: 3; 4 finer (MS-65 finest).

*From Superior's sale of the Dr. Charles Ruby Collection, February 1975, Lot 1197.*



## Lustrous 1854-D Half Eagle



- 452 **1854-D Large Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).** An exceptional example with bright yellow gold lustre and very few imperfections of any type. A rarity in higher grades despite the mintage of 56,413 coins. Very slight central weakness is noted.

Mintmark is high and right, touching both the arrow feather and branch stem. Bottom of the mintmark is very slightly doubled.

From our sale of the Armand Champa Collection, May 1972, Lot 537.

## Pleasing 1854-D Half Eagle

### Bold Mintmark



- 453 **1854-D Medium Mintmark. AU-55.** A lovely example with light yellow gold lustre and faint orange patina. Typically weak design details at center of obverse and reverse. The mintmark is unusually bold, however. A few very minor surface marks are noted. All told, a far above average example.

Winter variety 25-T with the date slightly closer to the border than bust truncation. The reverse has mintmark clearly separated from feather and stem. Although this reverse die has been noted by various scholars, only recently has the fact that it is a Medium D been discovered. This reverse is likely a leftover die from 1843 or 1844. This reverse was first used in 1853 and again in 1855.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, July 26, 1967.

## Sharp 1854-O Half Eagle



- 454 **1854-O AU-58.** Very sharply struck with slightly reflective light greenish gold surfaces. This is a very attractive example despite minor hairlines. Just 46,000 were minted with most survivors grading VF or EF. Lower level AU coins are available; however, choice AU examples are only occasionally seen.

Mintmark leans slightly to the left.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 897.

- 455 **1854-O AU-55.** Slightly reflective light greenish gold with minor hairlines and other abrasions. Sharply struck with very slight weakness among the central designs. A pleasing example of this popular issue. Very seldom found in grades even approaching the present offering. An important opportunity.

Mintmark leans slightly to the left.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of October 1968, Lot 871.

- 456 **1854-O AU-50.** Greenish yellow gold with minor abrasions. The lower obverse has very fine brush marks.

There seem to be two states of the four-digit 1854 half eagle logotype. Our observations are stated here, and the editor (QDB) welcomes correspondence with anyone having different views or adding or subtracting from what we say: in its form, the four-digit logotype had rounded surfaces to the tops of the digits, and the ball on the 5 was especially rounded, almost hemispherical. The lower left of the 4 was quite thick. Later, the logotype seems to have been dressed by grinding it against a flat surface, making the tops of the numerals flat, and also trimming the 4 so that the lower left corner is no longer thick, but is thin (and in the process causing the separation between the 5 and the 4 to become wider). Observation is that the early state of the logotype was used on *some* Philadelphia Mint dies and all branch mint dies, whereas the second or lighter version of the logotype was used only on later Philadelphia Mint dies.

Purchased from Jim Cohen, August 4, 1968.

## Lustrous Mint State 1855 Half Eagle



- 457 **1855 MS-62 (PCGS).** Another rarity in Mint State, among an entire series of such rarities. Brilliant and frosty yellow gold lustre with a very faint trace of light green patina. Very few scattered marks are noted, suggesting that some might think this to be a higher grade. Very few survivors from the mintage of 117,098 coins match this in quality. Possibly two dozen examples are known in Mint State, with most barely meeting the grade.

The date is slightly right of center, with digit 1 distant from the bust, and right tip of final 5 touching the shoulder.

At any level of Mint State—never mind MS-62—half eagles of this era are nearly impossible to find. In fact, in the entire history of numismatics from the earliest days of collecting to the present, not a single individual has ever put together a Mint State collection or even a collection of all AU or finer half eagles of this decade. The reason is that when such pieces were struck, very little numismatic attention was paid to them. By the time that numismatists became interested, high-grade coins has long since disappeared. Today, a specimen such as the presently offered 1855 can be found only at widely separated intervals. No *serious* attempt can be made to collect the series in this condition, and the best expectation is to obtain occasional pieces here and there as the opportunity arises.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.

- 458 **1855-C AU-55.** Slightly reflective, prooflike surfaces of bright yellow gold. Sharply struck with weakness only at the usual places on the reverse. Cleaned on the obverse, and with resultant hairlines. About average for an 1855-C half eagle.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, March 15, 1972.

## Lustrous 1855-D Half Eagle

### Truly Exceptional



- 459 **1855-D Medium Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).** This low-mintage issue is seldom found in grades better than EF. Lustrous light yellow gold with average design details, showing some weakness below Liberty's ear and on the eagle's neck. The surfaces are very pleasing with only a few minor abrasions. Doug Win



ter described this issue as “scarce and underrated” and further noted: “It is very rare in the higher AU grades and it is extremely rare in full Mint State.” He listed just two Mint State coins in his census, along with four grading AU-58. A truly exceptional 1855-D—one combining high numerical appeal and, equally or even more important, a generous measure of beauty and eye appeal.

Dave Bowers discusses the minting procedures of this issue, and related issues, in his upcoming gold series: “Usually with some lightness at the centers. It is important to remember that 1855-D half eagles—as well as other half eagles of this era—were strictly workhorse coins, made for use in commerce and with no thought of creating specimens for numismatic cabinets. By spacing the dies ever so slightly farther apart, die life would be prolonged and breakage would be minimized—at the very small practical expense of sharpness in the deepest die recesses.”

PCGS Population: 9; 4 finer (MS-63 finest). This population probably represents some resubmissions (as do virtually all population figures).

See under Lot 453 for the new Medium D designation.

From Paramount’s 1969 ANA Sale, August 1969, Lot 1938.

- 460 1855-D Medium Mintmark. AU-50.** Seawater surfaces. Deep orange-gold with very few surface marks other than the very fine porosity as suggested by the seawater description. Average strike for the issue. It is likely that this piece was in Mint State, or very close to it, at the time it became unexpectedly (presumably) submerged.

See under Lot 453 for the new Medium D designation.

From RARCOA’s sale of February 1972, Lot 911.

## Rare 1855-O Half Eagle

Mintage: 11,100



- 461 1855-O AU-58 (PCGS).** Very sharply struck in greenish yellow gold with slightly reflective fields. The central design details are extremely sharp, the only weakness being noted on the eagle’s claw and top arrow feather. Very seldom are examples of this quality encountered. In Part II of the Bass Collection, an example crossed the block as MS-61, the finest graded by PCGS. The only other Mint State example to be sold in the past decade was the MS-60 coin in the Milas Collection, sold by Stack’s in May 1995. We believe this example to be fourth finest known among all survivors of this issue. New Orleans coins have been neglected by numismatists for a long time, until the recent generation or so. At the time of issue not even the Mint Cabinet preserved examples of current pieces.

PCGS Population: 1; 3 finer (MS-61 finest).

Mintmark large and with an open center (almost large enough to put a small S mintmark within!).

Reverse with small prooflike area at top of second pair of vertical shield stripes.

From Glendining’s sale of October 1970, Lot 963.

## Attractive 1855-S Half Eagle First Collectible San Francisco Half Eagle



- 462 1855-S AU-58 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold with slightly reflective fields and very faint hairlines. A few very minor surface marks are noted. This is among the very rarest of all half eagles, with only two or three Mint State examples known. This AU-58 is certainly among the top six examples surviving from the 61,000 coins minted. A truly remarkable coin—one that will be treasured by its next owner.

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (MS-62, which appeared in Part II of the Bass Collection).

If the successful purchaser of this lot does not have a copy of the book, *The Treasure Ship S.S. Brother Jonathan*, a note to the editor will bring one forthwith. The volume discusses San Francisco during the 1850s and 1860s, including detailed information relating to the establishment of the San Francisco Mint and the coinage year by year of gold and silver at that facility—including the 1855-S. There are quite a few remarkable anecdotes relating to the Mint, including intrigue, near rebellion of the employees, and, unrelated to the preceding, famous writer Bret Harte working there as an employee.

From Stack’s sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 438.

- 463 1855-S Net EF-40;** sharpness of AU-50 with a heavy file mark on the obverse rim at 2:00. This is typical of file marks made in gold objects when testing for content. Pale orange-gold with hairlines from cleaning.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, September 26, 1967.

## Impressive Mint State 1856 \$5



- 464 1856 MS-64 (PCGS).** Intensely lustrous with brilliant light yellow gold surfaces and virtually no marks of any sort. Very faint greenish gold toning increases the aesthetic appeal. Although from a generous mintage of 197,900 coins, this is a rarity in Mint State with only 12 to 18 such examples surviving today. Among those, only a very few approach this example for quality.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-65).

Struck from a rotated reverse die, aligned approximately 150° rather than the normal 180°. A tiny raised die lump, probably the result of die rust, is seen on Liberty’s neck just below her earlobe.

From Paramount’s session of Auction ‘86, July 1986, Lot 1919.



## Lovely Mint State 1856 Half Eagle



- 465 **1856 MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous light yellow gold with sharp design details and few minor hairlines or abrasions. A rarity in Mint State with this almost certainly among the top dozen examples known. Remember, the Bass Collection represents a gathering of some of the very finest gold coins available in all of numismatics over a period of more than 30 years, from the late 1960s to the late 1990s.

PCGS Population: 6; 3 finer (MS-65 finest).

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, March 16, 1970.*

## Pretty 1856-C Half Eagle Rarity



- 466 **1856-C AU-55 (PCGS).** Very sharply struck with full obverse and reverse design details, save for very slight weakness on the eagle's neck, more a result of wear, than of strike quality. Light pinkish yellow gold with nearly complete satiny lustre. Coins at this grade level are quite rare with just four or five Mint State examples known, along with possibly another dozen or so choice AU examples. Douglas Winter considers this date among the most underrated and undervalued issues from this mint. He notes the same is true of Dahlonega and New Orleans half eagles bearing this date.

PCGS Population: 5; 8 finer (MS-61 finest).

## Outstanding 1856-D Half Eagle



- 467 **1856-D AU-58 (PCGS).** A highly lustrous, aesthetically appealing example of this scarce issue, one of just 19,786 coins struck. Typical strike with slight central weakness. A few minor surface marks are noted; however, these are not serious. Pleasing greenish gold with very slightly mirrored surfaces, especially on the reverse. A lovely example.

Diagonal die finishing lines are noted through the date.

*Purchased from Dean Oakes, October 18, 1972.*

- 468 **1856-D EF-45.** Subdued greenish gold with pleasing surfaces. The rims are heavily beveled, typical of most known examples.

If a reader would care to give an explanation as to why certain gold coins have doubled rims, and explain the minting procedure, we would be grateful.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of October 1968, Lot 1576.*

## Prooflike Mint State 1856-O Half Eagle

Only PCGS Mint State Coin



- 469 **1856-O MS-61 (PCGS).** This is an extremely important opportunity and is the only Mint State example of this issue certified by PCGS, and this is after 15 years of grading coins. According to Douglas Winter, only one Mint State coin was known when he conducted his research on New Orleans gold. That coin was part of the Ed Milas Collection, sold by Stack's in May 1995.

Bright greenish yellow gold with fully prooflike obverse and reverse fields and typical minor abrasions, although none are individually distracting. Extremely sharp strike, with only stars 1 and 2 flat. Otherwise, all stars, and all other obverse and reverse design details are superbly rendered. We cannot resist mentioning that at the Mint State level the 1856-O half eagle seems to be rarer than the exceedingly famous 1856-O double eagle! What an *opportunity* is presented.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

*Purchased from Dan Dethlefsen.*

- 470 **1856-S Breen-6625. Large S. AU-58.** A lovely example with full lustre and delightful aesthetic appeal. Light greenish yellow gold with faint pinkish rose toning. A few very minor reverse rim nicks are noted. With a mintage of 105,100 coins, this is the most available San Francisco Mint half eagle of the No Motto design type. As such, an outstanding opportunity for the collector to obtain a western mint coin for his or her type set, or simply to acquire a sample of "California Gold."

S mintmark very large and with ample interior spaces. Nearly centered beneath the crotch of the arrow feather and branch.

## Lovely Mint State 1857 Half Eagle



- 471 **1857 MS-62 (PCGS).** Superb aesthetics with frosty golden rose lustre and only a few minor surface marks. This issue is among the more available No Motto half eagles in Mint State. In fact, the 1857 half eagle has the fifth *highest* PCGS population in Mint State. Even still, only 33 examples have received that lofty grade designation at this grading service—which by any accounting creates a *rarity* on an absolute basis.

*Purchased from A-Mark, April 10, 1978.*



### Important 1857-C Half Eagle



472 **1857-C AU-58 (PCGS).** Satiny light yellow gold lustre with sharp design details. A few minor hairlines are visible, along with some other minor abrasions—normal for this grade level. With a mintage of 31,360 coins, this is a scarcity among Charlotte gold coins. A number of Mint State examples survive, some of which were undoubtedly called AU years ago. The present coin, *now* called AU, is in our opinion among the top 20 finest in existence. A lovely piece that will satisfy the advanced collector.

PCGS Population: 4; 9 finer, (MS-62 finest).  
From *Stack's* sale of June 1972, Lot 853.

### Impressive 1857-D Half Eagle

Only One Graded Finer by PCGS



(2x photo)

473 **1857-D MS-62 (PCGS).** This is an extremely rare coin and is among the very finest known. Extremely sharp strike with frosty, brilliant yellow gold lustre. Only occasional surface marks are noted, as expected. With a high degree of aesthetic appeal, which is quite unusual. Doug Winter noted: "The majority of 1857-D half eagles do not have especially good eye appeal. This is the result of poor strikes, inferior planchets and numismatic abuse. Any example with good eye appeal is quite rare." This example, which may qualify as second finest known, is equal in quality to the plate coin in the Winter reference. However, the present piece is much more sharply struck.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-63, which appeared in Part II of the Bass Collection).

Date logotype fairly shallow in the die—more resembling a typical Philadelphia Mint half eagle than one from Dahlonega. It is absolutely fascinating to closely compare the date logotype punches within a given year such as 1857, and among adjacent years. The cataloguing of the Bass Collection coins has been a great pleasure in many regards, including this one aspect.

Purchased from Joe Flynn, March 17, 1978.

### Important 1857-O Half Eagle



474 **1857-O AU-55 (PCGS).** Lightly abraded greenish yellow gold with reflective surfaces. A nice match for the 1856-O offered above, and nearly equal in rarity. Sharply struck and very attractive. An extremely important opportunity for the specialist. Douglas Winter noted that this date is unknown in Mint State; however, since the time of his research a small number of such coins have been certified. No matter how the situation is evaluated, the piece offered here is one of the very finest known.

PCGS Population: 4; 4 finer (MS-63 finest).

The date logotype on this issue is very deeply impressed in the die, somewhat "rocked" left and right, making the digit very heavy and prominent, with the centered two digits prominent but less so. This impression shows a very slight flattening on the bottom curve of the 7, a feature which is only observed on 1857 dies (of various mints) with logotype deeply impressed.

From *Superior's* sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 443.

### Seldom Seen Mint State 1857-S \$5

From the Eliasberg Collection



475 **1857-S Breen-6633. Small S. MS-61 (PCGS).** A lovely half eagle with richly lustrous yellow gold surfaces. A few minor imperfections are present, including a small scratch in the left obverse field. All of the abrasions noted, however, are consistent with the assigned grade. Mintage was 87,000 coins, the second largest production of San Francisco Mint half eagles of this No Motto design type. This is the Small S variety, with the mintmark just 1 mm. tall. Compare this to the illustration of Lot 1101 in the Bass Collection, Part II, with the mintmark 1.7 mm.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-62, which was offered in Part II of the Bass Collection).

Date logotype impressed somewhat similar to the preceding, with first and last digits especially bold. Logotype high, with upper right of 7 touching neck truncation.

Obviously, there is a possibility of additional examples appearing as part of the *S.S. Central America* treasure, although that treasure primarily consisted of 1857-S double eagles. We certainly wish to raise the possibility; however, we have no doubt that potential customers bidding on this coin are already aware of the situation.

From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, Lot 487.

476 **1858 AU-58.** A rarity among Philadelphia Mint half eagles, one of just 15,136 struck. Nearly complete orange-gold lustre with very few minor surface marks. Deeper orange-gold patina is present at top of the obverse. A most attractive example. The tops of FIVE D. appear slightly flattened, probably occurring sometime after 1858. This issue is quite elusive in AU grades.

Purchased from Jack Klausen, June 19, 1968.



- 477 1858 AU-50. Another pleasing example with light rose toning over yellow gold lustre. Typical central weakness with lightly abraded surfaces, as expected for the grade (that is what grading numbers are all about—without abrasions the coin would be AU-55, MS-60, or even MS-65—depending upon the degree)  
*Purchased from Michael Brownlee, April 26, 1967.*

### Lovely 1858-C Half Eagle



- 478 1858-C AU-58 (PCGS). Sharply struck with lovely yellow gold lustre. Although with a relatively low mintage of 38,856 coins, this issue has a relatively high survival rate, especially in higher grades. Douglas Winter gave this issue a rank of 24th out of 24 coins in high grade. Despite this, there are still less than a dozen Mint State survivors with a few more of similar quality to the presently offered coin. All Charlotte Mint half eagles are rarities when AU or finer. This particular piece has a tremendous amount of eye appeal. Add this to the technical grade and all ingredients are in place for a truly winning coin.

The survival rate is no doubt caused by regional hoarding of Charlotte (and also Dahlonega) coins on the eve of the Civil War. No such counterpart in hoarding existed for New Orleans pieces, which were more widely scattered through shipment to distant places by sea as well as distribution in the Mississippi River basin.

*From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 913.*

### Pleasing 1858-D Half Eagle



- 479 1858-D AU-55 (PCGS). Lustrous greenish yellow gold with light orange patina. A delightful example of this scarce issue, one of just 15,362 minted. Contact marks as expected for the grade, for virtually every example from this mint went directly into the channels of commerce. A very rare issue when in grades similar to or finer than the present example.

*From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 914.*

- 480 1859 AU-58. Attractive orange-gold with reflective, satiny lustre. The fields are slightly subdued with minor surface marks evident. A low-mintage Philadelphia Mint issue, one of just 16,734 coins struck. Very few high-grade survivors are known.

Date logotype in small numerals very widely spaced, quite a dramatic contrast from the style of the preceding several years. On the present 1859 eagle the logotype was impressed into the working die at medium depth, making the numerals seem even wider apart than on the next lot (which is also from the same logotype punch).

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 6, 1968.*

### Important 1859-D Half Eagle



- 481 1859-D Large Mintmark. AU-53 (PCGS). Light greenish yellow gold. Some marks are consistent with the grade. Some evidence of light striking as normal on all authentic examples, but sharper than usual for the present specimen. Soft frosty lustre is displayed with slight traces of mirrored surfaces. Upon close examination under high magnification some die finish lines are seen, particularly on the obverse, indicating that this must have been a very early impression. An attractive example of this very low-mintage issue, the second lowest production of any Dahlonega Mint half eagle—one of just 10,366 coins struck.

Date logotype very deep into the die, making the figures appear much closer together than on the preceding lot—although the same logotype was used for each die.

Although Breen had noted the existence of the large mintmark for this date, it was not until the Bass Part II sale that a cataloguer recognized this variety.

*From Abner Kreisberg's sale of September 1971, Lot 1054.*

### Amazing 1859-S Half Eagle



(2x photo)

- 482 1859-S AU-53 (PCGS). A lovely example with bright yellow lustre and few minor surface marks. Sharply struck with complete obverse and reverse design definition. A very rare issue regardless of grade and extremely rare in high grades. Actually much rarer than generally thought, as noted by Dave Bowers, who estimates just 20 to 30 examples are known in all grades: "This is another one of several San Francisco Mint half eagles from this era that are much rarer than generally realized, and which garner very little publicity. When seen (which is infrequently), a typical grade is apt to be VF or EF. At the AU level, the 1859-S is a major rarity."

Throughout the 1990s, only three finer examples have appeared at auction, including the Milas Collection MS-62 and two examples in Part II of the Bass Collection, MS-62 and AU-55.

PCGS Population: 3; 5 finer (MS-62 finest).

Date very small and low in the field. Left base of digit 1 is just 1/10th mm. from the border while the tip of this digit is over one full mm. from the bust. In fact, another complete date would fit in the space between the date and bust!

*From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 288.*



- 483 **1860 AU-50.** Moderately abraded light yellow gold with traces of lustre remaining in the protected areas. A low-mintage issue with a total production of just 19,763 coins. Certainly far from the common date status that one might expect.

Slight doubling is noted on letters of UNITED.

*Purchased from William Donner, February 17, 1968.*

- 484 **1860 EF-45.** Sharply struck with pleasing medium yellow gold surfaces. Minor abrasions as expected for the grade.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.*

## Finest Known 1860-C Half Eagle

From the Robison Collection



- 485 **1860-C MS-63 (PCGS).** An outstanding example of this low-mintage issue, one of just 14,813 struck. Satiny yellow gold lustre on the obverse with frosty reverse lustre. A few very minor surface marks are noted, qualifying it for the MS-63 grade, but the point is moot, as no finer piece has been seen. The obverse has exceptional design definition with trivial weakness among the hair strands immediately below ER and the lock below Liberty's ear. All central star details are bold and sharp. The reverse shows some lightness of strike on the neck and among the lower details of the eagle's claws and arrow feathers, this being typical for the issue. This weakness appears to be more a result of poor detail in the original coinage die, rather than weakness of strike. Doug Winter attributed this to die rust: "There is very extensive rust on the neck of the eagle, its wings and claws, and over the shield and olive leaves. This rust makes these details appear very blurry. The borders are considerably sharper with strong lettering, denticles and a bold mintmark."

This example appears to be finest known for the variety. The only other contender is an example NGC graded MS-63, reported by Doug Winter as being in the inventory of Delaware Valley Rare Coins as of August 1998.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

The date is small, deeply punched into the working die, and low in the field—much closer to the border than to the bust.

*From Stack's sale of the Robison Collection, February 1979, Lot 460.*

## Lustrous 1860-D Half Eagle



- 486 **1860-D Large Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).** An outstanding example of this rare date, one of just 14,635 minted. Rich, satiny yellow gold lustre with very minor abrasions. A minor planchet lamination from the border below star 1 extends horizontally to 18 of the date. Quite sharply struck although stars 1 and 2 lack detail, as does the eagle's neck, this not being unusual for the variety.

Despite the low mintage, this high-grade 1860-D half eagle has some company at this and higher levels. In his new gold series, Dave Bowers explains that this is primarily a result of the hoarding of precious metals on the eve of the Civil War.

Discovered by Harry Bass, but has remained unpublished until this sale.

*From Stack's sale of the Robison Collection, February 1979, Lot 461.*

## Another 1860-D Half Eagle



- 487 **1860-D Medium Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).** Pale yellow gold lustre with a hint of green. Very slightly reflective fields with minor hairlines and other abrasions, including minor graffiti in the right obverse field. Sharply struck and attractive, despite the minor imperfections. A satisfactory example of the date, mint, and grade level.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 291.*

## Important 1860-S Half Eagle



- 488 **1860-S EF-45 (PCGS).** Pale orange-gold surfaces with considerable lustre remaining in the protected areas around devices. Although a few very minor hairlines and other marks are noted, the surfaces are exceptional for the grade level. This is an important opportunity to obtain a very rare issue, seldom seen in any grade.

PCGS Population: 5; 11 finer (MS-62 finest).

Issue for issue, coin for coin, San Francisco Mint half eagles from the mid '50s up to circa 1860 are much scarcer in high grades, including EF-45, than are those from Charlotte and Dahlonega. At present, Charlotte and Dahlonega coins have a large and enthusiastic following of collectors, while San Francisco pieces are somewhat neglected, and New Orleans coins even more so. Thus, it would seem to us that while the Bass Collection will at once fulfill long pent up desires of Charlotte and Dahlonega mint collectors, anyone with an eye to becoming a specialist in San Francisco or New Orleans coins can steal a march on the market by acquiring truly scarce and rare coins at what seem to be exceedingly attractive and reasonable price levels.

*From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 456.*



## Incredible Gem 1861 Half Eagle

Quality Rarely Seen



(2x photo)

- 489 **1861 MS-65 (PCGS)**. Extraordinarily sharp strike with superb, frosty yellow gold lustre. With the exception of stars 1, 2, and 13, and the eagle's neck, every detail is fully defined. A few minute marks keep this out of the superb gem category. Although this issue has the second highest mintage of any No Motto half eagle, 688,084 struck, very few survive in gem condition.

PCGS Population: 6; 1 finer (MS-66).

Date logotype in small numerals widely spaced, the general style employed since 1859. On the present die the logotype was fairly lightly impressed—although very distinctly—and somewhat low and to the left.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, October 12, 1971.*

## Mint State 1861 Half Eagle



- 490 **1861 MS-62**. Sharply struck with frosty light yellow gold lustre. A few very minor surface marks are noted. This is a delightful example for the type collector.

Date logotype deeply impressed in the die and in an entirely different position from the foregoing—as a quick glance at the photographs will reveal.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, March 15, 1972.*

## Lovely 1861-C Half Eagle

Final Charlotte Mint Coinage  
Leading Candidate for C.S.A. Origin



- 491 **1861-C AU-53 (PCGS)**. Satiny greenish gold lustre with traces of orange patina. Quite sharply struck despite some weakness among a few stars. Lightly abraded as expected for the grade. This is an important opportunity for the specialist to acquire one of the finer known examples of this issue. Just 6,879 coins were struck, some under authority of the Confederacy after taking control of the facility. It is impossible to distinguish between those struck by the United States and others struck by

the Confederacy, although Walter Breen claimed that examples with a die crack through the top of AMERI, as seen on this coin, were among the 887 coins struck under Confederate authority.

Lightly cracked through the tops of AMERI. Further, a distinct crack is seen from the border extending to the left side of the first I (STATES) into the field just past halfway to the eagle's beak. Thus, this piece is in an even later die state than Walter Breen mentions and would seem to exceed his specifications!

*Purchased from Lester Merkin, June 1967.*

## Rare 1861-D Half Eagle



(2x photo)

- 492 **1861-D AU-55 (PCGS)**. Satiny light yellow gold lustre with minor surface marks, typical of most survivors from the approximately 2,000 coins struck. Typical obverse and reverse strike, with some details weak. A desirable example for the specialist.

The exact mintage of this issue is not specifically known. Early in 1861, 1,597 coins were minted under authority of the United States government. On April 8, 1861, Georgia troops took control of the mint on behalf of the Confederate government, and later in the year, an additional quantity of half eagles was struck from federal dies. The exact quantity was not recorded and is unknown, however, a reasonable estimate is 500 to 1,000 coins. It is not possible to distinguish between United States issued coins and those of the Confederacy.

Date is low in the field.

*From Superior's sale of December 1972, Lot 1955.*

## Important 1861-S Half Eagle

Among the Finest Known



- 493 **1861-S AU-50 (PCGS)**. This rarity has light greenish yellow gold surfaces with moderate abrasions. Traces of lustre remain around various design details. Although just AU-50, this is one of the finest known examples. The mintage was quite low at 18,000 coins, and these circulated extensively on the West Coast. Due to the prevailing monetary system in the American West—paper money was neither used nor wanted—gold coins remained in circulation through the Civil War, were not hoarded, and year by year gathered wear. This accounts for the lower average grades of San Francisco pieces as compared to those from other mints (a quick look at David W. Akers' study of auction appearances of half eagles and the average grades listed will quickly verify this statement).

A review of auction records throughout the 1990s will help il-



illustrate the rarity of this issue. From 1990 to 1999, 36 different 1861 half eagles were offered singly in various sales, with 32 of these graded MS-60 or finer. Offerings of 1861-C half eagles included a total of 53 coins, with 23 of these AU or better. For 1861-D, total appearances were 39 coins, of which 17 were AU or better. Finally, for the 1861-S issue, a total of just 27 coins appeared at auction, with only 12 AU or better examples.

PCGS Population: 3; 3 finer (all AU-53).

From Stack's sale of February 1968, Lot 357.



- 494 **1862 AU-58.** Sharply struck with prooflike light yellow gold surfaces. The obverse has extensive hairlines or brush marks, and the reverse has evidence of filing along the rims. An extremely rare issue, one of just 4,430 minted. Beginning in 1862, half eagles were struck on a very limited basis until the 1870s, especially at the Philadelphia Mint.

Logotype in small figures this year, continuing the tradition begun in 1859.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 296.

### Outstanding 1862-S Half Eagle



(2x photo)

- 495 **1862-S AU-53 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold surfaces, with a hint of orange patina. Some marks here and there are representative of the grade assigned. Usual central weakness is noted on the hair curls below the coronet and on the eagle's neck and arrow feathers, this being characteristic of all known authentic specimens. Otherwise, sharply defined, including all star details.

With a mintage of just 9,500 coins, this issue qualifies as a rarity, as do most San Francisco Mint coins of this era. Until recently, this issue was unknown better than Extremely Fine grade, as recorded by Walter Breen in his *Complete Encyclopedia*, by David Akers in his *Auction Survey*, and by others. In the past decade, only two AU examples were offered for auction competition, both AU-55. One of these was from the Milas Collection, sold by Stack's in 1995, the other was from Part II of our Bass Collection sales.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (both AU-55).

The 1862 half eagle fell betwixt and between. Minted five years too late to be put aboard the ill-fated *S.S. Central America*, and too early to be saved in high grades by the time that the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* sailed from San Francisco on one fateful day in July 1865, the typical 1862-S half eagle spent a long life in commercial circulation. Today, when such pieces are seen—and this is not often—the grade is apt to be VF, not often EF, and only rarely in the AU grade seen here.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 23, 1968.

### Important 1862-S Half Eagle



- 496 **1862-S EF-45 (PCGS).** Another opportunity to acquire this important date, representing the fourth example to be offered from the Bass Collection. How fortunate we all are that Harry W. Bass, Jr., liked his rarities in twos, threes, and fours—sometimes even more—and how fortunate we are that the offering of his collection, telescoped in a two-year period, enables us to buy coins that took him over three decades to gather. Again, *opportunity* is the key word.

The present piece is a typical strike for the 1861-S. Light yellow gold with moderate surface marks. A lovely piece which strongly challenges the AU level and which some would probably call AU without serious fear of contradiction.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 297.

### Desirable 1863 Half Eagle

Remarkable for Its Low Mintage



- 497 **1863 EF-45.** Lovely yellow gold surfaces with a hint of orange toning. Quite sharply struck with all details fully evident where not obscured by light wear. Moderately abraded surfaces, typical for this grade. This is a desirable example of a rarity, one of just 2,442 coins struck. In all grades, only 30 to 40 examples survive, with this example among the finer quality examples.

A light clash mark joins the eagle's lower beak to the wing below.

It is truly incredible that this low-mintage coin has a current market value in the range of just several thousand dollars. If anyone feels that the coin market is fully priced, they certainly are not considering scarce and rare early Coronet Head half eagles. Even a quick investigation will reveal that the field is spangled with scarcities and rarities which are available almost for the asking, *if you can find them.*

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1994.



## Impressive 1863-S Half Eagle

Specifically Cited by Dave Akers



- 498 **1863-S AU-55 (PCGS)**. Although 17,000 coins were minted, current estimates suggest that only 25 to 35 coins survive. Satiny green-gold lustre with design details weak only at a few stars, on the eagle's claws, and arrow feathers. Pleasing surfaces with some marks consistent with the grade assigned. The reverse has a short scratch in the upper field, serving as an ideal pedigree marker (if any *useful purpose* can be found for a scratch, this might be it).

This specific coin was mentioned by David Akers in his auction survey of half eagles, compiled and published in 1979: "The 1863-S is very rare in any condition, as the auction data show, most specimens that have appeared on the auction market were in Fine to VF range. In my experience, this date is at least as rare as the 1863 and actually more rare in high grade. It is comparable to the 1858-S and 1860-S in overall rarity and is equally impossible to obtain in choice condition. Only one specimen as high as AU has ever been sold at public auction and I have personally seen only one piece better than EF, a coin in the possession of Robert Johnson at the 1973 Boston ANA that was subsequently sold to Harry Bass."

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (MS-61).

*Purchased from Fred Sweeney, August 25, 1973.*

## Impressive 1864 Half Eagle Rarity

High Condition Census



- 499 **1864 AU-58 (PCGS)**. Lovely pinkish gold surfaces with moderate abrasions. Satiny lustre on the obverse; frosty on the reverse. Just 4,170 coins were struck with less than 100 surviving today. This is one of the very finest known, with only two or three Mint State coins known and only one finer example certified by PCGS (that coin sold by us in Part II of the Bass Collection). Typical survivors grade VF or EF. Examples grading AU or finer are much rarer than Proofs. A true numismatic prize, an extremely rare coin.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-61 and sold by us in Part II of the Bass Collection).

Date is high and left with digit 4 about centered in the space below bust, very slightly closer to border.

1 (1864) much closer to bust than to dentils; 4 somewhat closer to dentils than to bust; entire date oriented to the left.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.*

## Condition Census 1864-S Half Eagle

"A Case of Wishful Thinking"



(2x photo)

- 500 **1864-S AU-53 (PCGS)**. Lustrous light yellow gold with a hint of orange. Moderately abraded surfaces are typical for examples of this issue. A key rarity in the Coronet half eagle series, one of just 3,888 struck. Perhaps only one to two dozen exist today. Philadelphia Mint coins of similar mintage exist in higher quantities due to hoarding during and after the Civil War. Half eagles struck in San Francisco during this era were paid out into circulation, where they became very worn. Today, even an EF piece would be a numismatic attraction. When we offered an MS-65 example in Part II of the Bass Collection, we noted that typical survivors are Fine to Very Fine, with coins grading higher than VF chiefly a case of wishful thinking.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-65, sold by us in Part II of the Bass Collection).

Date logotype deeply impressed into die. 1 (1864) closer to bust than to dentils; 4 about the same distance from each; date more centered than on the preceding lot.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.*

## Prooflike 1865 Half Eagle

A Rarity in any Grade

Mintage: 1,270



- 501 **1865 AU-53 (PCGS)**. Light yellow gold with prooflike finish visible in the protected areas. Moderately abraded and no doubt originally a circulation strike. Reasonably sharply struck with weakness only on the arrow feathers. With a mintage of just 1,270 coins, this is a rarity among coins of this design type. Just 30 to 40 examples are known to exist. This example is one of the finest known, with only three or four better ones traced today. Only three finer coins have appeared at auction in the last decade, and two of those were in Part II of the Bass Collection.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer (both AU-58 and both sold in Part II of the Bass Collection!).

*Purchased from Jack Klausen, June 14, 1968.*



## Desirable 1865-S Half Eagle



- 502 **1865-S Medium S. AU-50 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold with satiny lustre in the protected areas. Light hairlines and abrasions are noted, however, these are not serious. This is a rarity although from a much higher mintage than in previous years. A total of 27,612 coins were struck, the highest half eagle mintage at San Francisco since 1857. Even so, this coin is very scarce, especially in the grade offered here.

Breen-6662.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, January 19, 1968.

## Scarce 1866 Half Eagle

First Year With Motto



- 503 **1866 Motto. AU-50.** Light greenish gold with a hint of orange patina. Traces of lustre remain hidden among the devices. Moderately abraded with very minor hairlines and other imperfections. Just 6,700 examples were minted in this first year of the new type, with motto IN GOD WE TRUST on a scroll, added to the reverse above the eagle. Another prime rarity. Pieces of this quality seldom appear.

Purchased from Michael Brownlee, April 17, 1967.

## Prooflike 1867 Half Eagle

Possibly Struck as a Proof



- 504 **1867 AU-58 (PCGS).** This lovely coin has light yellow gold with a hint of green. The fields are fully mirrored with the watery appearance found on Proof gold coins of this era. Considerable cameo contrast is noted and every detail is minutely defined. Lightly abraded and scratched, however, no individual imperfection is particularly notable. This has every appearance of a Proof and may have been struck in such manner. We highly recommend that prospective bidders examine this coin and make their own determination.

PCGS Population: 7; 1 finer (MS-61, sold by us last October in Part II of the Bass Collection).

From Paramount's 1969 ANA Sale, August 1969, Lot 1972.

## Elusive 1867-S Half Eagle



- 505 **1867-S EF-45 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold with orange patina and considerable surviving lustre, especially when this numeric grade is considered. This is one of 29,000 coins struck, however, none are known in full Mint State and even nice AU examples are almost never seen. This attractive example has light handling marks, and typical striking for the 1867-S. A very rare coin, and a very important opportunity for the advanced specialist.

From Stack's sale of February 1968, Lot 369.

## Choice Mint State 1872 Half Eagle

Among the Finest Known



- 506 **1872 MS-63 (PCGS).** Lustrous light yellow gold with frosty devices and highly reflective fields, a delightful cameo example of this very low-mintage issue. Just 1,600 circulation strikes were minted with less than 10 strict Mint State coins surviving today. Liberty's hair curls above her ear, below ERT, are slightly weak. Otherwise, all obverse and reverse design details are boldly defined. A few light abrasions are noted, primarily in the left obverse field.

This issue has one of the lowest mintages of any With Motto half eagle. A small number of AU and low quality Mint State examples are known, from a hoard dating to 1958, according to Walter Breen in his *Complete Encyclopedia*. Unfortunately, no other details were relayed, and the entire account may be apocryphal (or else, where are they today?)

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (both MS-64).

From Paramount's 1969 ANA Sale, August 1969, Lot 1982.

## Important 1872-CC Half Eagle

Classic Rarity

Condition Census



- 507 **1872-CC AU-50 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold with a hint of pinkish rose toning. A few surface marks are consistent with the grade. Typical strike for the issue. Although 16,980 coins were minted, there are no known Mint State survivors with only a handful of AU coins. The present example is one of the finest known for the issue, certainly within the top 10. In the past decade, this is only the fourth AU grade example to appear for public auction competition.

PCGS Population: 3; 3 finer (AU-58 finest).

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 229.



## Scarce 1872-S Half Eagle

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



- 508 **1872-S AU-55 (PCGS)**. Lustrous greenish gold with light hairlines and minor surface marks as expected. Quite sharply struck with central obverse and reverse weakness in the usual locations. From the original production of 36,400 coins, several nice AU coins survive, however, none stand out among the rest as finest known. Although one Mint State coin has been recorded in the literature, we have no further details.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, September 28, 1970.*

## Gem Mint State 1873 \$5

Open 3 Date Style



- 509 **1873 Open 3. MS-65 (PCGS)**. Brilliant and frosty rose-gold lustre with superb aesthetic appeal. This is one of the very finest known examples of the Open 3 variety. A small planchet lamination, as minted, is noted in the reverse field below IN GOD. Sharply struck with slight weakness only on the highest points of the eagle. This is a relatively common date when all grades are considered, and is only slightly scarcer than the Closed 3 style. In gem Mint State quality, this is a rarity, as are all Liberty half eagles minted prior to the 1880s. We reiterate that the Bass III sale offers fantastic opportunities that are not likely to be repeated outside of the Bass offerings. We imagine that years from now specialists of a new era will look back upon the year 2000 and marvel at all of the items offered.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

*From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 489.*

- 510 **1873 Open 3. MS-62 (PCGS)**. Highly lustrous pinkish yellow gold with fully reflective obverse and reverse fields. Nice cameo contrast is noted between fields and devices. Light surface marks are noted as expected. This Open 3 date style is slightly scarcer than the Closed 3 variety. Combining all grades, PCGS has graded 114 examples with Open 3 and 127 examples with Closed 3.

*From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, May 1970, Lot 230.*

## Key 1873-CC Half Eagle

The Farouk-Bareford Coin

Among the Finest Known



(2x photo)

- 511 **1873-CC AU-55 (PCGS)**. Lovely bright yellow gold with considerable remaining lustre and few very minor surface marks. A hint of orange patina is noted. This is an extremely attractive example and quite unusual, in that all design details are extremely sharp. Most known examples are lightly struck at the center. Only a few finer examples are known, including an MS-62 example sold by us in Part II of the Bass Collection.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (MS-62 finest).

Obverse has date approximately centered between bust and border. The reverse is the same as used since 1870.

As a class, all Carson City half eagles of the 1870s are scarce to rare in any condition, and are very rare AU-55 or finer. The reason for this is that this small denomination—the lowest value coined at Carson City—was used in the Nevada region, where such coins circulated extensively (at a time when in the East and Midwest gold coins were not seen in circulation). Although gold coins were exported from San Francisco in foreign trade payments, such shipments consisted almost entirely of double eagles—the most convenient denomination for shipping gold coins in bulk—half eagles were not included.

In 1893 when Augustus G. Heaton wrote his *Mint Marks* treatise, he knew of not a single numismatist anywhere who collected branch mint gold coins of the higher denominations! Heaton was well connected, was a prominent numismatic writer and researcher of his time, and wrote with authority. Finally, when Carson City coinage did become popular—years later—any pieces that could be taken from bank holdings or deposits were apt to be well worn, with the typical grade being VF.

*From Stack's sale of the Harold Bareford Collection, December 1978, Lot 184. Earlier from the King Farouk Collection.*

## Rare 1873-S Half Eagle



- 512 **1873-S Closed 3. AU-50**. Sharply struck in light yellow gold with minor hairlines and other abrasions noted. Slightly subdued surfaces from cleaning, but overall with a pleasing aspect—as in-person examination will verify. Although 31,000 were struck, only 100 to 150 examples survive today, mostly in Very Fine condition. This example is probably among the top 10 examples known.

*From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 491.*



## Delightful 1874-CC Half Eagle

### Condition Census



- 513 **1874-CC AU-55 (PCGS).** A lovely example of this popular rarity with highly lustrous yellow gold surfaces. A trace of attractive pinkish rose toning is noted. Generally very sharp design details, except for the highest points of Miss Liberty on the obverse. All reverse features, including the eagle's neck, claw, and arrow feathers are sharply defined. This is a scarce issue, with a mintage of 21,198 coins, and qualifies as a rarity when in a grade such as offered here. Our earlier comments given under Lot 511 are equally applicable to the present coin. At the AU level the 1874-CC is a numismatic landmark.

PCGS Population: 3; 6 finer (MS-62 finest).

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 496.

## Lustrous 1875-CC Half Eagle

### Condition Census

#### Doubled Die Reverse



- 514 **1875-CC Doubled Die Reverse. AU-50 (PCGS).** Rich yellow gold lustre with extensive abrasions, typical of these early western mint gold coins, intended for commerce and not for numismatic purposes. Quite weakly struck on the higher design points, with light wear at the same points. This issue is quite rare at the AU grade level, as indicated by the population listed below. In addition, this example is from a doubled reverse die with doubling most prominent on the base of the denomination.

Condition Census for the 1875-CC (disregarding the doubled feature). Again, here is very unusual opportunity to acquire a very interesting and very special high-grade Carson City half eagle.

PCGS Population: 5; 5 finer (MS-61 finest).

Breen-6694

Mintmark unevenly spaced, with first C 0.8 mm. above V and second C 0.6 mm. above E. The difference is dramatic enough to describe the mintmark as having second C very low.

Purchased from Doug Weaver, August 30, 1973.

## Scarce 1875-CC Half Eagle



- 515 **1875-CC EF-40.** Light greenish yellow gold with a trace of rose toning. Light hairlines are visible, as are a few other minor surface marks. Very lightly struck with weak central details and even weaker, noticeably beveled, borders.

From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 1024.

## Popular 1875-S Half Eagle

### Condition Census



- 516 **1875-S AU-55 (PCGS).** A very popular issue which is in demand from year collectors, whose goal is to acquire one example of each coinage year without regard to mintmarks. The Philadelphia Mint half eagle of 1875 is a major rarity, with just 200 struck. Those from Carson City feature the highest mintage of 11,828 coins; however, most became scattered to the four winds, and in any event Carson City coins are quite expensive and are hardly ever available at the AU level. Thus, the presently offered San Francisco half eagle provides an opportunity. This example is one of 9,000 coins struck and has lustrous orange-gold surfaces with very few marks of any kind. Among the very finest known from a total roster of just 45 to 60 survivors.

PCGS Population: 5; 5 finer (MS-63 finest).

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.

## Important 1876-CC Half Eagle

### Among the Finest Known



- 517 **1876-CC AU-55 (PCGS).** This is an extremely important opportunity for the specialist, representing one of the finest known examples of this scarce issue. Reflective light greenish gold surfaces and peripheral rose toning. A few light hairlines and other very minor surface marks are noted. Sharply struck, even more so than usual for this issue, which generally had one of the sharpest strikes of any Carson City Mint half eagle. With the exception of a single gem MS-65 coin (from the Eliasberg Collection), which is the only Mint State coin known, nearly all survivors are well circulated. An AU-58 example appeared last October in Part II of the Bass Collection, and the present example is quite possibly third finest known. Just 6,887 half eagles were struck in Carson City during the centennial year, the lowest mintage of any half eagle from this mint.



Nineteen different half eagles were struck at the Carson City Mint, beginning in 1870. The high water mark was 1891-CC, with a mintage of 208,000 coins. Of the other 18 issues, five had mintages under 10,000 and eight others had mintages from 10,000 to 21,198 coins. The balance of five issues ranged between 51,017 and 82,968 coins. The average mintage for all 19 issues: just over 37,000 coins.

PCGS Population: 4; 3 finer (MS-65 finest).

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 934.

## Impressive 1876-S Half Eagle



**518 1876-S AU-53 (PCGS).** Very sharply struck in light yellow gold with few minor surface marks. This is an extremely important opportunity to acquire one of the few survivors from a mintage of just 4,000 coins. Not a date that immediately comes to mind as a major rarity, however, very few survivors exist. Only 25 to 40 coins are estimated to exist in all grades, with any AU example considered a major rarity. The market largely ignores rarities in the Coronet Head half eagle series, with the result that landmark coins such as this—while hardly inexpensive—trade for much less than equivalent pieces in the copper and silver series.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2113.

## Pleasing 1877 Half Eagle

Remarkable Mintage: 1,132 Pieces



**519 1877 AU-55 (PCGS).** A sharply struck prooflike example with greenish gold surfaces. Considerable cameo contrast is noted. This is the second lowest mintage of any circulation strike Liberty half eagle of the With Motto design type. Just 1,132 coins were struck with only the 1875 having a (much) lower mintage of 200 coins. Interestingly, this issue has the 10th lowest overall PCGS population among coins of the type. *Incredibly* the current market value of this is just several thousand dollars. Once again, as is so often true in the present sale, the word *opportunity* comes to the fore.

From Stack's sale of February 1968, Lot 395.

## Important 1877-S Half Eagle

Condition Census



**520 1877-S AU-53 (PCGS).** Lightly abraded yellow gold with sharp design details and considerable lustre. A scarce issue from a mintage of 26,700 coins, with only 100 to 150 survivors. A rarity at the AU level with very few known. Such pieces circulated intensively and extensively at the time of issue, with not a single numismatist interested in preserving them for posterity. We are only aware of one strictly Mint State coin, which we offered in Part II of the Bass Collection.

PCGS Population: 3; 4 finer (all AU-55).

Purchased from Paramount, March 18, 1967.

## Choice Mint State 1878 Half Eagle

From the Norweb Collection



**521 1878 MS-64.** A delightful example with satiny, reflective lustre and pleasing cameo contrast. Sharply struck with lovely bright yellow gold surfaces. A truly remarkable coin from an aesthetic viewpoint—one of the nicest in existence anywhere. Add to this the wonderful pedigree and you have the ingredients for a coin that will be cherished so long as you own it.

This issue begins a long series of higher mintage Philadelphia Mint half eagles, which continued through 1908, interrupted only by the Proof-only issue of 1887 and circulation strike issues of the late 1880s and early 1890s. Many lower quality Mint State examples exist, however, in choice or gem condition, this issue is quite rare.

From our sale of the Norweb Collection, October 1987, Lot 899.

## Lustrous Run of Half Eagles

**522 Lustrous grouping of half eagles grading MS-60:** ☆ 1878 First 8 repunched considerably below the final figure, rest of original logotype impression effaced ☆ 1881 ☆ 1881-S. Mintmark over either smaller S mintmark or stray marks (definitely not over an O mintmark) ☆ 1882-S/S ☆ 1885-S ☆ 1893 ☆ 1899 Repunched 99 ☆ 1901-S. An attractive grouping. (Total: 8 pieces)

## Lustrous 1879 Half Eagle



**523 1879 MS-63.** Sharply struck with frosty light yellow gold lustre. Relatively common as a date, however, still quite scarce in grades rivaling the present example.

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 242.



## Attractive 1879-CC Half Eagle



- 524 **1879-CC AU-53 (PCGS).** This lovely Carson City Mint half eagle features lustrous light yellow gold surfaces with a few minor hairlines from an old cleaning, perhaps not worth mentioning. Mintage totaled just 17,281 coins with only about 200 surviving—Carson City half eagles of this decade had a tremendously high attrition rate. Of those that do survive, most are in grades significantly lower than the present example.

*From Abner Kreisberg's sale of September 1971, Lot 1063.*

## Scarce 1879-CC Half Eagle



- 525 **1879-CC AU-53.** Lustrous yellow gold surfaces with minor hairlines and other marks consistent with the grade. Another pleasing example, another specimen of a grade level seldom encountered. This is a pleasing example, one which is seldom seen in such grade levels. Certain to see considerable bidding activity.

*From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 244.*

- 526 **1879-S MS-60.** Lustrous light yellow gold with minor abrasions. An attractive coin for the grade level.

*Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, July 8, 1968.*

## Landmark 1880-CC \$5

Finest PCGS Certified  
From the Norweb Collection



- 527 **1880-CC MS-62 (PCGS).** One of the very finest extant examples of this rarity. Only four or five Mint State examples are known, from a generous mintage of 51,017 coins, sixth highest of all Carson City Mint half eagles. Of course, among Carson City coins of this denomination, mintages are interesting to contemplate, but usually they have little if anything to do with the number of survivors—as such coins circulated widely and had a high attrition rate.

The presently offered coin, collected years ago by Emery May Holden Norweb, displays deep, satiny yellow gold lustre with extremely sharp design details and few very minor surface marks. A small planchet mark on Liberty's neck and a tiny rim nick (per the Norweb catalogue) are the only imperfections of note, and both are insignificant. In fact, the rim nick is not visible now that this coin is certified (perhaps we should not have mentioned it—and, probably no one cares anyway).

This delightful western mint coin has a desirable pedigree, illustrating the ups and downs of coin grading over the years. In 1956, Abe Kosoff described this simply as "Uncirculated." Thirty-one years later, in the Norweb Collection catalogue, we graded this AU-58. Now, just over a decade after the Norweb offering, this coin's Mint State status has been revived. Such instances as this make the perusal of old auction catalogues and the compilation of data from them a very chancy procedure, often a waste of time if *precision* is expected (such situations have been a great challenge in the compilation of the multi-volume study on gold coins by Dave Bowers, and because of this a great effort has been made to examine actual specimens).

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Several raised die lumps are noted on the bust of Liberty.

*From our sale of the Norweb Collection, October 1987, Lot 905. Earlier from Abe Kosoff's sale of the Thomas G. Melish Collection, April 1956, Lot 2173.*

- 528 **1880-S MS-63.** Sharply struck with rich yellow gold lustre, displaying slight cameo contrast. A few minor surface marks are visible, as expected for the grade. This is the first year in which Liberty half eagle production at a single mint topped the million coin level, occurring in Philadelphia and San Francisco.

On December 18, 1878, gold coins traded at par with federal coins and paper money, for the first time since the last week of December, 1861. Long stored holdings of gold coins came forth in the East and Midwest, and a new generation was able to use coins of this metal. Demand increased for a while, and record coinages resulted from the late 1870s onward, although the double eagle remained the gold coin of choice.

*Purchased from Jim Cohen, August 20, 1968.*

- 529 **Selection of MS-60 half eagles:** ☆ 1880-S. Lustrous ☆ 1881. Lustrous with copper spots ☆ 1881-S S Over S. Lustrous ☆ 1885. Lustrous ☆ 1886-S PL ☆ 1899. Lustrous ☆ 1901. Lustrous ☆ 1904. Lustrous ☆ 1907. Lustrous yellow surfaces ☆ 1908. Lustrous with a light copper spot on the reverse. (Total: 10 pieces)

- 530 **1881 MS-63.** Lightly abraded surfaces with frosty bright yellow gold lustre. This issue has the highest mintage of any Liberty half eagle.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 24, 1971.*

- 531 **Grouping of MS-62 half eagles:** ☆ 1881 Doubled Date ☆ 1882 ☆ 1885-S ☆ 1893 ☆ 1895 ☆ 1900 ☆ 1901-S ☆ 1904 ☆ 1906. A nicely matched grouping with lustrous surfaces. (Total: 9 pieces)

- 532 **Selection of MS-62 Liberty half eagles:** ☆ 1881. Lustrous with splashes of orange toning ☆ 1885 PL ☆ 1886-S. Pale olive green highlights ☆ 1895. Lustrous orange surfaces ☆ 1899. Lustrous ☆ 1901-S Repunched Mintmark. Lustrous ☆ 1902-S. Lustrous ☆ 1905. Minute copper spot on the obverse ☆ 1907-D. Lustrous. (Total: 9 pieces)

- 533 **1882 MS-63.** Fully prooflike with lustrous devices and sharp design details. Moderately abraded surfaces as expected.

There is a slight projection from the neck above the first 8, possibly a stray punch mark.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 21, 1968.*

- 534 **Quartette of half eagles grading MS-61:** ☆ 1882 ☆ 1893-S ☆ 1902 ☆ 1906-D. Struck during the first year of coinage at the Denver Mint, probably from metal from the Cripple Creek Gold District about 75 miles to the southwest. Each displays lustrous surfaces. (Total: 4 pieces)



- 535 **1882-CC AU-58 (PCGS).** Satiny light yellow gold lustre with very minor abrasions. A trace of rose toning is noted. Few very minor hairlines are noted, however, these do not distract from the pleasing aesthetic qualities of this scarce issue. Very sharply struck.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, August 12, 1969.*

- 536 **1882-S MS-63.** Lustrous rose-gold with sharp design details. Very minor hairlines and other abrasions as expected for the grade. Very heavy mintmark largely filled in.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2117.*

## Delightful 1883-CC Half Eagle

### Condition Census Quality



- 537 **1883-CC AU-58 (PCGS).** Very light yellow gold lustre with a hint of green. A few minor scratches and other surface marks are noted, primarily on the obverse. Very sharply struck and highly attractive. This is one of the finest known examples from a mintage of 12,958 coins. An underrated issue according to David Akers in his 1979 auction survey. Although his comments regarding various half eagle issues are now 20 years old, we find ourselves agreeing with virtually all his comments. With the exception of relatively few issues affected by hoards over the years, most observations regarding rarity remain fairly stable.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (both MS-61).

## Outstanding 1883-S Half Eagle

### Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



- 538 **1883-S MS-63 (PCGS).** Lustrous bright yellow gold with a hint of pinkish orange. With typical contact marks for the grade level.

Although 83,200 coins were minted, very few exist today in Mint State. In the grade offered here, the issue becomes a major rarity. In the past decade, just six Mint State examples appeared singly in major auctions, with only two appearances of similar MS-63 grade coins. In our opinion, this is potentially worth more than the current price guides suggest.

PCGS Population: 7; none finer.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2118.*

## Pleasing 1884-CC Half Eagle



- 539 **1884-CC AU-50.** Light yellow gold with faint pinkish rose toning. Cleaned in the past with light hairlines as evidence. In addition, a few minor scratches and other surface marks are noted. Scarce at this grade level.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 14, 1967.*

- 540 **1884-S MS-63.** A scarce issue from a mintage of just 177,000 coins, with very few choice Mint State survivors. Sharply struck with lustrous light yellow gold surfaces, the fields display a hint of reflectivity, just enough to provide an attractive cameo appearance.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, December 3, 1970.*

## Lustrous Quintette of Half Eagles

- 541 **Group of half eagles grading MS-63:** ☆ 1885-S ☆ 1900 ☆ 1902-S ☆ 1903-S ☆ 1907-D. Each displays lustrous yellow gold surfaces. (Total: 5 pieces)

## A Lustrous Half Eagle Grouping

- 542 **Quartette of half eagles grading MS-63:** ☆ 1886-S ☆ 1901 ☆ 1902-S ☆ 1903-S. Lovely lustrous and attractive surfaces. (Total: 4 pieces)

- 543 **1890-CC MS-62.** A lovely example with brilliant yellow gold lustre. A few minor hairlines and other imperfections are noted. This is one of only two or three readily available Carson City half eagles in Mint State quality. Although some are seen more often than others, only the four issues in the 1890s are reasonably available in high grade.

*Purchased from World Wide Coin, February 3, 1972.*

## Lovely Mint State 1891 Half Eagle



- 544 **1891 MS-63.** Wonderful rose-gold lustre with sharp design details. Relatively low mintage of 61,360 coins with a few hundred lower quality Mint State survivors known. Most of those known today were recovered from European banks vaults in the 1980s.

Heavy obverse and reverse clash marks.

The forthcoming multi-volume set of gold coin books by Dave Bowers will contain much information concerning overseas bank hoards as well as domestic caches, drawing upon a wide variety of sources ranging from Thomas L. Elder's writings early in the present century to recollections given by modern day numismatists (as an example, Ronald J. Gillio has provided a behind the scenes view of gold buying in France and Switzerland during the 1970s and 1980s). If any readers of the present catalogue have not been in contact with Dave, and have historical information not available in printed sources, we invite you to contact him.

*From Stock's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 536.*



- 545 **1891-CC MS-61.** Brilliant, lustrous yellow gold with light abrasions. For the type collector, this is the most available Carson City half eagle in Mint State.

*Purchased from the Old Coin Shop, April 17, 1969.*

- 546 **1892-CC AU-55.** Rich yellow gold lustre with considerable rose toning around various devices. A delightful example of this popular issue.

*From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 967.*

### Mint State 1893-CC Half Eagle

#### Final Carson City Mint Issue



- 547 **1893-CC MS-62.** Highly lustrous with sharp design details and minor abrasions, including faint hairlines. Several minute rim nicks are noted at top of obverse and reverse.

*Purchased from Douglas Weaver, August 1973.*

- 548 **1893-CC AU-50.** Light yellow gold lustre with splashes of pinkish rose patina and a hint of green. Very light surface marks and hairlines are noted.

*Purchased from Lester Merkin June 26, 1967.*

- 549 **1893-O AU-55.** Lightly abraded yellow gold surfaces with considerable, nearly complete lustre. Overall, very sharply struck and highly attractive. Light design details are noted on the reverse, primarily on the eagle's neck.

*Purchased from Paramount, March 18, 1967.*

### Lovely 1894-O Half Eagle

#### A Top Quality Example



- 550 **1894-O MS-62.** This is among the very finest known of the issue, one of just 16,600 coins struck. Very sharply struck with light hairlines and surface marks. Only a very small number of survivors match this for overall quality.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, November 3, 1971.*

- 551 **1894-S AU-55.** Lustrous light yellow gold with sharp design details. Light abrasions are noted. A scarce issue from a low mintage of 55,900 coins.

*From Stack's sale of February 1972, Lot 766.*

- 552 **1897-S MS-62.** A delightful example with highly lustrous bright yellow gold surfaces. Very sharply struck. An important opportunity for the specialist.

*From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February, 1973, Lot 556.*

- 553 **1900-S MS-63 (PCGS).** Satiny yellow gold lustre with a hint of rose patina. A few very minor surface marks are noted.

*From our sale of the Norweb Collection, October 1987, Lot 953.*

- 554 **1902-S MS-64.** Sharply struck with frosty light yellow gold lustre. A desirable example for the date or type collector.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 21, 1968.*

- 555 **1903-S MS-64.** A pleasing, highly lustrous example with very few marks of any type.

- 556 **1907 MS-64.** A wonderfully attractive example of this design with frosty, brilliant pinkish gold lustre. One of the very finest examples in the present sale.

- 557 **1908 MS-64.** Final issue of the Liberty Head design capping a phenomenal 70 year history. Choice Mint State quality except the obverse rims are filed, yielding a coin that, perhaps, has a market value in the MS-60 to MS-61 range.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, July 28, 1972.*

## END OF SESSION



# SESSION TWO

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Friday Afternoon, May 26, 1:00 PM Sharp

Eagles: Lots 558-755

Territorial Gold Coin: 756

Double Eagles: Lots 757-920

## EAGLES

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The selection of eagles or \$10 pieces in the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection will again surprise and delight the most advanced specialist, while affording perhaps a not fully appreciated opportunity to the beginning numismatist. The combination of high quality and in many instances extreme rarity creates opportunities that have few counterparts in our generation apart from the Bass sales. Accordingly, we invite you to peruse the listings carefully, noting the commentaries in each instance. It may well be the case that certain pieces will not reappear on the market for many years.

The offering commences with the first year of issue, 1795, and the first die variety of that year. From this point the listing continues through 1796, 1797, the exceedingly rare 1798/7, and onward to 1801. These early eagles, each produced from hand-cut dies and with many fascinating differences, form an interesting specialty in themselves. Harry W. Bass, Jr., found them to be delightful. Many of his findings and notes will be shared with numismatists when the *sylloge*, or museum catalogue of early gold is published by the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation.

Production of the eagle continued until 1804, after which the denomination was suspended, for it was felt that the greater part of the coinage was exported—resulting in little utility to citizens of the United States. At the time, the Mint levied a service charge for minting silver coins and gold coins from these precious metals, but it was thought that the smaller denominations—the quarter eagle and half eagle—would not be as useful in international trade. Wrong! The half eagle assumed the mantle of the largest gold coin of the realm, and during ensuing decades, particularly in the period from about 1820 to 1834, the vast majority of newly struck pieces went overseas.

In 1838 the \$10 denomination was again coined. The design was the familiar Coronet Head motif by Christian Gobrecht this being its first appearance on any gold coin (the motif was first used on the quarter eagle in 1840 and on the half eagle in 1839). The term *Coronet Head* comes from Kenneth E. Bressett in *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, as he felt that the traditional term—used for generations of numismatists—*Liberty Head*, could refer to *any* head of Miss Liberty, whereas this particular head had a tiara or coronet. Today in 2000, we try to prefer the Coronet Head term, but often lapse into use of the traditional Liberty Head.

From 1838 onward, coinage was continuous at the Philadelphia Mint, although in some years the production was very small. In time, pieces were struck in New Orleans, San Francisco, Carson City, and, finally, in Denver.

Eagles of the Coronet Head type can be divided into three primary groups with regard to their method of circulation:

The early issues, from 1838 through 1861, were widely used in American commerce, from one coast to the other. Until the double eagle made its appearance (in 1850) the \$10 coin was the largest gold denomination. Thus, it was particularly useful for transfers of large amounts of money. Today, the typical coin from this period is apt to be in Very Fine, occasionally Extremely Fine, and only rarely AU. Harry W. Bass, Jr. spent many years tracking down choice and interesting eagles, with the result that in the pages to follow there are many truly exceptional pieces.

The second period commenced in late December 1861, and lasted until December 17, 1878, during which time gold coins in the East and Midwest sold at a premium in terms of paper money and silver coins. At one time in 1864, it took well over \$200 in paper money to buy \$100 worth of gold coins. Such pieces continued to be produced in Philadelphia, but were available only when a premium was paid for them to the Treasury Department. This resulted in considerable profit to the Department, an accounting of which is related in Dave Bowers' book, *The Treasure Ship S.S. Brother Jonathan*. Suffice it to say, the profit amounted to many millions of dollars. At the same time, on the West Coast gold coins continued to circulate, and paper money was nowhere in sight. Thus, the visitor to San Francisco in the 1860s would find gold to be commonplace. Paper money brought from the East traded only at a deep discount, inverse to the premium charged on gold coins in the East. The San Francisco Mint began operations in 1854, and eagles were produced for many years thereafter. Such pieces went into circulation at face value and were used extensively in commerce, with the result that the typical San Francisco coin encountered today is apt to be well worn, Very Fine being about par. At the same time, coins minted during the 1860s in Philadelphia tended to be preserved in higher grades, as they were held in storage.

The third period of eagle distribution began in late December 1878 and continued until the end of the Coronet Head series in 1907. Such coins were made in relatively large quantities and unlike their predecessors, quite a few were shipped overseas to foreign banks. Thus, after this period, coins are generally available in higher grades such as EF, AU, and even Mint State, although a number of varieties are quite scarce in the last mentioned preservation. The international coin of choice at the time was the double eagle, and thus eagles played only a minor part. However, enough of them went overseas and stayed there, that after World War II holdings in banks in Switzerland, France, and elsewhere were



tapped to bring forth numbers of certain varieties, most from around the turn of the 20th century.

Numismatically, eagles have an interesting collecting history. For several generations the early issues dated 1795-1804 have been very popular. Indeed, such coins have been listed in auctions in the cradle days of the hobby in the 1850s. Because of this, fair numbers of them were preserved in such grades as EF and AU, as pieces brought by citizens into bullion exchanges were apt to be saved and sold to collectors. Not so with Coronet Head eagles. There was virtually no interest in them at all. Issues that are highly prized today such as New Orleans coins from the 1840s, San Francisco coins from the 1850s and 1860s, and just about everything else from the 19th century, were completely ignored in their own time—the only exception being a limited number of Proofs that were acquired by numismatists filling in year sets. In 1893 when Augustus G. Heaton wrote his *Mint Marks* monograph, he was not aware of a single person who collected New Orleans, San Francisco, or Carson City eagles. What a shame, for otherwise many pieces would have been saved.

Collecting Coronet eagles became popular in a significant way in the late 1930s, at which time the auction sales of B. Max Mehl, Stack's, J.C. Morgenthau, Thomas L. Elder, M.H. Bolender, Barney Bluestone, and a few others, began to see fair bidding action on such pieces. Still, prices remained low, even for scarce issues. The great stride forward came circa 1943-1946, when several important collections coming on the market—the cabinets of Bell, Hall, Roach, and Boyd among them—created a great deal of interest. Nothing stimulates a branch of the hobby more than an offering of a carefully gathered numismatic cabinet—witness the recent offerings of the Bass Collection.

By 1946, Coronet Head eagles were widely collected and eagerly sought. Following a market slump 1947-1951, prices again rose, more or less steadily, as additional numismatists joined the specialty. The writings of Walter Breen, beginning in the 1950s, did much to stimulate interest, as did additional auction offerings.

Today in the year 2000, eagles play to a wide audience. The early 1795-1804 issues have always been popular, while, as noted, the Coronet pieces have been popular since the 1930s, and, especially since the mid 1940s. Today a popularity survey of coin denominations would probably find fewer people collecting \$10 pieces than any other of the primary denominations. While no study has ever been made, probably most adherents collect gold dollars, while others collect some or all \$2.50, and \$3 pieces, plus side specialties of Charlotte and Dahlonega coins of all denominations. Among the values from \$5 to \$20, the large and impressive double eagles, are the easy winners, simply because there are more of them in existence. Regarding eagles, there definitely is a supply problem. Even the most available eagle of the early Coronet Head years is scarce to rare in absolute terms.

Harry W. Bass, Jr., enjoyed his collection of eagles, and in the course of collecting them made many observations. To these we have added our own comments, spicing the catalogue here and there with notes concerning dies and die states. For additional information that is useful for all of the gold denominations of the present catalogue, *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*, published in 1988, is highly recommended. The timeless works of David W. Akers are also building blocks in the foundation of any serious library on American gold, as are the several monographs by Douglas Winter. Regarding \$10 pieces in

particular, a really great reference book, by Anthony J. Taraszka, *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles 1795-1834* was recently published. If interested, write him at P.O. Box 2548, Portage, MI 49081. The press run was rather limited—in the hundreds of copies—and we would not be surprised if these sell out sometime soon.

The following descriptions are by Mark Borckardt (early issues) and Frank Van Valen (later), with editing by Q. David Bowers.

### Lovely Mint State 1795 Eagle



(2x photo)

**558 1795 Breen-6830, Breen-1A, Taraszka-1. 13 Leaves. MS-60.** Fully prooflike with outstanding detail and lovely greenish gold lustre. A few minor hairlines are indicative of cleaning at some past time. This is the very first variety of eagle struck in 1795, truly one of our nation's very first gold coins.

The first coinage delivery of eagles was recorded on September 22, 1795, and probably consisted of this variety, a comment based on a comparison of delivery warrants and current estimated rarity.

The workmanship on this die pair is of a high order of excellence, with well formed dentils, nicely aligned stars, etc., lacking the haste or inexperience shown on certain very early half eagles. Presumably the \$10 was the showcase, and special care was paid to it.

Under extremely high magnification a very delicate die crack can be seen extending from the bases of 179 in the date, left through the first 9 stars, then irregularly to the border. This is so delicate that it is unlikely that anything short of an AU or Mint State specimen would reveal the characteristic.

*Purchased from RARCOA, February 1, 1795.*



## Prooflike 1796 Eagle



559 1796 Breen-6832, Breen-1A, Taraszka-6. Rarity-4. MS-62 (PCGS). This wonderful coin is highly lustrous with rich greenish gold prooflike surfaces. Slightly weak at the central designs, as often seen among coins of this design. A few light hairlines and small abrasions are noted, including a small patch of marks on Liberty's cheek. Only this single variety of 1796 eagle is known, with less than 20 Mint State examples identified today, most just MS-60.

This is the second year of issue for the denomination, with the Small Eagle reverse design by Robert Scot. From 1795 through early 1797, just 13,344 eagles were struck, distributed through seven die varieties. Five varieties were produced with the 1795 date, and one each of 1796 and 1797. With an aver-

age mintage of under 2,000 coins per die variety, all of these are quite rare. Today, we estimate a total population of approximately 700 Small Eagle reverse eagles of all varieties.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-63).

Numerous raised die finish lines are visible on the obverse, especially across the portrait. A vertical obverse *interior* die crack crosses the bust, beginning at the lower edge of drapery above right side of 9, extending upward through hair curls and behind Liberty's ear, exiting the cap below E; this break is quite unusual as it is on the interior of the coin and does not extend to the borders. Light clash marks are visible along with evidence of die lapping or polishing.

*From Paramount's sale of the Davies and Nieuwehner Collections, February 1975, Lot 605.*



## Desirable 1797 Eagle

### Heraldic Eagle



(2x photo)

560 1797 Breen-6834, B-2B, T-8. Rarity-4. Heraldic Eagle. AU-55 (PCGS). Reflective greenish gold with minor surface marks. Sharply struck and quite attractive. The reverse has deeper prooflike surface and fewer marks than the obverse. The Heraldic Eagle design, *eventually* common to all denominations from half dime to eagle, was Robert Scot's revision of his own earlier design. Three die varieties of 1797 Heraldic Eagle \$10 gold coins exist, with this Breen-2B die combination slightly more available than the others. Approximately 300 to 350 coins exist, combining the populations of all three die marriages.

Obverse die cracked from base to left serif of 7, with a parallel crack only a millimeter away. The reverse has a short crack from the border at 2:00 to wing tip and another from border to cloud between S and O. A minor die bulge is visible among stars right of the eagle's head. The editor (QDB)

would like to add to Mark Borckardt's cataloging by proposing a system of die identification useful for all Heraldic Eagle denominations: for *starters* the position of the orientation of the star immediately to the left of the eagle's head and its relationship to the letters in PLURIBUS, and the star immediately to the right of the eagle's head and its relationship to the letters UNUM. Then after that time, such other features as the position of the lowest left arrow in the bundle of arrows, the number of berries and their position in the branch, certain branch figures and their relation to the letters in AMERICA, could be delineated. However, the position of these stars would give a quick jump forward. On the present variety, the star over the second U in PLURIBUS points to the upright of the U. The star over the second U in UNUM points to the left of the letter U. It is the writer's observation that many varieties in the silver and gold series can be *completely defined* by using the star points, and for all others the star points are a very good beginning. Anyone interested is invited to utilize the arrangement, of course.

*From Abner Kreisberg's sale of the John Beck Collection, Part I, January 1975, Lot 494.*



## Famous 1798/7 Eagle Rarity

9X4 Stars



561 1798/7 Breen-6836, B-1A, T-9. Rarity-4+. Overdate, 9X4 Stars. MS-61 (PCGS). An exceptional example of this famous rarity, one of the very finest known—a fantastic coin today just as it would have been if offered at auction a century ago. Indeed, here is a timeless classic.

The Bass Collection coin exhibits moderately reflective satin lustre with a hint of green. A few abrasions are noted, consistent with the grade, but none are serious. The present coin is one of the very finest examples we have ever handled, and is Condition Census. Similar in quality to an example in our August 1999 Rarities Sale, the present coin is the only Mint State piece of this variety certified by PCGS.

In his day, Walter Breen estimated that only 18 to 20 examples were known, but we suggest that the availability is con-

siderably more, perhaps as many as 100 to 120. However, of that number, the present piece stands high in the lineup for quality.

Interestingly, this die marriage and another variety of 1798 overdate with stars arranged seven left and six right were both struck after the first 1797 Heraldic Eagle variety pieces.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

A die crack from the border at 12:00 passes through L and continues through the cap and into the hair curls. A very faint die crack joins the tops of UNITED. Although the present catalogue is not the forum for a Easy Finding Guide to Heraldic Eagle Coinage, we note in the present instance that the star to the left of the eagle's head has a ray pointing to the upright of B (PLURIBUS) and the star immediately to the right of the eagle's head has a ray pointing to the left upright of the second u (UNUM).

*Purchased from RARCOA, February 1, 1975.*



## Lovely 1799 Small Stars \$10

Condition Census



- 562 1799 Breen-6838, B-3B, T-18. Rarity-6. Small Stars. AU-58 (PCGS). Brilliant and frosty yellow gold with a few very minor surface marks on obverse and reverse. Faint orange patina is visible. Slight weakness is noted on the obverse, with all reverse design details sharp.

Just four or five Mint State examples are known, with another four or five AU coins. This example is probably among the top six known for this variety. Eagles of 1799 have the second highest mintage of all early eagles with 37,449 coins struck. With 10 die marriages known, this date also has the highest variety count. Of these, only two are considered readily available. Approximately 600 examples survive (300 each) of the two common die marriages, with under 200 coins (total) from the other eight varieties.

The obverse has several die cracks: A very faint crack from the inner point of star 3 angles down to the curls opposite star 2. A sharp, irregular crack from the border at 11:00 passes through two upper points of star 8 to the back edge of Liberty's cap. A lumpy crack passes through the upright of L. Another joins the tops of LIBERTY with stars 9, 10, and 11. The reverse has a short die defect under the right arm of T in UNITED. Clouds below STATES are incomplete, diagnostic for this reverse die. A short die line from the left inside foot of first A in AMERICA joins the right scroll end.

From Lester Merkin's sale of October 1969, Lot 451.

## Mint State 1799 Eagle

Imperfect Date Obverse



- 563 1799 Breen-6840, B-4E (same as reverse B), T-19. Rarity-3. Small Stars. MS-61 (PCGS). Reflective light greenish gold with some surface marks consistent with the grade. Sharply struck and very attractive.

This variety has been variably attributed as Breen-4B or Breen-4E. When he prepared his monograph in the 1960s, Walter Breen described two different reverse dies, which are now recognized as the same. Note the die line under the right arm of T in UNITED which is the same on this coin and on the B-3B example also in the present sale. The distinctive date placement gives rise to the Imperfect Date name, with the digit 1 distant from the hair curl and digit 9 very close to the drapery.

The obverse has a crack from border to left top of E in LIBERTY. Another crack joins TY and stars 9, 10, and 11. The reverse has moderate clash marks and minor rust pits. The stars below STATES are incomplete, as on the B-3B variety here offered.

From RARCOA's 1970 ANA Sale, Lot 1548.

## Important 1799 Large Stars \$10

Breen-5F, Rarity-6

Condition Census



- 564 1799 Breen-6841, B-5F, T-21. Rarity-6. Large Stars. AU-58 (PCGS). Fully reflective light yellow gold with a few minor surface marks consistent with the grade.

Two varieties of Large Stars eagles of this date are known. The more available 5-G variety is known to the extent of several hundred coins, including quite a few Mint State examples. The much rarer 5-F variety is another story entirely, as only a handful of coins are known, with the present example among the top three or four known.

Perfect obverse from the standpoint of cracks; top of second 9 shows delicate repunching (which may not be visible on lower grade coins). On the obverse, stars 7 and 8 are misaligned, as illustrated; stars 12 and 13 are somewhat misaligned, and the same can be said for a few other star pairs. Few minor reverse die lines are visible, including a patch of semicircular die lines among the vertical shield lines.

From Superior's 1975 ANA sale, Lot 1535.

## Rare 1801 Breen-1A \$10

Condition Census



- 565 1801 Breen-6843, B-1A, T-24. Rarity-5. MS-61 (PCGS). Fully reflective bright yellow gold surfaces with a few minor surface marks consistent with the grade. Two die varieties of 1801 eagles are known. Breen-2B, the other variety, is known to the extent of several hundred coins and is the single most plentiful issue of any variety in the series from 1795 to 1804. The presently offered Breen-1A variety is very rare, with not more than a few dozen examples known in all grades. The Bass specimen is one of the top five or six finest known. This Breen-1A die combination shares a reverse die with 1800 eagles, and was struck before late die states of the 1800-dated coins.

The obverse has a faint crack from star 3, arcing across the bust and neck, continuing to star 13. Another crack from the border passes between 01 to the drapery line.

As Anthony Taraszka has pointed out in his excellent book, early eagles 1795-1804 offer a realistic possibility to the specialist. There are no major star arrangement varieties or any other cynosures that are unique and in museums (whereas in the half eagle series there are two unique major varieties in the Smithsonian). As is true of so many areas in United States coins, to know a series is to love it—and some time spent studying the illustrations in this catalogue and the peculiarities of the arrangements of the elements on the dies will impart an interest where none may exist now. From that point it is but a small step to bidding on the lots offered in the Bass Collection sales with the realization that such opportunities may not repeat themselves for a long time, if ever.

Purchased from Sid Smith, April 16, 1971



## Lustrous 1838 Coronet \$10

First Liberty Head Issue  
Condition Census



- 566 1838 Type I. First Head, Large Letters. AU-55 (PCGS). Lustrous yellow gold with some prooflike reflectivity in the recessed areas. Myriad tiny surface ticks can be seen on both sides. Still a reasonably attractive specimen of this important Type I eagle issue, a design that lasted until early 1839 at which time it was modified. Always popular for its distinctive obverse style and as the first year of Christian Gobrecht's design type (which went mostly unchanged save for tiny modifications until 1907).

From a small mintage of 7,200 business strikes, and a date that Walter Breen called "Prohibitively rare above EF." Some 12 years after the appearance of Breen's *Encyclopedia*, that statement still rings true. This rarity represents the first coinage of the denomination since 1804. Specimens of the date are always in strong demand.

PCGS Population: 2; 5 finer (MS-63 finest).

Breen-6849. First Head, Large Letters.

The obverse style is of the so-called "First Head" which for 1838 and part of 1839 was differently positioned than on later issues (1839-1907). The portrait of Miss Liberty is tilted noticeably forward, and the front of the neck truncation is above the 18 of the date. The right side of the truncation curls markedly above and slightly to the right of the final star, with that star within the sweep of the curving shoulder line of the truncation.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, October 31, 1972.*

- 567 1839 Type I. Head of 1838, Large Letters, Normal Date. VF-35. Yellow gold with a trace of olive. Some scattered marks and faint scratches are noted. The so-called *normal date* variety; actually a late state of the overdate die (Breen-6850), details of the 8 now all but obliterated from continued die use (see below).

Breen-6851.

Late reverse die state, with several die cracks. The first bisects the reverse vertically, running from the rim above the first T in STATES, through that letter and across the field, then through the eagle's beak and across the upper left corner of the shield and claws, then through the E of TEN to the border. Another crack runs from the border through the top of O in OF, through the F, then across the wing and into the field below AM. Another crack runs from the top of M through the middle of E, then through the bottoms of RICA to the D of the denomination. Yet another crack runs from the rim above the N in UNITED, then through the U of that word, crossing the vertically bisecting crack (an unusual occurrence in numismatics), and then terminating at the lowest arrow feather.

So far as we are able to determine at this point in our research, all 1839 eagles of the Type I design are from the identical die used in 1838, now overdated. The nomenclature "Large Letters" and "Small Letters" as a sign to the Type I and Type II heads of this year should be completely discarded—as not even a rocket scientist can tell any difference in the letter sizes. The "Head of 1838" (as offered here) and the modified "Head of 1840" (as offered in the next lot) provide simple and satisfactory descriptions.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of February 1969, Lot 1384.*

## Lustrous 1839 Eagle

Type II Head Style  
Condition Census Candidate



- 568 1839 Type II, Head of 1840, Small Letters. AU-53 (PCGS). Lustrous medium gold with a hint of orange. Somewhat prooflike in the recessed areas. From the modified or "Type II" design type (see below). From a business strike mintage for the date of 12,447 pieces, although the date is considerably scarcer than the small mintage figure implies, especially above VF or so. "Usually in low grades, prohibitively rare in AU," noted Walter Breen. A coin that approaches (or attains) Condition Census honors for the date.

PCGS Population: 4; 4 finer (MS-63 finest).

Breen-6852.

The Type II issues of 1839 feature a modified portrait of Liberty. Her bust is now more upright and stockier in appearance, and the final obverse star is above and to the right of the back point of Liberty's truncation (on the Type I coins, that star is below and to the left of the point of the shoulder). Other subtle differences can be deduced with casual study.

Obverse with tall 1 in date, 8 slightly shorter but on the same baseline, 3 noticeably higher, 9 on same baseline as 1 and 8. Left edge of lowest serif of 1 over space between dentils. The 1 is further from the 8 than the 3 is from the 9, the 8 and 3 are closest. Several stars show die artifacts at their points. Prominent "points" or lines extend into the field from the front of the 1 and the back of the 9 in the date. Other prominent die lines run from lower left to upper right below the date, with other faint die finish lines running lower right to upper left among the date numerals. A die crack connects the first three stars before jutting to the rim over the fourth star, and from there back through the fifth star and connecting all the stars up to the ninth before jutting to the rim above the 10th star. Other short cracks are noted between the rim and the final three stars. A faint diagonal die line connects the L and B of LIBERTY, and another short die line connects the bottom of the T in LIBERTY to the hair immediately below. The reverse is free of cracks or other notable hallmarks.

The 1839 is the last year of the Coronet Head eagle in which the date was entered individually with single-digit numeral punches.

*From Stack's sale of August 1971, Lot 2302.*

- 569 1840 AU-50. Lustrous yellow gold with a trace of pale orange toning. Some reflectivity around the devices. A scattering of small marks is noted for accuracy. A very scarce date in proportion to its mintage of 47,338 business strikes, particularly in AU or finer, those grades called "prohibitively rare" by Walter Breen.

The obverse portrait of Liberty is slightly different from the head of 1838 and also different from the modified head of 1839, the present style having the coronet tip slightly more distant from star 6 than on the modified styles (July-December 1839). The differences are small yet distinctly noticeable when pieces are laid side by side.

Small date. Numerals from a four-digit punch, widely but evenly spaced, but of a regular vertical alignment (8 low, 0 high). From this point through the end of the Coronet Head series, four-digit logotypes were usually employed, but in some instances three-digit logotypes were employed with the fourth digit added by hand. Raised die lump in Liberty's curl directly below her ear.

*From Arizona Stamp & Coin, May 14, 1969.*

- 570 1840 EF-45. Lustrous orange-gold. Numerous surface marks consistent with the grade; such pieces were used extensively in commerce.

*Purchased from Douglas Weaver, September 26, 1973.*



- 571 **1841 AU-55. Breen-6854.** A lustrous yellow gold specimen with a whisper of olive iridescence. Typically found in VF or occasionally EF; lustrous AU or finer specimens can be considered rare.

Date logotype small, continuing the style of 1840. The following notes by the editor (QDB) are tentative in nature, as investigations are still progressing. We would be pleased to correspond with anyone making parallel inquiries. The date was punched from a four-digit logotype. The first three numerals, 184, are identical in position and alignment to those seen on the preceding date, 1840. It may be that the following scenario occurred:

In 1840 the four-digit logotype was made by punching the individual numerals 1, 8, 4, and 0 into a soft steel matrix, hardening it, and creating a four-digit logotype for the eagle coinage. Subsequently, the 0 was ground off of the four-digit logotype, and the three-digit logotype, 184, was used in 1841 by impressing in a new blank of soft steel, creating 184, to which a single 1 was added. Then the process was repeated, the matrix was hardened, and the four-digit logotype 1841 was created. This would neatly explain the identical position of the first three letters. To answer the inquiry as to whether simply a three-digit logotype was used on the *working dies*, with the digit 1 added separately, we need but point to the fact that all 1841 dies, including those of the New Orleans Mint, are of the same alignment, spacing, etc., indicating use of a four-digit logotype. Reverse with die crack from rim at 10:00, along the length of the eagle's wing, across the shield, then terminating in the field above the top arrowhead.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 394.*

## Interesting Group of \$10 Coronet Dates

- 572 **Grouping of Liberty eagles grading EF-40:** ☆ 1841 ☆ 1842 Large Date ☆ 1849 Repunched 1 ☆ 1853-O. Faint copper spots are noted on both surfaces ☆ 1879-S. Dark toning spots are noted on both surfaces ☆ 1880-S Tall S ☆ 1899-S. Each with some mint lustre remaining. A very nice group covering a wide span of years, early to late, within the Coronet Head design. (Total: 7 pieces)

## Low-Mintage 1841-O \$10 Rarity

### First Branch Mint Eagle



- 573 **1841-O Net EF-40;** sharpness of AU-50 or so but noticeably brushed. Breen-6855. Some scattered marks are also present. Yellow gold with a trace of olive.

The 1841-O is at once a famous rarity of which just 2,500 were struck, and also the first branch mint coin of this denomination. We suspect that in the early 20th century the 1841-O was on the "want list" of Thomas L. Elder, circulated to bank tellers, and that various pieces were fished from bank holdings and customer deposits. The result is that a fair number were saved, amounting to a population today of perhaps 50 or 60 pieces all told. Among these, the typical grade is VF. Douglas Winter called this date "One of the true rarities from this mint, especially in higher grades." We suspect that perhaps as few as 50 or 60 are available in all grades, with VF being typical for surviving specimens. While not among the finest examples of this rarity, the present coin still represents a splendid opportunity to obtain a rarity at a competitive price.

All known 1841-O eagles were struck from a single pair of dies. The mintmark is prominent and is close to but distinctly separated from the tip of the arrow feather, which points to the upper right side of the O (at the 2:00 position for reference).

The obverse of the present specimen shows a prominent crack from the rim at 7:00, crossing the field and the point of Liberty's bust, then across the

field again to the middle of her neck. On the reverse, a diagonal die line crosses several of the "white" vertical shield stripes. Upon close inspection clash marks can be seen, outlining the profile of Miss Liberty's face. Some subtle clash marks can be seen on the obverse as well.

*Harry Bass' notation on the accompanying ticket simply reads "Bob Roth Set."*

- 574 **1842 Small Date. AU-50. Breen-6856.** Lustrous yellow gold with some reflectivity in the protected areas. Some light brush marks are noted on both sides. Struck from lightly clashed dies. Much scarcer than its Large Date counterpart.

1842 Small Date logotype for the eagle: Small date logotype, made from a four-digit punch, but not employing the 184 configuration described earlier under 1840. Instead, the entire matrix was created from scratch, punching the numerals 1, 8, 4, 2 separately. The final issue to feature the aesthetically pleasing Small Date style in use since 1840 (also employed on the smaller gold denominations).

Reverse with die crack from rim at 10:00, along the length of the eagle's wing, across the shield, then terminating in the field above the top arrowhead. This reverse was also used in 1841.

*From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 628.*

- 575 **1842 Large Date. AU-50. Breen-6857.** Lustrous yellow gold with a touch of pale olive. Struck from clashed dies. "Prohibitively rare AU," wrote Walter Breen regarding this date, and we heartily agree.

The Large Date logotype of this year was also used on cents and half dollars. Numerals large and about evenly spaced, date centered horizontally and vertically. Reverse from a shattered die. A crack begins at the rim at 10:00 and runs through the eagle's wing and continues to the shoulder area where it takes a sudden dip downward, crossing the eagle's wing and leg, then out through a talon to the field, and from there down through the E of TEN to the rim. A second crack from the rim grazes the viewer's left base of the first A in AMERICA, then through the center of the wing to the shield where it runs along the lowest horizontal stripe until it juts downward across the left most "white" stripe, then into the wing where it connects to the first crack.

*From Stack's sale of the Copeland Collection, April 1967, Lot 1719.*

## Attractive Run of Coronet Head \$10

- 576 **Selection of eagles grading EF-45:** ☆ 1842 Small Date ☆ 1843 ☆ 1850 Large Date. Lustrous ☆ 1851-O Hollow ring atop of second stripe in shield. (2). Lustre remaining in the protected areas ☆ 1856-S ☆ 1898-S. A very attractive offering of Coronet Head eagles. (Total: 7 pieces)

## Eagles for the Bargain Hunter

- 577 **Grouping of eagles with an average grade of Net EF-45; sharpness finer:** ☆ 1842 Small Date. Saltwater surfaces. Probably recovered from some treasure wreck, the details of which are not known but would be interesting to learn! ☆ 1850 Large Date, prooflike. Very lightly cleaned—really a very decent example of this variety ☆ 1852. Small rim nick ☆ 1853-O. Very lightly cleaned, but not so that most people would notice ☆ 1861. Scratches in the fields are mostly hidden by normal marks, etc.—a coin worth checking visually ☆ 1891-CC. Lightly cleaned long ago—but quite attractive overall ☆ 1907-D. Lightly brushed, but extremely lustrous, fairly attractive overall. A run of \$10 pieces, each with some problems as noted. These pieces were acquired by Harry W. Bass, Jr. to study date logotype positions and other peculiarities. Regarding the 1842 Small Date, one might say that this piece is quite historical—and has an "added feature" rather than a "problem." (Total: 7 pieces)



## Particularly Interesting Group of Eagles

- 578 **Selection of Liberty Eagles grading EF-45**, including some particularly interesting varieties: ☆ 1842 Large Date ☆ 1849 over dramatically repunched date, called by some “1849 over 1848,” Breen-6888. Our view is that the same 1849 four-digit logotype used to produce the final date was earlier impressed into the die far too low, partially effaced, then corrected ☆ 1850 Large Date ☆ 1851-O. Hollow ring atop second stripe in shield; a curious feature, probably from a centering punch, which in various minute positional differences is seen on several dies of this era (some but not all are mentioned in Breen’s magisterial *Encyclopedia*) ☆ 1852 ☆ 1856-S (Normal four-digit logotype, one of two 1856 logotypes thus far identified; the second, not offered here, is the “Fallen 6” logotype with the last digit distant, low, and leaning right) ☆ 1899-O. Each with some mint lustre remaining. (Total: 7 pieces)

### Popular 1842-O Eagle



- 579 **1842-O AU-50**. Lustrous yellow gold with a hint of olive iridescence. Some prooflike surface is seen on both sides. Nicely struck. Readily available in VF or so, but a true rarity in AU or finer.

Date logotype nicely and evenly impressed, slightly left of center, lower left serif of 1 over center of dentil. Die artifacts are seen around several obverse stars, and raised die finish lines protrude from the rim at many of the stars as well, indicating an early emission from the die.

New reverse die, superficially similar to 1841-O, but with O mintmark slightly differently shaped, particularly regarding the interior space) and ever so slightly closer to the arrow feather. On the present impression the die crack is seen from D (UNITED) to the wing tip, continuing slightly beyond, and another crack from F (OF) to the other wing tip.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, April 3, 1973.*

### Another Attractive 1842-O \$10

#### Different Reverse Die



- 580 **1842-O AU-50**. Lustrous honey gold. Many tiny marks can be seen under low magnification, but the overall appeal is still quite fine. Scarce in AU. Another very attractive example.

This reverse die is different from the preceding and also different from 1841-O. Although the interior of the mintmark is somewhat different in shape, the quickest visual method of differentiating the two is the distance of the mintmark from the eagle’s claw, which on the present specimen is much shorter than on the previously offered lot. The die differences of this era are fairly subtle, have not been intensively studied, and no doubt hold many surprises. Apparently, published Mint

records are not complete. It was recorded that a die pair was shipped to New Orleans from Philadelphia very late in the year, October 22, 1842, but it is seen that at least two dies were used (although one could have been leftover from 1841, but not used in 1841 as it is different from the known 1841-O). Further, it stands to reason that dies would have been sent long before the end of October.

Two reverses are known for this date, a leftover reverse of 1841-O, and the present variety, struck from the reverse die shipped to New Orleans on October 22, 1842. Mintmark positioned similarly to that on the 1841-O reverse die, but rounder and wider across, the tip of the lowest arrow feather points to the top of the O (unlike the 1841-O reverse, where the tip of the lowest feather points to the 2:00 position on the side of the mintmark).

*From Lester Merkin’s sale of June 1970, Lot 450.*

- 581 **1842-O EF-45**. Lustrous deep honey gold with rich orange highlights. A minuscule reverse rim bruise is seen at 7:00.

Date logotype nicely and evenly impressed, slightly left of center, lower left serif of 1 over center of dentil. Die artifacts are seen around several obverse stars, and raised die finish lines protrude from the rim at many of the stars as well, indicating an early emission from the die. From the reverse die described under Lot 579, and showing the same cracks.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, December 18, 1970.*

### Group of Mintmarked Eagles

- 582 **Grouping of eagles with some minor problems, but worthy of in-person inspection as many are of the quality normally seen on the market**. Acquired by Harry Bass here and there for the purpose of studying die peculiarities: ☆ 1842-O Large Date. Net VF-20; sharpness of VF-35, saltwater surfaces with numerous rim bumps. If someone were to engage in forensic numismatics it could be surmised that this piece was in, say, high-grade EF or low grade AU when the ship sunk, possibly placing the sinking date after, say, 1845. As is typical, no details are known concerning the circumstances of the find ☆ 1847-O. Net VF-30; sharpness of AU-50, polished ☆ 1851-O Net VF-25; sharpness of EF-40, whizzed. Ring at top of second vertical shield stripe ☆ 1853-O. Net VF-30; sharpness of AU-50, cleaned ☆ 1858-O Net VF-35; sharpness of AU-50. Lightly cleaned, but still quite attractive—and *rare* ☆ 1880-CC. Net VF-30; sharpness of EF-40, scratched ☆ 1901-S VF-35; sharpness of AU-50, cleaned. (Total: 7 pieces)

- 583 **Group of eagles grading AU-50, each with some problems as described:** ☆ 1843. Saltwater surfaces; pre-immersion grade probably similar to the first coin in the preceding lot. Doubled date logotype ☆ 1847. Saltwater surfaces. Probably AU when lost at sea. ☆ 1847-O. Saltwater surfaces. Probably AU when lost at sea. With some very curious and very prominent raised *ridges* on the obverse including three near or at the edge at star 1, another distant from star 1 and above it, and two others in the dentils to the left of the date—a die worthy of close examination by the advanced specialist. ☆ 1879. Cleaned ☆ 1892-S. Obverse gouge. (Total: 5 pieces)



## Bright 1843-O Eagle



- 584 **1843-O AU-55.** Lustrous yellow gold with bright lemon yellow reflectivity in the protected areas. A tiny reverse rim nick is noted. A fairly scarce date in AU grade, especially combining this numerical level with the eye appeal present in the coin here offered. Most 1843-O eagles are VF and EF. Nicely struck and highly attractive overall.

Breen-6862. "Very thin numerals."

The date logotype is punched lightly into the working die. The date is nicely placed horizontally and vertically, the 1 equidistant from the truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif high over center of dentil, date numerals nicely spaced, 4 noticeably lower at bottom than other numerals. The reverse displays some rather heavy die cracks. The first of these begins at the rim above the final A in AMERICA, descending along the right side of that letter, across the field, then across the arrow shafts and a talon, and from there across the leg to the bottom point of the shield and then into the other wing for nearly its entire length. Another crack begins at the dentil opposite the end of the eagle's right (viewer's left) wing, touches the tip of the wing and immediately turns clockwise, joining the tops of STATES before jutting off to the rim after the final S. Yet another crack unites the tops of OF with the eagle's wing tip immediately following.

Record deposits of gold from active domestic mines in 1843 resulted in all-time high numbers of gold coins produced at all four mints, although just Philadelphia and New Orleans coined eagles.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 1, 1972.*

- 585 **1843-O AU-50.** Lustrous light honey gold with an attractive blonde appearance. Some prooflike reflectivity is seen in the protected areas. A pleasing coin despite a few light marks.

From the same die pair as the previous lot, but the reverse is in a more advanced state. The previously mentioned die breaks have now become heavier, and others have appeared, most noticeably a crack from the rim to the lowest olive berry. Another crack arcs from the rim to the bottoms of TE in TEN, then back down to the rim below the N; it is apparent that a chunk is about to come out of the die in that area. In addition, the legends show die ejection (or shelf) doubling at most points—perhaps related to the deteriorated state of the die.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, October 7, 1968.*

## Treasure Find and Other Eagles

- 586 **Selection of eagles grading Net EF-45,** but sharpness of AU-50 or better—including some interesting pieces believed to have been recovered from shipwrecks: ☆ 1843-O. Two digs in obverse field. Die state somewhat similar to Lot 585 ☆ 1847-O Repunched 18. Saltwater surfaces. A truly lovely coin with matte finish—what an attraction and what value this would have if it could only be tied to a specific treasure wreck! ☆ 1847-O. Saltwater surfaces. Same speculative daydream as for the preceding coin ☆ 1848. Light matte saltwater surfaces. Reverse with ring at top of second vertical shield stripe ☆ 1849 Repunched 1 (perhaps; in any event, a very tiny serif-like line emerges from the left side of the upright about a third of the way from the bottom). Cleaned ☆ 1849. Cleaned ☆ 1851. Cleaned. (Total: 7 pieces)

## A Dozen Interesting Eagles

- 587 **A dozen eagles** with various minor problems; grades average net EF-40, often with finer sharpness. Interesting pieces that were acquired by Harry W. Bass, Jr., for the study of dies and other characteristics. "A lot of coins for the money," a group well worth considering carefully: ☆ 1843-O. Cleaned ☆ 1844-O. Lightly cleaned ☆ 1845-O. Saltwater surfaces ☆ 1847. Saltwater surfaces ☆ 1851. Lightly polished. Interesting die peculiarities; the bottom of the figure 8 is somewhat broken away and irregular ☆ 1853. Cleaned (2) ☆ 1853-O. Cleaned ☆ 1881. Cleaned ☆ 1881-S. Cleaned ☆ 1882-S. Cleaned ☆ 1897-S. Cleaned. (Total: 12 pieces)

## Important 1844 Eagle

### A Low-Mintage Rarity



- 588 **1844 AU-53 (PCGS).** Warm honey gold with some prooflike reflectivity in the recessed design areas. A rare and underappreciated date, rarer even than its low mintage of 6,361 business strikes suggests. The typical specimen is just VF or so, with AU examples of the date considered quite rare. In fact, the present specimen is equivalent in grade to the coin we offered as Lot 1342 in Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection (October 1999); Harry called that one a "rare grade" in his notes! This and the earlier Bass coin are among the finest known examples of this date.

Date logotype bold. Prominent horizontal ridges—far more than die scratches—at the left border beginning prior to star 1 and continuing to close to star 3; at the ninth star there are some lighter marks which are perhaps best called file marks or die lines, rather than ridges. A very curious phenomenon, also seen on a \$10 die of 1847, the reason for which is not known.

*From Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 1984, Lot 1152.*

## Another 1844 Eagle



- 589 **1844 EF-45.** Lustrous honey gold. Some green detritus is seen at OF and the eagle's wing. Reverse lightly brushed but still an attractive example of a desirable rarity.

From the same dies as the preceding lot and with the peculiarities referred to in the earlier description.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 401.*



## Attractive 1844-O Eagle



- 590 **1844-O Repunched Mintmark. AU-55.** A lustrous and satiny honey gold specimen with strong eye appeal for the assigned grade. Nicely struck. Mintmark repunched. A few light marks are not unusual for the grade and do little to detract from the overall appeal of the coin. An available date that is typically seen in VF to EF; at AU or finer, the population of available specimens drops dramatically. The present specimen equals the quality of Lot 1345 in Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection (October 1999), a specimen we called at that time, "The highest technical grade that Harry Bass was able to locate." Choice for the grade.

Obverse with date logotype bold and slightly high. Several thin raised die lines, not prominent enough to be called *ridges*, extend from the dentils in the area of the second through fourth stars. Reverse with remnants of a previously punched O plainly visible within the center of the existing mintmark (which, we should mention here, has a little dig—damage after minting—on its right side). Several vertical shield stripes protrude noticeably into the horizontal stripes above.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of January 1968, Lot 334.*

- 591 **1844-O Repunched Mintmark. AU-50.** A second lustrous specimen of this popular branch mint issue.

From the same dies as the previous lot.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 18, 1972.*

## "Underrated" 1845 Eagle



- 592 **1845 AU-50.** Lustrous pale honey gold. A few scattered marks are noted. Much rarer in AU than its mintage of 26,153 pieces suggests. In fact, Part II of the Bass Collection offered a nice EF-40 example as the finest representative specimen of the date in that sale. Called "one of the grossly underrated dates in the Liberty Head eagle series" by David Akers. A pleasing coin.

Date logotype deeply impressed, more so at the 1 than the 5. Date relatively low, top of 1 nearly twice the distance from truncation as bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif just left of center of dentil below, 1 and 8 close, 8 and 4 closer yet, virtually touching, 4 and 5 most distant. A faint vertical reverse crack connects the underside of the eagle's beak with the shoulder below. Unfinished die work resulted in patches of roughness in the "white" vertical stripes on the reverse shield.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 30, 1967; ex Stack's sale of June 1967, Lot 197.*

- 593 **1845-O Doubled Date. AU-50.** Bright and lustrous honey gold with some reflectivity in the fields. An intriguing variety, and a decidedly scarce date in AU. This is one of the most outstanding blundered dies in the eagle series—a coin the significance of which is far greater than a normal Doubled Date. One inspection under magnification will be convincing!

Breen-6870 "Double date. Very rare."

Date first punched more to the right, nearly a numeral's width in fact, then corrected. Strong remnants of the original 8 and 5 are still present, the 8 between the existing 8 and 4, and the 5 to the right of the existing 5. The original 8 and the existing 8 are the same size, and on the same plane, while the upper flag of the previous 5 is considerably higher than that of the existing 5. Some raised horizontal die lines stretch to the right from the back of the originally punched 5, no doubt the remnants of attempted effacement. Reverse with mintmark nearly centered over N below, hollow area atop the second group of vertical shield lines, mintmark nearly centered over N below.

A strange situation occurs here; the remains of the previously punched 8 and 5 are present and plainly visible, but *absolutely no traces* of a 1 or 4 can be seen.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, January 26, 1973.*

- 594 **1845-O Over Smaller Date. EF-45.** Lustrous yellow gold. A few scattered marks are present, most prominent being a tiny nick on the obverse rim below the date. None of the marks are overly distracting. Dies aligned in the same direction, or medal wise.

We begin with the description given by Walter Breen under his 6871, that author calling this an 1845/4 Overdate:

"Extremely rare. Date 1844 first cut well to the left of the final position of 1845. Upright of 4 within lower part of 5."

Our view differs, but we are not quite sure what it is. The most telling feature is what almost certainly seems to be the *pointed* peak of a tiny 4 to the left of the final *flat-topped* 4 of the date. Under the 5 are traces of another digit, whether an earlier 4 (not likely as it does not look like the first 4) or something else we do not know. It seems to us that a four-digit logotype from the 1840s, possibly 1845, but of *distinctly smaller size* was first used on the die, nearly completely effaced, then corrected. Perhaps good nomenclature would be, at least for the present: "1845 Over Smaller Date."

Reverse mintmark round and slightly low, and centered nearly directly over the space between the E and N in the denomination.

*Purchased from International Gold Corp., February 15, 1973.*

- 595 **1845-O Repunched 84. EF-45.** Lustrous medium gold with some faint scattered marks noted for accuracy. As with nearly all eagles from the era, this date is typically seen in VF or so, with AU specimens quite desirable for their unquestionable rarity.

Breen-6869. "Repunched 84. Rare." Some repunching is evident, but completely different from the preceding. The traces are very light.

Date logotype evenly impressed. Date relatively high, distance from base of 1 to dentils roughly three times greater than from top of 1 to truncation. Traces of previously punched 8 and 4 visible to the left of the existing digits. Faint diagonal lines through Y of LIBERTY. Point of lowest arrow feather over right side of mintmark, mintmark over left upright of N below, no hollow space at top of second vertical shield line group.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2233.*

- 596 **1845-O Repunched 84. EF-40.** Warm medium gold with some orange highlights and a hint of lustre in the recessed areas. A tiny edge nick is noted directly below the date.

Breen-6869.

From an early state of the obverse, with more details of the repunched date present around the 8 and 4, and with clear repunching at the base of the 1. The die lines through the Y in LIBERTY are also bold. From a different reverse die than the previous lot, this with O mintmark farther to right, point of lowest arrow feather over center of mintmark, mintmark nearly centered over N below, hollow space at top of second group of vertical lines in shield. This must have been the centering point of the die, a variation on the ring that appears on certain later dies of the type.

*Purchased from Ed Shapiro, April 7, 1969.*



## Elusive 1846 Eagle



- 597 **1846 AU-50.** Lustrous yellow gold with a touch of olive toning. The surfaces are somewhat prooflike, and a few scattered marks are noted for accuracy. From a fairly small mintage of 20,095 business strikes for the date, and a difficult date to locate in most grades as a result. Typically found in VF or occasionally EF, with AU examples rare and underrated; the date may not exist in Mint State!

Small Date logotype composed of small, somewhat squat digits. 18 slightly closer than either 84 or 46, bases of digits about on the same level, top interior of 8 slightly smaller than bottom interior, 6 small and squat, with top close to curve below it and about as wide as the curve. This logotype appeared on the Philadelphia Mint eagles of the year, as well as the Small Date variety of the year's copper cents. The Small Date and Medium Date (for medium date see description under Lot 599) varieties exist among 1846 Philadelphia eagles—but have not been widely recognized. However, when examples are held side by side the difference is quite noticeable.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 405.*

- 598 **1846 Net VF-20;** sharpness of AU-50, but with heavy obverse scratches. Bright yellow gold with prooflike fields.

Same dies as previous lot.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2172.*

## Lustrous 1846/5-O "Overdate" \$10

### Traditional Overdate



- 599 **1846-O Repunched Date. AU-50.** Breen-6875. Lustrous yellow gold with a trace of honey. A few tiny edge nicks are present, but the quality is still substantial for the grade. This is what Walter Breen calls an *overdate*, 1846/5-O, but we disagree. An essay about this was given under Lot 1360 in our Bass II sale, to which refer.

Medium Date, the difference being most obvious by looking at the digit 6—which is narrow on the present piece and squat on the Small Date (as offered in the previous two lots). Date high in die, base of 1 three times as far from dentils as top is from truncation, left edge of lower serif high over space between dentils, upper opening of 6 filled with roughness, lower opening with a heart-shaped blob, a comma-like line to the right of the blob (perhaps an intermediate state of the die, see next lot). Small raised die lump below Liberty's ear, another below the lowest hair curl on her neck.

O mintmark low over space between E and N, boldly repunched at top giving the appearance of "horns," slightly tipped to the left, right edge of E below center of mintmark.

*Purchased from Jack Klausen, September 4, 1968.*

- 600 **1846-O Repunched Date. EF-45.** Breen-6875. Lustrous yellow gold with some deeper highlights. Scattered marks noted on both sides, the most prominent being a diagonal scratch in the field before Liberty's neck.

From the same obverse die as the previous lot, a slightly earlier state. The top loop of the 6 is completely filled with roughness, the lower loop is mostly filled with roughness as well (this roughness evidently fades to the heart-shaped blob and comma-like line state of the previous lot). From a different reverse. The O mintmark is fairly high over the space between the E and N in TEN, the right edge of the E even with the left inside curve of the mintmark.

*From Paramount's sale of February 1971, Lot 1085.*

- 601 **1846-O Repunched Date. EF-40.** Breen-6875. Attractive yellow gold with a blush of orange toning and some lustre in the recessed areas. A few light marks do little to detract from the overall appeal.

From the same obverse die as preceding. From a different reverse. The O mintmark is far to the right, over the space between the N of TEN and the D in the denomination, nicely centered between those letters and the feather and branch above as well. The die is cracked from the rim above the I of AMERICA, curving across that letter and the field before terminating on the tip of the uppermost arrow. Another crack runs from the rim upward through the T of TEN, then across the top of the E and the field to the olive branch. A third crack runs from the rim along the I of UNITED, terminating at the bottom of that letter.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 406.*

## Mint State 1847 Eagle



- 602 **1847 MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with some deeper highlights. Nicely struck. One of very few dates in the early Coronet eagle series that can be called "available" in Mint State—perhaps two dozen or so examples of the date still survive at MS-60 or finer, most of those in the MS-60 to MS-62 range. For those who like comparisons, we mention that this particular coin, which is valued at only a few thousand dollars, is several times rarer than an 1893-S Morgan dollar in comparable grade, valued at tens of thousands of dollars. Of course, there are more collectors seeking the Morgan dollar, but in any event it points out how inexpensive true rarities are in the \$10 gold series. A pleasing coin, one that equals the finest specimen of the date we offered in Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection (October 1999). *These are from multiple dies, not the same single die being reused.*

PCGS Population: 6; 4 finer (MS-64 finest).

Date logotype heavily impressed at all numerals. Date slightly high, top of 1 nominally closer to truncation than bottom is to dentils, left edge of lower serif over right side of dentil, back tip of Liberty's shoulder virtually directly over upper right corner of 7. Some cross-thatched die lines appear at the back of Liberty's neck where it is joined by her hair bun.

On the reverse, a tiny circle or "ring" appears at the top of the second pair of vertical shield stripes (cf. Breen-6898). Our research has revealed this same die characteristic on eagles dated 1848-O, 1849-O, 1851-O, 1852-O, and 1853-O, and undoubtedly other dates will eventually be detected. As far as we know, the present specimen is the earliest dated Coronet eagle to display this die characteristic, and the only Philadelphia issue as well. However, there is more to be learned. If any readers have information beyond that given here, the editor (QDB) would be glad to correspond.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1970, Lot 750.*



603 1847 AU-58. Bright and lustrous yellow gold with lively olive iridescence on the reflective surfaces. Some scattered marks are noted, consistent with the grade. No doubt many would call this lustrous specimen MS-60.

Date logotype rocked side to side in the working die. 1 and 7 heavily impressed, 8 and 4 lightly impressed, date centered, 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of upper serif virtually even with point of Liberty's bust, upper right of 7 noticeably left of point of Liberty's shoulder. Fairly heavy diagonal die lines slant upward from Liberty's hair through the T in LIBERTY. No small circle at top of vertical shield stripes on reverse.

Purchased from RARCOA, August 16, 1972.

### Lustrous Group of Eagles

604 Selection of Liberty and Indian eagles grading AU-50: ☆ 1847 ☆ 1847-O Repunched 18 ☆ 1847-O ☆ 1850 Large Date ☆ 1852 ☆ 1874 ☆ 1879-S ☆ 1882 ☆ 1907 Indian. No Periods, thus the regular issue. A well matched grouping. For the earlier dates the AU grade can be considered scarce—typically comprising no more than 10% to 20% of the survivors, and sometimes not even that many. On the other hand, for the 1907 Indian, AU is of no particular account. (Total: 9 pieces)

### Choice Uncirculated 1847-O \$10

High Condition Census



605 1847-O MS-63 (PCGS). Lustrous honey gold with a decided glow of olive iridescence. Well struck in all areas and approaching prooflike on both sides. A truly choice specimen of this large mintage issue. However, despite the generous production, at the MS-63 level the 1847-O is a *prime rarity*. The present specimen is considerably finer than any specimen of the date we sold in our offering of Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection (October 1999). A fantastic coin, a fantastic opportunity.

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (MS-64).

Date logotype heavily impressed, probably Breen-6879, "Extra heavy 7." Date numerals very heavy in the die, giving them the appearance of being more closely spaced (particularly evident between the 8 and the 4) than on most impressions of this die. Of all of the four-digit logotypes of this era, the 1847 is the most chameleon-like, for a deep impression in the working die results in the pieces being heavy and closely spaced, and a very light impression gives a superficial appearance of an entirely different logotype—with widely spaced numerals, despite the same logotype being used. Very interesting! On the present working die, the 1 is slightly nearer to dentils than to truncation, left edge of lower serif high over center of dentil, crumbling noted inside upper right angle of 7, upper right corner of 7 virtually under right most point of Liberty's shoulder. Six heavy and distinct *ridges* jut out from between the dentils beginning just clockwise of the 1, and ending just clockwise of the first star. These may be the slips of an engraving tool, or there may be some other explanation. Seemingly, they are not from a normal file, or they would be more numerous, lighter, and parallel. Reverse legends also entered deeply into the working die. O mintmark tilted slightly left, centered over space between E and N of the denomination, closer to talon above than letters below.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, October 28, 1971.

606 1847-O AU-55. Lustrous and satiny yellow gold surfaces display some warmer golden tones. Nicely struck. Aesthetically appealing for the grade.

Date logotype lightly impressed, probably Breen-6877, "Thin numerals." Light impression of logotype die, giving the appearance of the numerals being quite far apart, as a comparison with the previous lot will dramatically reveal. All of this was quite educational to the editor (QDB) when first studied in detail; we must confess to lingering for a long time in the study of about two dozen examples of the 1847 date—before we were convinced that only one logotype had been used. Credit for all of this must ultimately go to Harry W. Bass, Jr., who had the foresight to acquire pieces with even the slightest interesting variations. Found one at a time at different locations, such would be very difficult to study and compare. O mintmark tilted slightly left, centered over space between E and N of the denomination, closer to letters below than talon above. Die cracked at tops of TEN D.

From Stack's sale of August 1976, Lot 3068.

### Choice Uncirculated 1848 Eagle

A Prime Rarity in Mint State



(2x photo)

607 1848 MS-63 (PCGS). Strong honey gold lustre on satiny surfaces. Fully struck in all areas save for a touch of weakness at the hair above Liberty's ear. Although 145,484 pieces were struck, virtually all were placed into circulation, with the result that today VF and EF grades are what can be reasonably expected, with even high level AU being elusive. In Mint State the 1848 is rare, and in the elegant combination of a high numerical grade plus the ever-important eye appeal, the present coin is a *prime rarity*, or, stated another way, a *numismatic delicacy* that will appeal to the appetite of the connoisseur.

Date logotype progressively lighter in the working die, from left to right, heavier at 1 than at final 8. Date centered, 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif high over center of dentil below. A faint die crack connects the bottoms of the date numerals with most of the obverse stars.

From Stack's sale of the James A. Stack Collection, October 1994, Lot 1297.



### Lustrous 1848-O \$10



**608 1848-O AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with some warm butterscotch highlights on the high points. A scattering of tiny marks becomes apparent under low magnification, but the overall appeal is still strong. Typically found in VF or EF. Douglas Winter called the date “A hard coin to locate in all grades. In About Uncirculated and higher it is unappreciated and extremely rare.” A great opportunity for the alert collector.

Date logotype entered deeply, centrally located both horizontally and vertically, 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. Reverse O mintmark twice as far from EN in TEN below than from talon above, tilted very slightly left, and just left of center of the space between E and N. This is another interesting coin for a logotype comparison: the same logotype was used to produce Lot 607 and 608, but the spacing is markedly different due to the depth of impression.

*From Stack's sale of December 1970, Lot 337.*

**609 1848-O EF-45.** Honey gold with lustre and deeper toning in the recessed areas. A pleasing coin for the assigned grade.

Date logotype entered deeply. 1 (1848) three to four times closer to truncation than to dentils, left edge of lower serif high over right edge of dentil. O mintmark tilted slightly left, centered over space between E and N of the denomination, closer to letters below than talon above. Die cracked at tops of TEN D. This identical die was used to coin certain 1847-O eagles.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, May 30, 1972.*

### Lustrous Uncirculated 1849 Eagle



**610 1849 MS-60.** Lustrous yellow gold with somewhat prooflike fields. Nicely struck in all areas, with some scattered marks noted for accuracy. Typically found in VF or EF, and much scarcer in Mint State than the date's fairly massive mintage of 653,618 business strikes indicates. Choice for the grade.

Date logotype lightly impressed, giving the numerals a delicate and “open” appearance. Numerals evenly spaced and date centrally located. Early impression from the dies, with die finish lines visible under magnification.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of November 1968, Lot 1633.*

### Lustrous 1849 Eagle



**611 1849 AU-58.** Fully brilliant and highly lustrous yellow gold surfaces display a great deal of prooflike reflectivity. A delightful coin despite a few stray marks.

Date logotype lightly impressed, giving the numerals a delicate and “open” appearance. Numerals evenly spaced and date centrally located. Another early impression from the dies.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, May 30, 1972.*

**612 1849 Dramatically double punched date. AU-50.** Breen-6888. Lustrous medium gold. Some scattered marks are present. Remnants of a smaller date logotype plainly visible among the date details.

As discussed earlier in the present catalogue, when a similar piece was offered in a group lot, this seems to be a double impression of the same logotype, the first entered into the working die low and to the left, mostly effaced, and then re-entered in a more centered position. Walter Breen considers it to be an overdate.

*Purchased from Lester Merkin, June 15, 1967.*

### Elusive 1849-O Eagle



**613 1849-O EF-45.** Bright and lustrous yellow gold with some distinctive olive iridescence present. Scattered marks noted on both sides, usual for the grade. One of only 23,900 examples of the date struck, of which relatively few survive today. When seen, the typical grade is VF, considerably lower than the piece offered here.

In 1988, Walter Breen called this date “Extremely rare EF,” and in 1992 Douglas Winter called it the “second rarest New Orleans eagle struck during the 1840s,” adding “It is, in my opinion, the single most underrated eagle from this mint and is among the most difficult dates of this entire type to locate in higher grades.” Higher grades, in this instance, refers to EF or occasional AU specimens, for this rarity is *unknown in Mint State*. Another marvelous opportunity.

Date logotype entered deeply into the die, giving it a heavier appearance than on the two earlier pieces. Date nicely centered horizontally and vertically, 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. O mintmark tilted slightly left, centered over space between E and N of the denomination, closer to letters below than talon above. Die cracked at tops of TEN D. Same reverse die used for the 1847-O, now in a later state, with crack at tops of TEN D. now extended clockwise to the top of the U in UNITED.

*Purchased from John Smies, June 22, 1967.*



## A Second 1849-O Eagle



- 614 **1849-O EF-40.** Lustrous medium gold. A few scattered marks are present, none of those more serious than might be expected for a coin that spent some time in circulation. A nice example at the grade level—and scarce for the reasons outlined under the preceding lot.

Obverse date logotype deep into the working die. Date nicely centered horizontally and vertically, 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. O mintmark tilted slightly left, centered over space between E and N of the denomination, closer to letters below than talon above. Die cracked at tops of TEN D. Same reverse die used for the 1847-O, now in a later state, with crack at tops of TEN D. now extended clockwise to the top of the U in UNITED.

The accompanying ticket simply states “Bob Roth Set” in Harry Bass’ handwriting.

## Mint State 1850 Eagle

Rare Small Date

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



- 615 **1850 Small Date. MS-61 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with some pale olive toning present. Nicely struck—not fully, but very nearly so. Much scarcer than its Large Date counterpart. A rarity in Mint State, with perhaps fewer than six specimens known in all Mint State grades. A highly important opportunity for the specialist to acquire this beautiful and rare coin.

Breen-6892.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date logotype only moderately impressed, numerals thin yet sturdy, nicely centered, 1 slightly nearer truncation than dentils. Early obverse die state, faint cracks at fifth and sixth stars; these later become heavier. A faint reverse crack connects all of the peripheral legends.

The Small Date logotype was used on all half eagle dies of the date, from all mints, and on one eagle die of the date, specifically the variety offered here.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 30, 1971.

- 616 **1850 Small Date. EF-45.** Medium gold with a trace of orange toning. A second pleasing example of this popular and scarce variety.

Breen-6892.

Same dies as preceding.

## Lustrous 1850-O Eagle



- 617 **1850-O Medium Date. AU-50.** Bright and lustrous yellow gold with a touch of olive iridescence. A few marks are typical for the grade. Nicely struck. Prooflike in the protected areas. A fairly scarce issue, a date that is typically seen in VF or EF, with AU pieces being quite elusive.

Walter Breen noted eight obverse dies and two reverse dies for this date, with an additional group of leftover dies from 1844-48.

Date logotype moderately and evenly impressed, bottom of 1 twice the distance from dentils as top is from truncation, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil, numerals nicely spaced, 0 tilted minutely to right, point of 5 sharp and nearly touching ball of the numeral. Tall thin mintmark centered above space between E and N, equidistant between letters below and tip of feather above.

From Paramount’s sale of September 1971, Lot 1557.

- 618 **1850-O Medium Date. EF-40.** Warm honey gold with generous amounts of lustre in the recessed areas.

Date logotype moderately and evenly impressed, bottom of 1 twice the distance from dentils as top is from truncation, left edge of lower serif over left side of dentil, numerals nicely spaced, 0 tilted minutely to right, point of 5 sharp and nearly touching ball of the numeral. Inner point of first star is blunt. Mintmark centered above space between E and N, equidistant between letters below and tip of feather above. A noticeable thatch of die lines runs from the dentils above the E in STATES to the top of that letter.

Purchased from Arizona Stamp & Coin, April 14, 1969.

- 619 **1851-O AU-58.** Breen-6898. Highly lustrous and satiny honey gold surfaces. Regarding this fairly plentiful issue, Douglas Winter wrote: “It becomes very scarce only in About Uncirculated, but pieces which grade AU-55 are quite rare and fully Uncirculated 1851-O eagles are actually extremely rare.” The present AU-58 specimen will be a welcome addition to any serious Coronet eagle collection.

“Hollow ring atop second stripe.” This ring is probably a centering point of the die. This is a plentiful variety that is seen more often than the varieties of the date without the ring feature. Indeed, Douglas Winter noted (in 1992): “I have never seen an 1851-O eagle which did not have the ring on the reverse, but Walter Breen states that normal reverse pieces do exist.”

On the present reverse, the ring is nearly completely below the lowest horizontal stripe of the shield, with just the upper edge of the ring touching the stripe above. The O mintmark is tilted slightly left, center of O over space between E and N in TEN, O about equidistant from tip of feather and EN.

From Stack’s sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1051.

## Attractive 1852-O Eagle



- 620 **1852-O AU-50.** Bright and lustrous yellow gold with strong reflectivity in the recessed areas. From a small mintage of 18,000 pieces, the 1852-O is a prime rarity in AU and may not even exist in Mint State. At the present level it is head and shoulders above the typical 1852-O which is just VF. “Surprisingly, few



people realize just how hard it is to locate an 1852-O eagle in high grade,” wrote Douglas Winter in 1992. Variety with hollow ring atop second vertical stripe on reverse shield. Walter Breen called this date and variety combination “prohibitively rare AU.”

Breen-6902. “Hollow ring atop second stripe.”

Date logotype impressed to medium depth; 1 equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil, 5 “closed,” point and ball touch. O mintmark nicely shaped and well impressed, tilted slightly left, closer to tip of feather than letters below, center of O over left edge of left upright of N in TEN. The reverse with ring is different from that used on 1851-O; on the present piece the ring is about 50% embedded in the horizontal stripes below, whereas on the 1851-O the ring just touches the horizontal stripes. As noted earlier in the present offering, multiple ring-feature dies were produced.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of February 1969, Lot 1400.

- 621 **1852-O EF-45.** Breen-6902. Lustrous yellow gold with some attractive orange highlights. Some scattered marks are noted, but the overall appearance is quite fine for the grade. Another pleasing example of a scarce date.

Obverse die features similar to the preceding. Reverse with hollow ring at top of second vertical stripe, position similar to 1851-O and unlike that on Lot 620.

The O mintmark is tilted slightly left, center of O over space between E and N in TEN, O about equidistant between tip of feather and EN.

Accompanying ticket reads “Bob Roth Set.”

- 622 **1853/2 So-called Overdate. EF-45.** Breen-6905. Lustrous honey gold. A few faint marks are noted. A scarce and popular coin, fancifully (in our opinion) called an overdate by Walter Breen. Hence, in our opinion it is not (but those who feel differently are cordially invited to bid an “overdate price”).

Contrary to being an overdate, it seems that this is simply a minor repunching. Detailed examination of several high-grade examples of the date have revealed the following: Two lines are within the bottom of the final digit, 3, and are said by Breen to represent an underdigit 2. A comparison of the final digit on the 1852 eagle logotype shows that the lower part of the 2 contains an element, right above the base, that is somewhat similar to the artifact seen within the 3 of the so-called 1853/2, but the angle seems somehow incorrect. Thus, it would seem that a touch of *imagination* is needed to call this an overdate.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, August 20, 1968.

- 623 **1854 Misplaced Date. AU-50.** Breen-6911. Satiny medium gold with strong lustre and great eye appeal. Nicely struck from clashed dies. A thoroughly pleasing example of a popular variety.

“Misplaced date. Very rare.” Today this is best called a *misplaced date*, although the term *blundered* is not inappropriate. Lower left serif and part of upright of mispunched 1 at the dentils below the 1 and 8 in the date.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 421A.

- 624 **1854-O Small Date. AU-50.** Breen-6913. Lustrous honey gold. A few stray marks are normal for the date, mint, and grade.

“Small Date.” We would call this variety the “Medium Date,” a more realistic appraisal of the actual size.

The Small Date and Large Date varieties seem to be of about equal availability. However, the data are somewhat distorted, as many unattributed pieces have been loosely lumped under the Small Date banner in the past. Curiously, Harry Bass located *more* Large Date than Small Date examples of the date during his many years of active collecting.

Date logotype lightly impressed, the italic 5 having the ball widely separated from the element above it. Date low in die, left lower serif of 1 fairly close over center of dentil below, top of 1 distant from truncation. Many raised die lines can be seen among ERT on Liberty's coronet. Reverse O mintmark thin and nicely shaped, placed somewhat high in die, close to and equidistant from talon and tip of feather, tilted slightly left, high over space between E and N.

From Steve Ivy Numismatic Auctions, Inc.'s sale of August 1980, Lot 326.

- 625 **1854-O Large Date. AU-50.** Breen-6914. Generous amounts of lustre remain on attractive yellow gold surfaces. This variety is typically found in VF or EF grades, with AU coins being few and far between.

“Large date. Rare.” If size nomenclature were to be taken seriously, this date would bear the appellation “Huge Date.”

Obverse with date logotype lightly impressed, the numerals thin and graceful, 5 open, 1 and 8 more widely spaced, the other numerals slightly closer. 1 touches truncation above, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Several stars are attached to the dentils around them by die roughness. Reverse O mintmark thin and lightly impressed, high in the die, equidistant from talon and feather, tilted slightly left, center of O over left edge of upper left serif of N.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 23, 1971.

- 626 **1854-O Large Date. AU-50.** Breen-6914. Plenty of lustre and brightness remains on the satiny medium gold surfaces of this delightful New Orleans eagle.

“Large date. Rare.”

Obverse with date logotype fairly heavily impressed, the numerals thus being heavier, the 5 nearly closed, and the spacing tighter. 1 touches truncation, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Reverse O mintmark nicely impressed, centrally located in the field, equidistant from talon and feather, and from EN below, tilted slightly left, center of O over space between E and N.

From Paramount's sale of February 1971, Lot 1580.

- 627 **1854-O Large Date. EF-45.** Breen-6914. Lustrous deep honey gold with strong brilliance in the protected areas. A most pleasing example of the date and grade.

“Large date. Rare.”

Obverse with date logotype lightly impressed at the top, heavier at the bottom, indicating the logotype was not entered perpendicularly. 1 equidistant between dentils and truncation, left edge of lower serif over left side of dentil. Die crack from rim below 8 grazes the left side of that numeral then joins the truncation directly above the numeral. Reverse O mintmark thin and lightly impressed, high in the die, equidistant from talon and feather, tilted slightly left, center of O over left edge of upper left serif of N.

Purchased from Paramount, March 1, 1968.

- 628 **1854-S Medium Date. AU-55.** A satiny and lustrous honey gold coin with generous amounts of eye appeal present. Some faint marks are noted, but the overall quality is strong for the grade. From the first year of coinage at the San Francisco Mint, and always popular as such. Typically seen in VF or EF, although AU specimens can be found with some patience. This attractive AU coin will be a fine addition to virtually any eagle collection.

Date placed slightly higher than center, top of 1 twice as close to neck as bottom is to dentils, left edge of lower serif over left side of dentil, 185 evenly spaced, 5 and 4 closer than other numerals. A small dash is seen in the field above the dentil below the space between the 1 and 8. Reverse with large, thin, well-shaped S mintmark centered over space between N and D in the denomination, fairly distant from those letters, upper serif of S close to olive branch. A die crack extends from the rim above the M of AMERICA, through that letter, then terminating at the edge of the eagle's wing.

Interestingly, dies were prepared for an 1853-S coinage at San Francisco, but such never materialized.

Purchased from Ed Shapiro, April 7, 1969.



### Mint State 1855 \$10 Rarity



629 **1855 MS-64.** A lustrous and satiny example of a date that is an extreme rarity in Mint State. Probably fewer than 15 specimens can be found today that truly warrant the Uncirculated grade; this is one of those specimens. This sharply struck and aesthetically appealing coin has just one small detriment that needs to be addressed. Some faint scratches are present above the date, and long ago, someone tried to brush the marks away. Thus, the lower part of the obverse shows friction. The rest of the coin? It is a beautiful item to behold overall, a splendid gold eagle that pushes boldly toward a gem classification. This piece should be examined in person, as its market value is subject to different interpretations. Held at arm's length, it is a gem. Examine closely, it satisfies that requirement except at the bottom of the obverse. Overall the piece is quite attractive, sharply struck, and is one of the nicest 1855 eagles in existence.

Date logotype punched lightly, numerals thin and well-shaped, 1 slightly closer to truncation than to dentils, both 5s are italic, the second just a touch lower than the first. Some tiny die finish lines extend from the dentils near the date and at various other places around the periphery.

*From Paramount's sale of August 1969, Lot 2097.*

630 **1855 AU-58.** Bright and lustrous medium gold. The fields exhibit numerous tiny marks. The lustre is very extensive, however.

Same dies as preceding lot.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, November 15, 1988.*

### Elusive 1855-O Eagle



631 **1855-O Net EF-40;** lightly cleaned some time ago; the end result is not overly obvious. Somewhat prooflike golden orange surfaces. From a modest mintage for the date of 18,000 coins, and a scarce date in all grades. "Prohibitively rare above EF," wrote Walter Breen, while Douglas Winter called the date "an issue whose true rarity is appreciated only by rare-date gold experts and New Orleans gold coin specialists."

Date logotype entered somewhat lightly into the die at the left side of the date, more deeply for the last two figures. Position high, nearly twice as close to the neck truncation as to the dentils. Reverse O mintmark thin and nicely shaped, placed somewhat high in die, close to and equidistant from talon and tip of feather, tilted slightly left, high over space between E and N. This reverse was also used for striking certain 1854-O Small Date eagles.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 426.*

### 1855-S Eagle Rarity



632 **1855-S EF-45.** Lustrous orange-gold. The surfaces display a plenitude of tiny marks that include noticeable scratches on the reverse. Perhaps this was carried in a sack of gold coins on mule back into the Sierras. Who knows? Nevertheless, the 1855-S is a prized rarity in all grades, a key to the series. Just 9,000 examples of the date were struck in San Francisco, and the majority of the 125 or so estimated survivors from that mintage are VF, or, less often, EF. AU coins are extremely rare, and the date is *unknown* in Mint State! Suddenly, the scattering of surface marks on the present coin becomes less significant. A rare opportunity.

Date logotype lightly impressed, numerals slightly thicker at the bases. Bottom of 1 slightly closer to dentils than top is to truncation, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Medium reverse S mintmark tilted noticeably left, high in the field, upper back of S slightly further from talon than upper serif is from tip of feather, S high over N below, back edge of lower serif of S on line with front edge of upper right serif of E. Some raised die finish marks extend diagonally from the rim above OF.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 3, 1968.*

### Mint State 1856 Eagle

#### Errant 1 in Dentils

#### Previously Unreported Variety



633 **1856 Misplaced Date. MS-60.** Medium gold with some olive highlights. Highly lustrous and equally reflective in the fields, the coin presents a modest cameo contrast. Lightly brushed at one time, otherwise we would assign a higher grade to it—with MS-63 being a possibility. This piece should be examined in person by prospective bidders, as while it is quite beautiful, the effect of the brushing is subject to varying opinions in a financial sense. A very attractive example of an overlooked rarity. While 60,490 eagles dated 1856 were struck, perhaps as few as 12 to 15 Mint State pieces are known today. Here is a sometimes overlooked rarity for the alert collector.

Top and upper serif of errant 1 in dentils below ball of 5 in date. Discovered by Beth Piper, of the Bowers and Merena staff, who first noticed this when categorizing pieces for the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection in November of 1999. The editor cannot resist telling a tale about Beth—a true story: several years ago a group including some of America's best known rare coin dealers were assembled in one spot to view some rarities we had for sale—perhaps it was the Eliasberg Collection, or perhaps it was another offering. At the same time, our Direct Sales Department had acquired a large group of Saint-Gaudens \$20 pieces that had been certified by PCGS in grades from MS-60 to MS-65. The writer thought it an interesting exercise to select one each from MS-60 to MS-65, cover the grades with tape, and pass them around to the well-known dealers to see how close they could come to the grades assigned by PCGS. Each coin was numbered to keep track. Several Bowers and Merena staffers participated in the exercise. Of everyone in the room—outside dealers plus our own staff—Beth Piper came the closest to the PCGS designations.



Date nicely impressed, 1 twice the distance from dentils than from truncation, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil, 18 close, 85 slightly more distant, 56 wider vet. Upright 5, 6 slightly low and noticeably tilted right. The unmistakable top and serif to an errant 1 protrudes from the dentil below the ball of the 5.

From Heritage's sale of December 1988, Lot 1239.

### Rare 1856-O Eagle



- 634 **1856-O EF-45.** Lustrous honey gold with some prooflike reflectivity in the protected areas. Some scattered marks become apparent under low magnification. A rarity from a small mintage of 14,500 pieces. Just how rare is this coin? "Nearly all of the surviving examples of this date grade Very Fine or lower. Extremely Fine pieces are rare and About Uncirculated specimens are extremely rare. No Mint State 1856-O eagle exists," wrote Douglas Winter. Indeed, of the seven specimens of the date that Harry Bass could locate in *decades* of searching, the two finest of the group were each graded EF-45. Another nice opportunity for the alert collector or specialist.

Date logotype moderately impressed, numerals well to left, tip of upper serif (flag) of 1 even with point of Liberty's bust, 1 equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils. Reverse O mintmark thin and nicely shaped, placed somewhat high in die, close to and equidistant from talon and tip of feather, tilted slightly left, high over space between E and N. This reverse was also used for striking certain 1854-O Small Date and 1855-O eagles.

We have identified two different four-digit logotypes for the 1856 eagle. The first, as used on Lot 633, is distinguished by having the numeral 6 distant from the 5 and low. The second, as offered here, has the numeral 6 distant from the 5, but not quite as far away, and with the 6 high. Both logotypes have been identified on multiple dies, and thus they are attributable as four-digit logotypes (not three-digit logotypes with the fourth digit added). On both logotypes, the individual numerals are from the same single punches in the matrix. Although no documentation exists, perhaps the logotype with the distant, low 6 was made first, used for a time, then replaced with one that was thought to be better in appearance.

Accompanying ticket reads "Bob Roth Set."

- 635 **1856-O EF-40.** Lustrous deep yellow gold with some scattered marks, as might be expected for the grade. A second pleasing example of this rare New Orleans issue, another coin for the advanced specialist.

From the same obverse die as the preceding lot. Reverse with low O mintmark, about equidistant between N below and tip of feather above, distant from talon, inner right curve of O over outer left edge of left upright of N. Die clash marks around the eagle.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 663.

- 636 **1856-S Medium S. AU-55.** Breen-6922. "Medium S." Lustrous honey gold with rich orange-gold highlights. A rarity in AU or finer despite a fair mintage of 68,000 coins; the typical grade is VF when specimens are found. A delightful representative example of the date and grade.

Four-digit date logotype as preceding. In the present instance it is deeply and evenly impressed into the working die. Numerals nicely spaced, top of 1 nearly three times the distance from truncation as bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over right side of dentil, 5 closed, die lump on truncation above 8. Medium reverse S mintmark tilted noticeably left, high in the field, upper back of S slightly closer to talon than upper serif is to tip of feather, S high over E and N below, back edge of lower serif of S noticeable left of front edge of upper right serif of E.

Purchased from Lester Merkin, June 23, 1967.

### Lustrous 1857 Eagle



- 637 **1857 AU-55.** Impressive mint lustre remains on satiny honey gold surfaces. Nicely struck and bearing few marks of any consequence. A scarce date in all grades; Philadelphia produced only 16,606 business strikes of the date. Typical survivors from that mintage are VF to EF. Choice for the grade.

Date logotype nicely impressed, numerals closely spaced, date centrally located, bottom of 1 marginally closer to dentils than truncation, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil, bottom of 7 slightly lower than bottoms of other numerals, first star connected to dentils by a patch of roughness and some raised die lines. Reverse unremarkable save for some faint clash marks and a raised die lump between the second and third pair of vertical stripes in the shield.

Purchased from RARCOA, August 16, 1971.

### Low-Mintage 1857-O \$10 Rarity



- 638 **1857-O Net EF-45;** sharpness of AU-50, lightly cleaned some time ago. Still a pleasing example of this rarity. Attractive honey gold with some prooflike reflectivity present on both sides. Only 5,500 examples of the date were coined. Most of the survivors are VF or so. No Mint State piece has been encountered. The specialist knows that while the present 1857-O might not be a deluxe piece in overall quality, branch mint eagles of this era were used very extensively in circulation, with none saved for cabinet purposes, and the present piece will certainly hold its own among its contemporaries. Very few coins of equal quality have ever been offered at auction.

Date logotype nicely and evenly impressed, date nicely centered horizontally and vertically, 1 equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over left side of dentil. O mintmark nicely impressed, centrally located in the field, equidistant from talon and feather, and from EN below, tilted slightly left, center of O over space between E and N.

Accompanying ticket reads "Bob Roth Set."

- 639 **1857-S EF-45.** Lustrous honey gold with some surface reflectivity. A fairly scarce date in all grades, VF and EF being typical.

Date logotype boldly impressed. Low Date. Top of 1 about three times more distant from truncation than bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over left side of dentil. Small "spikes" from dentils to field at first two obverse stars, raised die lump below left foot of R in LIBERTY, raised die lines around that word, die lumps on Liberty's neck near lowest curls. Medium S mintmark placed centrally in field, upper back of S distant from talon, upper serif virtually touches tip of arrow leather, S centered over left upright of N in TEN, about equidistant from talon and N.

In time, some pieces from the S.S. *Central America* will come to market. As this description is being written we do not have an inventory, and in any event the majority of the pieces in that cache were 1857-S *double eagles*.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.



## Lustrous 1858-O Eagle



- 640 **1858-O AU-55.** Bright and lustrous yellow gold with some reflectivity in the fields. Sharply struck from lightly clashed dies. Probably struck from California metal, although at the time most was being minted either in San Francisco or shipped to Philadelphia via New York City. In general, New Orleans gold mintages of the era were very small.

Of the 20,000 pieces coined, most have long since disappeared. When found, the typical grade for the 1858-O is VF or EF. The present piece is significantly higher. Years after Harry Bass acquired this piece, a group of gold coins was found in Jackson, Tennessee, which is believed to have included some high-grade examples of the variety, increasing the population, but not removing it from the rarity class.

Date logotype evenly if somewhat lightly impressed. Date fairly well centered, top of 1 marginally farther from truncation than bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil, 185 evenly spaced, final 8 slightly distant. Clash marks around eagle, many raised die lines within the vertical shield stripes, O mintmark nicely impressed, centrally located in the field, equidistant from talon and feather, and from EN below, tilted slightly left, center of O over space between E and N.

*Purchased from Harry Forman, September 14, 1967.*

- 641 **1858-O AU-50.** Lustrous orange-gold with reflective surfaces and strong orange highlights in the recessed areas. A second example of this popular date, and a pleasing coin for the assigned grade.

Date logotype evenly and moderately impressed. Date fairly well centered, top of 1 marginally closer to truncation than bottom is to dentils, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil, 185 evenly spaced, final 8 slightly distant, both 8s appear to list slightly to the right. Clash marks around Liberty's hair bun from the reverse arrow heads. Some light raised die lines within the vertical shield stripes, O mintmark nicely impressed, centrally located in the field, equidistant from talon and feather, and from EN below, tilted slightly left, center of O over space between E and N.

*Purchased from Manfra, Tordella, and Brooks, January 6, 1975.*

## Impressive 1858-S Eagle Rarity

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



- 642 **1858-S AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with much brightness in the protected areas. A prized rarity from the early days of San Francisco Mint production. Only 11,800 examples of the date were struck, and essentially all went immediately into circulation; this date is *unknown* in Mint State! A VF specimen is all most can hope for where this date is concerned; even EF specimens are very rare. At the AU-55 level, the present specimen is tied for finest certified by PCGS with just one other piece in contention. We are actually competing with ourselves, as the other coin appeared in Part II of the Bass Sale, dramatic testimony as to the overall quality that Harry W. Bass, Jr., collected for decades.

One might imagine that with the great surge in interest in gold coins brought forth by the marketing of the rather limited selection of dates from the treasure wrecks of the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* and the *S.S. Central America*, pieces that were *not* represented—such as the 1858-S \$10 offered here—will attract a wider audience than ever. Many new enthusiasts are being introduced to the excitement and romance of early American gold coins.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date logotype fairly well impressed, 1 and 8 closest, 8 and 5 further apart, 5 and 8 most distant; 8 leans right. Date fairly high, bottom of 1 twice the distance from dentils as top is from truncation, left edge of lower serif over left side of dentil. A faint die line runs from a dentil to a point near the lower right curve of the second 8 in the date. Reverse with medium S mintmark placed deeply into the die, top of S equidistant from talon and tip of feather, nominally farther from E and N below, centered over space between those letters. Several raised diagonal die lines run through OF and the wing tip, then across AM. A faint die crack runs from the rim through the serifs of the E in AMERICA. Another crack runs upward from the rim through the N in TEN, with another crack running horizontally from the D to the punctuation after the denomination. Some die roughness seemingly connects the tops of UNIT. A curious bunch of horizontal die lines runs below the eagle, giving it a "perched" appearance.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, September 5, 1967.*

- 643 **1859 AU-55.** Lustrous honey gold. A pleasing specimen of this popular key date Philadelphia Mint eagle issue. One of 16,013 business strikes of the date produced, with VF or EF the usual grades for known specimens. At AU, the population of available specimens drops dramatically for this date, and the rarity increases just as dramatically.

Date logotype nicely impressed. Date low, top of 1 about twice the distance from truncation as bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil, numerals widely spaced, 8 and 5 most distant.

*From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of March 1972, Lot 1258.*



## Amazing 1859-O Eagle Rarity

Rarest New Orleans Eagle

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



- 644 **1859-O AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with strong design elements present. A prize from New Orleans, one of only 2,300 examples of the date struck. Of that mintage, we feel perhaps as few as four dozen specimens exist in all grades; Douglas Winter opined 30 to 35 specimens, while Walter Breen came in on the low side, claiming as few as 12 pieces extant.

Winter wrote: "The 1859-O is the rarest New Orleans eagle. It is a rarer coin than the famous 1858 eagle and examples are generally offered for sale at significant auctions; and generally at the rate of fewer than one per year."

We offered a lovely AU-53 (PCGS) example as Lot 1471 in Part II of our sale of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. As is sometimes the case when the present collection is concerned, only another Harry Bass coin could top that grade!

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Although three pairs of dies were on hand, apparently only one die pair was employed for the 1859-O coinage—a logical situation considering the tiny mintage.

Date logotype deeply impressed into the die, and about twice as close to the dentils as to the neck truncation above. The deep impression gives the letter thickness and spacing a different appearance than on the preceding lot, although the same four-digit logotype was employed. O mintmark nicely impressed, centrally located in the field, equidistant from talon and feather, and from EN below, tilted slightly left, center of O over space between E and N. Many tiny die artifacts are seen in the vertical stripes on the reverse shield.

*The accompanying ticket reads "Roth Set."*

- 645 **1860 AU-50.** Lustrous yellow gold with plenty of reflectivity on both sides. Some scattered marks are present, none of them of major consequence however. From a fairly small output of just 15,055 business strikes for the date. Typical of eagles from the era, the usual example of this date is VF or so, with AU pieces genuine rarities in their own right. A great opportunity.

Date logotype firmly impressed, date low, top of I twice the distance from truncation as bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil.

The rarity of \$10 gold coins in EF and AU grades of the dates before 1870 can be appreciated by perusing auction catalogues. We know from experience, having looked through *thousands* during the past year, and many before then, keeping meticulous notes of observations—this being done with the help of a team of about a half dozen research assistants. Even most of the "name" collections were apt to lack certain \$10 pieces completely, or to have them in grades such as VF. Never in the history of numismatics has a complete run been assembled in AU grade, never mind Mint State (at which level certain issues are nonexistent). Today the supply continues to be very thin, and if as many as three or four dedicated enthusiasts all of a sudden decided to specialize in Coronet Head eagles, prices would multiply!

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2186.*

- 646 **1860 EF-45.** Lustrous honey gold. Some marks are noted, typical for the grade.

From the same die pair as the previous lot.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, July 31, 1967.*

## 1860-O Eagle Rarity



- 647 **1860-O AU-50.** Bright and lustrous yellow gold. Nicely struck with reflective fields and satiny devices. Some scattered marks are present on both sides, including some light scratches on Liberty's neck. A tiny planchet lamination, as struck, is noted to the right of the 0 in the date. The last New Orleans eagle until the 1879-O issue. Just 11,100 examples of the date were struck, with survivors most plentiful in VF to EF; at AU the rarity of the date is unmistakable. All things considered, a pleasing coin overall. Remarkably, the current value of this piece as we go to press is, say, \$1,500 to \$2,000—and yet there are so few such examples in existence, that often a span of *years* will elapse between offerings. At the risk of being overly dramatic, but also with the assurance of being perfectly correct, we suggest that if someone were to offer to pay \$200,000 each for 20 of this variety and grade, advertising widely in *Numismatic News* and *Coin World*, with the offer being valid only if all 20 were obtained, the reward would go unspent!

Date logotype moderately impressed, numerals widely spaced, reminiscent of 1859 but in a different font. Date low, top of I three times farther from truncation than bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Heavy clash marks show at Miss Liberty, particularly in and around LIBERTY on her coronet. O mintmark nicely impressed, centrally located in the field, equidistant from talon and feather, slightly more distant from EN below, tilted slightly left, center of O over space between E and N. Many tiny die artifacts are seen in the vertical stripes on the reverse shield, and clash marks are noted around the eagle.

*From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 347.*

## 1860-S Eagle Rarity



- 648 **1860-S Net EF-45;** sharpness of AU-55, lightly cleaned. Lustrous medium yellow gold; much of the lustre is natural and not the result of the aforementioned cleaning. A prized key date from the San Francisco Mint, one of only 5,000 eagles of the date produced. When seen, the typical specimen is apt to be VF, with a few EF pieces known, and very few higher. Worthy of in-person examination before bidding, as the piece is far finer than usually seen.

Date logotype nicely impressed. Date low, top of I four times further from truncation than bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower dentil over space between dentils. Large upright S mintmark to right, top of S equidistant between tip of feather and olive branch and closer to those markers than to the denomination below, lowest serif over right upright of N in TEN.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 16, 1971. The accompanying ticket reads "Ex Bell II?"*

- 649 **1861 AU-58.** Satiny and lustrous honey gold with attractive reflective fields. A thoroughly pleasing specimen of this popular No Motto eagle issue.

Date logotype lightly impressed. Low date, top of I twice the distance from truncation as bottom is from dentils, edge of lower serif over center of



dentil. UNITED heavily impressed on the reverse, STATES OF and AMERICA lightly impressed, TEN D. moderately impressed.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, September 19, 1973.*

- 650 1861 AU-55.** Lustrous honey gold. A few scattered marks are normal for the grade.

Date logotype lightly impressed, numerals evenly spaced, faint crack at base of date. Low date, top of 1 twice the distance from truncation as bottom is from dentils, edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Reverse legends evenly impressed. Some faint cracks unite many of the letters in the legend. Die clash marks can be seen on both sides.

*Purchased from Bill Raymond, February 29, 1972.*

## Highly Important 1861-S Eagle

Lustrous and Beautiful



- 651 1861-S AU-50.** Warm honey gold with strong mint lustre in the recessed areas. Nicely struck in all areas. From a modest mintage of 15,500 coins, with virtually all of that mintage going immediately into the channels of West Coast commerce. A rarity in all grades, VF or an occasional EF being typical; at AU the rarity increases dramatically. The present coin is a first class rarity by any consideration.

Date logotype moderately impressed, numerals evenly spaced. Low date, top of 1 two to three times the distance from truncation as bottom is from dentils, edge of lower serif over right side of dentil. Reverse die used also for 1860-S eagles (see our description under that date).

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2268.*

- 652 1862 EF-45.** Lustrous honey gold with some prooflike reflectivity in the fields. From a fairly low Philadelphia Mint output for the date of 10,960 business strikes, and a rarity in all grades. VF and EF are the typical grades found for the date, with AU examples nearly impossible to find. Mint State? In 1980, David Akers wrote of "just one average quality piece" that he had seen; no others have been reported. The present coin is very attractive and an example that is worthy of even a "name" collection.

Date logotype moderately impressed, 1 essentially equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils. Reverse shows clash marks around the eagle.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2288.*

## Impressive 1862-S \$10 Rarity

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



- 653 1862-S AU-55 (PCGS).** Bright honey gold with strong cartwheel lustre present on both sides. Some faint marks are easily overlooked. A definite rarity in all grades; just 12,500 ex-

amples were struck. VF coins seem to be the peak of the distribution curve, with some known on either side of that grade. In AU the pinnacle of the grade curve has been reached, as no Mint State examples of the date are known. A few scattered examples of the date have made their way through the grading services, with only a very few of those equal to the present coin; none are finer.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Date logotype nicely impressed. Date centered, 1 equidistant from truncation above and dentils below, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils. Reverse die used also for 1860-S eagles (see our description under that date).

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 21, 1968.*

## Important 1863-S Eagle Rarity

A Potential American Classic



- 654 1863-S EF-40.** Lustrous orange-gold. A few light marks pale to insignificance when the rarity of the date is factored in. From a modest mintage for the date of just 10,000 pieces, with perhaps only *two or three dozen* survivors known in all grades! VF is typical, with an occasional EF specimen known. Indeed, until the 1980s and our sale of the Norweb Collection, this date was unknown in AU!

The present piece is an extreme rarity, but it is not well known as such. We can readily imagine that any buyer who is able to capture this coin at anywhere near the current market value of just a few thousand dollars will truly have a fantastic buy! It is to be remembered that many great collections in the past were formed by astute purchasers who acquired coins when the market wasn't looking. Right now, the general area of early Coronet Head \$10 pieces, the dates from the 1840s through the 1870s in grades of EF or finer, represents a field of diamonds just waiting to be picked up—this being our considered opinion.

Date logotype nicely impressed, date numerals nicely spaced and nicely centered both horizontally and vertically, 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils. Reverse with medium S mintmark leaning slightly left, upper back of mintmark and upper serif about equidistant between talon and feather, farther from EN below, and centered over the space between those letters.

*From Parke-Bernet's sale of the McGraw Collection, May 1968, Lot 153.*

## Elusive 1863-S Eagle Rarity



- 655 1863-S Net VF-30;** sharpness of EF-45 or so, but cleaned long ago. Medium honey gold with some natural lustre in the recessed areas. Another example of this great rarity, one that should not be ignored by our bidders because of its shortcomings. Knowledgeable eagle specialists have gladly settled for an



example of this date in lesser condition over the years; indeed, most eagle specialists have settled for *no* specimen of the date in their cabinets despite long searches and great patience. Need we say more?

Dies as in the previous lot.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968.

### Fantastic 1864-S Eagle

Legendary Rarity

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



(2x photo)

656 1864-S AU-55 (PCGS). Delightful lustre on satiny orange-gold surfaces. An important low-mintage date, one of only 2,500 eagles of the date struck in San Francisco. Of that small amount, perhaps just 20 to 30 examples are known today; the present specimen is easily one of the finest known. Indeed, it is a full 20 *grade points* above the example we offered as Lot 1496 in our sale of Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection in October 1999. Here is one of the most elusive of all eagles of the era, a date that actually eclipses the more famous 1858 in terms of absolute rarity. This is the sort of coin that great collections are built around, and we expect hearty bidding competition from specialists when it crosses the auction block.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date logotype boldly impressed. Date slightly left, 1 nicely centered between truncation and dentils. The reverse was also used for 1863-S eagles (see our notes at that date).

From Paramount's sale of August 1969, Lot 2116.

### Impressive 1865 Eagle Rarity

Seldom Seen Finer



657 1865 AU-55 (PCGS). Breen-6945. Lustrous orange-gold with prooflike reflectivity and lively rose iridescence. A scattering of tiny marks is readily apparent under low magnification. Another great rarity in the Liberty eagle series, although its fame is known mainly to ardent specialists in the series. From a slight business strike mintage for the date of just 3,980 coins; today, we suspect just 50 or so specimens remain in all grades. At VF the date is rare, with EF and higher specimens being of the utmost rarity. The present coin, at AU-55, is among the finest known examples of the date. Indeed, the present coin is equal in grade to Lot 1498 in Part II of our sale of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection (October 1999), standing as testimony to the collecting instincts of Harry Bass and his uncanny ability to locate multiple high quality specimens of classic American gold coin rarities. Truly a splendid opportunity for advanced eagle specialists.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (MS-63 finest).

"Type II reverse. Doubled reverse die." Breen casually lumped the entire mintage of business strikes of the date under the "doubled reverse" banner, but such is not the case. The present specimen, while displaying some noticeable shelf doubling in a few of the areas mentioned by Breen, does not convince this writer (Frank Van Valen) of the coin's "doubled reverse" status. There are no notched serifs or distinct separation on any of the details, merely a flat "shelf." It is entirely possible that the dies or coinage press were not set up or adjusted properly during the limited production run of the date (3,980 business strikes), thereby imparting the die ejection doubling effect to many of the known examples of the date.

Date logotype solidly impressed. Obverse with 18 close, 86 widest, 65 about as close as 18, date nicely centered horizontally and vertically, 1 marginally closer to dentils than truncation, edge of lower serif over center of dentil below.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 23, 1968.

### Rare 1865-S Eagle

Among the Finest Known of the Date



658 1865-S EF-45 (PCGS). Medium honey gold surfaces with strong lustre for the assigned grade. A prize in all grades, VF being typical, and EF being quite rare. We suspect that perhaps just 30 or so examples of the date are available in all grades. Unknown in Mint State (and nearly so in AU), collectors seeking this elusive date have long ago learned to settle for VF or lower on those infrequent occasions when a specimen of the date is offered. At EF-45, as offered here, its rarity is unchallenged; indeed, very few examples of the date can meet or exceed the quality of the presently offered coin.

PCGS Population: 4; 3 finer (AU-53 finest).

Date logotype firmly impressed, numerals nicely spaced, bottom of 1 twice the distance from dentils as top is from truncation, left edge of lower



serif high over center of dentil, minor repunching seen at the 5. Raised die lines run from the dentils to the 1 in the date, with a scattering of similar lines near some stars. A sizeable raised die lump is centrally located on Liberty's cheek. Reverse with large S mintmark placed well to right and tilting slightly to the right, top of letter near to and equidistant from arrow feather and branch, slightly farther from EN below, mintmark slightly left of center over space between E and N, lowest serif directly over center of right upright of N, clash marks visible at TEN D. and arrow tips.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of August 1968, Lot 1020.

## Important 1865-S 865 Over Inverted 186 \$10

### A Condition Census Specimen



- 659 **1865-S 865 Over Inverted 186. AU-55 (PCGS).** Breen-6948. Rich orange-gold on highly lustrous surfaces. A scattering of marks can be seen, most noticeable of these being a vertical gouge in the field behind Miss Liberty's portrait. Still a very nice example of this rare and desirable blundered date variety. The 1865-S over inverted date is scarce in all grades, but not quite as scarce overall as the Perfect Date variety. While a nod must be made to the significantly finer piece retrieved from the *S.S. Brother Jonathan*, auctioned by us a year ago, the present AU-55 coin certainly is Condition Census and is a numismatic prize.

Only a few dozen specimens of this variety have been accounted for. The blundered date gives it a special cachet, a "must have" variety.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-64).

The current view of the editor (QDB) is that the 1865 \$10 pieces were made with a full 1865 logotype, not just 186 with the 5 added later. To our eye, the date logotype and also the preceding two pieces are all identical. Per this scenario, the entire date 1865 was first punched in an inverted position. Today, under high powered magnification, only part of the date can be seen, this including much of the upright of the 1 (mainly obscured by the final 5), much of the top part and some of the bottom part of the 8 (the very bottom part of the 8 having been ground away on the die), and just part of the 6 (seemingly mostly ground away and also obscured by the 8.) No traces of the inverted 5 are seen, but we attribute this to such traces having been removed from the die. The writer invites a challenge from anyone who feels differently, as research on this and other eagles is in an evolving stage, and every now and then has to be revised. However, for the present our assumption is stated here.

The date logotype was first punched in an inverted position, the gaff was immediately recognized, and the logotype was then repunched in the correct upright position. However, no apparent attempt was made to efface the inverted numerals, and under magnification the inverted 186 can be seen. The reverse die was also used on the "normal" date issue of this year (see our notes there).

From Stack's sale of December 1971, Lot 853.

## Impressive 1866-S With Motto \$10

### Among Finest Known



- 660 **1866-S Motto. AU-55 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous honey gold with a few light marks noted for accuracy. From the first year of the design type with IN GOD WE TRUST on ribbon above reverse eagle. A rarity in all grades, and a date that is unknown in Mint State; with that in mind, a lovely AU-55 specimen such as this becomes even more desirable. This specimen exceeds the quality of Lot 1505 of our sale of Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection in October 1999. In fact, PCGS has certified only one example of the date in a finer grade. The present coin offers a pleasing mix of technical quality and aesthetic appeal that will draw a good deal of bidding activity.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (AU-58).

Obverse die as used on the 1866-S Without Motto, identified by a tiny die line extending from the dentils past star 3, directed upward. Other lines can be seen at various points around the circumference. Reverse with motto IN GOD WE TRUST, this being its first appearance. Very tiny S mintmark, the smallest seen in the series to date (often called "microscopic" or "minute" mintmark). Upper serif of S close to tip of arrow feather, distant from TEN below, slightly to right of left upright of N. Left side of motto somewhat light in the die, with bottom ribbon incomplete.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 677.

## Another 1866-S With Motto \$10



- 661 **1866-S Motto. Net EF-40; sharpness of EF-45, cleaned.** Medium honey gold. A rarity in all grades, and a nice opportunity for a collector who keeps a weather eye on the numismatic budget.

From the same dies as the previous lot, now with clash marks at the reverse eagle.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2273.



## Low-Mintage 1867 Eagle

A Classic Rarity



- 662 **1867 AU-50.** Lustrous and frosty medium gold with plenty of prooflike reflectivity in the recessed areas. Some scattered field marks are noted for accuracy. From a scant mintage for the date of just 3,090 business strikes, all delivered January 11, 1867. A desirable Philadelphia Mint issue, one that is appreciated as a rarity in all grades. While EF is typical for the date, a specimen above that grade presents a grand challenge to the interested collector. To *fully appreciate* this and many other of the Bass Collection III eagles in grades such as EF and AU, we highly recommend that interested bidders absorb themselves for a few hours in catalogues of “name” collections from years gone by. An eye-opening experience awaits!

Date logotype nicely impressed, date somewhat low, top of 1 about twice the distance from truncation as bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils. On the reverse the left ribbon end is slightly weak, which seems to be the *rule*, not the exception, for business strikes of this era (and thus is not mentioned here except in passing).

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 30, 1967.*

- 663 **1867-S EF-45.** Medium honey gold with a few faint marks seen. Lightly brushed long ago, the results of which are not immediately apparent. Rare in all grades; only 9,000 business strikes were produced of the date. Another of the several dates in the Liberty eagle series that are unknown in Mint State.

Date logotype sharply and evenly impressed, top of 1 marginally closer to truncation than bottom is to dentils, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils, 18 close, 867 more distant and evenly spaced. From the same reverse die as used for 1866-S With Motto eagles, here in a later clashed state.

*From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 692.*

- 664 **1868 AU-50.** Lustrous honey gold with plenty of reflectivity in the fields and protected areas. From a modest business strike mintage for the date of just 10,630 coins. At the risk of redundancy (something we are *always* at risk of where descriptions of Harry Bass' collection are concerned), here is a rare date that is mostly found in VF to EF; AU is a highly prized grade for the date, and, not surprisingly, Mint State examples of the date are unknown to today's collecting community. An attractive coin for the grade.

Date logotype nicely impressed, bottom of 1 twice the distance from dentils as top is from truncation, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil, 18 closest, 868 distant but evenly spaced. Reverse fairly unremarkable save for weakness at the lower left side of the ribbon with IN GOD WE TRUST upon it.

*Purchased from Stack's, November 5, 1970.*

- 665 **1868-S Net EF-40;** sharpness of AU-50 or finer, but cleaned long ago. Still a highly acceptable example of this rarity.

From the same obverse die as the following lot but with no clash marks around Liberty. Tiny S mintmark differently placed, upper serif of S more distant from tip of arrow feather, distant from TEN below, well to left of upright of N, partly over the space between E and N. Left side of motto somewhat light in the die, with bottom and top of the ribbon tenuous and incomplete.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, November 15, 1967.*

## Elusive 1868-S Eagle



- 666 **1868-S EF-40.** Attractive honey gold with strong lustre in the recessed areas. Another rarity from a decade renowned for its rare Liberty eagles. Just 13,550 examples of the date were produced, with the small number of survivors of that mintage (perhaps just 75 to 100 coins) nearly always seen at the VF level. The date was called “prohibitively rare” by Walter Breen in EF or finer. Seemingly, the 1868-S is unknown in Mint State. The present specimen is a strong example of the date and grade, and will nicely satisfy the connoisseur and is practically guaranteed a strong showing as it crosses the auction block.

Date logotype strongly impressed, date slightly high, bottom of 1 twice the distance from dentils as top is from truncation, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil, 18 close, 868 more distant and evenly spaced, light clash marks around Liberty. Tiny S mintmark, upper serif of S close to tip of arrow feather, distant from TEN below, slightly to right of left upright of N. Left side of motto somewhat light in the die, with bottom ribbon incomplete. This die also used on 1866-S With Motto eagles.

*Purchased from William Donner, September 1, 1967.*

## 1869 Business Strike Eagle

Just 1,830 Minted



- 667 **1869 Net VF-35;** sharpness of AU-50, polished. Bright honey gold. One of only 1,830 business strikes of the date produced, a low mintage figure by any measure. An important rarity which is seldom seen in the auction venue. Admittedly, this piece is far from being high quality, but it is sharp and fairly attractive—and it will fill a niche in the cabinet of the specialist who has been searching for a long time.

Date logotype moderately impressed. Date to left, flag of 1 nearly under point of bust, 1 slightly closer to dentils than to truncation, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. On the reverse, a raised diagonal line juts into the field from both sides of the lowest arrow point.

*Purchased from Abe Kosoff, August 16, 1971.*

## Rare 1869-S Eagle



- 668 **1869-S Net VF-30;** ; actually EF-40 or even better, well struck, but ever so slightly cleaned long ago. Warm honey gold surfaces with a trace of orange and rose toning, and subdued lustre in the recessed areas.



A very rare issue, struck to the extent of just 6,430 examples, few of which can match the sharpness of the presently offered piece. This is easily one of the finest known specimens at the assigned grade level, and a numismatic prize as such.

Date logotype moderately impressed. Date nicely centered horizontally and vertically. 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Tiny S mintmark, upper serif of S close to tip of arrow feather, distant from TEN below, slightly to right of left upright of N. Left side of motto somewhat light in the die, with bottom ribbon incomplete. This die also used on 1866-S With Motto eagles and later years, although by now it is heavily clashed around the eagle.

From Stack's sale of February 1968, Lot 250.

- 669 **1870 EF-40.** Breen-6961. Lustrous light honey gold with much reflectivity in the recessed areas. A few scattered marks are noted, but the overall appearance is well above *average* for the assigned grade. An attractive survivor from a small business strike mintage for the date of just 3,990 coins. Typically found in VF or so, with EF specimens such as the present coin great rarities in their own right. This is another date in the Coronet eagle series that is *unknown* in Mint State. We highlight the present coin as a landmark opportunity for the alert collector or specialist. The market price of this variety is *embarrassingly low*, which neatly translates to *opportunity*.

"Repunched O. Very rare." From a late state of the die, the repunching now just a trace at the lower inside of the 0.

Date logotype moderately and evenly impressed. Base of 1 twice the distance from dentils as from truncation, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. The field around several stars on the left shows die artifacts. Two fairly prominent die polish lines extend from the rim, one of which connects to Liberty's coronet, the other to her forehead, while other lines descend vertically from her nose into the field. Other die lines are seen at Liberty's eye, in and around LIBERTY, and at the back of her head and neck. On the reverse, the first vertical line in the second pair of vertical shield stripes is very thin and attenuated at the top, and the left end of the ribbon above the eagle is weak; other than that, the reverse is fairly unremarkable.

### Very Rare 1870-S \$10 High Condition Census



- 670 **1870-S AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous medium gold with a blush of rose iridescence. A splendid specimen, with a few marks here and there, including a scratch on the reverse, but all in all a very impressive specimen. Another prized rarity from the San Francisco Mint, one of only 8,000 examples of the date struck. VF is the usually seen grade for this elusive variety, punctuated in market appearances by an occasional EF; anything finer is exceedingly rare. The present specimen is finer than the coin we offered in Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection (October 1999, Lot 1521). At AU-53, that lovely coin was called "High Condition Census;" not surprisingly, Harry's *other* 1870-S eagle is the presently offered (and finer) specimen!

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-61).

Date logotype firmly and evenly impressed, numerals fairly strong. A new reverse die is seen, one that is very similar. 1 about equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Third and fourth stars show signs of repunching, raised die lines in and around LIBERTY, a crescent-shaped die line arcs above three dentils at the outer point of the 10th star.

A new reverse die emerges here, one that is very similar to that used for the 1866-S With Motto through 1869-S, but with some subtle differences. The left end of the ribbon above the eagle is now strong and unpolished, rather than weak and missing in places. The tiny S mintmark is located in a

very similar location to the previous year's die, with the upper serif of the S close to the tip of the arrow feather and distant from TEN below, but centered directly over the first upright of the N, rather than slightly to the right of that upright, as on the dies of 1866-S through 1869-S.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, December 18, 1970.

### 1871 Philadelphia Mint Rarity Circulated Proof



- 671 **1871 Proof-45.** Medium gold with lively rose highlights in the recessed areas. One of only 30 Proofs of the date struck, with about one third of that number known today in all grades. This circulated Proof is written of in Harry Bass' notes as "Obv. 1, Rev. A, as copper trial," no doubt referring to one of the copper patterns in his collection. A rarity that will fill a difficult slot in any eagle collection.

Date logotype nicely impressed. 1 closer to dentils than truncation (a quick way to tell the Proof die—compare to the following illustration which is a *circulation strike*), left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. A tiny die lump is seen in the field at the upper right curve of the 8. The reverse die shows a thinning at the top of the two small lines that make up the second vertical shield stripe, probably the result of a centering punch or device.

In the 1870s, Proofs were sold to only a small number of numismatists. As strange as it may seem today, Proof high denomination gold coins had very little premium value for *years* after they were made, and it was not unusual for a Proof eagle to sell for just a dollar or two above face value a decade later. Accordingly, numismatists wishing to sell their collections of such pieces often spent them, as there was no profit in consigning or selling them to a dealer. Large numbers of 19th-century Proof coins were lost in this way, perhaps over half of the large denominations. Among smaller denominations, particularly the gold dollar, the attrition rate was much less.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 700.

### Important Circulation Strike 1871 Eagle A Classic Low-Mintage Rarity



- 672 **1871 AU-50.** Lustrous yellow gold with some reflectivity in the protected areas. A prized rarity, a date that only saw a production run of 1,790 pieces intended for general circulation, and circulate they did! The average 1871 eagle is VF with an occasional EF available. Walter Breen called the date "Prohibitively rare above VF," and we concur with that statement wholeheartedly. One of a seemingly endless run of great rarities from the Bass Collection.

Date logotype moderately impressed. 1 essentially equidistant between truncation and dentils (placed noticeably higher than the preceding coin, as a quick comparison of the photographs will verify), left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Obverse and reverse dies otherwise unremarkable.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of August 1968, Lot 1024.



## 1871-CC Eagle Rarity



- 673 **1871-CC EF-45 (PCGS).** Attractive medium gold with orange highlights in the recessed areas. Some scattered marks are present, although none are heavy enough to draw the immediate attention of the viewer's eye. A rarity in all grades, one of only 8,085 examples of the date produced. VF is the order of the day where this date is concerned, with an occasional EF found. Anything above EF is of extreme rarity, and no Mint State examples of the date are known. It is worth noting here that not a single specimen above EF appeared in David W. Akers' 1980 survey of auction sales. A very few AU specimens have come to light in the ensuing decades, but even the bank vaults of Europe have produced very little. A grand opportunity to attain one of the scarcest of all Carson City issues in one of the highest grades attainable for the date.

PCGS Population: 6; 7 finer (AU-53 finest).

Date logotype evenly impressed, first 1 marginally closer to truncation than to dentils. Reverse with CC mintmark high in field, both letters tilted noticeably to left, the first C under the middle talon and quite close, the second C slightly higher, the center of the letter about even with the tip of the lowest arrow feather. There is pronounced die ejection doubling on the present specimen. Breen-6967 notes "Doubled reverse die." In *Gold Coins of the Old West: The Carson City Mint 1870-1893*, Douglas Winter and Lawrence E. Cutler, M.D., note: "Two die varieties were listed by Breen in his *Complete Encyclopedia of United States Coins*. The first was distinguished by a normal reverse while the second was said to have a doubled die. After carefully studying this 'variety' as well as other Carson City eagles with reverse doubling, we conclude that this is machine doubling."

Purchased from Mike Brownlee, April 17, 1967.

## Elusive 1871-S Eagle



- 674 **1871-S EF-45.** Warm honey gold with pleasing rose highlights at the rims. Some scattered ticks are present, none more noticeable than might be expected for the grade. A scarce date in VF, and rare in EF and finer. Here is another San Francisco issue that is unknown in Mint State. "Most specimens are well worn, and it is not unusual to see this date in Fine or even VG," wrote David Akers. A lustrous EF coin such as the present specimen is a prize indeed.

Date logotype evenly impressed. First 1 slightly closer to dentils than truncation, left edge of lower serif over left side of dentil. Die artifacts around stars on left. Small S mintmark lightly impressed giving a "mushy" appearance, fairly close to tip of arrow feather, high and directly over left upright of N.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 3, 1968.

- 675 **1871-S VF-35.** Lustrous honey gold with strong prooflike tendencies in the fields. A few light marks are present, but the overall appeal bespeaks a much finer grade. Another pleasing example of a scarce and popular date.

A highly unusual obverse die break is of more than passing interest. A raised V-shaped die break, the result of a V-shaped *collapse* inward on the obverse field of the working die, points toward 6:30 or so on the rim. At first, the edges of the break give the outward appearance of a planchet flake, but careful examination under 30X magnification reveals that such is not the case. For sake of discussion, the V-shaped break can be said to resemble the hands of a clock, the hour hand at 10:00, the minute hand at 12:00. Each edge of the break is about the combined length of two stars. The "hour hand" edge of the break extends to the left to the lowest point of the third star, touching there before terminating in the field near the dentils; it also extends to the right of the "minute hand" break, where it forks. The uppermost fork extends nominally toward Liberty's chin before terminating, while the lower fork curves dramatically downward before terminating opposite the second star. The "minute hand" side of the break extends vertically in the field to a point opposite Liberty's mouth. What could cause this *internal* break on a die? Perhaps there was an inherent weakness in the die caused by improper annealing, or perhaps there was an air bubble beneath the surface, or there may have been another explanation. Regardless of the actual cause, most major die breaks occur at or near the edges of dies; a major break (or collapse) such as this that occurs in the field is a rarity in its own right.

Date logotype nicely impressed. First 1 marginally closer to truncation than dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. A fairly prominent raised die line arcs from Liberty's hair, across the lower edge of her coronet, then upward across LI of LIBERTY, to the upper edge of the coronet and into Liberty's hair above. Die artifacts around second and third stars. Some light but obvious raised lumps in field to lower left of date. Small S mintmark is distinctly repunched within its lower curve, placed in die in virtually the same position as that noted in the previous lot. Harry Bass had duly noted the repunched mintmark feature in his notes.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, March 17, 1969.

## Incredible Proof 1872 \$10

### A Highlight of the Series



(2x photo)

- 676 **1872 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Deep honey gold with a whisper of orange. Frosty devices and mirror fields form a lively cameo contrast. A very impressive 1872 Proof eagle, closely approaching gem quality.

According to published Proof figures—which are sometimes erratic—only 30 Proof eagles were minted. Whatever the number, it is estimated that today only 10 to 12 exist, this including



pieces in the museum collections of the American Numismatic Society and the Smithsonian Institution. Of the others, few could match the quality of the piece offered here. In addition—not that any other features are needed!—the 1872 is quite rare as a *date*, as few related circulation strikes were produced.

Often a span of *years* will elapse between market offerings of a Proof 1872 eagle. The present coin will be a landmark for the specialist and connoisseur.

Date logotype nicely impressed. Date nicely centered both horizontally and vertically, 1 marginally closer to truncation than dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil.

*Purchased from Abe Kosoff, August 1973.*

### Important 1872 Eagle Low-Mintage Rarity



**677 1872 Net VF-30;** sharpness of AU-50, surfaces lightly brushed. Medium gold with prooflike areas in the recessed regions. A definite rarity; just 1,620 business strikes of the date were produced, and perhaps just two dozen or so examples are currently known in all grades. Circulation strikes of the 1872 are certainly as elusive as the famous 1858. The present coin is a classic, and despite the light brushing the piece received in the past, it is one of the finer examples among the relatively few known to exist today.

Date logotype nicely impressed, 1 in date broad. Numerals closely spaced. 1 marginally closer to truncation than dentils, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Reverse fairly nondescript with regard to distinctive marks or other diagnostics.

*Purchased from William Donner, October 7, 1968.*

**678 1872-CC VF-35.** Medium orange-gold. Faintly brushed but still a decidedly attractive example of this rare date. Just 4,600 eagles of the date were coined in Carson City. This date was called “One of the most underrated and undervalued gold coins struck at the Carson City Mint” in the Winter-Cutler reference, and we agree. We suspect just four or five dozen examples are known in all grades. Worthy of in-person examination.

Date logotype nicely impressed, numerals closely spaced. 1 equidistant between truncation above and dentils below, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Reverse CC mintmark high, letters well spaced and upright. First C high and close to middle talon, second C slightly lower, upper serif even with low point of arrow feather, space between CC over space between EN below. Lower left curve of ribbon over eagle incomplete, right end and curve below it also incomplete, first upright of the second pair of vertical shield stripes incomplete at top.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 23, 1971.*

**679 1872-S EF-45.** Medium gold with some areas of prooflike reflectivity in the recessed areas. Another scarce San Francisco Mint eagle, this from a mintage of 17,300 coins. VF is typical for the date, while EF or finer specimens can be considered genuinely rare. A pleasing coin overall.

Date logotype nicely impressed. 1 equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Reverse S mintmark nicely formed and impressed, fairly high in field, close to and equidistant from talons and arrow feather tip, top of S above tip of arrow feather.

*Purchased from William Donner, September 14, 1967.*

**680 1872-S VF-30.** Medium honey gold with some orange-gold highlights. A second pleasing specimen of a scarce and popular issue from our westernmost mint.

From the same dies as the preceding coin.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2276.*

### Important 1873-CC Eagle Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



(2x photo)

**681 1873-CC Repunched 18. AU-53 (PCGS).** Closed 3. Satiny medium gold with plenty of brilliance in the recessed areas. Some lightness of strike is usual for this date. A highly prized rarity, truly a *fantastic* coin—tied as the finest certified by PCGS.

Only 4,543 were struck. Winter and Cutler wrote, “An issue which is nearly impossible to locate in any grade higher than choice Very Fine.” Not only is the present piece higher than this, it is *much higher!*

The specimen here is tied for finest certified by PCGS. As you may have guessed, the *other* AU-53 example of the date was Lot 1538 in our sale of Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, October 1999! No one can ever point a finger and accuse the Harry Bass Collection of a shortage of rarities or opportunities.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Breen-6975. “Repunched 18, normal reverse. Extremely rare.” Minor die ejection doubling can be seen at the bottom reverse legends; this variety may have been Breen’s 6976, “Repunched 18, doubled reverse die.” Harry Bass’ notes regarding this piece read “Reverse double struck;” again, some confusion here as to actual die doubling and machine ejection doubling.

Date logotype nicely impressed, date numerals evenly spaced. Closed 3, 1 in date about equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil, bases of 1 and 8 lightly repunched. A horizontal die line is seen in the field over the two dentils immediately clockwise of the date. Reverse CC mintmark high, top of first C nearly touches middle talon, second C nearly a letter’s space from first C, slightly higher in die, with upper serif slightly higher than tip of arrow feather to right. This reverse die was also used for 1871-CC eagles.

*Purchased from Abner Kreisberg, March 1, 1968.*



- 682 **1873-S EF-40.** Closed 3. Medium honey gold with a touch of orange highlights. Considerably rarer than its mintage of 12,000 pieces suggests. Called “Prohibitively rare EF” by Walter Breen. The majority of today’s survivors from the mintage for the date are found at VF or less. A nice coin for the grade.

Date logotype evenly impressed. Top of 1 slightly closer to truncation than bottom is to dentils, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. This reverse also used on 1872-S eagles.

*Purchased from Federal Brand Enterprises, February 20, 1968.*

## Choice Mint State 1874 Eagle Rarity

### Condition Census



- 683 **1874 MS-64 (PCGS).** Satiny honey gold with lively lustre and a touch of olive iridescence. EF is the usually seen grade for the date, and many can be found at that level. Breen lists this date as “extremely rare above EF.” Here is yet another important opportunity to purchase a coin that combines exceptional beauty with extreme rarity—a definite trademark phrase where Harry Bass’ collection is concerned.

PCGS Population: 12; 2 finer (MS-65).

Walter Breen notes that much of the bullion used to coin eagles of this date was obtained from melting earlier-dated gold dollars and quarter eagles, this after some discussion in Congress in 1873 regarding gold coins and the wear they received in circulation.

Date logotype firmly impressed. 1 noticeably closer to truncation than dentils, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Bottom of 7 slightly lower than 8, 4 slightly lower than 7. Reverse displays several diagonal die lines through EN in the denomination.

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Galleries, February 1979.*

## Mint State 1874 Eagle



- 684 **1874 MS-60.** Lustrous honey gold with satiny surfaces. A second pleasing specimen of a desirable Philadelphia Mint issue.

Date logotype nicely impressed, bottoms of numerals progressively (though minutely) lower from left to right. Bottom of 1 slightly closer to dentils than top is to truncation, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. From the same reverse die as the preceding lot.

*From Stack’s sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 696.*

## Lustrous Formation of Eagles

- 685 **Selection of AU-55 eagles:** ☆ 1874 ☆ 1881-S ☆ 1882 ☆ 1883-S ☆ 1888 ☆ 1888-S ☆ 1899-O. Each item displays lustrous surfaces. A well-matched grouping. (Total: 7 pieces)

This is a fine place to mention that a half hour spent perusing the *Guide Book of United States Coins* listing for Coronet Head eagles might be quite worthwhile. A review of the series from 1838 through 1907 will reveal many low-mintage rarities, but with prices that in such grades as VF are incredibly low. While some dates are rare or even extremely rare, the fame accorded most other gold series as well as copper and silver series has not reached this area of gold specialty, leaving many excellent purchase opportunities to the alert buyer.

## 1874-S Eagle Rarity

### Elegant Quality

### Finest Certified by PCGS



- 686 **1874-S AU-58 (PCGS).** Strong lustre on orange-gold surfaces. Splashes of rose iridescence add immensely to the overall appeal. One of 10,000 examples of the date stuck, and considerably rarer in all grades than the mintage implies. Typically found at VF or EF, Walter Breen wrote “Extremely rare above EF” regarding the date. At the AU-58 level the present piece is of elegant, breathtaking quality. The specialist will want to bid as liberally as possible. Year in and year out many fine collections have been formed of gold coins, but very few have ever matched the quality of the \$10 pieces in the present offering. Within the current presentation, this is one of the great highlights. Again, the piece, while extremely rare, is not necessarily extremely expensive—the current market value is in the range of just a few thousand dollars.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Date logotype nicely impressed. Date evenly placed between truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif of 1 over right edge of dentil. Reverse die also used for 1873-S eagles.

*From Heritage’s sale of October 1996, Lot 6375.*



Exceedingly Important 1875-CC Rarity

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



(2x photo)

Exceedingly Important 1876-CC \$10 Rarity

Condition Census



(2x photo)

687 **1875-CC AU-55 (PCGS)**. Lustrous honey gold with plenty of brightness in the protected areas. From a modest mintage for the date of 7,715 pieces, with most survivors from that mintage at VF or so. The Winter-Cutler reference calls this date “one of the rarest Carson City eagles from the standpoint of pieces known and rarity.”

When seen—which is not often—the 1875-CC is apt to be in VF, occasionally EF preservation. Even a low level AU would be a major numismatic attraction. The present piece, solidly at AU-55, is one of the very finest known and will be a showpiece in the collection of its next owner.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Date logotype nicely and evenly impressed, digit 1 ever so slightly closer to neck truncation than to dentils, digit 5 slightly closer to dentils than to neck; well centered horizontally. Left edge of lower serif of 1 over space between dentils. A small die lump is noted atop the upper right arm of the Y in LIBERTY. Reverse CC mintmark somewhat to right, both letters over the N in TEN. First C placed midway between talons and N, second C mostly under tip of arrow feather, letters nicely spaced.

From Paramount's sale of August 1967, Lot 2132.

688 **1876-CC AU-55 (PCGS)**. Lustrous honey gold with strong orange toning in the recessed areas. From a small mintage of 4,696 coins. A prized rarity in all grades, the 1876-CC—when seen, which is not often—is apt to be encountered in VF grade. The Winter-Cutler reference notes: “From the standpoint of overall rarity, the 1876-CC is among the rarest of all the eagles struck at this mint.” Once the AU level is attained for this date, you have reached the zenith of the grading curve; there are no known Mint State examples.

The present coin is a beautiful Condition Census specimen of this spectacular rarity, grading a full 10 points finer than the lovely specimen we offered in the Bass III sale. A remarkable coin, a remarkable opportunity—sure to be a prized possession in an advanced cabinet of Carson City gold.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (AU-58).

Date logotype nicely impressed, numerals nicely centered horizontally and vertically. Left edge of lower serif of 1 over left side of dentil. Die artifacts around first few stars. Reverse CC mintmark high and lightly impressed, both letters on the same plane with nearly a letter's space between them. First C to right of right most talon, just to right of center of space between E and N below, second C close to and nearly completely under tip of arrow feather above, just to right of center of N below.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, November 21, 1969.

689 **1876-S EF-40**. Lustrous honey gold with some orange highlights and prooflike reflectivity in the protected areas. A scarce date with a small mintage of just 5,000 coins. VF is typical for the date, but EF and AU examples are offered from time to time. This is one of those times.

Date logotype nicely impressed, numerals well placed both horizontally and vertically, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Clash marks seen around Liberty's portrait. Reverse with high, well-shaped S mintmark equidistant from talon and tip of arrow feather, slightly right of the space between E and N below. Upper edge of ribbon over IN very tenuous and thin.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.



## Incredible 1877-CC \$10 Rarity

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

A Carson City Landmark



- 690 **1877-CC AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with a whisper of olive and strong reflectivity in the protected areas. Another incredible coin, an American numismatic landmark, a highlight of the Carson City series, a piece so fine that few specialists have ever owned one.

Only 3,332 pieces were minted, accounting for the rarity, to which must be added the method of distribution—most were circulated in the American West and sustained extensive wear. VF is typical for the date, but occasionally higher pieces come to light, but rarely at the AU-55 level. The present specimen is an attractive coin for the grade, and is essentially as nice as the date can be found. Yet another handpicked treasure from the collection of Harry Bass.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Breen-6987 notes: "Very rare. Two varieties, low or centered date."

Date logotype nicely impressed, numerals evenly spaced and nicely centered horizontally and vertically, probably Breen's "centered" date. A tiny "dash" protrudes back from the lower right serif of the 1 in the date, while a tiny curved artifact is noted in the field after the bottom of the first 7; the line closely resembles the curve of the existing 7. Clash marks seen around Liberty's portrait, tiny die lines around the Y in LIBERTY. Reverse with CC mintmark high and tilted noticeably left, second C higher than first. First C about a letter's height from talons above, centered over upper left serif of E below, second C higher than first, tip of upper serif just below and very close to tip of arrow feather, letter centered over left upright of N below. Die roughness in vertical shield lines. Some die ejection doubling can be seen at portions of the peripheral legend.

*Purchased from Stack's, October 7, 1970.*

## Scarce 1877-S Eagle



- 691 **1877-S AU-50.** Lustrous honey gold with plenty of brightness in the protected areas. Reflective fields and frosty motifs display a few small marks, but the overall appeal is high for the assigned grade. A scarce date in all grades, particularly in AU.

Date logotype nicely impressed. Date low, top of 1 twice the distance from truncation as bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif slightly left of center of dentil. Raised die lines around BER in LIBERTY. Reverse S mintmark fairly "tall" and blob-like, placed high in field, equidistant from right most talon and tip of arrow feather, tip of feather about even with center of S. Mintmark mostly over left side of N.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, November 16, 1970; ex B. Max Mehl, William C. Atwater.*

- 692 **1877-S EF-40.** Warm honey gold with some brilliance and lustre in the protected areas.

*From the same die pair as the preceding lot.*

*From Stack's sale of September 1968, Lot 408.*

## Choice Mint State 1878 Eagle



- 693 **1878 MS-63.** Breen-6988. A truly outstanding representative of the date and grade. Highly lustrous honey gold surfaces bespeak a much finer quality. At last, a date in the Liberty eagle series that is somewhat available in Mint State, largely due to an influx of coins from Europe in the 1990s. Despite the availability in Mint State, specimens such as that presently offered are still few and far between.

Date logotype nicely impressed. Date low, top of 1 twice the distance from truncation as bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over left side of dentil. All of the stars show repunching to some degree, some with several extra points. Reverse fairly unremarkable, although the die is strong in all areas, including the ribbon above the eagle, which is sharp and complete.

*Purchased from Douglas Weaver, September 26, 1973.*

## Attractive Group of Lustrous Eagles

- 694 **Grouping of eagles grading AU-58:** ☆ 1878 ☆ 1880 ☆ 1881. Splashes of pale green toning ☆ 1882. Pale green toning ☆ 1883. Splashes of orange toning ☆ 1892. Splashes of reddish orange toning ☆ 1899. Copper spots noted on both surfaces ☆ 1901 ☆ 1904 ☆ 1906. Each item displays lustrous surfaces. A very attractive group. (Total: 10 pieces)

- 695 **1878-S EF-45.** Medium gold with a hint of olive. Some light marks as might be expected for the grade. A scarce date in EF.

Date logotype evenly impressed, numerals nicely spaced. Date low, top of 1 twice the distance from truncation as bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over middle of dentil. Reverse S mintmark small and placed high, point of upper serif near tip of arrow feather, S high over left upright of N below.

*Purchased from Ed Shapiro, March 31, 1969.*

- 696 **1878-S EF-40.** Honey gold with some deeper highlights. Another decent example of a popular branch mint issue.

From the same obverse die as the preceding lot. Medium reverse S mintmark nicely formed, essentially as wide as it is tall, nicely placed in field, about equidistant from talon and tip of arrow feather, centered over space between E and N.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2280.*

## Choice Mint State 1879 Eagle



- 697 **1879 MS-63.** Satiny and highly lustrous with rich orange iridescence in the protected areas. Devoid of all but some trivial marks and decidedly choice for the grade. Definitely scarce when found so fine.

Date logotype nicely impressed, numerals nicely centered, 1 marginally closer to truncation than to dentils, edge of lower serif over left side of dentil. A faint die crack runs clockwise from the date to the first two stars. Some faint reverse cracks can be seen at the peripheral legends.

*Purchased from Douglas Weaver, September 26, 1973.*



698 1879 MS-62. Lustrous and satiny. A lovely coin for the grade.

From the same dies as the preceding lot.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, December 20, 1970.

### Eight Coronet Head Eagles

699 Grouping of Liberty eagles, each with some cleaning, etc., as noted—but often better in the seeing than in the describing. We recommend that prospective purchasers view the coins in person. These pieces were acquired by Harry Bass for the study of date logotypes and other variations. ☆ 1879 MS-60, cleaned ☆ 1886-S AU-58, field abrasions ☆ 1888-O Repunched Mintmark. AU-55, cleaned ☆ 1895-O AU-58, cleaned ☆ 1897-O AU-55, scratches ☆ 1902 MS-60, cleaned ☆ 1906-D AU-55, hairlines. First Denver Mint eagle ☆ 1906-O AU-55, hairlines. Last New Orleans Mint eagle. Mintmark tilted sharply to the right—interesting! (Total: 8 pieces)

### Choice Uncirculated 1879-S Eagle



700 1879-S MS-63. Lustrous orange-gold. A satiny specimen with somewhat prooflike fields. Sharply struck in all areas. A scarce date in Mint State, and actually quite rare at MS-63 or finer.

Date logotype nicely impressed, top of 1 nearly twice the distance from truncation as bottom is from dentils, edge of lower dentil over left side of dentil. Tall, blob-like S mintmark high in die and well into space between talons and arrow feather, slightly closer to talons than feather, tilted noticeably right and mainly over N below.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 711.

701 1880 MS-62. Satiny golden orange with subdued lustre on both sides.

Date logotype nicely impressed. 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Reverse die heavily cracked at tops of TEN D. and bottoms of MERICA.

Purchased from James A. Hayes, October 1972.

### Scarce 1880-CC Eagle



702 1880-CC AU-58. Lustrous yellow gold with considerable brightness in the protected areas. A popular branch mint issue, and one of but a few dates in the Carson City eagle series that is not prohibitively rare in choice AU. Nicely struck and aesthetically appealing.

Date logotype nicely impressed, date well centered both horizontally and vertically, 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over right side of dentil. There is a distinct break in the dentils below the first 8. Reverse CC mintmark somewhat large and roundish ("pudgy" would be a good term), low in the die, and tilted noticeably left. First C lower, and over right side of E and space following, second C slightly higher and over

center of N below, about equidistant between that letter and the tip of the arrow feather directly above. Both letters of the mintmark show die roughness within. A die crack connects all of the peripheral legends, including the denomination.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of August 1968, Lot 1035.

703 1880-CC Net AU-53; Very close to Mint State. Very lightly cleaned long ago—but not that most people would notice. Attractive yellow gold with some honey highlights. Altogether a pleasing example of this popular issue, a duplicate of the preceding.

From the same dies as the previous lot, although here the reverse die cracks are fainter.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of November 1968, Lot 931.

704 1880-CC EF-45. Warm honey gold with deep orange highlights. A third attractive example of the date.

From the same obverse die as the preceding lot. Reverse CC mintmark fairly large and rounded, and tilted noticeably to the left. First C low and over space between E and N, the right side of the letter in line with the left outer side of the first leg of the N, the second C higher and right, the back of the letter even with the tip of the arrow feather, about equidistant between that and N below.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, August 4, 1967.

### Lustrous 1880-O Eagle



705 1880-O AU-58. Rich yellow gold with a touch of olive. Considerable prooflike quality present in the fields. Some scattered marks can be seen, but they are easily forgiven. From a modest mintage of just 9,200 coins. "Most 1880-O eagles grade VF to EF. In About Uncirculated grades, this issue becomes very rare," wrote Douglas Winter in *New Orleans Mint Gold Coins 1839-1909*.

Date logotype evenly impressed, 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Several stars show repunching. Reverse O mintmark deeply impressed, heavier on the right side, placed high and slightly right of the space between E and N, equidistant from talons and arrow feather.

Purchased from Bob Roth through Stack's, October 11, 1967.

706 1880-O EF-40. Lustrous honey gold.

From the same dies as the previous lot.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, July 17, 1967.

### Many Mintmarked Tens

707 Selection of Liberty eagles grading AU-58, emphasizing mintmarked varieties—a fascinating array: ☆ 1880-S ☆ 1881-S ☆ 1885-S ☆ 1888-S ☆ 1892-O Doubled Die Reverse ☆ 1894-O ☆ 1903-O ☆ 1904-O ☆ 1907-D. Each item displays lustrous surfaces—all in all a very attractive selection that should engender some very nice bidding! (Total: 9 pieces)



## Lustrous 1881-CC Eagle



- 708 **1881-CC AU-58.** Lustrous orange-gold with satiny surfaces. A lovely specimen of one of the more plentiful Carson City eagle issues; 24,015 examples of the date were produced. Typically found in VF or EF, much less often in the AU preservation offered here.

Date logotype nicely impressed. First 1 somewhat closer to dentils than to truncation, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils. Reverse CC mintmark high in die, first C higher, mainly under right most talon, over space between E and N below, second C lower, back top of C nearly touches tip of arrow feather above, and centered over N below.

*Purchased from Stack's, May 19, 1971.*

## Lustrous 1881-O Eagle



- 709 **1881-O AU-58.** Honey gold with strong lustre and brilliance in the protected areas. A popular low-mintage date, one of only 8,350 examples produced. Typically seen in VF or EF, a range within which specimens can usually be located with some ease—although on a relative basis the 1881-O is scarce. At AU or finer the date becomes a rarity. Although the term *rarity* is truly applicable to the 1881-O, the market has been asleep concerning its value; current price level is about midway between \$1,000 and \$2,000.

Date logotype nicely impressed. Top of first 1 slightly further from truncation than from dentils, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Reverse O mintmark deeply impressed, heavier on the right side, placed high and slightly left of the space between E and N, marginally closer to talons than to arrow feather.

*Purchased from Paramount, April 30, 1967.*

- 710 **1881-S MS-62.** Lustrous and satiny honey gold with a whisper of olive iridescence. A plentiful date at the assigned grade.

Date logotype nicely impressed. Top of 1 slightly further from truncation than bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over left side of dentil. Reverse S mintmark filled and tilted slightly left, placed fairly high and equidistant from talons and arrow feather, centered just right of the space between E and N, mostly over upper left serif of N below.

*From Abner Kreisberg's sale of November 1972, Lot 1220.*

- 711 **1882 MS-63.** Lustrous honey gold with decided olive highlights. A lovely coin for the grade.

Date logotype evenly impressed. Top of 1 slightly closer to truncation than bottom is to dentils, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. Faint hairline cracks connect several stars. Reverse fairly unremarkable, although the lower left curve of the ribbon above the eagle is now just a tiny triangular artifact in the field.

*From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 721.*

## Lustrous 1882-CC Eagle

### Low-Mintage Rarity Condition Census



- 712 **1882-CC AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with rich toning in the protected areas. A low-mintage rarity; just 6,764 examples of the date were struck. The 1882-CC is typically found in VF or EF, with choice AU coins such as the present piece being very elusive. Breen called the date "Prohibitively rare above EF," and our own research tends to agree with that statement. In fact, PCGS has not certified an example of the date above AU-58. An important opportunity for Carson City Mint and eagle specialists alike.

PCGS Population: 12; 4 finer (AU-58 finest).

Date logotype nicely impressed. Bottom of 1 marginally closer to dentils than top is to truncation, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. Reverse CC mintmark somewhat large and roundish, low in the die, and tilted noticeably left. First C lower, and over right side of E and space following, second C slightly higher and over center of N below, about equidistant between that letter and the tip of the arrow feather directly above. Very similar to one of the reverse dies used for the 1880-CC eagles, but the letters of the mintmark show no roughness within, and there are no peripheral cracks.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2312.*

- 713 **1882-O AU-50.** Lustrous yellow gold with prooflike reflectivity in the protected areas. A rarity in AU; just 10,820 eagles of the date were struck, with survivors from that mintage typically found in VF or EF. Douglas Winter called this date "Very underrated in comparison to many No Motto eagles from this mint."

Date numerals evenly impressed. 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil below. Reverse O mintmark lightly impressed, right side of O wider than left side, placed high, O twice the distance from talons as from arrow feather, placed just to left of left upright of N below.

*From Parke-Bernet's sale of May 1968, Lot 178.*

- 714 **1882-S MS-62.** Brilliant and lustrous honey gold. Sharply struck and choice for the grade. Scarcer than its mintage of 132,000 coins indicates.

Date logotype evenly impressed. 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils. This reverse also used on 1881-S eagles.

All 1882 \$10 pieces seen, from the various mints, are from the same four-digit logotype punch, with 18 closest, 88 wider, and 82 wider yet. The second 8 is lower than the first 8, and the final 2 is the lowest figure and leans to the right.

*From Pine Tree Auction Co.'s sale of March 1974, Lot 247.*



## Elusive 1883-CC Eagle



- 715 **1883-CC AU-58.** Lustrous yellow gold with olive overtones. From a modest mintage for the date of 12,000 pieces, with most known survivors from that production run in VF or EF. At AU the date becomes quite rare. A nice coin overall.

Date logotype evenly impressed. 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Mintmark slightly above the halfway point in the field, first C tilted slightly left, and above space between E and N, mainly over N. Second C above right upright of N and partly over the field to the right of that letter. Point of feather midway between the mintmark letters, those slightly further apart than the width of one of those letters. This mintmark fits Breen's "Small Wide" mintmark classification.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, January 26, 1973.*

## Another Rare 1883-CC Eagle



- 716 **1883-CC AU-53.** Lustrous orange-gold with plenty of brilliance in the recessed areas. Rare so fine.

From same obverse die as preceding lot. Mintmark fairly high in the field, first C upright and placed above space between E and N, about half over N. Second C lower in die and mainly right of right edge of right upright of N. Point of feather considerably closer to first C, tip of feather points to upper serif of first C. This mintmark also fits Breen's "Small Wide" mintmark classification.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.*

## Classic 1883-O Eagle Rarity

Incredibly Low Mintage  
Remarkably High Grade



- 717 **1883-O AU-50.** Lustrous orange-gold with strong prooflike tendencies. Sharply struck at the centers, with a touch of peripheral weakness at the stars. From a scant mintage for the date of just 800 coins. An incredible rarity in all grades, with VF and EF specimens being the preservation usually seen. At the AU level the 1883-O is sufficiently rare that most "name" cabinets have not included one.

Douglas Winter called this date "the second rarest New Orleans eagle, trailing only the 1859-O." While the specialist realizes the importance of the 1883-O and its long-standing fame, the mintage figure makes it irresistible to an even wider audi-

ence. In fact, the production figure of just 800 pieces is the lowest of *any* gold coin, of any denomination, from the New Orleans Mint; the *lowest* mintage figure for a branch mint eagle; and the third lowest mintage figure of *any* Liberty eagle. Add to that the overall quality of the present specimen, hand-picked decades ago by Harry Bass, and the prospective bidder is confronted with a major opportunity which, if fulfilled, will yield a specimen that will be prized forever.

PCGS Population: 6; 8 finer (AU-58).

Date logotype solidly impressed. 1 slightly closer to dentils than truncation, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. Reverse O mintmark well impressed, wider on the right side, unfinished inside. O fairly high in die, tilted slightly left, fairly well centered over space between E and N below, about equidistant between talons and arrow feather, tip of feather points midway down side of O. Faint die cracks connect the tops of UNITED and OF, that word connected to the wing tip following as well. Raised diagonal lines appear at the top of the vertical lines in the shield, and a raised die line connects the bottom of the ribbon loops below GOD and WE.

*Purchased from William Donner, May 1968.*

- 718 **1884 MS-62.** Lustrous honey gold with definite olive highlights. Attractive for the grade.

Date logotype lightly but evenly impressed. 1 equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over left side of dentil. Raised diagonal lines around BERTY on the coronet. Faint reverse die crack unites the bottoms of AMERICA with the tops of TEN D and the bottoms of UNITED STATES, crossing the wing tip as it goes.

*From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 729.*

- 719 **Selection of Mint State eagles:** ☆ 1885 MS-60 ☆ 1888-O MS-60 ☆ 1893 MS-61 ☆ 1893-S MS-61 ☆ 1894 MS-61. Interesting peripheral die crack on obverse ☆ 1901-S MS-61 ☆ 1902-S MS-61 ☆ 1905 MS-60. Each displays attractive and lustrous surfaces. (Total: 8 pieces)

- 720 **1886 MS-62.** Highly lustrous orange-gold.

Date logotype nicely impressed. Digit 6 very slightly repunched. 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Faint die crack at base of date extends to final star. Faint reverse die cracks unite most of the peripheral legends.

*From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 748.*

## Lustrous Lineup of Eagles

- 721 **Selection of Liberty eagles grading MS-62:** ☆ 1886-S ☆ 1893 ☆ 1894 ☆ 1895 ☆ 1899 ☆ 1901-S ☆ 1906-D ☆ 1907. Attractive and lustrous surfaces displayed by all. (Total: 8 pieces)

## Choice Mint State 1887-S \$10

Bass: "Finest Seen"



- 722 **1887-S MS-63.** Bright and satiny honey gold with strong lustre and a touch of olive iridescence on both sides. Sharply struck in all places. A fairly common date in *average* Mint State, but choice and gem Uncirculated specimens are quite scarce. A lovely coin for the assigned grade. At the time of acquisition of the present coin, Harry Bass noted "Finest seen" in his meticulous records.

Date logotype sharply impressed, numerals large and well-formed. 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over right edge



of dentil. Reverse S mintmark tall and somewhat blob-like at the center, tilted noticeably left, mostly above left side of N below, fairly high, equidistant from talons and tip of arrow feather, tip of feather points to center of S.

*From Paramount's sale of November 1971, Lot 1542.*

- 723 1888-O MS-61.** Lustrous yellow gold with olive highlights. A popular New Orleans eagle issue. Nicely struck in all areas (the 1888-O is often found weakly struck, and this is an exception).

Date logotype deeply impressed, nicely centered horizontally and vertically, left edge of lower serif of 1 over center of dentil. A faint die crack connects most of the obverse stars. Reverse O mintmark nicely impressed, round and nicely shaped, fairly high, marginally closer to tip of arrow feather than to talon, tip of feather points to middle of O, mintmark over space between E and N, mostly over left side of N below. Faint die cracks connect most of the peripheral legends. Die clash marks around eagle.

*Accompanying ticket simply reads "Bob Roth Set."*

- 724 1888-S MS-62.** Lustrous honey gold with satiny surfaces and generous cartwheel lustre. Well struck.

Date logotype nicely impressed. Left edge of lower serif of 1 over center of dentil. Reverse S mintmark fairly tall and well shaped, leaning noticeable left, slightly closer to tip of arrow feather than to talon, upper serif of mintmark even with point of arrow feather, S centered over space between E and N, mainly over left side of N.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, December 5, 1970.*

### Rare Proof 1889 Eagle



- 725 1889 Net Proof-50;** sharpness of Proof-62, obverse scratch across bottom, reaching from the first to the 12th star. Pleasing yellow gold with somewhat cloudy fields; a modest cameo effect is present. One of 45 Proofs of the date struck, with perhaps just a dozen or so specimens known to today's collecting community. A grand opportunity to obtain a prized rarity at a good value.

Date logotype nicely impressed. 1 slightly closer to truncation than to dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 14, 1968.*

- 726 1890 MS-62.** Bright orange-gold with strong prooflike reflectivity in the fields. Some faint copper spots noted on both sides. Nicely struck.

Date logotype evenly impressed. 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Reverse fairly unremarkable where diagnostics are concerned.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 15, 1971.*

- 727 1890 MS-61.** Lustrous honey gold with traces of rose iridescence in the recessed areas.

Date logotype deeply impressed. 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over left side of dentil.

*From Stack's sale of February 1976, Lot 844.*

- 728 1891-CC MS-62.** Lustrous and frosty medium gold surfaces. Attractive, beautiful, and distinctive as one of the relatively few Carson City Mint eagles that can be called *readily available* at the Mint State level—this in sharp contrast to the varieties of a decade or two earlier. Thus, the present coin appeals not only to the eagle specialist but to anyone who would like to have a very *special* eagle in a gold type set—a reminder of the golden

era when the West was truly wild, and the Carson City Mint and the Comstock Lode were just about in the middle of such things.

Date logotype nicely impressed. Top of 1 nearly three times the distance from truncation as bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Die artifacts around final star. Reverse CC mintmark fairly high with letters widely spaced, more than a letter's width between them. First C slightly to left of, but mostly over, left upright of N below, second C slightly to right of, but mostly over, right upright of N. Upper serif of first C near tip of arrow feather, both letters tipped slightly right. A faint die crack connects most of the peripheral legends.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, July 9, 1968.*

- 729 1891-CC MS-61.** Frosty golden orange with strong cartwheel lustre and a whisper of pale olive iridescence. An attractive coin overall. Nice coins come in pairs—or even threesomes (see next lot also).

Date logotype nicely impressed. Top of 1 twice the distance from truncation as bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Reverse CC mintmark nicely centered with letters evenly spaced, about a letter's width between them. First C partially over E and space following, second C centered over N below. Tip of arrow feather over center of back of second C.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 16, 1969.*

- 730 1891-CC MS-60.** Lustrous medium gold with some olive iridescence present.

Breen-7035. "Second C double-punched. Rare."

Date logotype nicely impressed. Top of 1 equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Noticeable die cracks at final three stars. Reverse CC mintmark slightly high with letters nicely spaced, just over a letter's width between them. First C partially over space and upper serif of N below, second C centered over right upright of N below, remnants of a previously punched C plainly evident to right of existing C. Tip of arrow feather about halfway between the letters of the mintmark.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 13, 1971.*

- 731 1892 MS-62.** Bright and lustrous honey gold. A few surface marks are consistent with the grade.

Date evenly impressed. 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentils.

*From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 761.*

- 732 1893 MS-63.** Lustrous honey gold. A satiny beauty, choice for the grade.

Date nicely impressed. 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. The reverse shows die cracks.

The editor believes that \$10 gold coins of the year 1893 were made with a three-digit logotype 189, with the fourth digit added separately. There seem to be some notable differences among 1893 eagles as to the spacing of the 9 and the 3. If any readers have any specific comments we would be pleased to receive them.

*From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 751.*

### Attractive 1893-CC Eagle Final Issue from Nevada's Mint



- 733 1893-CC AU-58.** Lovely orange-gold with strong orange iridescence and much mint brilliance in the protected areas. The fields are lightly mirrored and the devices are somewhat frosty. A pleasing coin, both physically and aesthetically. Nicely struck



and free of all but a few trivial marks. From the final year of Carson City Mint coinage operations.

Date logotype impressed to medium depth. 1 marginally closer at the bottom, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. Reverse CC mintmark placed nearly identically to the position on the 1891-CC eagle variety with repunched second C. Mintmark well formed, slightly more than a letter's space between letters. First C over space before and upper left serif of the N, mainly the N, while the second C is directly over the right upright of the N. The tip of the arrow feather points to the upper serif of the first C, the second C is entirely right of the tip of the arrow feather, the feather tip virtually over the center of the space between the letters

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, October 24, 1969.*

- 734 1894-O MS-62.** Satiny honey gold with rich olive iridescence at the rims. A highly lustrous example of a popular branch mint issue, a coin that comes with a generous quotient of eye appeal. No shortage of eye appeal here, particularly where grade is concerned.

Date logotype nicely impressed. Top of 1 twice the distance from truncation as bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils. Reverse O mintmark round and shapely, fairly high, mostly over left upper serif of N below, equidistant from talon and tip of arrow, tip of feather points to side of O about one third down its curve.

*Purchased from Douglas Weaver, September 26, 1973.*

- 735 1894-S AU-55.** Lustrous honey gold. Somewhat scarce at AU or finer.

Date logotype evenly impressed. 1 noticeably repunched at base. Top of 1 marginally closer to truncation than bottom is to dentils, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Reverse S mintmark nicely formed, leaning slightly left, top of letter about equidistant between talons and tip of arrow feather, upper serif even with tip of arrow feather, S placed over space between E and N below, mainly over serif of N.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 494.*

- 736 1895-O MS-62.** Lustrous medium yellow gold with some proof-like reflectivity in the fields, particularly on the reverse. A pleasing coin for the grade.

Date logotype heavily impressed. 1 slightly more distant from truncation than dentils, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils. Reverse die also used for 1894-O eagles. Minor machine doubling present on reverse legends (close observation is needed to see it), this being caused by die "chatter."

*From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1130.*

### Proof 1896 Eagle



- 737 1896 Proof-60.** Subdued yellow gold with strong orange highlights. The fields are somewhat cloudy, but the actual physical appeal is much finer than the grade implies. From a Proof mintage for the date of 78 pieces, with perhaps half that amount known to today's collectors.

*From Harmer-Rooke's sale of December 1970, Lot 3256.*

### Choice Mint State 1897-O \$10



- 738 1897-O MS-63.** Satiny yellow gold with lovely olive highlights. A fairly plentiful date in Mint State, but MS-63 or finer specimens are quite rare. A thoroughly attractive example of the date and grade.

Date logotype heavily impressed. 1 equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils. Reverse die also used on 1894-O and 1895-O eagles.

The present sale furnishes an excellent opportunity for the specialist to begin or to fill in a set of New Orleans Mint eagles. The grades offered are much higher than typically seen.

*From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 778.*

- 739 1898 MS-63.** Highly lustrous honey gold with strong rose and olive iridescence present. A very attractive coin, one that probably could be called MS-64 without fear of contradiction.

Date logotype evenly impressed, date nicely centered horizontally and vertically, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil below. Reverse unremarkable.

*From Stack's sale of November 1973, Lot 2559.*

- 740 1899 MS-64.** A satiny and lustrous coin with attractive olive highlights. Choice for the assigned grade.

Date logotype evenly impressed. Top of 1 nearly twice the distance from truncation as bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over left side of dentil. Repunching seen in upper loop of second 9. Reverse has a faint crack that joins the tops of NITED to the eagle's wing immediately following.

*Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, May 7, 1969.*

- 741 1900 MS-63.** Lustrous honey gold. A popular date in choice Mint State.

Date logotype nicely impressed, numerals evenly centered horizontally and vertically, left edge of lower serif of 1 over left side of dentil. Faint reverse die cracks noted at the tops of NITED STATE.

*Purchased from Jack Klausen, June 17, 1968.*

- 742 1901-S MS-64, or finer.** Bright and lustrous yellow gold, somewhat prooflike on both sides. A pleasing example of this plentiful San Francisco issue—one of the finest we have seen from a combination of high numerical grade plus the all-important aesthetic appeal. A true *winner*.

Regarding this coin, Harry Bass' accompanying ticket reads: "Best Seen, Crazy Price." The "Crazy Price" was \$600. It would be interesting to see what this piece brings at the sale. Time and again, today's "Crazy Price" is tomorrow's "bargain."

Date logotype evenly impressed. First 1 slightly closer to dentils than truncation, left edge of lower serif over left side of dentil. Reverse S mintmark tall, thin, well formed, and high in the die, top of S halfway above tip of arrow feather, equidistant from talon and arrow feather, mainly over left side of N below.

*From Superior's sale of March 1973, Lot 790.*

- 743 1902-S MS-63.** Lustrous orange-gold with warm rose highlights. A pleasing coin overall.

Date logotype nicely impressed. 1 equidistant between dentils and truncation, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. Reverse S mintmark tall, thin, well formed, and relatively high in the die, top of S even with tip of arrow feather, equidistant from talon and arrow feather, mainly over space preceding and left side of N below.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, September 7, 1971.*



- 744 **1903-O MS-62.** Highly lustrous honey gold with a trace of olive iridescence. Kept from a higher grade by some field marks. A tiny toning spot is noted on Liberty's cheek. An attractive coin overall.

Date logotype nicely impressed. 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. Reverse die also used on 1894-O, 1895-O, and 1897-O eagles.

*Purchased from Se Ro Coins, May 26, 1971.*

### Choice Mint State 1904-O \$10



- 745 **1904-O MS-64.** A highly lustrous specimen of a variety which is relatively available in lower Mint State grades, but above MS-63—as offered here—it is quite scarce or even rare. Did we say plentiful? Perhaps at the lower end of the Uncirculated scale, but the date is a definite rarity in grades above MS-63.

Date logotype nicely impressed. 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Reverse die also used on certain 1894-O, 1895-O, 1897-O, and 1903-O eagles.

*From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 782.*

- 746 **1906-D MS-63.** Satiny and lustrous honey gold. From the first year of Denver Mint coinage operations.

Date logotype deeply impressed, 9 and 6 closed, bottom of 1 twice as far from dentils as top is from truncation, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. Reverse D mintmark nicely impressed, letter broad and well shaped, upright of D directly under center of right most talon, equidistant from talon and tip of arrow feather. A tiny spine protrudes from the top of the D.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, October 30, 1972.*

- 747 **1907-D MS-63.** Delightful honey gold surfaces. A bright and lustrous specimen from the final year of the design type. Choice for the grade.

Date logotype nicely impressed, numerals evenly spaced, top of 1 marginally closer to truncation than bottom is to dentils, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. Reverse die same as previous lot, D mintmark placement identical, but spine at top no longer visible.

*From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1166.*

### Lovely Mint State 1908 Indian \$10

Without Motto



- 748 **1908 No Motto. MS-64 (PCGS).** Satiny light yellow gold with a hint of toning on the reverse. Slightly weak impression at central obverse, typical for the No Motto coins. Only 33,500 examples were minted. Relatively few exist at the level offered here. While Indian eagles were not a specialty for Harry W. Bass, Jr., he did collect a few here and there—and as even a quick glance will verify, he had an eye for quality. Thus, the present piece is very special from that viewpoint. This mintage

is second lowest in the series (behind 1911-D) and fewer than 100 examples are estimated to exist in all Mint State grades.

*From Stack's sale of the Delp Collection, November 1972, Lot 841.*

- 749 **1908-D No Motto. MS-62 (PCGS).** Satiny orange-gold lustre with few minor marks. An attractive example of this scarce issue, with most known Mint State examples just meeting the requirements for MS-60 or 61. This issue becomes a rarity in higher grades.

*From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 813.*

- 750 **1910-D MS-63.** Frosty light yellow gold with a few minor surface marks. This is clearly the most plentiful branch mint Indian eagle. This is a very pleasant example, one that will be a fine addition to a type set.

*From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 823.*

- 751 **1911 MS-64.** Very close to gem quality with frosty rich yellow gold lustre and minor abrasions. This is one of the common dates in the series, a candidate for the design collector.

The edge features 46 raised stars, the last year of issue to have this edge device. Beginning in 1912, newly minted coins had 48 stars on the edge.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 16, 1972.*

- 752 **1911-S AU-55.** Very slightly pinkish gold with a few minor surface marks and very light traces of wear. Considerable lustre remains.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of October 1966, Lot 348.*

- 753 **1912-S MS-62.** Lustrous light yellow gold with a few very minor marks. A pleasing example of this scarce issue, and perhaps more sharply struck than most. A thin hairline scratch crosses Liberty's cheek.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, August 11, 1972.*

- 754 **1914-S MS-61.** Frosty light yellow gold with only a few insignificant marks. Relatively few Mint State pieces are known, and thus the present piece is very desirable.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, August 11, 1972, via the Goliad Corporation.*

### Choice Mint State 1916-S \$10



- 755 **1916-S MS-64 (PCGS).** Certainly a highlight among the present offering of Indian eagles. This example has lovely satin lustre with light yellow gold surfaces and a hint of orange toning on the reverse. The 1916-S has been highly prized as an elusive issue, with the further attraction that it is the only variety of \$10 coined this year.

*Purchased from William Mitkoff, February 28, 1973.*



# A SPECIAL PRIVATE CALIFORNIA GOLD COIN

## Extraordinary Mint State Baldwin & Co. \$10

El Vaquero; “The Horseman”

Classic Western Rarity



756 1850 Baldwin & Co. \$10 Gold. The Horseman or *Vaquero* issue—perhaps the most *picturesque* of any California gold motif. Kagin-3. Rarity-6. MS-64 (PCGS). Lovely brilliant gold surfaces, an artistic masterpiece, a joy to behold.

The obverse devices are satiny and very sharply executed with complete definition of the finest details. The surrounding fields exhibit semi-prooflike quality with a number of raised die lines visible, as made, indicating a very early impression from the dies.

The reverse is equally well defined with sharp, frosted devices and even more prooflike character in the fields than found on the obverse. Moderately heavy crisscrossing die lines are more pronounced and numerous on the reverse. Close examination reveals a few marks here and there—precisely the reason why this piece is called MS-64 instead of, for example, MS-65.

In every way, this is certainly a *special* coin. It would be interesting to know the circumstances of this coin's survival. Every once in a while a California coiner would save special pieces as collector's items or curiosities. John Glover Kellogg did this as did Augustus Humbert. Perhaps someone associated with Baldwin, or with the engraver, Albrecht Kuner, preserved this coin as a memento.

The Horseman or *Vaquero* design is widely recognized and

admired, even among beginning collectors, as it is a landmark in the design of private California gold. Typically, a Liberty Head motif was used, or one or another form of the eagle, but rarely an exciting “action” design such as this, with a vaquero on a spirited horse, left front leg high in the air—as if confronting a steer or other item to be lassoed—and his lariat in loops in the air, ready to be thrown.

A close examination of the die reveals a wealth of detail, including an ornate costume worn by the horseman, a decorated saddle, and many anatomical details ranging from musculature to fine details in the horse's tail. On the base of the ground at the left is seen in prominent letters, A. KUNER, the signature of the most famous of all California die engravers—the same artist who came to California in 1849, cut dies for Moffat & Co., went on to work with other firms as well, and even created the 1862 British Columbia gold \$10 and \$20 dies.

Although the circumstances are not recorded, it seems likely that the Horseman motif, as beautiful as it is, was not as comfortable to use in mercantile circuits as the familiar head of Miss Liberty. Perhaps a coin such as the 1850 Baldwin \$10, when received, would be scrutinized very carefully, whereas a copy of a federal Liberty Head would be passed quickly without notice. Indeed, this is probably the same reason why after 1860 Clark, Gruber & Co., the famous Denver coiners, aban-



done the interesting Pikes Peak design and reverted to a copy of the federal Liberty Head—to promote the circulation of their coins. In an earlier time, Baldwin seems to have done this—with the result that later versions of Baldwin coinage, made with the date 1851, are of the standard Liberty Head motif. Similarly, other California coiners ranging from Moffat to Kellogg to nearly everyone else created copies of the Liberty Head—not artistically innovative or even beautiful, but seemingly very utilitarian.

Today, examples of the 1850 Baldwin Horseman \$10 are extreme rarities, and it is believed that only about 15 to 20 exist in all grades. Most are in preservation considerably below the present example. Notably, the present coin eclipses in quality both the Garrett specimen and the Eliasberg specimen.

The present piece, selected for its beauty by Harry W. Bass, Jr. comes to market to delight a new generation of enthusiasts.

### The Baldwin & Co. “Situation” Or, who swindled whom?

The firm of Baldwin & Co. was founded on March 15, 1850, as the successor to Frederick D. Kohler & Co., California state assayer. In his time Kohler was widely respected, and there was nothing to indicate that his successors would not follow suit. However, Baldwin seems to have lacked friends in influential places, namely in the editorial offices of San Francisco newspapers. We mention this in view of what we relate below. Today, an objective analysis of l'affaire Baldwin would no doubt lead to different conclusions.

George C. Baldwin and Thomas S. Holman advertised Baldwin & Co. as assayers, refiners, and coiners who also did “all kinds of engraving.” The boast, “our coin redeemable on presentation,” was made. It seems that to encourage their coins to circulate they did as others had done and would do in the future: anyone with coins of their imprint who felt uncertain about them had but to present them to the firm and they would be exchanged at par for other gold coins of the holder's preference.

Early in 1851 private coinage was conducted at a furious pace in San Francisco. The best known of all firms—Moffat & Co.—was busy implementing its new federal contract with Augustus Humbert as its assayer and was producing only \$50 pieces after January. Thus, certain lesser known private firms had a field day making smaller denominations such as \$5, \$10, and, to a lesser extent, \$20. The coinage of Baldwin was quite extensive and was second only to that of the United States Assay Office. From January 1 to March 31, 1851, it outranked the Assay Office by producing \$590,000 worth of coins as compared to efforts totaling \$530,000 by the latter firm. Obviously, the Baldwin coins were held in high esteem.

Then this:

On March 21, 1851, a prominent local banker who styled himself as James King of William (to differentiate himself from other James Kings) sent samples of private gold coins to Augustus Humbert, official U.S. assayer in residence at the competing firm of Moffat & Co. Transmitted were the following coins: Baldwin & Co. \$20, 13 coins; \$10, 10 coins; \$5, 28 coins; Schultz & Co. \$5, 45 coins; Dubosq \$10, 7 coins; and \$5, 3 coins.

It was found that the \$20 pieces averaged an intrinsic value of \$19.40, the \$10 pieces averaged \$9.74, and the \$5 pieces were valued at \$4.91. This seemingly unreasonable profit on the part of the coiners caused much public indignation, and from that point forward Baldwin coins were rejected by merchants. Of course, Humbert, being in the employ of a competitor, was hardly impartial. Moreover, federal gold coins minted at Philadelphia had a lower intrinsic value, significantly, than did the Baldwin pieces!

The *Alta California* editorially noted that the holders of Baldwin \$20 gold pieces would lose 60 cents on each coin, and that the best value was received by owners of Dubosq pieces who would lose only seven cents on each \$10 transaction. The result of this editorial discussion was that banking houses immediately refused to handle any coins at face value with the exception of those made by Moffat & Co. It is believed that upon disclosure of Humbert's findings and the trial by journalism the firm ceased coinage immediately. Later the coins changed hands at a 20% discount, a figure significantly less than their metallic value, thus enriching James King of William, Moffat & Co., and others who shared the spoils.

On April 9, 1851, the *Pacific News* had the following commentary:

“THE GOLD COIN SWINDLE. It is perhaps a matter of no especial wonder that the community feels outraged because of the fact that nearly all of the gold coin put in circulation by the private manufacturing establishments is short of weight. A citizen last evening went to Baldwin's establishment, and, presenting two of their own \$20 gold pieces, asked their redemption in silver. These were taken, and \$38 returned.

“This is about as cool and direct a piece of shaving as has come under our eye, touching the short-weight gold coin swindle. Why should the community suffer this to go on longer? Why not refuse every dollar of Baldwin's coin as well as that of every other that is not of full value and redeemed on demand? A bank bill is worth no more than the bare paper upon which its pretty picture is printed, except from the fact that securities are pledged for its redemption. So also with Baldwin's coin. It is worth no more than the actual value of the gold when compared with the Government standard....”

The end of the enterprise was chronicled by the *Pacific News* on April 17, 1851:

“We hear a story, which is pretty well authenticated, that Messrs. Baldwin & Bagley, the manufacturers of ‘Baldwin's coin,’ left in the steamer *Panama* on Tuesday for the Atlantic states. This is, of course, what might have been anticipated as the finale of so magnificent a financial operation as the coinage of one or two million of circulating medium upon which they have pocketed a profit from 10% to 15%, less the expense of manufacturing the stuff. Unable longer to impose their false tokens upon the community, an outraged public will now pocket the loss and congratulate themselves that the swindle has been exposed even this early.

“The amount of this coin in circulation is not less than \$1,000,000, and is probably nearer to two. But suppose that the smaller sum be correct, the profit to the manufacturers is \$100,000. Whose swindling false token establishment is next to be chronicled amongst the ‘departures for Panama?’”

In addition to Humbert's assay, a Baldwin \$10 piece of 1850 evaluated at the Philadelphia was found to have an intrinsic value of \$9.96, which was not much different from a \$10 of the highly acclaimed Moffat & Co. which was assayed at \$9.97. A group of 100 Baldwin \$20 pieces of 1851, assayed at the same institution, were found to have an average value of \$19.33.

Meanwhile, San Francisco bankers continued to buy Baldwin coins at 80% of face value. For a \$20 piece this meant paying \$16 for a coin that had \$19.33 or more worth of gold, a handsome profit and one that far exceeded any return that could be made in the normal assaying, refining, and coining business.

Seemingly, Baldwin & Co. was used a vehicle for other firms to swindle the public!

Returning to present-day numismatics, all of this “bad press” resulted in nearly all Baldwin coins being melted. Today, any Baldwin coin is a prime rarity.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, August 1984; Earlier from RARCOA's session of Auction '84, July 1984, Lot 1996.*



# DOUBLE EAGLES

## The Bass Collection Double Eagles

Welcome to the double eagle section of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection Part III. The preceding sale emphasized Proofs, with some business strikes. Now, circulation strikes come to the fore—pieces which in many instances are even rarer than Proofs. Harry Bass' penchant for quality is evident beginning with the first lot, a stunningly beautiful Mint State example of the first year of issue, 1850. Simply to state that this is the finest piece graded by PCGS, and that it is the only example at its grade level, gives an indication of the coin's incredible importance.

Then follow other double eagles from the Philadelphia Mint, to which are added branch mint varieties as they occur. Among these, the famous and rare 1854-O stands proud as the finest graded by PCGS, and the only one in its category.

*Amazing* is one of several adjectives used to describe the 1857-O double eagle, the only Mint State coin certified by PCGS, a classic that traces its pedigree to the N.M. Kaufman Collection, where it was a centerpiece. Such terms as "finest certified" and "finest known" abound in the descriptions to follow. While the offering of Coronet Head double eagles will entice and delight you, toward the end of the offering a group of outstanding Saint-Gaudens pieces are of great importance as well. All told, the present catalogue will be forever remembered in the annals of America's largest gold denomination.

## Coinage of Double Eagles

In connection with the offering we give a numismatic and historical sketch of the series:

The \$20 gold double eagle was authorized by the Act of March 2, 1849, which also saw the creation of the gold dollar. Scarcely a few months later the first official shipment of gold bullion from the new discoveries in California reached the Mint, and by March the entire nation knew that a golden bonanza had been discovered. Thousands of fortune seekers had already departed for the American West, by ship to the south, and by land across the continent to Missouri, where wagon trains awaited the arrival of spring to continue the trek toward the Pacific.

Anticipating the arrival of unprecedented quantities of gold bullion, officials of the Treasury Department realized that the \$20 piece would facilitate the conversion of metal into coins. It was more efficient to strike a single \$20 piece than two \$10 pieces, or an even larger number of \$5, \$2.50, or \$1 coins. As the largest gold denomination at this point was known as the eagle, it was logical to call the new issue the *double* eagle.

From the outset the new double eagle was popular, and large quantities were coined at Philadelphia, plus substantial mintages in New Orleans. Gold from California was taken to New Orleans by ship, with even larger quantities sent to New York City. From New York, the gold was taken overland to Philadelphia. So much gold arrived in New York that the legislators proposed in Congress that a mint be set up there, and discontinued in Philadelphia. This was not done, but in 1854 the New York Assay Office was instituted, and thence forth served as a refinery and depository for incoming gold.

In the spring of 1854 the San Francisco Mint became a reality,

and double eagles quickly became the most popular denomination produced there. Afterward, quantities struck in New Orleans dropped sharply, creating numismatic rarities—although no one cared at the time. (The mints at Charlotte and Dahlonega did not have sufficiently heavy equipment to strike double eagles, and none were ever made at those locations.)

Double eagles continued to be made in large quantities throughout the 1850s. In December 1861, by which time the Civil War had been raging for months, and the outcome was uncertain, the public became apprehensive, and gold coins began to be hoarded. Toward the end of the month banks and the Treasury stopped paying out pieces at par. Thereafter, gold was obtainable only by paying a premium. The war resulted in the closure of the New Orleans Mint, which had fallen into the hands of the Confederacy. After 1861, coins were made only at Philadelphia and San Francisco.

As has been related earlier in the present catalogue, monetary conditions were tumultuous during the war. In the East, silver and gold coins completely disappeared, and, eventually, copper-nickel Indian cents were no longer to be seen. Their place was taken by a vast flood of paper money ranging from large denomination Legal Tender and other federal notes, to Fractional Currency in denominations from 3¢ to 50¢, plus an array of private substitutes such as copper tokens, encased postage stamps, and paper scrip.

Double eagles continued to be struck at the Philadelphia Mint, but primarily to the order of depositors of gold metal who desired such coins in exchange for the deposits. In addition, pieces were struck per the order of the federal government. Such coins were used in international commerce and also in trade with the American West. It was many years until double eagles and other gold coins were available at par from banks in the East and Midwest. Not until December 17, 1878, were gold coins, silver coins, and paper money all exchangeable at the same rate.

In the meantime, on the West Coast gold coins were dominant, with double eagles being the most important denomination. Such pieces were used extensively in banking and commerce, while paper money, when received at all, was accepted only at a deep discount. At one time, federal legal tender notes were worth only about 40 cents on the dollar in terms of gold!

Because of the circulation of gold in the West, double eagles and other coins struck at San Francisco tended to wear down quickly, whereas their counterparts made in Philadelphia tended to remain in storage and acquire less wear (unless they were shipped to the West and entered commerce along with their San Francisco cousins). Today, this is reflected by the higher average grade of Philadelphia coins.

In 1870 the Carson City Mint opened, to coin metal from the Comstock Lode. Double eagles were produced intermittently from that year through 1893, usually in fairly small quantities. In 1879 a small number of double eagles were struck at the New Orleans Mint, which reopened for coinage that year. However, the production proved ephemeral, and no others were ever made. In 1906 the Denver Mint struck double eagles for the first time.

## Design Notes

Double eagles were first made in pattern form in 1849, and for circulation beginning in 1850. The design was by James B. Longacre, who had come to the Mint in 1844, succeeding Christian Gobrecht



as chief engraver. The Liberty Head or Coronet Head motif was employed, essentially the same portrait as used on the gold dollar. The reverse depicted an eagle, shield, surrounding ornaments, and appropriate lettering.

In 1866 the reverse was modified in several ways. The sides of the shield were changed from straight to rounded, and the motto IN GOD WE TRUST was added. In 1877 another change made, and the denomination, which earlier had appeared as TWENTY D., was expanded to read TWENTY DOLLARS.

In 1907 a dramatic change took place when noted sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens utilized the goddess on the *Sherman Victory* monument to create a new motif—of Miss Liberty striding forward, holding a palm branch. The reverse depicted an eagle in flight, conceptually adapted from the 1857 Flying Eagle cent, which the artist said was his favorite historical emblem in American coinage. With modifications, the Saint-Gaudens double eagles were produced through 1933. Along the way a number of rarities were created.

### Numismatic Considerations

When double eagles were first minted for circulation in 1850, they were viewed as strictly a utilitarian product. Numismatics in America was in its infancy, and did not become widely popular until later in the decade, when the copper cent disappeared from circulation beginning in 1857. All of a sudden a grass roots interest developed, and a scramble ensued to put together sets of cents from 1793 onward, as well as certain other denominations. Regarding gold coins, collecting interest seems to have centered nearly entirely on the early issues, namely the quarter eagles of 1796-1834, the half eagles of 1795-1834, and the eagles of 1795-1804. Little interest was evinced in anything else.

As time went on, later gold coins became popular, but primarily the gold dollar and \$3 series. Years later in 1893, in his treatise titled *Mint Marks*, Augustus G. Heaton stated that he was not aware of a single collector anywhere in America who desired large denomination gold coins by mintmark varieties! As incredible as it may seem today, no one knew about or desired to own such rarities as early New Orleans double eagles, or scarce issues from San Francisco. Minor exceptions were provided by Proof coins, which had been issued continually since the late 1850s. A handful of collectors desired full gold sets, which by necessity included the double eagle. Otherwise, the writer has learned of no early interest in collecting double eagles on their own as a specialized denomination.

Fast forward to 1909, when Edgar H. Adams, America's leading researcher of the era, published a premium list of United States gold coins, giving their values. He did not bother to itemize Coronet Head double eagles, as there was no interest in them! A stirring of interest took place in the early 1930s, when the federal government announced that gold coins would no longer be minted, and existing pieces would be withdrawn from circulation. Many numismatists all of a sudden turned their attention to double eagles, and collectors such as F.C.C. Boyd, Floyd Starr, and Louis E. Eliasberg—to name just three—set about acquiring different dates and mintmarks. Before that time interest was truly sparse, and the number of specialists could probably be counted

on the fingers of one hand (John H. Clapp, Virgil M. Brand, and Waldo C. Newcomer come to mind).

By the late 1930s, double eagles were quite popular, and auctions held by J.C. Morgenthau and Company (catalogued by Wayte Raymond and James G. Macallister), Barney Bluestone, Thomas L. Elder, Stack's, and a few others, typically included examples, sometimes with comments pointing out the elusive nature of Carson City or other issues. By this time, double eagles were available only where they could be found here and there—in the hands of citizens who had saved them as souvenirs, and occasionally in bank deposits of gold turned in by the public. Gone were the days when New Orleans, Carson City, and other issues could be obtained in high grades. Typical states of preservation were often Fine, VF, or EF. Even the most important "name" collections were apt to have this quality. For many if not most early issues, particularly from the 1850s through the 1870s, Mint State pieces were available only rarely, or not at all.

During World War II 1941-1945, when cash was common and things to buy were scarce, a great investment interest developed in gold coins, with double eagles garnering much of the limelight. Prices rose, and in addition to pieces being hoarded for their value, many specialists set about building date and mintmark collections. By 1946, scarce and rare double eagles were in exceedingly strong demand, and many varieties brought record prices.

Years later, in the 1950s, it was widely learned that certain overseas banks, particularly those in Switzerland, had large quantities of American double eagles that had been sent overseas decades earlier for international payments. These reserves were tapped, and many interesting, scarce, and rare coins came to light, in essence building a generous supply of the denomination, particularly for dates after about 1880. Just as a generous supply of Morgan silver dollars propelled that series into an all-time numismatic favorite, the wide availability of double eagles increased demand further, with the result that even today, dozens of different dates and mintmarks can be acquired for nominal prices in relation to their bullion value.

At the same time, studies were made of the rarity and availability of certain issues, with such authors as Walter Breen and David W. Akers publishing much information not readily available earlier in a single source. Today in the year 2000, the double eagle series has come of age. The rarities are recognized, values have been established, and a wide circle of collectors assures that any notable offering—such as the Bass coins in the present catalogue—will meet with a very warm reception.

While rarity estimates and valuations can be obtained from many different places, there are still some uncharted areas, particularly in the realm of date logotype variations, repunchings, die states, etc. These aspects fascinated Harry Bass, and during his collecting career he made many notes of things that caught his eye. On the pages to follow, the coins catalogued by Mark Borckardt and edited by QDB, are often described with peculiarities and features that do not necessarily lend significant value to the specimens, but certainly add the quintessential aspect of *interest*.

Much more could be said about double eagles, their mintages and the collecting of them but the preceding remarks cover some of the high spots. Now, enjoy the *opportunities* in the pages to follow.



## Choice Mint State 1850 \$20

Finest Graded By PCGS

First Year of Issue



(2x photo)

**757 1850 MS-64 (PCGS).** Brilliant and frosty with prooflike surfaces. A few marks away from a higher grade—a point that is *irrelevant*, as this stands tall as the finest ever graded by PCGS and, in fact, the only specimen ever graded by PCGS at this level!

In 1850 not a single numismatist is known to have noticed the new denomination, or to have saved a specimen. In our review of early data, no record has been located of even one coin being preserved for posterity! Accordingly, the mintage went into circulation, where pieces became worn, often extensively so. By the time that numismatic interest did develop—over three quarters of a century later—the average 1850 was apt to be in VF or EF grade.

Today this 1850 is of simply incredible importance, representing as it does the first year of issue, a showpiece that will highlight any specialized collection of double eagles as well as any type set of gold. Once sold, it is likely that no amount of money could secure a duplicate.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

There are at least two obverse die styles among 1850 double eagles, of which this is believed to be the earliest. The fields are *plane*, not basined in the area between the stars and the portrait. The reverse configuration is similar. These differences have been virtually ignored in the literature, and are now being studied. A related situation occurs among 1849 gold dollars of the early style.

The date logotype is well centered, top of 1 marginally closer to truncation than dentils, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils. Ball of 5 barely touching upright, Breen's "closed 5" (although this simply refers to the depth at which the four-digit logotype was impressed into the working die; the same date logotype was used to make *all* 1850 double eagle dies from both mints, so far as is known). Numerous die striae are seen in the obverse and reverse field, indicating that this is a very early impression from this early die format. Most possibly, this coin was one of the very first of the denomination struck.

On the reverse the crossbar of the A (STATES) is normal. Die crack starts at the rim just left of the first T in (TWENTY) and extends through the tops of UNITED STATES OF AMER. Another starts at the same area and runs to the right through the first T in (TWENTY) and a little more than midway to the W. Yet another starts at the foot of E just past the N. Most probably, this is among the first struck—although not the very earliest, as the reverse die state indicates.

*From New Netherlands' sale of April 1972, Lot 967.*

## Marvelous Mint State 1850 \$20

Another Classic



**758 1850 MS-60.** Lustrous honey gold with pleasing prooflike surfaces. Another Mint State 1850 double eagle, a marvelous coin in its own right—a piece which is certainly among the finer examples we have ever had at auction.

The date logotype is significantly lower than on the preceding, with the bottom of the 1 much closer to the dentil than to the neck truncation, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Ball of 5 barely touching upright, Breen's "closed 5." Die unfinished at front of Liberty's neck, also a die line is visible below the hair wave on neck which runs to a point even with the center of the lowest curl on the neck. The reverse is from the identical die used to strike Lot 758, but in a slightly earlier state. Both obverse and reverse dies are of the early *plane* field style.

*Purchased from Abe Kosoff, July 23, 1973.*

**759 1850 EF-40.** Lustrous yellow gold with superb brightness in the protected areas. Some prooflike surface can be seen when the coin is held at an angle to the light.

Date logotype well centered, thin numerals, top of 1 equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil, 5 open. On the reverse the crossbar of A (STATES) is clumsily patched; the crossbar seems to be patched to one degree or another on just about all double eagles of this era, but often it is better done than on the present piece (however, from a numismatic viewpoint the more rustic the better!).

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, July 9, 1968.*



**760 1850 VF-30.** Warm honey gold. Some lustre still remains. About the grade that one expects when encountering an 1850 double eagle. There are enough specimens in existence at the VF-30 level that the present piece is affordable for just about anyone interested in gold coins.

Date logotype well centered, thin numerals, 1 marginally closer to dentils than truncation, left edge of serif over left side of dentil, 5 open. Crossbar of A (STATES) just beginning to fail. Faint die crack connects the tops of MERICA.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, July 9, 1968.*

**761 1850 VF-30.** Much lustre remains on yellow gold surfaces. Reverse scratches in and around the eagle are mostly hidden except upon close inspection.

Date logotype well centered, thin numerals, base of 1 closer to dentils than top is to truncation, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil, 5 open. Crossbar of A (STATES) normal. Faint die cracks at tops of UN and MERI.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2326.*

### Attractive 1850-O \$20

#### Condition Census

#### Rare So Fine



**762 1850-O AU-55 (PCGS).** An attractive example of the first New Orleans issue of the new denomination. Lustrous yellow gold surfaces. Among the finest examples of the date graded by PCGS; none have been certified in Mint State by that organization! Light vertical planchet lamination from the rim at the ninth star to the bun.

In the early 1850s the New Orleans Mint received much gold from California, typically by steamer connecting at Panama. Mintages tended to be generous, but none were specifically saved in higher grades. Today the average 1850-O is apt to be in VF preservation. Even the most important "name" collections did not include a coin even close in quality to the piece offered here.

PCGS Population: 8; 2 finer (AU-58).

Date logotype lightly impressed in the die, from relapping at the New Orleans Mint; also creating some "field" surface within the hair details. Bottom of 1 marginally closer to dentils than top is to truncation, left edge of lower serif just past left side of dentil below, 5 open (as is the case on logotypes that are either lightly punched or dies that have been relapped; whether the digit is open or closed has nothing to do with the logotype itself, which is the same on all 1850 double eagles). Mintmark lightly impressed and centered between N (TWENTY) and eagle's tail feathers, closer to feathers than to N. Diagonal die lines and patches of roughness in the vertical shield stripes.

*From Stack's sale of the 85th Annual ANA Convention, August 1976, Lot 3159.*

**763 1850-O EF-40.** Lustrous yellow gold with some prooflike reflectivity in the protected areas.

Date logotype lightly impressed in the die, bases of numerals thin and tenuous, 1 about equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. From the same reverse die as the previous lot, but now polished to remove some of the die roughness in the reverse shield. Also, a curious group of raised wavy lines can be seen at S OF AM. The lines are unlike any portion of the design, do not seem to be clash marks, do not seem to be die breaks, and for the moment are of mysterious origin (ideas will be welcomed).

### Satiny Mint State 1851 \$20

#### Condition Census



**764 1851 MS-63 (PCGS).** Lovely honey gold with a trace of pale rose iridescence. Beautiful satiny lustre is present on both sides. The present coin is easily one of the finest examples of the date we have seen. Finer than the three Mint State specimens we sold in Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, October 1999. A truly delightful coin.

PCGS Population: 8; 2 finer (MS-64).

Wide Date logotype lightly impressed, one of at least two different four-digit logotypes used this year, and apparently the scarcer. First 1 twice the distance from truncation as from dentils, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil, 5 open. A die crack at the rim below the point of the bust connects the bottoms of the date numerals; another starts between the 5 and 1 and continues to the rim. Yet another die crack starts at the 11th star and continues just past the 13th star. Crossbar of A (STATES) on reverse patched.

*From Stack's sale of the 85th Annual ANA Convention, August 1976, Lot 3161.*

**765 1851 AU-58.** A lovely coin with lustrous surfaces. A very attractive example of an issue which can be rated as extremely scarce at this grade level.

Compact date logotype with numerals closer together than previously, and also more heavily impressed into the working die. This seems to be the usual logotype for the year and is known on Philadelphia as well as New Orleans dies. First 1 about equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over right side of dentil. Reverse with patched crossbar on A (STATES); we will discontinue mentioning this patching, as it exists on most of the double eagles of this era, in varying degrees of finesse.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 18, 1972.*

**766 1851 AU-50.** Bright honey gold. Much mint lustre still remains.

Compact Date. First 1 marginally closer to dentils than truncation, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil, knob of 5 nearly touches upright. Center portion of crossbar of the A (STATES) is missing; the left side is thin, the right side is of normal thickness. A die crack starting at the rim between A and M (AMERICA) links the tops of MERIC, then juts back to the rim.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, March 25, 1970.*



### Brilliant 1851-O \$20



- 767 **1851-O AU-58 (PCGS).** Brilliant and lustrous. A thoroughly pleasing example of a fairly plentiful issue.

PCGS Population: 7; 6 finer (MS-62 finest).

*Compact Date.* Logotype centered, top of 1 slightly more distant from truncation than bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils. Raised rust marks are seen on Miss Liberty's neck and on her coronet. The O mintmark is high, just below the eagle's tail feathers, much closer to the feathers than the N below, centered mostly over the left side of the N. Many of the letters in the peripheral legend are rough and unfinished within.

Under magnification the reverse die is a fascinating study. The interior of many of the letters is rather rough and mattelike, and we can only imagine that the die sustained rust, which was removed by resurfacing, except for certain interior areas.

*Purchased from John Smies, April 16, 1967.*

### Attractive Mint State 1852 \$20

#### Condition Census



- 768 **1852 MS-63 (PCGS).** Sharply struck and very attractive with lustrous, frosty surfaces. A desirable coin, one of the finest examples of the date to ever come under our view. Early Liberty double eagles are few and far between when high quality and equally high eye appeal are concerned.

PCGS Population 4; 3 finer (MS-64 finest).

Date logotype deeply impressed, top of 1 three times the distance from truncation as bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. A new style 5 makes its debut on this date logotype, the appearance being somewhat clumsy, with the point of the upright extending well left and partly down the side of the ball of the 5, sheltering the ball within its curve. Additionally, the flag at the top of the numeral is deeply curved on its upper side, matching the curve of the lower side, and its left side is flat where it meets the top of the upright. Die crack beginning at rim after the third star connecting the fourth and fifth stars. Another starts at the rim above the seventh star, goes through the eighth and tip of ninth, then to rim. A die crack starts at the rim above M (AMERICA), connecting the tip of M to the tops of ERIC. Light die clash marks around eagle.

*Purchased from Bob Roth, August 13, 1971.*

- 769 **1852 Doubled Date. EF-45.** Lustrous and attractive. A pleasing example of a scarce and popular variety.

Breen-7152. "Obvious double date. Scarce." Heavy italic 5 as in previous lot. On the obverse, the date numerals were given one blow of the four-digit logotype, then another, with the second blow being about 5% below the first. The result is a sharply doubled date, more so at the tops of the numerals and toward the end of the string of numerals, indicating a slight rotation of the logotype between blows. A die crack connects the bases of the date numerals. Crossbar in A (STATES) weak on left side.

*From Stack's sale of the Copeland Collection, April 1967, Lot 1780.*

- 770 **1852 EF-45.** Lustre remaining in the protected areas.

Date logotype lightly impressed, distinct italic 5 thin, top of 1 twice as far from truncation as bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. Die clash at Liberty's ear reveals shield stripes from the reverse (revealing that this is a low area of relief, although it is sufficiently within the portrait that the elevation cannot be easily determined otherwise). Crossbar of A (STATES) crudely patched.

*Purchased from Ed Shapiro, September 20, 1967.*

### Superb 1852-O \$20

#### Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



- 771 **1852-O MS-62 (PCGS).** 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 a very high aesthetic appeal.

PCGS Population: 4, none finer.

Date logotype moderately impressed. 1 equidistant between truncation and dentils. All stars are sharp with six points per star; many dies in use in the double eagle series prior to this date have inner points that are severely elongated and rounded, resembling teardrops more than star points. Crossbar of A (STATES) normal. O mintmark tall and thin, significantly closer to feathers above than to N below, left side of O over left upright of N. Many of the peripheral letters are rough and unfinished inside; the bottoms of ED in UNITED are joined by roughness.

*Purchased from Paramount, July 16, 1976.*



## Satiny 1853 Blundered Date \$20



- 772 **1853 Blundered Date. MS-62 (PCGS).** Warm orange-gold surfaces show satiny lustre.

PCGS Population: 7; 1 finer (MS-63). These numbers are for “normal” date examples, with no notation as to “blundered” dates.

Breen-7161. “Blundered date. Rare. Base of another 3 between 53, a little above bases. Base of extra 1 below and left of 1. Evidently began [by entering the date logotype] as a double date, first slanting up to right, then mostly effaced and corrected.” 5 in date less italic, tip of upright touches top of ball of 5, several inner star points elongated and teardrop-like. Crossbar of A (STATES) weak at left side; the broken A was patched by hand on various working dies, and the patches ranged from virtually perfect (and thus not mentioned in the text) to rather crude, with degrees in between.

*Purchased from Paramount, February 2, 1974.*

- 773 **1853 AU-58.** Brilliant and lustrous with plenty of eye appeal for the assigned grade.

Date logotype deeply impressed, 1 equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil, italic 5 closed, triangular artifact in top loop of 8. Several raised horizontal die lines run from the bottom of the 1 to the first two stars. The I in LIBERTY is apparently from a broken L punch; this is seen on the coronet of nearly all double eagles examined to this point, but it is especially obvious on the present coin. Left side of crossbar of A (STATES) missing—someone forgot to patch it!

*From Stack’s sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 715.*

- 774 **1853 Net AU-50;** sharpness of MS-63, five tiny vertical punch marks follow the edge of Liberty’s throat. Lustrous with a touch of reddish toning at Liberty’s bun. A lovely coin except for the series of little punch marks—which may have been some privy marks or secret notations—certainly not accidental—perhaps identification marks in a security check, or something else—imagination can run wild!

Date logotype moderately impressed, 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Crossbar of A (STATES) very weak on left, faint die crack connects the tops of MERI.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, September 17, 1971.*

- 775 **1853-O EF-45.** Attractive honey gold with some lustre still remaining. Scarcer than its mintage of 71,000 pieces indicates.

Date logotype evenly impressed, 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, 5 closed (recall that the closing of the 5 simply refers to the depth of impression of the four-digit logotype in the working die and does not constitute a separate variety). Crossbar of A (STATES) missing at left. O mintmark tall and thin, significantly closer to feathers above than to N below, left side of O over left upright of N.

*From Lester Merkin’s sale of June 1970, Lot 465.*

- 776 **1853-O VF-35.** Some lustre remaining with reddish highlights on the high points.

From the same dies as the preceding lot.

*Purchased from Paramount April 30, 1967.*

## Impressive Mint State 1854 Small Date \$20

### High Condition Census



- 777 **1854 Small Date, Repunched Date. MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with strong brilliance in the protected areas. “In Mint State, the date is definitely rare,” wrote David Akers, this despite its sizeable mintage figure of 757,899 business strikes. We would have to agree. The present specimen is one of the finest examples of the date graded by PCGS. Moreover, in Mint State the 1854 Philadelphia double eagle is significantly rarer than the San Francisco version, as examples of the latter were recovered in quantity, possibly as many as a couple hundred or so pieces, from the wreck of the *S.S. Yankee Blade*.

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

Possibly Breen-7167, but if so, it is misdescribed by Breen. A more accurate description would be that the four-digit logotype was first entered at an angle, the left side being slightly low and the right side of the date being slightly high (being rather than “first punch too high” overall), then corrected; otherwise, the digits match what Breen has to say. Further, on the present piece the left side of the crossbar of A (STATES) is missing, whereas on the specimen Breen saw the letter was unbroken.

“Repunched small date, normal A. Date first punched too high, then corrected. Tops of 1 and 54 obviously double, 8 normal; 54 about touch.”

The nomenclature for this year would be better stated as *Medium Date* (as offered here and in the next lot), and *Large Date* (as is presently used, see Lot 779).

*Purchased from Paramount, February 28, 1974.*

- 778 **1854 Small Date. VF-30.** Attractive honey gold. Some mint lustre still remains in the protected areas.

Date lightly impressed, numerals high in die, bottom of 1 three times the distance from dentils as top is from truncation, top close to truncation; a small scoop has been removed to allow the top to fit—possibly, separately, or possibly from a flange or part of the four-digit date logotype which simply impacted on that area (the latter being the general thought of John Dannreuther, with whom this situation, seen on many different gold coins, has been discussed). Left edge of lower serif over left side of dentil. Crossbar of A (STATES) now just a tiny nub on the right inside of that letter.

*From Superior’s sale of February 1973, Lot 853.*

- 779 **1854 Large Date. AU-50.** Attractive honey gold. Lustrous with a small copper spot at the date.

Date logotype lightly impressed, numerals tall and thin. Top of 1 nearly touches truncation, bottom four times the distance from dentils, left edge of lower serif over right side of dentil. Noticeable raised dot on Liberty’s neck above the 8 in date, no doubt caused by die rust. A tiny raised horizontal dash is noted in the field above the 4. Crossbar of A (STATES) patched and finely repaired at left side. Light die clash marks noted on both sides.

*Purchased from Lester Merkin, June 15, 1967.*



## Important 1854-O \$20 Rarity

Finest Graded By PCGS



**780 1854-O Small Date. AU-55 (PCGS).** Delightful yellow gold surfaces display plenty of mirror brilliance and strong lustre. A superb specimen. Sharply struck with raised die lines at TY of LIBERTY, characteristic of all genuine examples of the date. From a scant mintage of just 3,250 pieces.

“The 1854-O has long been regarded as a great rarity within the Liberty Head double eagle type. It trails only the 1856-O double eagle as the rarest gold coin ever struck at this mint,” proclaims Douglas Winter’s reference. This is one of the key dates in the Liberty double eagle series, with just a handful of specimens known today.

*Insight:* It seems to us that the 1854-O may be the *rarest*, not the second rarest—more information is being gathered in connection with the gold coin research project, but this seems to be the case. In any event, whether or not this proves to be true, *in higher grades* the 1854-O is *most assuredly* rarer than the 1856-O.

All things said, all things considered, all things contemplated, this is a truly fantastic coin, a double eagle for the ages—a specimen of incredible importance, incredible quality that will be the highlight of the collection of its next owner. In summation, *this is the finest known example of the rarest New Orleans coin.*

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Date logotype evenly impressed, numerals nicely spaced although 54 nearly touch, 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. Raised die lines around Y of LIBERTY, other

fairly heavy lines protrude horizontally from Liberty’s hair across her ear. A tiny circular die lump is noted at the center of Liberty’s neck near the largest curl. Reverse O mintmark tall and shapely, well centered between the eagle’s tail feathers and the N below, over the center of that letter. Around the periphery, there are matte or somewhat unfinished surfaces within a number of the letters, such serving to hallmark this particular die. For reference—as it is not often that one has a chance to examine the finest known specimen of any rarity—we give some notes herewith, stating that unfinished areas are especially prominent as follows: central part of E, and connection to D (UNITED); bottom and part of top of first S (STATES), complete interior of A, complete interior of E, and complete interior of second S; interior of F (OF); complete interiors of both A’s (AMERICA), interior of E, nearly complete interior of R; upper interior of W (TWENTY), interior of E, top interior of Y. These are artifacts of the *master die*, as other working dies show the same characteristics in varying degrees. For example, Lot 771 in the present sale has the *majority* of these characteristics, but not as prominent. That Lot 771 is from a different die is evident by the position of the mintmark [which on Lot 771 is more distant from the upper right of the N (TWENTY) than on the 1854-O]. It is known that dies were sent unfinished from the Philadelphia Mint to the branch mints. At New Orleans and elsewhere, dies for different denominations were then dressed and finished, typically removing some of the rough surfaces such as described for the 1854-O. On the present die, only a minimum amount of finishing was done, and thus the impression from the master die is virtually as made in Philadelphia—a very interesting situation when studied in detail.

If the successful bidder on this coin would like to have a copy of our draft printout on research involving the 1854-O, we expect that it will be largely gathered together by the time that the present sale takes place—and we would be happy to share it in confidence.

*From Superior’s sale of February 1973, Lot 854.*



## Popular 1854-S Double Eagle

Lovely Mint State



- 781 **1854-S Small Date. MS-61 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with a trace of pale rose iridescence. A scarce date, especially so in Mint State. A hoard of Mint State examples of the 1854-S came to light in 1977, all of which had “seawater” etching on the surfaces (although the grading services have ignored this for the most part, and one cannot tell this at all by looking at reports from the grading services). Such coins are, of course, highly desirable as souvenirs from a particular treasure ship, in that instance believed to be the *S.S. Yankee Blade*. Unlike some treasure ship coins, those on the *Yankee Blade* seem to have been subjected to shifting sands which caused etching (in contrast, double eagles retrieved from the wrecks of the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* and *S.S. Central America* were in most instances absolutely pristine—without etching—once sediment was removed). In any event, the presently offered coin, an 1854-S without etching, is quite rare, and, in fact, is one of the very finest known. The surfaces are very attractive and satiny, yielding a classic example from the first year of San Francisco coinage—a numismatic prize.

Date logotype evenly impressed. 1 equidistant between truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils. Several tiny raised lumps are present on and around Liberty’s neck. Crossbar of A (STATES) missing on left side, top of E (AMERICA) is broken. The S mintmark is large and shapely, high in the die, the top embedded in the tail feathers above.

Although extensive die preparation comments are beyond the scope of the present catalogue, to continue for a moment the commentary under Lot 780, we note that at San Francisco the working dies were very nicely finished, with the result that artifacts from the master die were nearly always removed. The typical San Francisco Mint coin is fully on a par, die perfection wise, with those from Philadelphia. In contrast, die finishing at the Charlotte and Dahlonega mints was casual at best, sometimes actually incompetent (which, of course, yields some *mighty interesting* coins for numismatists to collect!), and at New Orleans finishing ranged from excellent to casual. Many such differences, which tend to vary from mint to mint and also from year to year, will be discussed in the forthcoming volumes on gold coins now being prepared.

From *Stack’s sale of the 85th Annual ANA Convention, August 1976, Lot 3175.*

## Lustrous 1855 Double Eagle

High Condition Census



- 782 **1855 MS-61 (PCGS).** Fully brilliant yellow gold lustre with sharp design details. Some surface marks and a tiny scratch are mentioned, and are consistent for the grade—otherwise might

it have been called MS-63? The coin stands as one of the very finest known to exist.

Although mintage of the 1855 Philadelphia Mint double eagle amounted to 364,666 examples, no instance has been traced of even a single piece being retained by a private numismatist! Such pieces were struck, and then passed into the channels of commerce. Today so few exist that a period of *years* will elapse between offerings. Again we mention that the word *opportunity* in connection with the Bass Collection is more important than the price paid—at least this being the opinion of the editor (QDB). Once a coin such as this is sold, the chances of obtaining an equal are iffy at best—the wait may be long, and, in fact, may never end. The time to buy is when something is available. Money can always be obtained, coins like this can be obtained in only very *special* occasions.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-63).

Date logotype evenly impressed, 1 equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Rust mark below left base of I in LIBERTY and curious die lines extending up from the hair curls into the space below TY. Crossbar of A (STATES) missing on left end, a light die crack joins tops of MER.

Continuing the commentary about *opportunity* it is worth mentioning that the beautiful coins recovered from the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* and sold to a wide audience last year, and the even larger number of pieces recovered from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America* and brought to market beginning in the present year, has served to draw hundreds if not thousands of new people to what has been called the world’s greatest hobby (numismatics, of course). One can readily imagine that the owner of a brilliant, beautiful 1865-S from the *Brother Jonathan* or a lovely, frosty, 1857-S from the *S.S. Central America* would have his or her interest piqued and wonder what *other* Coronet Head double eagles might be “out there.” From such situations, intense market demand is created.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, November 30, 1971.*

## Rare and Desirable 1855-O \$20

Condition Census



- 783 **1855-O AU-50 (PCGS).** Bright greenish gold with considerable lustre remaining, especially on the reverse. Sharply struck with mirrored finish visible in the protected areas. This is among the very finest survivors from 8,000 minted.

A year prior to the production striking of this coin, the San Francisco Mint opened, largely eliminating the need to ship newly mined gold to New Orleans for coinage. As a result, mintages decreased in later years, containing coins that in all instances are scarce and in some instances are extremely rare, especially high-grade coins such as the AU offered here.

Regarding the 1855-O, this is a very rare issue, with only a handful known in grades better than Extremely Fine.

PCGS Population: 4; 5 finer (AU-58 finest).

Date logotype with italic 5s as always seen, and apparently the same logotype as used for silver dollars of this year. 1 in date equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over right side of dentil. Short raised die lines cross dentils outside star 11. Reverse die remarkably similar to that used on 1854-O double eagles (see note there), but mintmark placed much closer to tail feathers than N below. Roughness in letters in peripheral legends present, from partial finishing of the working die at the New Orleans Mint. Crossbar of A (STATES) weak on left side.

*Purchased from Parke-Bernet’s sale of May 1968, Lot 11.*



**784 1855-S AU-55.** Attractive brilliant yellow gold lustre with orange patina on the reverse. A few minor surface marks are noted, including some very faint obverse scratches, not unusual for the grade. Although this is hardly a rarity in terms of numismatic tradition, in view of treasure coins of slightly later dates being released, by comparison this 1855 is indeed elusive. Besides, any AU 1855-S \$20 is worthy of second or even third notice.

Date logotype evenly impressed, numerals fairly thick, top of 1 marginally closer to truncation than bottom is to dentils, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils. Reverse S mintmark medium in size, somewhat thick at the center, equidistant from tail feathers and N below, lower serif over left upright of N. A in STATES perfect.

*Purchased from Michael Brownlee, April 17, 1967.*

**785 1855-S AU-50.** Moderately abraded with frosty obverse and prooflike reverse. Significantly finer than the usual VF or EF typically encountered.

Date logotype evenly impressed, 1 marginally closer to truncation than dentils, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil, several inner star points display an elongated teardrop appearance. Reverse S mintmark lightly impressed, medium in size, slightly closer to tail feathers than to N, placed directly over center of N below. Crossbar of A (STATES) thin at left, broken at center.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, January 26, 1973.*

**786 1855-S EF-45.** Rich yellow gold with considerable remaining lustre. An attractive example.

Date logotype evenly impressed, numerals fairly thick, bottom of 1 marginally closer to dentils than top is to truncation, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils. Reverse S mintmark medium in size and well shaped, slightly closer to tail feathers than N below, nicely centered over that letter. Left side of crossbar of A in STATES weak.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, December 21, 1971.*

### Important Mint State 1856 \$20



**787 1856 MS-62 (PCGS).** Although several Mint State coins are known, few can match the quality of this example. Frosty rich yellow gold with a few scattered surface marks. Quite sharply struck. Light hairlines cross a planchet lamination above Liberty's head.

PCGS Population: 3; 3 finer (MS-63 finest).

Light planchet defects, as struck, are noted on the obverse above Liberty's head, across her eye, and behind her in the field.

*From Stack's 1976 ANA Sale, August 1976, Lot 3182.*

### Lovely 1856-S Double Eagle



**788 1856-S MS-62 (PCGS).** Formerly a scarce issue, however, numerous examples were recovered during salvage operations of

the *S.S. Central America*, but far fewer than for the 1857-S. The present coin is a lovely example, long off the market, with deep golden lustre and very few imperfections of any type. Very minor scratches are located in the right obverse field. Extremely sharp strike with exceptional aesthetic appeal.

A (STATES) normal, no die cracks.

*Purchased from I. Kleinman, November 13, 1971.*

**789 1856-S AU-55.** Brilliant, lustrous greenish yellow gold with a trace of light wear on the very highest points. Light surface marks and hairlines are present.

A (STATES) just beginning to fail. Faint die crack connects EN (TWENTY) along the bottom.

*Purchased from Michael Brownlee, April 17, 1967.*

**790 1856-S Repunched 56. AU-50.** Light greenish yellow gold with moderate hairlines and a slightly subdued, matte appearance.

Breen-7184. Digit 5 is minutely repunched and digit 6 is boldly repunched, all that remain from an earlier four-digit logotype entry. A very faint planchet crack begins below the first star run to point of bust continues above the date and ends above the 6. Another starts just to the lower right of star one continues upward connecting stars one, two, and three.

*From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 861.*

### Choice Mint State 1857 \$20

Finest PCGS Certified



**791 1857 MS-63 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous light yellow gold with sharp design details and satiny lustre. A few faint areas of copper toning is noted on the reverse. This is an extremely important opportunity for the specialist, perhaps representing the finest known example of this issue.

Although this is the year in which the *S.S. Central America* was lost, that ship primarily contained gold from the West Coast. If there was an 1857 \$20 among the treasure found, the writers are not aware of it as this coin is being catalogued (on April 5, 2000), at which time we do not have a full inventory of the treasure, as items are still being curated. Prospective bidders may wish to check with Chris Karstedt of our office a day or two prior to the sale, and an update can be made easily enough (if information is available to us through the distributor, the California Gold Marketing Group). All of this said, the present piece is the nicest we have seen up to now, and may remain that way for a long time.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Die crack connects the tops of UNITE (UNITED), another starts at the rim above the A (STATES) connects the tops of TES OF. Yet another starts above the A (AMERICA) connecting the tops of AMERIC.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, September 25, 1970.*



## Amazing 1857-O Double Eagle

Choice Prooflike Mint State

Only Mint State Specimen Certified by PCGS

A Landmark in the \$20 Series



(2x photo)

792 **1857-O MS-63 (PCGS).** A numismatic landmark, one of the most written about, most famous, most admired double eagles in the entire Coronet Head series from beginning to end. When this piece, in hiding since the 1920s, appeared in the N.M. Kaufman Collection sale, catalogued by RARCOA in 1978, it created an absolute sensation. The description in the catalogue is a starter for the present offering:

“An incredible Choice Brilliant Uncirculated specimen of this scarce date. Well struck with full prooflike surfaces! We have never seen any New Orleans Mint double eagle with prooflike surfaces that could even come close to this beauty. The highly mirrored fields show light bagmarks to a greater degree than would be evident on satin surfaces. Some small discoloration streaks on reverse. Certainly must qualify as the finest known.”

In the David W. Akers reference, he said of this particular coin: “The 1857-O double eagle is a rare date in any condition and most known examples grade only VF or EF.”

Douglas Winter, in his book *New Orleans Mint Gold Coins 1839-1909*, noted: “Most 1857-O double eagles are rather poorly struck.”

In the draft of Dave Bowers’ multi-volume work on gold coins the piece also comes in for its well deserved share of attention.

Returning to the coin itself, we state that it is an exceptional specimen with fully prooflike surfaces and extraordinary de-

sign details. The fields are reflective bright yellow gold with lustrous, frosty surfaces. Superb cameo contrast is the result. The coin possesses an exceptionally sharp strike with each and every detail as clear as they were on the dies from which this piece was struck. If there ever was a *presentation specimen* in the New Orleans series, this is a candidate!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer. This is the only Mint State example certified by PCGS.

On the obverse the date logotype is especially deeply punched into the die, the numerals for this year quite distinctive—entirely unlike anything earlier used in the double eagle series, and may have been from Anthony C. Paquet, who supplied punches to the Mint around this time (later in the year joining the staff as an assistant engraver). The logotype is fairly well centered, being about equidistant between the neck and the dentils. On the reverse the mintmark is delicately impressed, fairly well centered above the N (TWENTY). Although both obverse and reverse die were given very high polish at the New Orleans Mint, very careful observation reveals some areas of frost from the master die—this phenomenon having been discussed earlier in the present offering. In the present instance some frost is seen within the base of E (UNITED) connecting at the bottom to D; in the base of the second S (STATES); the interior of the first A (AMERICA), the interior of the E, much of the interior of the R, and much of the interior of the second A. A boldness of the date on the obverse and the features remaining from the master die as seen on the reverse would seem to indicate that this piece was from deliberately polished dies, intended to be prooflike, rather than made inadvertently by relapping dies that had seen clashing or wear.

*From RARCOA’s sale of the N.M. Kaufman Collection, August 1978, Lot 914.*



793 1857-S EF-45. Light yellow gold with hairlines and scratches. Cleaned at an unknown time in the past.

Medium S mintmark. Reverse gouge at the rim and on the second T (TWENTY). A coin that presumably missed the sailing of the *S.S. Sonora* (departing from San Francisco in August) and which *definitely* missed the sailing of the *S.S. Central America*.

Purchased from Jack Klausen, June 19, 1968.

### Choice Mint State 1858 \$20

Finest Certified by PCGS



794 1858 Blundered Die, Misplaced Date. MS-63 (PCGS). Deep orange-gold lustre with satiny finish. Microscopic vertical striae are visible in the obverse and reverse fields, indicating this is a very early impression from the die pair. This lovely, choice example is the finest certified by PCGS and is a fantastic landmark. As discussed early in the present text, one can imagine that someone who proudly possesses a lustrous, frosty 1857-S from the *S.S. Central America* and who seeks to diversify might wish to contemplate this example—along with others of the present offering—nearly all of which are very rare on a comparative basis (the present piece also being a *condition rarity* on an absolute basis).

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Misplaced Date. Upper curve of a stray 8 from the logotype punch is seen in the dentils directly below the digit 5. Discovered by Mark Borckardt on March 27, 2000 while cataloguing this coin. While Harry Bass was extremely observant, discovering countless varieties, both major and minor, it is a pleasure for us to take his observations a step further!

A planchet lamination is noted on the obverse above Miss Liberty and below stars seven, eight, and nine.

U (UNITED) just beginning to fail, ED are connected at the bottom.

On the reverse under magnification some evidence of the master die is seen—including frosting on certain interior letters. While we are not sure that present readers of the catalogue are interested in such technicalities, we do mention that this is worthy of in-person investigation for anyone who enjoys these differences.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1217.

### Amazing 1858-O Double Eagle Rarity

Finest PCGS Graded



(2x photo)

795 1858-O MS-62 (PCGS). Highly lustrous greenish gold with satiny, very slightly reflective lustre. A few very minor surface marks are noted. This is one of the finest known examples, and is the only example of this issue certified in any Mint State grade by PCGS. David Akers noted the existence of two MS-60 coins, with nothing finer. Similarly, Douglas Winter listed two MS-60 examples as the finest he was aware of. We can not over-emphasize the importance of this opportunity, and recommend the connoisseur prepare accordingly. In the past decade, just six examples of this issue grading higher than AU-50 were offered at public auction. None of those were Mint State.

Again the word *opportunity* comes to the fore—if it does, in fact, for just about *every* lot in the present sale! Remember that Harry Bass spent over three decades building his collection, and now in our series of sales bidders can by the raise of a paddle or a notation on a bid sheet take advantage of all of this effort. As a *reality check* we should note that this coin, if in an *ordinary* auction sale, might well be the highlight of the entire event!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

The first digit 8 has a horizontal projection from the left top curve.

U (UNITED) just being to fail, ED are connected at the bottom.

From Lester Merkin's sale of October 1966, Lot 382.



## Condition Census 1858-S Double Eagle

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



- 796 **1858-S MS-62 (PCGS)**. Brilliant, satiny yellow gold lustre with exceptional surfaces for the grade. Very sharply defined with wonderful aesthetic appeal. Some microscopic marks are seen here and there, including to the right of the date, and were factored in by PCGS. This is one of the finest known examples of a post-Central America date, an important consideration.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

*Purchased from Fred Sweeney, November 2, 1977.*

- 797 **1858-S AU-50**. Subdued greenish yellow gold with a hint of reflective surfaces. Moderately abraded with numerous faint hairlines. Considerable lustre remains visible.

Raised die line extending from the first point of W (TWENTY) to the rim.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 1, 1968.*

## Scarce 1859 Double Eagle



- 798 **1859 EF-40**. Light yellow gold with light hairlines and very few other imperfections. A pleasing example of this scarce, low-mintage issue. Just 43,517 were struck, the lowest Philadelphia Mint production during the decade, and in fact is the lowest coinage at this facility during the entire era of Type I double eagles.

Digits 18 are recut above. A planchet lamination is noted at the seventh star.

*Purchased from Jack Klausen, June 19, 1968.*

## Rare 1859-O Double Eagle



- 799 **1859-O AU-50 (PCGS)**. Greenish yellow gold with a hint of reflective surface, subdued by faint orange patina. Light abrasions and moderate hairlines are noted. An attractive example from a mintage of 9,100 coins. One of the finest to come to auction in recent times. This is such a “high end” AU-58 that

we would not be surprised at all if some might call it Mint State. The fields are lustrous and frosty and, if considered on their own, are just as nice seen on a typical MS-62 coin! In-person verification is recommended.

Heavily clashed obverse die. Clash marks are prominent in the recess areas at back of neck and face, especially around the ear, and also behind the hair curls in the right obverse field.

If you have ever thought about specializing in New Orleans Mint double eagles, the Bass Collection is *absolutely unprecedented* in the combination of quality and rarity offered.

*From Abe Kosoff's 1968 ANA Sale, August 1968, Lot 1069.*

- 800 **1859-S Repunched 18. AU-58 (PCGS)**. Brilliant pinkish yellow gold with virtually complete lustre. A delightful example with few finer examples known.

Digits 1 and 8 slightly repunched below.

*From Stack's sale of the Shapiro Collection, October 1971, Lot 1171.*

## Choice Mint State 1860 Double Eagle

A Treat for the Eye

High Condition Census



(2x photo)

- 801 **1860 MS-64 (PCGS)**. Soft frosty yellow gold lustre with extremely sharp design details. Truly a coin for the connoisseur, a visual treat! Although a number of Mint State 1860 double eagles are known—particularly in lower grade levels—in the



current preservation it stands high as a *condition rarity*. Again, we might expect that some of the fortunate holders of *Central America* and *Brother Jonathan* coins might like to have this land-locked 1860 to go with them.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-65).

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of November 1972, Lot 1300.

## Lustrous Mint State 1860-S \$20

### Condition Census Quality



- 802 **1860-S MS-62 (PCGS)**. Brilliant and frosty yellow gold lustre with very few marks of any sort. A scarce issue in Mint State, with most of the few known being in or around MS-60. Several circulated examples of this issue were sold as part of the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* treasure, however, none were strictly Mint State.

PCGS Population: 5; 1 finer (MS-63).

Die crack between F and A (OF AMERICA). Die crack connects the bottoms of AMERICA. Yet another connects the tops of ENTY (TWENTY).

Today in the year 2000 the numismatist can select high quality pieces, primarily 1857-S, from the marvelous find of the *S.S. Central America*, and high quality 1865-S pieces from the *S.S. Brother Jonathan*, and a few earlier dated pieces from each find—but, otherwise, Mint State coins are very difficult to locate. The 1854-S must be mentioned in the context of the *S.S. Yankee Blade*, but, as noted earlier, these are lightly etched and are in a different category from ones that have normal lustrous surfaces (although the *Yankee Blade* coins are very desirable and, in fact, in recent times we have been trying to fill a want list for an example). Beyond these, the date 1861 occasionally comes to market (and will be discussed as part of our offering of the following lot). Certain other issues range from very rare to virtually impossible to find in Mint State, this applying to the 1855-S, 1858-S through 1862-S, and 1866-S continuing well into the 1870s. We believe it correct to say that never in numismatic history has even an advanced cabinet had a collection of these early San Francisco double eagles in AU or better grade, never mind Mint State! We have seen and done many things numismatically, but the Bass Collection takes the cake for gold coin quality.

## Choice Mint State 1861 Double Eagle

### A Condition Rarity



- 803 **1861 MS-64 (PCGS)**. Fully brilliant with rich, satiny yellow gold lustre. A hint of green is noticed around the borders with a small splash of rose at the border by star 3. Another splash of dark brown toning is between the head and border, by star 9. All design elements are especially sharp. Although this date carries the highest mintage of any Type I double eagle, with 2,976,453 struck, it is especially hard to locate in any grade

higher than MS-63. PCGS has certified 141 Mint State examples of this issue, however, only 10 of these are equal to or finer than the presently offered coin!

PCGS Population: 6; 4 finer (MS-67 finest).

The reverse has a light die crack joining tops of TES (STATES) and another connects the tops of MER (AMERICA).

Of all of the double eagles of the 1850 to 1866-S Type I or No Motto style, apart from *treasure coins*, the 1861 Philadelphia has come to market the most often. It has been our observation based upon personal experience as well as the longtime study of catalogues that there is no single hoard or group of pieces to which such coins can be traced. Instead, they seem to have been saved one at a time.

It is tempting to craft a scenario based upon the facts in place in December 1861. By this time, the Civil War, which had been fought since April, was of uncertain outcome, the citizens of both the North and South were frightened, and coins began to be hoarded. On December 28-29, the banks in New York City stopped paying out gold coins, and soon thereafter banks followed suit throughout the East and Midwest. The hypothetical part is this: as we know that by late 1861, double eagles of that year had reached banking channels, probably sparkling, lustrous specimens were natural pieces to hoard in December 1861. Further, it may be the case that on and after December 28, when the banking community knew that gold coins were becoming almost impossible to obtain in quantity, tellers and other bankers set aside pieces. If this vignette is correct, it would explain why plural specimens exist today in higher grades, from widely scattered sources.

Purchased from Abe Kosoff's sale of November 1968, Lot 1660.

## Lovely Mint State 1861 \$20



- 804 **1861 MS-62**. Brilliant, frosty light yellow gold lustre with very sharp design details. Lightly abraded, yet very attractive.

Die crack connects ED (UNITED) another starts over the D and connects the tops of STATES OF AMERI.

Purchased from Carl Scheinberg, January 7, 1973.

- 805 **1861 AU-58**. Attractive light yellow gold surfaces with nearly complete lustre. A pleasing example for the date or type collector. The current market value is a bit under \$1,000—offering in our opinion a very nice opportunity to acquire a high-grade, nearly fully lustrous, brilliant coin for an affordable figure.

Purchased from Mal Varner, August 8, 1972.

- 806 **1861 AU-50**. Light yellow gold with considerable lustre and few minor marks. A heavy scrape is on Liberty's cheek.

Date logotype quite high in the field, with 1 closer to the neck than to the dentils. Perhaps Harry Bass was trying to collect 1861-D double eagles by date logotype position varieties (which wouldn't surprise us a bit).

Purchased from Ed Shapiro, September 20, 1967.



## Important 1861-O Double Eagle

Issued under Unknown Authority

Condition Census



807 **1861-O AU-55 (PCGS)**. Nearly fully prooflike and minted in light green gold. With some surface marks typical for the grade, yet very attractive. The bottoms of date digits are weak, a characteristic of all known examples from New Orleans. The obverse die has been lapped, suggesting a later die state, and possibly issuance under the authority of the State of Louisiana or the Confederacy.

Total mintage of this issue was 17,741 coins, of which only 5,000 were minted under federal authority. The next 9,750 were struck by the State of Louisiana, and the remaining 2,991 by the Confederacy early in the Civil War. According to a later account published by the director of the Mint, in his 1887 report, the federal government operated the New Orleans Mint through January 25, 1861. From January 26 to May 31, control was under the State of Louisiana, and beginning June 1, under Confederate authority.

The 1861-O is one of the most famous of all double eagles because of its potential Confederate connection. Today, examples in collections are typically quite well worn, with VF being about par, occasionally EF, and very rarely even AU-50. Moreover, many pieces are heavily bagmarked.

The present specimen with its prooflike surface has rare beauty and is a truly *exciting* specimen—one of the finest we have ever seen or handled. In evaluating a coin such as this, the technical or numerical grade must be considered, but also equally important—perhaps more so in the case of the 1861-O—the aesthetic appeal is a factor. Taken together, the present coin represents one of the greatest opportunities in the present section of the Bass catalogue.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer (AU-58 finest).

The obverse die state is remarkable and one of the more curious in the double eagle series. The date logotype was punched lightly into the die to begin with, after which it seems to have been lapped—in the process generating the beautiful prooflike surface now seen on obverse and reverse. The bases of the 18 in the logotype, which were lightly impressed into the die to begin with, and then relapped, were such that the 8 was almost missing. Accordingly, a technician at the New Orleans Mint scribed some lines in the die to complete the base of the 8—these lines now being visible almost as raised tiny pieces of straw or lines—a very curious effect. Of course, this adds another element to the interest and incredible importance of the coin.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 854.

## Desirable 1861-S Paquet \$20

Historical Classic Rarity

Condition Census



(2x photo)

808 **1861-S Paquet Reverse. AU-50 (PCGS)**. Light yellow gold with a hint of pinkish lustre in the protected areas around the devices. The reverse exhibits stronger lustre.

This specimen is head and shoulders above the typical 1861-S Paquet, which tends to be in VF grade, occasionally EF, and only rarely in AU.

The total population of the 1861-S Paquet is estimated to be fewer than 200 coins, most of which have been brought back from overseas holdings since World War II (see historical notes below). The demand for the 1861-S Paquet is far wider than for a regular date and mintmark, as the reverse, in distinctive tall letters and from a separate "type" die by assistant engraver Anthony C. Paquet, has no counterpart among any other circulating \$20 issues, save for two known specimens of the Philadelphia Mint version (the finer of which brought over \$600,000 at our sale of the Norweb Collection).

Coins with a "story" are always fascinating, and the story of the 1861-S Paquet is particularly so. That background, plus the exceptional condition of the present specimen, combines to create a piece that should attract wide attention.

PCGS Population: 13; 1 finer (AU-53).



### Coinage History of the 1861-S Paquet \$20

Anthony C. Paquet, assistant engraver at the Mint, produced a new reverse die, with tall letters, intended for use in making business strike double eagles. On January 5, 1861, at the Philadelphia Mint it was decided that the use of this style would be discontinued for the rim was too narrow. Coinage ceased with the Paquet die, and use of the old-style dies with Longacre's lettering was resumed.

Instructions to discontinue the use of the Paquet dies and to revert to the old style were sent to San Francisco by telegraph to St. Joseph (the western terminus of the telegraph line), and from there by overland express. Charles H. Hempstead, superintendent, replied to the instructions on February 9, 1861 (excerpt):

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 5th, 'overland,' which however did not come to hand until the 2nd [of February]. I was, therefore, unable to prevent the striking and issuing of a large number of double eagles, coined with the new dies. The amount issued was \$385,000."

Thus, 19,250 1861-S Paquet Reverse double eagles were struck, apparently without any difficulty regarding the narrow rim. Rather than melt the remaining pieces on hand, as no problem was perceived with them, they were released as called for by depositors.

No information concerning the distinctive Paquet reverse on certain 1861-S coins appeared in print in any contemporary numismatic periodical, auction catalogue, or book. W. Elliot Woodward, who sold a Philadelphia Mint Paquet \$20 in 1865, was aware of the die difference, but expressed no knowledge of a San Francisco Mint counterpart. However, in the July 1895 issue of the *American Journal of Numismatics*, William P. Brown, longtime dealer in New York City, discussed the die differences found on 1861 and 1861-S double eagles, and one of the editors of the AJN, possibly Lyman H. Low, stated that these differences had been known for a long time.

Afterward, the Paquet Reverse seems to have been forgotten, or at least not publicized, although N.M. Kaufman acquired one early in the 20th century, either by chance (as a regular 1861-S) or deliberately. One was included in the exhibition of that collection set up for display at the First National Bank of Marquette (Michigan) in 1927.

Later, in March 1937, by which time collecting \$20 coins by mintmarks had become popular in a modest way, numismatists were startled to learn of a very strange 1861-S \$20 gold coin that came to light with a few other United States gold pieces under an old barn in Hull, Texas, through a communiqué published from Arthur J. Fecht. This particular 1861-S was unlike the regularly seen double eagle in that the border letters on the reverse were taller and narrower than usual. At the time, there was very little interest in collecting or reviewing numismatic literature, and the 1895 exchange in the *American Journal of Numismatics* had been forgotten. One might say that the era 1920-1950, if not the dark age of American numismatic research, was at least the twilight zone. Then came a new wave of interest led by Walter Breen (whose research was sponsored by Wayne Raymond), John J. Ford, Jr., and, eventually, quite a few others.

In 1937 Frank Duffield, editor of *The Numismatist*, consulted a copy of the 1912 work on pattern coins by Edgar H. Adams and William H. Woodin and found a somewhat similar piece listed, but as a pattern made in Philadelphia. There was no mention of San Francisco regular issue coins. He concluded that the 1861-S was a new variety of pattern made in San Francisco, the mint attribution based upon the tiny "S" mintmark. This was, as we know today, the Paquet Reverse.

As time went on, coin collectors searched their holdings, quantities of \$20 gold coins became available from Europe, and numismatic interest increased. It was found that the 1861-S Paquet Reverse \$20 was rare, but hardly unique. In June 1954 in *Numisma*, the house organ of the New Netherlands Coin Company, Walter Breen presented more information on the Paquet Reverse than had hitherto reached print, and verified that it was not a pattern, but a regular issue. Writing in the *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine* in November 1959, the same author stated that he knew of six or seven 1861-S Paquet double eagles in numismatic hands. In the 1960s Paul H. Wittlin, an American who traveled extensively in Europe including at the behest of Dayton, Ohio, dealer James Kelly, is said to have located about 25 to 30 pieces in bulk holdings in French and Swiss banks, these coins grading VF (mostly) to EF. This was the beginning of widespread finds in foreign caches. By the 1970s, more than 100 had been found.

*Purchased from Abe Kosoff, August 14, 1972.*

### Important 1862 Double Eagle

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



**809 1862 MS-62 (PCGS).** Deep yellow gold lustre with a hint of green at the borders and a trace of pink at central reverse. A few typical surface marks are present, however, none are serious. This is a very rare coin in Mint State quality with the few known examples hovering around the MS-60 category.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Die crack connects the tops of STAT (STATE).

*From Lester Merkin's sale of October 1969, Lot 467.*

**810 1862-S AU-50.** Light yellow gold with considerable lustre and strong design details. Stars around obverse border are nearly all fully defined. A very pleasing and highly affordable San Francisco double eagle.

*From Stack's sale of February 1972, Lot 913.*

**811 1862-S EF-45, or finer.** A pleasing example with traces of light yellow gold lustre. A few minor surface marks and hairlines are present. Obverse is quite weak at the borders. Nearly all original lustre is present on the reverse, and the technical grade of this might be adjudged AU by many observers. During the setup process, the dies for this press run were spaced slightly too widely apart, resulting in the lightness described.

Die crack connects the tops of ERI (AMERICA).

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, May 30, 1972.*

**812 1863 EF-45.** Lightly abraded yellow gold surfaces with faint traces of lustre. Scattered marks normal for the grade. A very pleasing example which is significantly finer than most survivors from the original mintage of 142,760.

*Purchased from Lester Merkin, June 15, 1967.*

**813 1863 VF-35.** Very light yellow gold with a hint of green, and lightly cleaned. Marks and other evidences of use are visible—this is a double eagle that paid its dues and saw extensive circulation, but not so much as to remove *all* of the original mint lustre, traces of which can still be seen in protected areas. Wonder how many poker games included this particular coin?

*Purchased from Jack Klausen, June 19, 1968.*



## Beautiful Mint State 1863-S \$20

Still a Rarity So Fine  
Condition Census



- 814 **1863-S MS-62 (PCGS).** Satiny, smooth yellow gold lustre with very few imperfections. Sharply detailed and very attractive. A coin which escaped being aboard the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* on a certain fateful day on July 20, 1865, and spent its life elsewhere. By some fortuitous circumstance, not recorded, it survived in truly lovely, elegant condition. While six Mint State 1863-S double eagles were sold from those recovered by Deep Sea Research from the wreck of the *S.S. Brother Jonathan*, today the 1863-S, while slightly more available than a year ago before our auction—is still notably elusive, as the PCGS data given below demonstrate.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer (MS-63 finest).

Die crack at rim joining bottom 186.

Several fine die cracks spider web through most of the legends with a heavy die crack starting at the rim connecting the tops of MERIC and just missing the top of A back to the rim.

*Purchased from Stack's, April 28, 1972.*

- 815 **1863-S AU-50.** Lustrous light yellow gold, however, with heavy obverse and reverse hairlines. What stories this coin could probably tell!

*Purchased from Bob Roth, December 2, 1969.*

## Lustrous 1864 Double Eagle



- 816 **1864 AU-55.** Brilliant yellow gold with considerable lustre and a few minor hairlines. A pleasing and far above average example of this scarce Civil War era issue.

The four-digit date logotype was punched very deeply into the working die, making visible under close examination some interesting "deep" features, particularly within the digits 8 and 6; in contrast, the following lot, also an 1864 double eagle, is from a lightly punched logotype impression, and these features are not seen. In the compilation of data for the gold coin project the Bass Collection has been of immeasurable value, as the combined holding has often yielded many specimens of a given date and denomination. Very often, the study of just a single coin would lead to different conclusions than if, for example, 20 to 40 coins were examined. It is not at all clear how widespread the interest in such things as logotype differences might be, but we have availed ourselves of the opportunity to record them as part of the project. Separately, a team of researchers, currently numbering six to eight people, are delving through thousands of old auction catalogues, price lists, and other selected information. All of this has been a very enjoyable, stimulating pursuit.

*From Stack's sale of the Shapiro Collection, October 1971, Lot 1176.*

- 817 **1864 AU-50.** Lightly abraded yellow gold surfaces with substantial lustre remaining, with marks and evidences of circulation typical for the grade. Overall a very pleasing, frosty piece that will indeed satisfy the buyer.

Lightly cracked through the date and stars one and two. Reverse die lightly cracked through the tops of S OF AMER.

*From Stack's sale of June 1972, Lot 929.*

- 818 **1865 AU-55.** Sharply struck with reflective yellow gold lustre and moderate hairlines. A lovely coin, far finer than typically seen for this date. A specimen that will be highly appreciated by its next owner.

A triangular die lump is located in the field left of the base of 1. Several raised diagonal die lines surrounding this die lump suggest this to be remnants of a drastically misplaced digit.

*Purchased from Stack's, December 7, 1971.*

- 819 **1865 Repunched 186. AU-50.** A delightful example of this interesting variety, with lustrous bright yellow gold surfaces and minor imperfections and marks, plus a cut or deep mark on Miss Liberty's jaw—all told, not particularly unusual for a double eagle at this grade level. Such pieces were made for use in circulation, where they were handled without care.

Date blundered with digits 186 above and left of the final position, and slanting down to the right, so that the digit 1 is imbedded in the bust of Liberty and digit 6 is only very slightly above the final placement. Possibly a misplaced 1 imbedded slightly to the left of the center of the 8. It is often a judgement call as to which die blunders, errors, and repunching should be collected and which should be ignored. The present variety is one of the more notable in the double eagle series and should be in the "yes, I want to own one" category!

Several die cracks on the reverse joining the tops of UNITED, STATES, and OF AMERI.

*Purchased from William Donner, February 17, 1968.*

- 820 **1865-S AU-55.** Lustrous light yellow gold with a whisper of pinkish overtones. Lightly abraded with few other minor imperfections. Prior to discovery of the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* treasure, this was one of the finest examples known.

Date logotype lightly impressed.

Heavy die crack joins the bottoms of TATES (STATES) and centers of OF AMER with another starting at the rim and ending at the right foot of M.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, November 3, 1971.*

- 821 **1865-S EF-45.** Light yellow gold with moderate abrasions and substantial remaining lustre. Formerly a rarity, but now quite available after discovery of several hundred examples included in the *Brother Jonathan* recovery.

Raised die lines between sixth and seventh star.

*From the "Bob Roth Set."*

- 822 **1865-S EF-40.** Saltwater surfaces with obverse abrasions. Probably from some shipwreck that occurred in, say, the period 1867-1870, by which time this piece had sustained light wear. Certainly, it would be interesting to know more details!

*From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 884.*



## Impressive 1866-S No Motto \$20

A Double Eagle Landmark

Condition Census



- 823 **1866-S No Motto. AU-50 (PCGS).** Lustrous pinkish yellow gold with moderate abrasions as expected. A scarce issue and the final Type I double eagle.

The present coin is a landmark in the double eagle series, one of the classic rarities. Nearly all specimens are in grades lower than offered here—with the typical piece VF and very heavily nicked and marked. AU coins, usually also with extensive handling marks, or EF coins, usually also with extensive marks, are scarcer. At the AU level the 1866 Without Motto becomes a prime rarity.

The actual mintage is not known. Walter Breen, in his *Complete Encyclopedia*, suggests 12,000 coins, probably pure guess work. This figure was published by Breen years earlier, and has been picked up here and there, generally regarded as Gospel, although we note that the *Guide Book* now suggests the figure is “estimated.” In our current gold coin project we at present estimate the mintage to be far fewer, perhaps in the range of 1,500 to 2,500. Investigations are ongoing, but from every indication the popular figure of 12,000 is far too high.

PCGS Population: 9; 3 finer (AU-58 finest).

For the record, the date logotype on this coin is very deeply punched into the working die. The 1 is ever so slightly closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils below. The four-digit logotype, used on all dies from both mints, was made with the second digit larger, leaning more to the right, and with the ball farther from the curve below it than is true of the first 6. A different punch seems to have been used for the second figure.

*Purchased from Bob Roth.*

- 824 **1866 Motto. AU-58.** Lustrous pinkish yellow gold with delightful surfaces for the grade. This is the quality that is sometimes described as “AU-64” meaning the coin is strictly AU although it has the appearance of an MS-64. A few years ago Bill Fivaz suggested in another context that after AU-58, many coins jumped to, per his illustration, MS-62—leaving as rather undefined territory MS-60 and MS-61. In any event, the present coin, if graded by the surfaces alone, would merit the Mint State designation.

This is a highly important specimen as the first year of the new design type.

On this example, the top right of N (IN) and top of W (WE) are both minutely doubled. Middle star at top points to inner right curve of O (GOD).

Later, the motto was included as part of the hub and master die, but within the 1866 year there are variations. The design change involved much more than simply adding the motto, with numerous other differences evident, perhaps the most significant being the new style of shield with curved sides, rather than the straight sides earlier used. Although the existence of hand-finished dies of the With-Motto type indicate that there might have been some of the new style (with curved shield, etc.) made without motto, we have never encountered or heard of such a coin. So far as is known, all 1866 Philadelphia Mint double eagles have the motto, and the 1866-S San Francisco coins that lack the motto are of the old straight-sided shield style.

Although most design features were included as part of the hub, the letters in the motto on the reverse were entered by hand. Careful comparison of these letters and their position may help to identify individual coinage dies. We will attempt to mention significant variations among the coins to follow.

A faint die crack joins the tops of STATES OF AMERICA.

*Purchased from Paramount, November 21, 1969.*

## Exceptional 1866-S Double Eagle

With Motto

Condition Census



- 825 **1866-S Motto. MS-61 (PCGS).** A wonderful example with brilliant, frosty yellow gold lustre exhibiting a trace of pink. A few light abrasions are noted, and are expected for this grade. This is one of the very finest known examples among a total Mint State population of just three or four coins. An exceedingly important coin—one that was minted too late to be included in the *Brother Jonathan* hoard, and which has not been represented in any other cache of which we are aware. The survival of a specimen in the Mint State category, is a matter of rare chance—and not many such chances ever took place.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-62).

Middle star in top row points to outer right curve of O (GOD). Spider web die cracks are noted on both obverse and reverse. Obverse die different from that used to strike the 1866-S Without Motto offered earlier.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, December 19, 1978.*

- 826 **1866-S Motto. Misplaced Date. EF-45.** Greenish yellow gold with a trace of pinkish patina. Typical of most circulated double eagles from this era with light to moderate surface marks.

This is the *discovery specimen* of a variety hitherto unrecorded. A misplaced 8 from the logotype is seen protruding from the dentils to the left of the first date digit. For the record, this was discovered by Beth Piper of our staff, March 30, 2000, and had not been noted by Harry Bass.

Middle star at top points between inner and outer curves of O (GOD). This is from a different die than that used for the preceding 1866-S Without Motto and also different from the 1866-S With Motto.

*From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 887.*

## Prooflike 1867 Double Eagle



- 827 **1867 MS-61 (PCGS).** This marvelous example has fully reflective prooflike fields and highly lustrous devices; a delightful cameo. Splashes of copper toning are noted on both surfaces, but mainly on the reverse. Also noted is a small planchet flaw below the E (TWENTY). This issue is reasonably available in lower Mint State quality from some lower level Mint State coins found in Europe a few decades ago (see note). The present coin is one of the very nicest we have ever handled and is far less “baggy” than normally seen. In fact, we consider it to be worth “MS-63 money” and go out on a limb by stating such.



In the course of having examined quite a few Mint State 1867 double eagles, we have gained what we feel is some competence in their evaluation. Check it out and see!

Heavily clashed obverse die. Clash marks are prominent on neck, ear, and behind the hair curls in the right obverse field. Top middle star points between inner and outer right curves of O (GOD). S is distant from final T. By this time the motto was part of the hub, the position became standardized, and therefore no further mention will be made in the present catalogue.

Research concerning double eagles found in overseas hoards is continuing, and the editor (QDB) welcomes talking with anyone whom we have not already interviewed. As this issue goes to press, a number of important gold importers have shared their recollection, including a marvelous account by Ron Gillio of his travels and finds. Much information that might be otherwise lost to history is being recorded for posterity and for sharing with the numismatic community, much as was done nearly a decade ago for silver dollar hoards, later published in the two-volume set, *Silver Dollars and Trade Dollars of the United States: A Complete Encyclopedia*.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1233.

### Condition Census 1867-S \$20



- 828 **1867-S AU-58 (PCGS)**. An exceptional example and among the finest known of this issue. Rich orange-gold lustre with minor abrasions. Sharply struck within the context of these coins, as many are lightly defined. This issue is extremely rare in full Mint State quality with the present example so very close.

The present market value of this coin is about \$1,000, which seems to us to be rather ridiculous, as very few are known in this grade even fewer were represented in any known treasure finds, and as the grade of AU-58 is far finer than that encountered in most "name" collections offered over the years. Anyone seeking *fundamental value* in coin purchases need go no further than to study coins such as this—and many other items in the Bass Collection offering—to realize that truly scarce and rare pieces can be acquired for moderate market values. As we see it, the downside risk is nil, and the upside potential suggests multiples of the current value! Coins such as this will never be the subject of a popular fad, simply because there are not enough of them to go around.

PCGS Population: 10; 3 finer (all MS-60).

Large S mintmark, occupying about 90% of the space between the eagle's tail (which it touches) and the upper right of the N (TWENTY).

Purchased from Paramount, February 28, 1974.

- 829 **1867-S AU-50**. A pleasing example with light surface marks and considerable pinkish lustre. Quite scarce in this condition, by no means as rare as the 1858-O offered above, but still far finer than the typical example.

Very small mintmark occupying perhaps 60% of the space between the eagle's tail and the upright of the N. Further, the present die exhibits some very interesting prominent raised lines on the reverse extending from the flourish behind the eagle's head, upward to the star immediately below S (TRUST), and then picking up again at O (GOD) and going toward the glory of rays.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, July 9, 1968.

- 830 **1867-S EF-45**. Lightly abraded greenish gold with traces of pinkish lustre. Much lustre still remains. A very attractive coin with normal surface marks for the grade, but with a very beautiful overall aspect. Somewhat scarce at this level.

Purchased from Robert Johnson, August 8, 1967. Bob Johnson, the well known San Francisco dealer, was recently interviewed by us on the subject of gold coin importations beginning in the 1950s.

### Lustrous 1868 Double Eagle Condition Census



- 831 **1868 AU-55 (PCGS)**. Highly lustrous bright yellow gold with reflective fields and attractive cameo contrast. A sharply struck example which is very close to the Condition Census for this issue. Just 98,575 were minted with many exported or used in the West. Another opportunity in a sale laden with opportunities.

PCGS Population: 10; 9 finer (MS-61 finest).

Reverse clash marks at eagle's tailfeathers.

From Parke-Bernet's sale of the McGraw Collection, May 1968, Lot 37.

- 832 **1868-S AU-58**. Moderately abraded with extensive orange-gold lustre. Very scarce in higher grades as most examples saw extensive use in commerce.

Very heavy motto.

Purchased from Bob Roth, December 2, 1969.



## Amazing 1869 Double Eagle

Among the Finest Known



(2x photo)

- 833 **1869 MS-64 (PCGS)**. This is an exceptional example with reflective, prooflike fields and considerable cameo contrast. Faint bluish patina is visible in the lower left obverse field. Very sharply struck with nearly flawless surfaces. A few minor hairlines are present in the obverse fields, and a few minute abrasions are seen on the reverse. While 15 to 20 Mint State examples survive, most are around the MS-60 grade level, with few examples approaching the choice category. Far rarer than a high quality Proof—Proofs themselves being rare.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-65).

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of September 1971, Lot 1230.

## Mint State 1869-S Double Eagle

Condition Census



- 834 **1869-S MS-61 (PCGS)**. Lustrous bright yellow gold with a few minor surface marks as expected. Above average obverse design definition with exquisitely detailed reverse. Another issue used extensively in commerce, with only 20 to 30 Mint State survivors remaining.

PCGS Population: 5; 3 finer (all MS-64).

Lightly cracked through most letters of legend.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1237.

## Pleasing 1870 Double Eagle



- 835 **1870 AU-58 (PCGS)**. An extremely attractive example that is very close to Mint State, with full lustre and only a few small handling marks. A curved scratch in the left obverse field must be mentioned for accuracy. With a mintage of 155,150 coins, this is a scarcer issue with few high-grade survivors. Most contemporary collectors—and their numbers were few—acquired Proofs. Few if any circulation strikes were deliberately saved. Thus, coins that are available easily enough in well worn grades today emerge as significant rarities in the preservation here offered.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, June 25, 1968.

- 836 **1871 EF-40**. Subdued yellow gold with traces of lustre. This example is typical of most known survivors.

Purchased from Leo Young, April 14, 1967.

## Exceptional 1871-S Double Eagle

Among the Finest Known



- 837 **1871-S MS-62 (PCGS)**. Brilliant, frosty yellow gold with a hint of orange patina. A long, shallow abrasion is noted in the left



obverse field and perhaps shouldn't be noted at all, as grading numbers take care of such things—and, besides, just about any San Francisco double eagle in this grade range is apt to have something worthy of comment. Overall, the surfaces are exceptional and have a generous amount of eye appeal—this is one of the very nicest that has ever come under our view, certainly at once a *condition rarity* and *numismatic prize* at this grade level. Worthy of a very strong bid.

PCGS Population: 8; 1 finer (MS-64).

### Scarce Mint State 1872 \$20



838 **1872 MS-62 (PCGS)**. Lustrous brilliant yellow gold with very minor surface marks. An attractive, sharply struck example of this issue. Most Mint State survivors are just MS-60 and this delightful coin certainly ranks among the finest known examples.

*From Paramount's 1969 ANA Sale, August 1969, Lot 2228.*

### Rare 1872-CC Double Eagle

- Extraordinary Quality



839 **1872-CC AU-55**. Brilliant, soft frosty lustre with exceptional aesthetic appeal, despite surface marks that are not unusual for the grade and, typical of *all* authentic 1872-CC double eagles, some lightness of striking at the center. Toning streak at upper right of obverse. The reverse, if graded separately, could easily be called MS-61 or MS-62!

Just 26,900 coins were struck and although it is not in the same class as 1870-CC or 1871-CC, at the AU-55 grade the present coin is among the finest we have ever handled, and is truly a rarity and numismatic landmark. It is our belief that during the time of distribution, Carson City double eagles of 1870-1872 remained stateside, where they acquired extensive wear. In contrast, a number of the later Carson City issues were shipped abroad as part of international transaction settlements.

*From Lester Merkin's sale of October 1966, Lot 417.*

### Delightful Mint State 1872-S \$20

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



840 **1872-S MS-62 (PCGS)**. Reflective, mirrored fields and lustrous orange-gold devices provide an attractive cameo effect. Light surface marks are noted on both obverse and reverse. A very rare issue in high grades, with nearly all of the 20 to 30 Mint State survivors just MS-60 in quality. *Incredibly*, the market value of this piece is only in the range of a couple thousand dollars. Talk about potential!

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

*From Parke-Bernet's sale of May 1968, Lot 45.*

### Interesting Group of Coronet Head \$20

841 **Grouping of double eagles grading EF-45:** ☆ 1872-S ☆ 1873-S Open 3 ☆ 1874-S ☆ 1878 ☆ 1879 Doubled Reverse ☆ 1892-S ☆ 1906-D. Pale green highlights. Each displays various degrees of lustre. (Total: 7 pieces)

842 **1873 Closed 3. EF-45**. Light yellow gold with moderate abrasions. Much scarcer than the Open 3 variety.

843 **1873 Closed 3. EF-45**. A scarce issue with moderate surface marks and traces of lustre.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 14, 1967.*

### Lovely 1873 Open 3 \$20



844 **1873 Open 3. MS-62 (PCGS)**. Clearly in Mint State this is the single most available date and variety among all Type II double eagles. Satiny pinkish orange lustre with very minor surface marks. Sharply struck and very desirable. Of all Type II double eagles certified MS-60 or finer by PCGS, 38% are of this single issue.

PCGS has graded 3,336 Type II double eagles as MS-60 or better. Of this total, 1,274 are 1873 Open 3, 542 are 1876-S, 266 are 1875, 263 are 1876, 229 are 1875-CC, and 224 are 1875-S. This leaves a balance of just 538 coins for all other dates combined.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, October 30, 1972.*



## Desirable 1873-CC Double Eagle



- 845 **1873-CC AU-55 (PCGS).** With a mintage of 22,410 coins, this is clearly one of the scarcer Carson City Mint double eagles. Brilliant orange-gold lustre with a trace of green on the reverse. Moderately abraded as are most coins from this mint. Examples grading better than EF, as the present coin, are few and far between.

Closed 3 in date as always.

*Purchased from Lester Merkin, October 1966.*

- 846 **1873-S Closed 3. MS-61.** Bright yellow gold with sharp design details and few minor surface marks. A delightful example of this relatively available issue.

Several fine die cracks on the obverse through the stars and Miss Liberty. The reverse has several spider web cracks around the legend.

*From Parke-Bernet's sale of the McGraw Collection, May 1968, Lot 49.*

## Lustrous Group of Double Eagles

- 847 **Group of double eagles grading AU-50:** ☆ 1873-S Closed 3. Yellow gold ☆ 1874-S ☆ 1876-S ☆ 1878-S ☆ 1880-S ☆ 1887-S. Each displays orange-gold surfaces except where noted. A very attractive group with much mint lustre present on each specimen, with the reverse of certain specimens closely challenging the Mint State designation. (Total: 6 pieces)

## Nearly Mint State Group of \$20

- 848 **Half dozen San Francisco double eagles grading AU-58:** ☆ 1873-S Open 3 ☆ 1888-S ☆ 1889-S ☆ 1891-S ☆ 1899-S ☆ 1900-S. Each displays lustrous surfaces. Some may even be called Mint State by certain observers. A very high quality group! (Total: 6 pieces)

## Lustrous \$20 Selection

- 849 **Half dozen AU-55 double eagles:** ☆ 1874 ☆ 1890-S ☆ 1895 ☆ 1901 ☆ 1902 ☆ 1905-S. All display lustrous surfaces. (Total: 6 pieces)

## Scarce 1874-CC Double Eagle



- 850 **1874-CC AU-55.** Lustrous light greenish yellow gold with very pleasing surfaces, especially for this issue. This example is

much better than those typically seen. At this grade level the 1874-CC is quite scarce. The present specimen is finer than that normally encountered.

*From Parke-Bernet's sale of the McGraw Collection, May 1968, Lot 51.*

- 851 **1874-CC AU-50.** Extensively abraded with reflective light yellow gold surfaces. Still, a very desirable example of this popular issue. A minor imperfection, covered by a splash of deep rose toning, is in the right obverse field.

*From Paramount's sale of February 1971, Lot 1630.*

- 852 **1874-S MS-61 (PCGS).** Although with a relatively high population of 21 coins, only six finer examples have been graded by PCGS. As such, this specimen qualifies as a rarity among examples of this design type. Brilliant yellow gold lustre with sharp design details, especially on the reverse. Another coin with a fairly nominal market value—perhaps a thousand dollars more or less—but which is among the finest known examples and is very rare on an absolute basis.

*Purchased from Lester Merkin, June 15, 1967.*

- 853 **1875 MS-60.** Lustrous light yellow gold with very pleasing surfaces for the grade. A delightful example for the date or type collector.

This issue is the only readily available gold coin dated 1875 from Philadelphia with a mintage of 295,740. Mintages for the other denominations are: gold dollar: 420; quarter eagle: 420; three-dollar: 20 (or perhaps a few more); half eagle: 220; and eagle: 120.

*From Abe Kosoff's 1968 ANA Sale, Lot 1597.*

## Mint State 1875-CC Double Eagle

### Extreme Eye Appeal



- 854 **1875-CC MS-62 (PCGS).** This is a wonderful example of this popular issue, an ideal candidate for the branch mint type collector. Frosty and highly lustrous with bright yellow gold surfaces. Very slight cameo contrast completes the picture.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 18, 1972.*

## Mint State 1875-CC \$20



- 855 **1875-CC MS-62 (PCGS).** This issue is the only readily available Carson City Mint double eagle of this design type. Of course, "readily available" is a relative term. This date has the fifth highest Mint State population of any Type II double eagle.



Apparently many of these were exported, as nearly all Mint State examples have been imported back into this country during the last few decades. Bright yellow gold with frosty lustre and exceptional aesthetic appeal.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 4, 1972.*

- 856 **1875-S MS-60.** Sharply struck with lustrous light yellow gold surfaces. Readily available, even in lower Mint State grades. Coins such as this provide a great reason to start a specialized collection by date and mint—for there are many lovely varieties available in Mint State for nominal prices, particularly from about this point in time onward.

*Purchased from Mal Varner, August 8, 1972.*

- 857 **1875-S AU-58.** Pleasing quality with lustrous light yellow gold surfaces. Sharply defined and lightly abraded.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, March 8, 1972.*

- 858 **1876 MS-62 (PCGS).** An impressive example from our centennial year, this with lustrous bright orange-gold surfaces and very few marks of any sort. A few faint hairlines are visible upon close inspection and keep this coin from, say, MS-63 or MS-64. Extremely excellent overall quality.

The reverse was from a hub used only very briefly in 1876, and described as the Light Motto hub. A die crack starts at N (TWENTY) runs clockwise to the second T (STATES), another starts at O (OF) and continues to C (AMERICA).

*From Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 1984, Lot 1125.*

- 859 **1876 MS-62.** Reflective light yellow gold with light surface marks. An attractive cameo example.

Light Motto reverse.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, March 15, 1972.*

### Bargain-Seeker's \$20 Group

- 860 **Selection of double eagles** with minor problems of various degrees, an ideal group for the bargain hunter who is not particularly fussy about quality (and, quite a few people feel this way—although relatively few admit it). These were acquired by Harry Bass for the study of their logotypes and other die characteristics: ☆ 1876 Net AU-50; sharpness of AU-58, light obverse scratches ☆ 1876 Net EF-45; sharpness of AU-50, cleaned ☆ 1878-S Net VF-30; sharpness of VF-35, cleaned ☆ 1886 Net EF-45; sharpness of AU-50, lightly cleaned ☆ 1893-S Net AU-55; sharpness of MS-60, cleaned ☆ 1895-S Net EF-45; sharpness of AU-53, brushed ☆ 1902-S Net EF-45; sharpness of AU-50, graffiti removed on obverse field before face of Liberty ☆ 1903-S Net EF-45; sharpness of AU-50, light obverse scratches. (Total: 8 pieces)

### Mint State 1876-CC Double Eagle



- 861 **1876-CC MS-61.** Reflective light yellow gold with extensive obverse hairlines, no doubt cleaned in the past. The reverse has been much more carefully handled. Although not nearly as common as the 1875-CC issue in Mint State, this centennial issue from Carson City is still relatively available.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, May 31, 1972.*

- 862 **1876-CC AU-58.** Reflective light yellow gold with moderate abrasions. Still, prooflike characteristics include attractive cameo contrast.

Fine die crack run through UNITED and another through TWENTY.

*From Parke-Bernet's sale of May 1968, Lot 56.*

- 863 **1876-CC AU-55.** A delightful example, this with frosty lustre and minor surface marks. Seldom do three examples of a scarce issue such as this appear together for public auction competition. When one stops to consider that three other examples were offered in Part II of the Bass Collection, the scope of this cabinet is noted.

Die crack connects dentil to bust at left of date. Reverse die crack connects TWENTY D. and UNITED to first S (STATES), several other minor die cracks are noted.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, May 30, 1972.*

- 864 **1876-S MS-61.** Attractive, lustrous, and sharply struck with few minor surface marks.

Interesting varieties can be demonstrated by the mintmark position on the present coin, with the S being located over the T (TWENTY). On the 1876-S that is part of Lot 866, the S mintmark is located over the N.

*Purchased from Bob Roth.*

### Attractive Double Eagle Grouping

- 865 **Grouping of AU-58 double eagles:** ☆ 1876-S. Semi-reflective surfaces ☆ 1893. Satiny surfaces ☆ 1895. Lustrous ☆ 1896. Satiny surfaces with splashes of orange ☆ 1898. Satiny green surfaces ☆ 1902. Lustrous with splashes of orange ☆ 1907-S. Lustrous. A very attractive group that will appeal to just about any selective buyer. (Total: 7 pieces)

### Another Interesting \$20 Lineup

- 866 **Half dozen AU-55 double eagles from the San Francisco Mint:** ☆ 1876-S ☆ 1879-S ☆ 1883-S ☆ 1884-S ☆ 1885-S ☆ 1897-S. A few faint copper spots are noted on the reverse. Each displays lustrous yellow surfaces. (Total: 6 pieces)

### Memorable 1877 Proof \$20 Rarity

#### A Double Eagle Classic



- 867 **1877 Proof-64 (PCGS).** First year of issue with TWENTY DOLLARS spelled out on the reverse. Although 20 Proofs were struck, today only 11 to 13 are believed to exist. A splendid specimen with deeply frosted devices and mirrored surfaces. A few hairlines can be seen under magnification, three small black spots are visible on the obverse between the 13th star and date.

PCGS Population: 10; none finer.

Beginning in 1877, the head of Miss Liberty was repositioned on the hub. The truncation is now at a considerably higher angle, permitting much more room between the neck and the dentils. Thus, after this point, date placement variations are not as noticeable. As a quick point of reference between the old style and new style, the old style had the point of Miss Liberty's coronet very close to star 7, while the new hub has the coronet tip



centered between stars six and seven. Other differences could be mentioned.

The new reverse hub is a hybrid between the old style and new style hubs discussed under 1876. The motto is light on the 1877 die, and the words IN GOD WE are significantly above TRUST. However, on the new die there are seven thin rays between the eagle's wing at the upper left and first thick ray, somewhat reminiscent of the old style hub used in early 1876 and before, but differently cut. On the new hub the letters in E PLURIBUS UNUM are *much larger* than those used earlier. Other differences could be mentioned. To fully appreciate them place an 1876 "Light Motto" hub of the new hub alongside the 1877 and make comparisons.

*From Stack's sale of May 1974, Lot 525.*

- 868 1877-CC AU-50.** Lustrous honey gold with much brightness and some prooflike reflectivity in the recessed areas. A scarce date in all grades, one that is typically seen in VF or EF.

Date logotype nicely impressed, 18 close, 877 more widely spaced (the same logotype was used on all dies and mints this year). Top of 1 twice as far from truncation as bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils. Reverse CC mintmark tall and well formed, letters lean left, first C slightly lower than second C, less than a letter's distance between the letters, both over space between Y and D below, second C nearly half over point of upper serif of D below.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 1, 1969.*

### Choice Mint State 1877-S \$20



- 869 1877-S MS-63 (PCGS).** A lovely specimen with intense cart-wheel lustre and a hint of pale rose iridescence. Although plentiful in worn grades it becomes a rarity in choice Mint State. Few examples of this date can match the quality of the present coin; indeed, this is among the finest specimens of the date graded by PCGS. A pleasing coin for the grade.

PCGS Population: 3; 3 finer (MS-64).

Date logotype nicely impressed. Top of 1 marginally closer to truncation than to dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Reverse S mintmark tall and somewhat blob-like at the center, leaning slightly right, over space between Y and D below, right edge of S over point of uppermost serif of D below.

*From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 442.*

- 870 1877-S MS-62.** Brilliant and lustrous, just a few light marks from a finer grade.

Date logotype nicely impressed. Top of 1 marginally farther from truncation than bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. Reverse S mintmark tall and somewhat blob-like at the center, upright, centered over space between Y and D below, about equidistant from Y, D, and tailfeathers.

*From Parke-Bernet's sale of May 1968, Lot 60.*

- 871 1877-S AU-55.** Honey gold with some mint lustre still remaining. A popular branch mint issue.

Date evenly though somewhat lightly impressed. 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Small S mintmark equidistant from tailfeathers above and denomination below, over right side of space between Y and D.

*Purchased from Bob Roth, December 2, 1969.*

- 872 1878 MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous surfaces with some copper toning on the reverse to the right of the tailfeathers.

Struck from a rusted obverse die with many tiny, raised dots around Liberty's ear. This is a very curious die from a technical viewpoint. In front of Miss Liberty's ear and also below it is a satiny "field" surface, probably from the entire face of the die—except certain deep recesses—being lapped to remove all traces of the rust (which must have been present in other areas as well).

Date logotype firmly impressed, somewhat heavier at the bottoms of the numerals. 1 slightly closer to truncation than to dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. AMERICA heavy in reverse die, parts of TWENTY DOLLARS faint.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman October 25, 1972.*

- 873 1878 MS-61.** Lustrous with a few minor marks, still quite nice for the grade.

Date logotype deeply impressed. 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Reverse with light machine doubling at the top legends.

*Purchased from Jack L. Klausen April 19, 1969.*

### 1878-CC Double Eagle Rarity New Die Pair



- 874 1878-CC AU-53 (PCGS).** Prooflike honey gold surfaces with frosty motifs. A rarity in all grades; only 13,180 examples were struck. When found, the typical example of the date is VF or occasionally EF; at AU or finer, the rarity of the date escalates dramatically.

Previously undescribed die pair, now described here: for easy comparison, it is instructive to examine the plate coins in either the Akers' or Winter-Cutler references, both of which are of the "regular" die pair, not that offered here:

On the present coin, the date logotype is nearly centered as measured by the 1 (1878), the digit being nearly (but not quite) as close to the neck truncation as to the dentils; on the regular variety the 1 is much closer to the dentils. The mintmark on the present variety was punched in with two separate C letters (as on other double eagles of the era), which on the present coin are more closely spaced than on the regular piece, with the right most C centered over the upper left serif of D (DOLLARS)."

Describing the *other* variety, the Winter-Cutler reference states that: "The third scarcest Carson City double eagle in terms of overall rarity." The equivalent of Lot 1870 in our sale of Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection (October 1999), and important as such. A splendid opportunity.

1878 four-digit date logotype with 18 closest, 87 widest, and 78 not quite as wide as 87. Lower left serif of 1 heavier than lower right serif, top interior of both 8s slightly smaller than bottom interior, base of second 8 low, numeral leans slightly right; this logotype used on all double eagle dies for all three mints.

Regarding the dies used to coin the present specimen, the following information is pertinent: The Winter-Cutler reference states that "All known examples have a long, thin vertical die scratch on the neck of Liberty close to her hair. This die scratch extends from just below the ear to the truncation. On the reverse there are two small die humps near the second 1 in TWENTY. There is also a die scratch below the D in DOLLARS as well as a number of other small die scratches below the value. No significant die varieties are known. The mintmark is widely spaced and placed very slightly to the right with the final C over the middle of the D in DOLLARS."



As noted, the Akers and Winter-Cutler plate coins have the low date, and Lot 1870 in the Bass Collection II sale was also of the low date.

Expanding upon the description of the new die pair offered in the present sale, we note that there is no raised vertical die line on the present coin. There is, however, a noticeable lump, circular in shape, near a dentil just above the 11th obverse star which should serve as a ready diagnostic for the die. On the reverse of the present, in contrast with the standardized variety, there are no die lumps near the second T in TWENTY, nor are there any die lines around the D in DOLLARS. There are certain die markers on the present coin that are worth sharing here. Further die markers could be mentioned: a faint raised die line runs across the middle of the M in AMERICA, while another runs through the top of the E in that word. The top of the I shows what may be repunching (or perhaps another die line), while a sizeable patch of roughness can be seen in the field after the second A. The right side of the S in DOLLARS shows several obvious “spikes” that protrude well into the field in a counterclockwise direction.

*From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1258.*

### Lustrous Double Eagle Sextette

- 875 **Group of AU-58 double eagles:** ☆ 1879 ☆ 1890 Recut 1 ☆ 1894 ☆ 1897 ☆ 1900 ☆ 1904. Each displays attractive and lustrous surfaces. (Total: 6 pieces)

### Famous 1879-O Double Eagle



- 876 **1879-O Net EF-40;** sharpness of AU-50, scratches in obverse field. Lustrous honey gold with virtually full prooflike fields. What a spectacular coin this must have been at the time of striking!

Among branch mint \$20 coins of this era, the 1879-O stands out for its remarkably low mintage of 2,325 pieces. Further, it is the first coin of the denomination struck at New Orleans since the Confederate States took over the Mint in 1861, as well as the last coin of this denomination struck at New Orleans. From the viewpoint of double eagles mintages of New Orleans, only the 1856-O registers a lower number. Year in and year out, any appearance of an 1879 has been a numismatic event. The vast majority of specimens are in grades significantly lower than the present coin. Of the relatively few that exist, the Bass Collection piece is certainly in the top 10% quality-wise.

Date logotype used on double eagles at all four issuing mints—Philadelphia, New Orleans, San Francisco, and Carson City—this year. 1 in date equidistant from truncation and dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Reverse O mintmark small and well formed, slightly closer to tail feathers than D below, right side of O over left edge of upper serif of D.

*Purchased from Fred Sweeney April 14, 1972.*

### Lovely Mint State 1879-S \$20

#### Condition Census



- 877 **1879-S MS-62 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous golden orange with attractive rose toning highlights. Considerably more rare than its mintage figure of more than 1.2 million coins indicates. Choice for the grade.

PCGS Population: 13; 1 finer (MS-63).

Date logotype low, bottom of 1 closer to dentils than top is to truncation, top of 8 weak, appearing “broken.” Reverse S mintmark small and nicely shaped, leaning slightly right, over space between Y and D below, closer to the D.

*Purchased from Dan Brown, December 11, 1967.*

- 878 **1880 AU-58 (PCGS).** Satiny honey gold surfaces exhibit attractive orange highlights. Somewhat prooflike. A classic example of the date and grade. Scarce so fine.

Date logotype slightly left, but centered nicely vertically, left edge of lower serif of 1 over space between dentils. A die crack starts at a dentil midway between the final star and the 0 in the date, advancing into the field a considerable distance before forming a “T.” The left branch runs downward toward the 0, terminating above that cipher, while the right branch runs upwards, terminating in the field opposite the lowest point of the final star.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, December 7, 1971.*

- 879 **1880 AU-53.** Lustrous honey gold surfaces show a scattering of tiny ticks. First 8 in date noticeably repunched.

Date logotype noticeably right, 1 equidistant, remnants of the base of an 8 plainly visible below the first 8 in the date. The date logotype was first entered too low in the die, then mostly effaced, after which the date was deeply repunched in a higher position.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, November 15, 1968.*

- 880 **1881-S MS-61.** Lustrous honey gold with a trace of pale rose iridescence. A difficult date to locate in grades finer than that of the present coin.

Date nicely impressed, centered horizontally and vertically, left edge of lower serif of 1 over center of dentil. Reverse S mintmark small and nicely shaped, equidistant from tail feathers above and D below right side of S over point of upper serif of D.

As we contemplate the decade of the 1880s and note that there are several Proof-only varieties—namely 1883, 1884, and 1887—we introduce the collecting rationale that specialists may wish to collect only *circulation strikes*, thus handily removing these three very rare and quite expensive pieces from their want lists—precisely the same thing that many collectors of early half cents have done with the Proof-only issues of the 1840s.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 6, 1972.*



**Mint State 1882-CC \$20**



**881 1882-CC MS-61 (PCGS).** Satiny and highly lustrous honey gold with attractive olive iridescence in the fields. A moderately scarce date in all grades, especially so in Mint State. The present coin would make a pleasing addition to any double eagle collection.

Date logotype nicely impressed, numerals well centered, 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Reverse CC mintmark upright, letters closely spaced, first C higher than second C, right side of second C over center of upright of D below.

*Purchased from I. Kleinman, October 15, 1971.*

**882 1882-CC AU-55.** Honey gold with frosty motifs and reflective fields. A scattering of tiny ticks is noted, mostly occurring on the obverse.

Date logotype nicely impressed, numerals well-centered, 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Reverse CC mintmark leans slightly left, letters closely spaced, first C lower than second C, right side of second C over center of upright of D below. A faint die crack completely circles the periphery, connecting the tops of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA with the bottoms of TWENTY DOLLARS.

**883 1882-S MS-61.** Brilliant and lustrous with a touch of frost on the devices. A definite “winner” for the grade.

Date logotype solidly impressed, numerals nicely spaced, 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. Reverse S mintmark small and blob-like, equidistant from tail feathers and denomination, placed midway between Y and D.

*Purchased from I. Kleinman, November 5, 1971.*

**884 Quartette of AU-50 double eagles:** ☆ 1882-S. Semi-reflective surfaces with an edge visible at 9:30 on the obverse ☆ 1887-S. Pale green over lustrous surfaces ☆ 1899-S. Lustrous ☆ 1906-S. Frosty lustre. (Total: 4 pieces)

**885 1883-CC AU-58.** Attractive honey gold. Sharply struck and highly lustrous. A very nice example of this popular Carson City issue.

Date logotype nicely impressed, placed somewhat to the right, 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils, roughness noted in lower loop of 3, raised die lines between rim and final two stars. Reverse CC mintmark centrally placed between tail feathers and denomination, over space between Y and D. Roughness in raised ground within both mintmark letters; many raised diagonal lines in vertical stripes of shield. An interesting piece from a die preparation viewpoint.

*From Superior’s sale of February 1973, Lot 930.*

**886 1883-CC AU-50.** Attractive honey gold with warm orange highlights. Somewhat prooflike in the fields.

From the same die pair as the preceding lot.

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 16, 1972.*

**887 1883-S MS-62.** Bright honey gold with strong cartwheel lustre on both surfaces.

Date logotype nicely impressed, 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. Reverse S mintmark small and somewhat mushy at the center, equidistant from tail feathers and denomination, over space between Y and D, twice as far from Y as D.

*From Stack’s sale of October 1970, Lot 889.*

**888 1883-S MS-62.** Frosty and lustrous. A few stray marks are noted, but the overall appeal is quite fine for the grade.

Date logotype nicely impressed, somewhat to right, 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Reverse S mintmark small and well-formed, slightly right of center over space between Y and D.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, April 11, 1972.*

**889 1884-CC AU-58.** Lustrous honey gold with olive iridescence in the fields. This popular date is scarce enough to be numismatically enticing, but plentiful enough to be numismatically available. A few stray marks present, but still choice for the grade.

Date logotype nicely impressed, 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil, plain 4 leans slightly right. Reverse CC mintmark large and well-formed, less than a letter’s space between the letters, equidistant from tail feathers and denomination, first C over center of space between Y and D, second C mostly over left side of D.

*Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 17, 1968.*

**Choice Mint State 1884-S \$20**



**890 1884-S MS-63.** Brilliant and lustrous. A beautiful specimen for the grade, one which shows far fewer bagmarks than are normally encountered for this date. Typically found well circulated up to MS-62 or so. At MS-63, the rarity of the date becomes substantial.

Date logotype lightly impressed. 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils. Reverse S mintmark small, somewhat blunt at the middle, closer to upper left of D (DOLLARS) than to tail feathers.

*Acquired from the Goliad Corporation in trade, March 15, 1972.*

**Another Choice Uncirculated 1884-S \$20**



**891 1884-S MS-63.** Bright honey gold with strong lustre. Semi-prooflike surfaces show a couple of small, faint spots in the left obverse field. Still, a lovely coin for the grade.

Date logotype lightly impressed. 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Reverse S mintmark small, somewhat blunt at the middle, about equidistant from tail feathers and denomination, just minutely right of center of space below.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, January 15, 1973.*



- 892 1889-CC AU-58. Lustrous honey gold surfaces are satiny in nature. A pleasing example of a popular Carson City issue, a date that is quite scarce in AU.

Date logotype nicely impressed, slightly right and fairly low in the die, 1 closer to dentils than truncation, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Reverse CC mintmark large and well-formed, less than a letter's space between the letters, farther from the tail feathers than from the denomination, first C over center of space between Y and D, second C mostly over left side of D.

From Lester Merkin's sale of October 1966, Lot 456.

- 893 1890-CC AU-50. Warm and satiny honey gold surfaces. A lustrous and pleasing specimen of a popular Carson City Mint issue.

Date logotype nicely impressed, date low and to right, 1 twice as far from truncation as from dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Reverse CC mintmark small and round, less than a letter's space between the letters, placed mostly over space below, right edge of second C just over left edge of upper serif of D below. Upon close inspection the tail feathers of the eagle, especially to the right, are very lightly impressed into the working die—probably from the original master die (not from relapping, or else certain other features including the mintmark would be lightly defined). A fairly heavy die break connects the tops of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA before petering out below the S in DOLLARS.

From Stack's ANA Convention sale, August 1971, Lot 2486.

### Low-Mintage 1891-CC \$20 Rarity Just 5,000 Struck



- 894 1891-CC AU-58 (PCGS). Frosty golden yellow with attractive olive highlights. A key date, a prize among the later Carson City Mint double eagles. Just 5,000 examples of the date were struck, with many survivors from that mintage in a lesser grade than that offered here. The desirability of the present piece is enhanced by the relative availability of certain other Carson City double eagles of the era, thus helping to create want lists for the rare 1891-CC.

Date logotype moderately impressed, top of first 1 about half again as far from truncation as the bottom is from the dentils, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils, upper loop of 9 just touches ball of that numeral. Reverse CC mintmark fairly round, back of the letters thick, closely spaced, second C minutely higher than first C, first C over right side of space between Y and D, second C entirely over D below. First C filled with horizontal die lines, second C clear.

Purchased from Mr. Louis (Chicago), March 16, 1972.

### Choice Mint State 1892 \$20

A Low-Mintage Rarity

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



(2x photo)

- 895 1892 MS-64 (PCGS). Lustrous honey gold with strong cart-wheel lustre and splashes of rose iridescence. A great rarity at this level—far rarer than an equivalent Proof (and Proofs themselves are very rare). For the specialist this piece represents a rare find, a rare opportunity, and is one of the great highlights in this portion of the Bass Collection double eagle offering.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date logotype nicely impressed, 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil, 9 sharp, loop and ball apart. Reverse devices well impressed and sharply presented.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1283.

### Mint State \$20 Group

Emphasis on San Francisco

- 896 Group of MS-60 double eagles, all but two being from the San Francisco Mint: ☆ 1892-S ☆ 1895-S ☆ 1897-S ☆ 1898-S ☆ 1899 Date logotype placed very low ☆ 1902-S ☆ 1903 ☆ 1904-S. Each item is lustrous and attractive. (Total: 8 pieces)



## Lustrous 1893-CC Double Eagle



- 897 **1893-CC MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with olive highlights. Sharply struck and aesthetically appealing for the grade. Struck in the final year of Carson City Mint operations.

Date logotype nicely impressed, bottom of 1 marginally closer to dentils than top is to truncation, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil. Reverse CC mintmark letters fairly round, back of the letters thick, letters closely spaced, both letters even, first C over right side of space between Y and D, second C entirely over D below.

*Purchased from Douglas Weaver, August 30, 1973.*

- 898 **1893-CC AU-58.** Satiny honey gold with delightful cartwheel lustre. A second pleasing specimen of this popular issue.

Date logotype nicely impressed, top of 1 more distant from truncation than bottom is from dentils, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Reverse CC mintmark letters fairly round, back of the letters thick, letters closely spaced, both letters even, first C over right side of space between Y and D, second C entirely over D below. A network of fine die cracks is seen in the reverse legends.

*Purchased from Dr. Jay M. Sklar, February 1, 1972.*

## Lovely 1894 Double Eagle

### Choice Mint State



- 899 **1894 MS-64 (PCGS).** Satiny honey gold with strong lustre and lively rose iridescence. A prize at the assigned grade level; PCGS has not certified an example of the date above the grade of the present piece. Surprisingly rare in choice Mint State despite a lofty mintage of nearly 1.4 million pieces.

Date logotype nicely impressed and nicely centered horizontally and vertically, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil. Reverse with a faint die crack at the tops of TED ST.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 7, 1972.*

## Attractive Mint State \$20 Group

- 900 **Half dozen Liberty double eagles:** ☆ 1894-S MS-62 Prooflike. Reflective yellow surfaces; about as close as a circulation strike can come to a Proof without actually being one! ☆ 1898-S MS-62. Lustrous with a couple of minute spots near date. Date logotype very low ☆ 1899-S MS-62. Lustrous with pale green highlights. Date logotype very low ☆ 1904-S MS-62. Lustrous. Date logotype fairly high ☆ 1907 MS-62. Frosty lustre ☆ 1907-D MS-62. Scratch through coronet. Date logotype fairly high. (Total: 6 pieces)

Even late-date Coronet Head double eagles are apt to show wide variations in date positioning. Seemingly, no centering line or guide was used for date placement in the working dies, and there are numerous variations vertically and horizontally. These varieties have never been catalogued and are probably beyond the interest of most numismatists, but they are fascinating to observe. In contrast, it seems that Morgan silver dollars of the late 19th and early 20th centuries had the dates positioned by the use of tiny dashes or marks to guide the logotypes, with the result that there are not many significant position variations.

## Choice Uncirculated 1896-S \$20



- 901 **1896-S MS-63.** Lustrous orange-gold. Just a few light marks short of the gem category. A plentiful and popular Gay Nineties issue.

Date logotype evenly impressed. 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil. Reverse S mintmark fairly tall and nicely shaped, marginal closer to D below than tail feathers above, right side of S over left end of serif of D. Machine doubling on the mintmark.

*From Abe Kosoff's ANA Convention sale, August 1968.*

- 902 **1897 MS-63.** Bright and lustrous yellow gold with lively olive highlights.

Date logotype firmly impressed, date nicely centered horizontally and vertically, left edge of lower serif of 1 over right side of dentil. Reverse is nicely struck in all areas.

*Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 17, 1968.*

- 903 **1899 MS-63.** Satiny honey gold with lively lustre and attractive olive highlights.

Date logotype firmly impressed, date centered horizontally and vertically, left edge of lower serif of 1 over right side of dentil, a few faint cracks connect some obverse stars that are also seen through the bottom of the date. Reverse sharp.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 23, 1973.*

- 904 **1900 MS-63.** Satiny lustre on bright honey gold surfaces. A toning spot is noted at the top of the 1 in the date.

Date logotype firmly impressed, date centered horizontally and vertically, left edge of lower serif of 1 over center of dentil. Reverse sharp.

*From Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 1984, Lot 1094.*



- 905 1901-S MS-62.** Lustrous yellow gold with some pale olive highlights.

Date logotype firmly impressed, date slightly right, left edge of lower serif of first 1 over right edge of dentil. Reverse S mintmark lightly impressed, S tall, thin, and shapely, top of S slightly closer to tail feathers than to D below, right side of S over left end of upper serif of D.

*From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 972.*

- 906 1903 MS-64 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with olive iridescence on both sides.

Date logotype evenly impressed, 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over space between dentils, 9 open. Reverse lettering with traces of unfinished at TWENTY and IN GOD WE TRUST, somewhat reminiscent of certain dies of years earlier (in a related context, the 1857-O \$20 in the present offering is an example).

*Purchased from Julian Leidman, May 13, 1972.*

- 907 1904 MS-64.** Brilliant and lustrous with attractive olive highlights.

Date logotype evenly impressed, 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil, 9 open. This piece, and many others of this era, are struck from dies that must have had a very fine mattelike surfaces, imparting a rich satiny lustre to the finished product—quite unlike the deeply “flashing” lustre of years earlier.

*Purchased from James Hayes, August 18, 1972.*

## Important 1905 Double Eagle

### A Condition Rarity



- 908 1905 MS-63 (PCGS).** Subdued lustre on honey gold surfaces. Scattered copper spots are noted, chiefly on the obverse. From a fairly small mintage for the era of 58,919 business strikes. The 1905 double eagle has long been recognized as a rarity. Very few were saved by intent or chance, as numismatists of the era—as small as their numbers may have been—purchased Proofs instead. One of the rarest 20th-century double eagles, with just the 1902 issue being scarcer.

Date logotype evenly impressed, numerals shapely, 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over center of dentil, 9 open. Reverse unremarkable.

*Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, January 16, 1970.*

## Choice Mint State 1906 \$20



- 909 1906 MS-64 (PCGS).** Satiny honey gold with delightful lustre and warm olive highlights. From a fairly small mintage for the era of just 69,596 pieces. A notable condition rarity in MS-64 or finer, and highly desirable as such.

Date logotype evenly impressed, numerals shapely, 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil, 9 and 6 open.

*Purchased from James Hayes, August 18, 1972.*

- 910 1906-S MS-63.** Satiny honey gold with strong lustre and olive highlights. An “earthquake year” coin.

Date logotype evenly impressed. 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over right edge of dentil, 9 and 6 open. Reverse S mintmark fairly tall and well shaped, equidistant between tail feathers above and D below, right side of S nearly half over serif of D below. The surfaces of this have the “flashy” frost typical of an earlier era.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, October 10, 1972; ex Charles Byers, September 21, 1972.*

## Gem Mint State 1907-D Liberty \$20



- 911 1907-D MS-65 (PCGS).** A satiny honey gold gem with strong lustre and lovely pale olive toning highlights. A gem from the final year of the design type.

Date logotype evenly impressed. 1 equidistant, left edge of lower serif over left edge of dentil, 9 open. Reverse D mintmark wider than it is tall, much closer to tail feathers than to D below, right curve of D over point of upper serif of D below.

*From Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 26, 1984.*



## Phenomenal MCMVII High Relief \$20

Magnificent Specimen of a  
Magnificent Design



(2x photo)

912 **MCMVII (1907) High Relief. Flat Rim. MS-66 (PCGS).** This example is a magnificent specimen of one of America's all time favorites, a motif which in many surveys has been voted the most popular ever made for a circulating coin.

The present specimen is very high on the roster of known examples, combining as it does a very high numerical grade with—even more important—magnificent aesthetic appeal. The satiny surfaces have fully brilliant light yellow gold lustre. The surfaces challenge perfection.

As is true of all high-grade circulation strikes the fields show minute raised swirls and lines, from the die finishing process. Some have suggested that these signify *Proof* strikings, but in all actuality such lines are common to all, at least all we have seen. It might well be that another grading service might designate the present piece a *Proof*; at present, PCGS does not recognize Proofs of this issue, but certain other services do. Whether or not Proofs were actually made is a matter of debate—with opinions on both sides. So far as we know, the designation *Proof* is of relatively modern origin, as thus far in our research the earliest listing we have found is 1950 (in a Numismatic Gallery catalogue). The point of mentioning this is that pieces equivalent to this seem to have been offered as Proofs elsewhere, and often pieces designated as Proofs sell for more money, and this feature simply adds to the potential of the present specimen.

Although it can no longer be seen as the coin is in a holder, Harry Bass in his notes observed that "13.297" was painted on the edge—apparently in very tiny numerals and removable if desired, quite possibly a museum accession number, possibly from the Massachusetts Historical Society, consignor to the 1976 sale mentioned below.

Of the 11,250 specimens struck of the MCMVII, data indicate that about 4,000 were struck with the flat rim (details will be given in the forthcoming work on gold coins) and the balance with full or partial wire rims. For many years both have been collected as separate varieties, but actually the basic dies are the same—it is just the rim that differs slightly.

Of the original mintage quantity, we estimate that several thousand exist today, with typical grades being from AU to low Mint State. In high grade such as MS-64 and MS-65 the field thins out to just a few contestants, and at the MS-66 level offered here, only six other specimens have been certified by PCGS—and none finer—at the time of cataloguing. Thus, the present piece is indeed very *special*.

PCGS Population: 7; 0.

Some historical notes may be of interest:

This coin, with its exquisite sculptured appearance, is one of the most popular of all American numismatic rarities. It was created by the cooperation of President Theodore Roosevelt and noted sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

In 1904, after visiting the Smithsonian Institution (then located in the "Castle" building on the Mall), President Theodore Roosevelt contemplated that coins of ancient Greece were more beautiful than those circulating in America. He consulted with certain government officials, and then set up what became a one-man campaign to improve coinage artistry. In 1905 he enlisted the talents of his acquaintance (they had met briefly on a train earlier), Saint-Gaudens, to redesign the different denominations. Over a period of time the artist, working at his studio in Cornish, New Hampshire, devised ideas for the one-cent piece, eagle, and double eagle and, had his health permitted, would have advanced ideas for the entire range of coinage. Saint-Gaudens died on August 3, 1907, and the only issues which saw fruition were the Indian \$10 and "Victory" \$20. The present writer speculates that the design changes of the other denominations would have been spectacular, as were Saint-Gaudens' alterations of the eagle and double eagle. Indeed, some sketches and preliminary ideas for a one-cent piece still survive.

The book *United States Gold Coinage: An Illustrated History*, by Q. David Bowers, details the correspondence between Roosevelt and Saint-Gaudens. The sculptor, an idealist, followed the President's suggestion and created a \$20 coin in high relief with a sculptured appearance—perhaps fulfilling the dream that American coins could be as artistic of those of ancient Greece.

Employees in the Engraving Department of the Philadelphia Mint, incensed because an outsider was selected to design coins (traditionally a privilege of the Mint itself), refused to cooperate with Saint-Gaudens. They stated, and, as it turned out, rightly so, that Saint-Gaudens was unfamiliar with the requirements of coinage and was approaching the situation from an artistic, not a practical viewpoint. Roosevelt intervened on behalf of the artist and insisted that the Mint produce his newly designed \$20 coins no matter what the cost, effort, or expense might be. When the Mint stated that the relief was too high—as indeed it was—Roosevelt replied that he did not care, and if only one coin *per day* could be struck, this is how it would be!



Initial examples were of the Extremely High Relief design. Later, a modification was made, producing the “regular” High Relief design (as offered here) which still was in much higher relief than a normal coin and which still had striking problems. Still later, the design was considerably flattened, the Roman numerals were eliminated, and pieces could indeed be produced at high speed on production presses.

The first design, the so-called Extremely High Relief (or “Ultra High Relief”), required many blows on the medal press, with annealing between each impression, to strike up the coins properly. The exact number minted will probably never be known, but estimates ranging from a low of 13 to a high of 22 have been given, with the present writer (QDB) currently settling upon 18 or 19. It may have been that additional pieces were restruck by George T. Morgan after 1907, and inquiry is ongoing—with no definite conclusions yet reached.

The design of the MCMVII \$20 is of exquisite beauty. Liberty is portrayed as a woman striding toward the viewer, with the resplendent rays of the sun behind. In her left hand (viewer’s right) is a torch held aloft, and in her right hand is an olive branch. The Capitol building, small in size, can be seen at the lower left. The date is given in Roman numerals, MCMVII, a classical influence. Below the date the monogram of Saint-Gaudens appears boldly. Above the head is the word LIBERTY, and around the border are 46 stars representing the states of the Union.

The motif for the obverse was taken from Saint-Gaudens’ much acclaimed figure of Victory, a part of the Sherman Monument completed in 1903 for Central Park, New York City. Before the motif used on the coin was decided upon, a number of variations were attempted, including a figure of Victory with angelic wings. Victory is said to have been inspired by Saint-Gaudens’ mistress, Davida Clark, with whom he had a child, and her visage is also said to be seen on the \$10 piece of 1907, but in a close-up view.

The reverse of the MCMVII \$20 depicts a flying eagle with the sun below and an inscription above. Interestingly, Saint-Gaudens copied this from the 1856-1858 Flying Eagle cent design, first proposing its use on a new variety of cent, but eventually adapting its use for the double eagle. The sculptor wrote to Roosevelt noting, in part:

“I am using a flying eagle, modification of the device which is used on the cent of 1857. I had not seen that coin for many years and was so impressed by it that I thought if carried out with some modifications, nothing better could be done. It is by all odds the best design on any American coin.”

Much more could be said about the MCMVII, its history and background, and if the successful bidder on this coin would like an hour’s worth of reading material, a request to the editor will bring a manuscript draft of the 1907 \$20 section of the new work on gold coinage.

*From Stack’s 1976 ANA sale, August 1976, Lot 3297.*

## Lovely Gem MCMVII \$20

Wire Edge



(2x photo)

**913 MCMVII (1907) High Relief. Wire Rim. MS-65 (PCGS).** A truly splendid, truly amazing example at the MS-65 grade level, of the variety with wire rim. Similar to the preceding, this piece under close examination has many raised swirls and lines from die finishing—hallmarks of what some have said defines a *Proof*. Moreover, Harry W. Bass, Jr. noted in his inventory that the present specimen has a “Proof Edge” (some commentary concerning this can be found in past auction citations as well as in the writings of Walter Breen).

Again, although PCGS does not recognize Proofs of this issue, and while we have not been able to locate any early refer-

ences to Proofs, in modern times they have become quite popular and desired, and certain other grading services certify them. While we make no representation as to what some other grading service might say, this piece seems to come as close to a “Proof” as just about anything we have encountered.

Call it what you will—gem Mint State (as offered here and certified by PCGS) or Proof—this lovely coin combines a very high technical grade with a more than generous helping of eye appeal—creating a coin that will be long appreciated, long cherished by its next owner.

*From RARCOA’s sale of September 1970, Lot 1573.*



### Choice Mint State MCMVII \$20



914 MCMVII (1907) High Relief. Flat Rim. MS-63 (PCGS). Sharply struck with satiny yellow gold surfaces. As always (in

our experience), a close examination of the field shows raised die lines from the preparation process.

The present coin offers a nice meeting ground between high technical grade and reasonable market price. To these considerations must be added the Harry W. Bass, Jr. pedigree—how nice it will be for the successful bidder to have this connection when contemplating what many have called America's most beautiful coin design.

*From Abner Kreisberg's sale of May 1966, Lot 1818.*

### Amazing 1908-S Saint-Gaudens \$20

Just 22,000 Struck



(2x photo)

915 1908-S MS-65 (PCGS). A wonderful example—a visual and aesthetic treat—of this famous low-mintage rarity. The present specimen has finely grained satiny lustre over rich gold surfaces. The striking is exquisitely sharp, reflecting full obverse and reverse design details.

It is believed that the number of gem quality examples of the 1908-S is no more than about 20, certainly a small grouping, and just a tiny fraction of the number of gems known for the MCMVII. Accordingly, the connoisseur and specialist will want to bid very liberally for the present specimen, knowing that few equivalent pieces exist in all of numismatics.

The 1908-S has a rich history in numismatics, including auction appearances, and we would be pleased to share with the successful bidder our cumulative citations in this regard.

By 1908, the date of gold coins was incorporated into the *master die*, with the result that there is no difference among working dies. However, the mintmark (S or D as the case may be) was entered by a hand punch. On the 1908-S offered here the S is located above and slightly left of center of the 0 (1908), between two rays, and tilts slightly to the left.

*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2476.*



## Important Gem 1909/8 Double Eagle

Only Saint-Gaudens Overdate  
High Condition Census



(2x photo)

**916 1909/8 Overdate. MS-65 (PCGS).** A lovely specimen, one of the finest seen, with lustrous bright golden orange surfaces, well struck, and presenting a combination of high technical grade with beautiful aesthetic appeal. Add to this the overdate status, and all the ingredients are on hand for a truly winning double eagle—one that will be a source of joy to its possessor. Before proceeding, we note that PCGS has graded only one finer example, an MS-66.

The story of the 1909/8 double eagle is interesting, and a sketch of it is given below:

In the year 1909, the production of double eagles at the Philadelphia Mint amounted to 161,282 pieces. No track was kept of the number of overdates, but the present writer (QDB) believes that about 40% of the mintage was of this variety. It has been suggested elsewhere that overdates constituted the majority, but the evidence seems inconclusive.

Regarding the distribution, it is likely that many of the 1909/8 coins remain stateside and were melted in the 1930s. A larger number of regular 1909 coins was shipped overseas, primarily to Europe.

Today, we estimate that perhaps 800 to 1,200 Mint State pieces exist, mostly in grades from MS-60 to MS-63, but enough MS-64 coins are around that the specialist can locate one without a great deal of difficulty. At the MS-65 level, as offered here, the overdate is a *rarity*.

It is quite interesting to note that until after about 1970, the overdate was considered to be quite scarce, even rare, and the typical example encountered was apt to AU or a very low level Mint State. The writer recalls looking through quantities of double eagles in the 1960s and not finding *any* Mint State specimens. In later times specimens in higher grades gradually came onto the market from European sources, so that by 1982, when David W. Akers wrote his marvelous study on double eagles, high-grade specimens were no longer numismatic curiosities. Still, even today Mint State pieces remain in the minority, and we estimate that perhaps 3,500 to 5,000 lightly worn pieces exist, typically EF to AU. Years ago most old time collections had pieces in this category.

The overdate was discovered at a very early time. The May-June 1910 issue of *The Numismatist* included this item by Edgar H. Adams:

“Overstruck dates are those where the die of one year has been altered to do service for the succeeding one. The last figure in the date is usually gouged out and replaced by the new one, but seldom is this operation conducted so skillfully that traces of it are not left. Of course the reason for this is to save money in the making of the dies, and the practice has by no means been abandoned altogether, for careful scrutiny of the Saint-Gaudens \$20 piece of 1909 will reveal traces of what seem to have been the alteration of the figure 8 to 9.”

Today we know that the *master die* contained the full date, 1908 or 1909 as the case may be. The most likely scenario is that an already made 1908 working die was impressed by a 1909 master die, neatly creating the overdate. There was no “gouging” or alteration of the date figures; one simply appeared over the other.

At the time, Adams was in the forefront of numismatic research. His studies of private and territorial gold coins, published serially in the *American Journal of Numismatics* a few years earlier, still stand today as *definitive* sources of information. With his friend William H. Woodin, Adams studied patterns carefully, and in 1913 Adams provided the photographs while Woodin wrote the text for the first book published on that topic. His mind knew no rigid boundaries, and in the pages of *The Numismatist* he was apt to skip from an arcane topic such as colonial copies made in the 1860s by James A. Bolen, to the Proof 1838 \$10 piece, to pattern 1879 and 1880 \$4 Stellas—and just about everything in between. Adams’ “day job” was as a newspaper reporter for the *New York Sun*. However, it seems that numismatics must have taken much of his spare time, for he wrote monographs, columns, and helped with dealer catalogues (such as those published by Wayte Raymond and the U.S. Coin Company). By 1920, Adams’ energy seems to have petered out, for his book on American tokens of that date is rather “thin,” and cannot stand careful comparison with his magisterial efforts of years earlier on private gold coinage. In the 1920s Adams was heard from sporadically, and in the 1930s certain of his studies relating to early gold coins were published in *The Coin Collectors’ Journal*, by Wayte Raymond.

As sometimes happens, Adams’ May-June 1910 report of the overdated 1909/8 double eagle seems to have been forgotten. Fast forward to years later. The May-June 1943 issue of Wayte Raymond’s *Coin Collectors’ Journal* contained a discussion by Abe Kosoff, the New York City dealer who had entered the numismatic trade in 1929 and who in 1937 had established the Numismatic Gallery. He wrote of the 1909/8, noting that “five copies had been discovered,” and one of these was illustrated. Until that time, it was virtually unknown to current dealers and collectors. Philosophy was much different in 1943 than it is today, and most dealers had little in the way of a reference library, and only rarely consulted old catalogues and periodicals. Even great rarities were apt to be featured in auction catalogues with simply a one-line description. Although B. Max Mehl could wield a pen with awesome flourishes during that era, laurels for truly authoritative cataloguing must go to John J. Ford, Jr., who joined the New Netherlands Coin Company in 1950, and who by 1952 was creating auction descriptions that went beyond name, rank and serial number—numismatically equal to date, mint-mark, and grade. Even a common, ordinary coin, if described by Ford, could become an object of possession and desire! The present writer remembers this era well, beginning a year or two later. By 1955, the New Netherlands catalogues were kept at the elbow of just about anyone belonging to the increasing number of collectors and dealers who were interested in history and romance apart from grades and catalogue values. At the same time, Walter Breen was just coming on stream with his research, publishing actively in the *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine* and doing cataloguing and other work for New Netherlands.

Going back to 1943 and Abe Kosoff’s “discovery” of the 1909/8: after notice in the *Coin Collectors’ Journal*, demand for the overdate multiplied. In 1944 the 1909/8 was listed for the first time in Wayte Raymond’s *Standard Catalogue of United States Coins*, the only widely used pricing reference of the era (the *Guide Book* would not make its debut until 1946, with a cover date of 1947). Beginning in 1945 it was added to Richard S. Yeoman’s *Handbook of United States Coins*, a buying guide. When the *Guide Book* was published in



1946, the overdate was listed. Beginning with the 1972 edition it was pictured.

Many interesting auction citations could be given for over the years, but the present Bass catalogue is not the appropriate venue. However, it is interesting to reflect what Joseph and Morton Stack had to say about Lot 873 in their sale of the J.F. Bell Collection, December 1944:

“1909/8 Overdate. Recently discovered and in great demand. Beautiful gem in Uncirculated condition. One of the finest known. Rare.” This piece realized \$273.00, a very generous figure for the era, when a common date double eagle was apt to bring in the \$50 to \$60 range.

James F. Kelly, the Dayton, Ohio, jeweler and rare coin dealer, launched a

newsletter, *Kelly's Coins and Chatter* with issue No. 2, August 1948, including this in its question and answer column:

“Was the 1909 Over 8 double eagle a recent discovery?”

“A. No. It was written up in the 1910 *Numismatist* by Edgar H. Adams, page 157. Listed in the 1944 *Standard Catalogue* for the first time.”

Kelly was practicing a bit of one-upmanship here, and wanted his readers to know that the overdate was not a new discovery (to him).

In reiteration, back to the present year 2000, the overdate is no longer a great rarity.

From *RARCOA's sale of the N.M. Kaufman Collection, August 1978, Lot 953.*

## Superb Gem 1909-D Saint-Gaudens \$20

A Prime Rarity in This Grade



**917 1909-D MS-66 (PCGS).** This sharply struck gem has brilliant, satiny orange-gold lustre. One of the very finest known examples of this rarity. In his 1982 text, David W. Akers mentioned this coin specifically:

“Harry Bass’ and Dr. Steven Duckor’s (ex Eliasberg) coins are both virtually perfect. It would be hard to imagine a finer Saint-Gaudens \$20 of any date or mint than either of these.”

Today, with later discoveries and with more attention paid to high grades (not to overlook the coming to market of many pieces attracted by valuations and the availability of certifica-

tion), there are probably three or four specimens in this quality category—per the PCGS information below.

Today the 1909-D, while not the rarest Saint-Gaudens double eagle in absolute terms—as perhaps 1,500 to 2,000 exist in lightly worn grades—is highly respected in Mint State. *However*, nearly all are in significantly lower grades than the piece offered here.

In 1909 at the Denver Mint, 52,500 specimens were struck of this issue, one of the most restricted figures in the Saint-Gaudens series. Unlike the situation with certain issues, it seems



quite likely that most 1909-D double eagles were retained in America and melted in the 1930s (particularly circa 1936). Relatively few seem to have been exported. At the time, there were three main uses for double eagles: 1. Specimens were held by the Treasury Department as backing for Gold Certificates. 2. Specimens were shipped overseas in satisfaction of large monetary transactions. 3. Specimens were used in circulation, but only to a significant degree in the American West.

Beginning in 1917, general circulation of double eagles stopped in the West, and later issues were nearly all used for currency backing or for export. Pieces minted and held do-

mestically and never distributed were for the most part melted circa 1936, without any specific record being kept of the dates destroyed. The story is a very extensive one and is beyond the scope of the present discussion, but is of great fascination.

In summation, today the 1909-D double eagle is well known for its low mintage, is somewhat scarce but is easily enough obtained in lightly worn condition, is fairly elusive in Mint State, and is of *extreme rarity* in the lovely preservation offered here.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-67).

*Purchased from Superior, August 25, 1973.*

- 918 **Trio of double eagles grading MS-63:** ☆ 1923. Lustrous with splashes of pale green and orange toning ☆ 1923-D. Pale olive green toning over lustrous surfaces ☆ 1926. Lustrous yellow surfaces. (Total: 3 pieces)

### Choice Mint State 1925-D \$20



(2x photo)

- 919 **1925-D MS-64 (PCGS).** Fully brilliant, frosty orange-gold lustre with superb design details. Only a few minor marks are noted. This is a delightful example of a rarity in choice or gem Mint State grade. A small number of lower Mint State grade coins are known, perhaps as many as 200 examples. During the de-

cade, only one Denver Mint issue is common, dated 1923. All others from 1924 to 1927 are rare or extremely rare.

The mintage of the 1925-D was very generous, amounting to 2,938,500 pieces. However, virtually the entire production was kept stateside and held by the Treasury Department. The writer estimates that the number exported was very small, perhaps on the order of 1,000 or so. In addition, perhaps a few thousand were released to American banks. Today, the number of 1927-D double eagles known is in the hundreds, with MS-60 to MS-63 being typical grades. At the MS-64 level, as here offered, the 1925-D is quite difficult to locate, and in any higher grade it becomes a formidable rarity. Most of the pieces known in numismatic circles today were imported from France and Switzerland in the 1950s by Paul H. Wittlin and William Donner among others. Scattered pieces came to light later, often in Paris but normally sold through agents in Switzerland. As an interesting numismatic side-light, in the summer of 1932 the Treasury Department, quite eager to help numismatists, issued a listing of 16 earlier dated gold coins that were available for face value. It may be of interest to reprint the full list herewith, as it shows what was being stored in the Treasury building in Washington, DC at the time:

1907-D \$5, 1909-D \$5, 1929 \$5 (today considered to be a very rare date), 1914-D \$10, 1930-S \$10 (today a prime rarity), 1932 \$10, 1925-D \$20 (as offered here), 1925-S \$20 (a rarity), 1926-D \$20 (a rarity), 1926-S \$20 (a rarity), 1927-D \$20 (a super rarity), 1927-S \$20 (see the next lot in the present sale), 1930-S \$20 (a rarity), 1931 \$20 (a rarity), 1931-D \$20 (a rarity), 1932 \$20 (a rarity). So far as the writer has been able to determine, the entire supply of 1932 double eagles in numismatic hands today—numbering in the dozens and considered quite rare—is derived from Treasury holdings; no record has been found of even a single piece being exported or used in domestic commerce.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, October 30, 1972.*



## Choice Mint State 1927-S \$20

### An Important Rarity



(2x photo)

- 920 **1927-S MS-63 (PCGS).** A lovely example with satiny light yellow gold lustre and very few minor surface marks. Slightly weak on the Capitol dome at the lower left obverse, this being typical. Most other details are sharp. The present coin is truly lovely and is fully the equal of many Saint-Gaudens double eagles we have seen in certified MS-64 grade. The borders are beveled, this being a characteristic of the issue (we are not quite sure how this occurred, and anyone with specific information is invited to write; the same situation exists on certain other gold coins).

The presently offered piece is from a very early impression and shows no die cracks or deterioration, quite unlike most known today.

Among Saint-Gaudens double eagles, the 1927-S is highly prized in any and all grades. We estimate that 50 to 70 exist in grades from EF to AU, and a like number in Mint State, most being toward the MS-60 end of the scale. It seems quite evident upon contemplation that the 1927-S is quite a bit rarer than most people believe it to be. Perhaps it has been too long in the shadow of its cousin, the super-rare 1927-D. Interestingly, decades ago the 1927-S was considered to be rarer than the 1927-D but in the intervening time some 1927-S pieces turned up overseas, whereas the 1927-D has remained stubbornly elusive.

Perfect dies. Truly unusual as most examples have die deterioration and die cracks.

*Purchased from Coen-Messer, August 10, 1972.*

## END OF SALE



# TERMS OF SALE



**1** This is a public auction sale conducted by licensed and bonded auctioneers. All bids are to be per lot. No lots will be broken. Lots will be sold in numerical sequence unless the auctioneer otherwise directs. In the event of identical bids on the same lot, the lot will be awarded to the first bid received. Floor bids will take precedence over mail bids. In the event of a dispute during the floor bidding, the auctioneer's decision to award the lot to a bidder will be final. The auctioneer, at his sole discretion, may re-open any lot or put the lot up for sale again.

**2** A buyer's premium of 15% will be added to the hammer price of each lot which sum will be the purchase price. This buyer's premium will be added to all invoices, without exception. (Under the present arrangement, we normally charge a fee to the seller, plus a buyer's premium to the purchaser.)

**3** All sales are strictly for cash in United States funds. All remittances must be drawn on United States banks. **Invoices must be paid for promptly upon receipt in good U.S. funds.** No credit cards will be accepted for auction purchases or deposits. Shipping, handling, postage, private and/or postal insurance, and registration charges will be added for lots delivered by mail. All bidders not furnishing applicable resale permits will be responsible for sales tax as required to be collected under the laws of the state and/or other entity in which the sale is conducted. By bidding in the sale, a successful bidder agrees to be liable for any tax liabilities which may accrue by virtue of the purchase.

**4** All lots must be paid in full prior to delivery, unless credit arrangements for this sale have been specifically agreed to in writing by Bowers and Merena Galleries, A Collectors Universe™ Company (subsequently referred to as Bowers and Merena in the present Terms of Sale). Previously established lines of credit, at the sole option of Bowers and Merena, may not be honored. Please contact our Accounting Department in advance if you have any questions regarding your purchasing plans. At the sole discretion of Bowers and Merena, we reserve the right to deny participation in any auction if there have been, in our opinion, credit problems, unreasonable returns, delays in payment, or any other problems in past or current sales. On any account not paid within the prescribed terms of this sale, Bowers and Merena reserves the right to extend credit and to impose periodic finance charges at the rate of 1½% per month (18% per annum) on the unpaid balance, which charges shall continue to accrue until fully paid. On any sums unpaid, if the account is referred to an attorney for collection, the buyer agrees to pay all costs, including attorneys' fees, with interest accruing on the balance, until fully paid, at the specified rate.

**5** Bidders not known to us must furnish references satisfactory to Bowers and Merena and/or deposit a sum equal to 25% of the bids submitted. This sum will be applied to successful bids with the overage refunded within 10 days of the sale date. Any difference will be billed.

We reserve the right to require payment in full by all bidders, prior to the delivery of lots, even if satisfactory references or credit have been established.

**6** Title does not pass until lots are paid for in full. It is the responsibility and obligation of the buyer to maintain insurance on any coins in his possession. Risk of loss is on the buyer. By bidding in the sale, the bidder agrees to permit Bowers and Merena to file any financing statement permitted under the Uniform Commercial Code without debtor's signature and to offset any accounts due, whether now or in the future, against funds or collateral in their possession. The buyer agrees not to sell, pledge, or hypothecate these auction purchases until paid for in full. Any person submitting bids on behalf of a corporation or any other entity agrees to be personally responsible for the transaction.

**7** No "buy" or unlimited bids will be accepted. No bids will be accepted from minors. The auctioneer and/or Bowers and Merena reserve the right to open a lot at a reasonable price, to set bidding increments as they shall determine, and to refuse any bid which in the judgment of the auctioneer or Bowers and Merena is believed not to be made in good faith or does not qualify by reason of credit, or otherwise. Bowers and Merena may open bidding on any lot by placing a bid on behalf of the seller. Bowers and Merena may further bid on behalf of the seller, up to the amount of the reserve, by placing successive or consecutive bids for a lot, or by placing bids in response to other bidders.

**8** We cannot be responsible for errors in bidding. Please check your bid sheet carefully. Please bid in even dollar increments. All bids not in even dollar amounts, including those increased by 10% to 30% (see our special service on the bid sheet), will be rounded off to the lower whole dollar amount. We request that all bid sheets be signed, and we reserve the right to not enter bids on any sheet that has not been signed. Realizing that certain bids may be submitted by fax, telegram, or other means without a signature, we note that in any event, bidding in this auction sale constitutes acceptance by the bidder of all of the Terms of Sale.

**9** All items offered in this catalogue are guaranteed to be genuine within the context of the prevailing scholarship of their respective series. Auction sales are not approval sales. Any lot may be examined before bidding. **No lots may be returned for any reason by floor buyers (including those acting as agents for others) or by successful mail bidders except for reasons of authenticity. No lot may be returned by a mail bidder without the advance written permission of Bowers and Merena.** Any such request must be made within three days of the receipt of the lot. Any lot that is to be returned (for any reason other than authenticity) must be received in our offices within 30 days from the date of sale. After that 30-day period, no lots may

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bids by:

**NOON, WEDNESDAY,  
May 24, 2000**



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**10** The auctioneers reserve the right to postpone or cancel the sale without notice, should they in their sole discretion determine that such action is warranted. Any lot may be withdrawn without notice prior to the sale. Neither the auctioneer nor the consignor will have any obligation to the intended bidders as a result of any postponement, cancellation, or withdrawal.

**11** Grading is a subjective description that represents the opinion of the cataloguer as to the state of preservation of a particular coin or lot. A split grade, such as Proof-63/65, refers to a coin which in our opinion has a Proof-63 obverse and Proof-65 reverse. "Proof" is used to describe a method of manufacture and is not a grade or condition. All such terms, including adjectival and numerical descriptions of coins and other numismatic items, are the opinion of Bowers and Merena and are not an attribution. No warranty, whether expressed or implied, **including the warranty of merchantability**, is made with respect to such adjectival or numerical descriptions, which can and do vary among experts; nor is any warranty or representation made that any other expert, grading service or other entity will grade a given piece the same as we do; nor is any warranty or representation made that a coin or other numismatic item has not been cleaned, or that the toning of any item is natural, or that there is the absence of any other defect which would render it unsuitable for encapsulation by any grading service or the acceptance by a third party. References to population reports and grading service census figures are as of the cataloguing time, which may be several months prior to the sale date. All such comments are subject to revision; consult recent data issued by the grading services. Certain items that are described as restrikes, or patterns, or colonials, may be struck at dates other than those on the coin, but they are described in accordance with prevailing numismatic custom at the time the sale takes place. Comments concerning the rarity of a given item are the opinions of a particular cataloguer and may or may not be correct given the difficulty and time constraints in many instances of verifying the rarity of any given coin. If given, pedigree listings are developed by a particular cataloguer using readily available resources, but may or may not be correct given the difficulty and time constraints in many instances of verifying the pedigree of a given item. All warranty disclaimers in this Terms of Sale apply to comments related to rarity and pedigree. By bidding in this sale, the buyer agrees to hold Bowers and Merena harmless for any numismatic item graded and described by a third party grading service and

presented as any lot within this catalogue. The buyer further acknowledges that the opinion of Bowers and Merena on any such item may be different than that described by a grading service. Further, the buyer agrees to accept the grade, attribution, pedigree, authenticity or any other designation as described by a grading service. In general, with the exception of those lots described by a grading service, descriptions are the Bowers and Merena interpretation of standards in the *Photograde* book, with the addition of certain intermediate grades, such as MS-64 and Proof-64, as determined by the opinion of our staff. Bowers and Merena Galleries is a Collectors Universe™ company which owns PCGS.

**12** **This paragraph is intended to be part of all lot descriptions contained in this catalogue.** Bowers and Merena acts as agent for the consignor. For this reason, no claims of any kind can be considered after the settlement has been made with the consignor. Any dispute after the settlement date (45 days following the date of the sale) is strictly between the bidder and consignor without involvement or responsibility of Bowers and Merena and/or the cataloguers. Bowers and Merena, or any affiliated person or company, reserves the right to consign items to this auction sale, and to participate as a bidder. The auctioneer, consignors, employees, assignees, and agents for Bowers and Merena or the consignor may bid for his or her own account at any auction and may have information not otherwise available to the public regarding reserves, values or other material facts relating to the articles which are the subject of the auction. When an item is sold to the book, it may be sold, passed, withdrawn, returned to the owner or bought in. A consignor or his agent may bid on any lot including those in his own consignment. Certain terms pertaining to this sale and consignments to it are subject to negotiation. In the event of a typographical error or attribution error, the cataloguer reserves the right to withdraw any item from the sale without notice, to correct the error orally at the sale, or, if discovered at a later date, to refund the buyer's money without further obligation. The maximum obligation of Bowers and Merena to any bidder shall be the sum paid for any lot in dispute. While every effort will be made to properly enter and execute bids received by mail or by other means, Bowers and Merena assumes no liability for any errors in this regard or failure to enter bids.

**13** By placing a bid in this sale, you agree that this transaction shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New Hampshire. Any dispute, claim or controversy (except for non-payment) shall be settled exclusively by binding arbitration under the rules then in effect of the Professional Numismatists Guild, Inc., as if both parties to the dispute were members, at Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, or another suitable location at the option of Bowers and Merena. In the event of non-payment, at its option, Bowers and Merena may refer the matter to the PNG arbitration or elect to proceed judicially, in which case the buyer consents to jurisdiction in the courts of Carroll County, New Hampshire.

## FLOOR BIDDER REGISTRATION

will begin 30 minutes before the session at the entrance to the auction room.

## NEW BIDDERS

If you have not participated with us before, be sure to send your credit information: **Attn: Barb Clifford**, at least 10 days before the auction. There is very little time, if any, to review this information during the auction.



**14** In the event of unsuccessful litigation, the plaintiff shall pay Bowers and Merena's legal costs, counsel and witness fees, and all other costs incurred by it in defense against such suit, together with interest at the prime rate from the date of actual disbursement.

### SPECIAL SERVICES

**15** If you wish to limit your total expenditure, please fill in the maximum amount you wish to spend on the MAXIMUM EXPENDITURE line at the upper portion of your bid sheet. You can then submit bids for amounts up to eight times the amount of the maximum expenditure. This is a personal service and a Bowers and Merena customer representative will personally attend to your bid sheet by bidding from the auction floor, buying lots for your account until your authorized expenditure is reached. While we will do our best in your behalf, due to the speed of the auction sale and the sometimes crowded conditions, we cannot be responsible for failure to execute such a bid properly. Due to the bookkeeping involved, this service is offered only to bidders with maximum expenditures of \$1,000 or more. MAXIMUM EXPENDITURE and ONE LOT ONLY bidding can be combined.

**16** Up to five lots may be grouped with brackets for a ONE LOT ONLY purchase, if you wish to purchase only one example of a coin of which several examples appear in the sale. Such lots should be bracketed on your bid sheet. While we will do our best on your behalf, due to the speed of the auction sale and the sometimes crowded conditions, we cannot be responsible for failure to execute such a bid properly.


**17** We invite you to take advantage of the optional 10% to 30% increase to help your chance of being a successful bidder. Check the appropriate place on your bid sheet.


**18** Bidding in this auction sale constitutes 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.*


### SUGGESTIONS FOR MAIL BIDDERS


*Bidding in our auctions can be an interesting, enjoyable, and a numismatically rewarding experience. Even if you have been bidding in our sales for many years, you may find that some of the following comments will increase your success. In the event that you wish to ask further questions, phone Cynthia LaCarbonara or Carolyn Craigue.*


 Mail your bid sheet as early as possible. This is particularly important if you are a new bidder, for it takes us time to check your references. A bid sheet mailed a few days before the sale might not reach us until a week later—at which time the coins will have been sold to others!

 As the sale date draws near, fax us your bids anytime 24 hours a day [our fax number is (603) 569-5319]. Or, telephone your bids to our Auction Department. Please follow up your phone and fax bids with written confirmation.

 We've found it best to use a work sheet to compile bids. In this way you can check back and forth throughout the catalogue, make changes and revisions, and so on. Then when you've decided on your final bids, enter them on the bid sheet. Try your best to keep the bid sheet neat and clearly understandable, listing the lots in order. Check your bid sheet carefully. You will be responsible for any bids on wrong lots or for the wrong amounts. Please be careful!

 Don't bid more than you want to pay! Review your financial circumstances carefully before bidding. There is always the possibility that you may be awarded all of the lots you bid on. If you are awarded lots, you are legally bound to pay for them immediately.

 Please keep current price levels in mind when bidding. While high and low prices sometimes occur, most items sell within market ranges. If a popular coin sells for \$500 on the retail market, chances are not good that a bid of, say, less than \$400 will win it. On the other hand, chances are excellent that a bid in the \$500 to \$600 range will be competitive. There is no harm in bargain hunting, but as your time is valuable (and so is ours), it is most productive if you keep current values in mind while bidding. The higher you bid, the greater your chances are for success. It has been our experience that many people who bid strongly, or check the options to increase bids by an optional 10% to 30%, actually purchase at least some lots below their maximum authorization once the sale takes place.

 Ink is best for writing bids. Pencil tends to blur. If bid changes are necessary, do not write over figures. Instead, cross them out completely and re-enter the bids. Put your telephone number on the bid sheet. This way we can call you if there is a question about a bid.

### IMPORTANT!

- ◆ Credit cards will not be accepted for auction deposits or payments.
- ◆ The Prices Realized list will be published approximately 30 days after the auction. Prices realized will be posted on the Internet soon after the sale at [bowersandmerena.com](http://bowersandmerena.com)







# LISTING OF GOLD COINS IN THE HARRY W. BASS, JR. COLLECTION – PARTS II-IV – A Guide to Availability –

## Sold in Bass II October 1999

### Gold Dollars

1	1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6000. Small Head, No L. MS-65 (PCGS).	55	1851-D Net EF-45.	126	1858-D MS-62 (PCGS).	201	1877 MS-66 (PCGS).	266	1804 Breen-6119, B-2. Rarity-4. 14 Reverse Stars. AU-58 (PCGS).
2	1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6000. Small Head, No L. MS-64 (PCGS).	56	1851-O MS-62 (PCGS).	127	1858-S MS-63 (PCGS).	202	1877 MS-63.	267	1824/1 Breen-6127, B-1. Rarity-4. Overdate. MS-60.
3	1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6000. Small Head, No L. MS-63.	57	1852 MS-66 (PCGS).	128	1859 Proof-65 (PCGS).	203	1877 MS-62 PL.	268	1825 Breen-6128, B-1. Rarity-4. MS-61 (PCGS).
4	1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6000. Small Head, No L. MS-62.	58	1852 MS-64.	129	1859 MS-62.	204	1877 MS-62.	269	1826/5 Breen-6130, B-1. Rarity-5. Overdate. AU-58 (PCGS).
5	1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6000. Small Head, No L. MS-60.	59	1852 MS-63.	130	1859-C EF-45.	205	1878 MS-64.	270	1829 Breen-6132, B-1. Rarity-4. MS-64 (PCGS).
8	1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6001. Small Head, With L. MS-65 (PCGS).	60	1852 MS-62.	131	1859-D MS-62 (PCGS).	206	1878 MS-62.	271	1830 Breen-6133, B-1. Rarity-4. MS-62 (PCGS).
11	1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6003. Large Head. MS-66 (PCGS).	61	1852-C MS-64 (PCGS).	132	1859-D AU-55 (PCGS).	207	1878 MS-60.	272	1831 Breen-6134, B-1. Rarity-4. MS-65 (PCGS).
12	1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6003. Large Head. MS-64 (PCGS).	62	1852-D AU-58 (PCGS).	133	1859-D AU-55 (PCGS).	208	1879 MS-64 (PCGS).	273	1833 Breen-6136, B-1. Rarity-4. MS-65 (PCGS).
13	1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6003. Large Head. MS-63.	63	1852-D AU-50.	134	1859-S MS-61 (PCGS).	209	1879 MS-64.	274	1834 Breen-6138. No Motto, Small Head Style. MS-64 (PCGS).
14	1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6003. Large Head. MS-62.	64	1852-O MS-63.	135	1859-S AU-58 (PCGS).	210	1880 Proof-64 (PCGS).	275	1834 Breen-6138. No Motto, Small Head style. MS-63 (PCGS).
15	1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6003. Large Head. MS-62.	65	1852-O AU-58 (PCGS).	136	1860 Proof-66 (PCGS).	211	1880 MS-65.	276	1834 Breen-6140. No Motto, Large or Booby Head. MS-63 (PCGS).
20	1849 Closed Wreath. Breen-6005. MS-65 (PCGS).	66	1852-O AU-55.	137	1860 MS-64.	212	1880 MS-65.	277	1834 Breen-6140. No Motto, Large or Booby Head. MS-62 (PCGS).
21	1849 Closed Wreath. Breen-6005. MS-64 (PCGS).	67	1853 MS-63 (PCGS).	138	1860-D MS-61 (PCGS).	213	1880 MS-65.	278	1834 Breen-6140. No Motto, Large or Booby Head. MS-62 (PCGS).
22	1849 Closed Wreath. Breen-6005. MS-62 (PCGS).	68	1853 MS-63.	139	1860-S MS-63 (PCGS).	214	1880 MS-64 PL.	279	1834 Breen-6140. No Motto, Large or Booby Head. AU-58.
23	1849 Closed Wreath. Breen-6005. MS-62.	69	1853 MS-63.	140	1860-S MS-60.	215	1880 MS-64 PL.	280	1835 Breen-6141. Tall Head. MS-63 (PCGS).
26	1849 Closed Wreath. Breen-6006. MS-65 (PCGS).	70	1853-C MS-62 (PCGS).	141	1860-S AU-55.	216	1880 MS-64 PL.	281	1835 Breen-6141. Tall Head. MS-60.
27	1849 Closed Wreath. Breen-6006. MS-62.	71	1853-D MS-61 (PCGS).	142	1860-S AU-53.	217	1880 MS-62.	282	1835 Breen-6141. Tall Head. MS-60.
28	1849-C Closed Wreath. MS-61 (PCGS).	72	1853-D EF-45.	143	1861 MS-64.	218	1881 MS-67 (PCGS).	283	1835 Breen-6141. Tall Head. Net AU-50.
29	1849-D MS-63 (PCGS).	73	1853-D EF-40.	144	1861 MS-64.	219	1881 MS-67 (PCGS).	284	1835 Breen-6141. Tall Head. AU-50.
30	1849-D MS-62 (PCGS).	74	1853-O MS-62.	145	1861 MS-63.	220	1881 MS-66 (PCGS).	285	1835 Breen-6141. Tall Head. EF-45.
31	1849-D AU-58 (PCGS).	75	1853-O MS-62.	146	1861 MS-62.	221	1881 MS-65.	287	1836 Breen-6142. Head of 1834. MS-63 (PCGS).
32	1849-D AU-55.	76	1853-O MS-62.	147	1861 MS-62.	222	1881 MS-64.	288	1836 Breen-6142. Head of 1834. MS-61.
33	1849-O MS-65 (PCGS).	77	1854 Type I. MS-64.	148	1861 MS-62.	223	1881 MS-63 PL.	290	1836 Breen-6143. Head of 1835. MS-64 (PCGS).
34	1849-O AU-58.	78	1854 Type I. MS-63.	149	1861 MS-62.	224	1882 MS-65.	291	1836 Breen-6143. Head of 1835. MS-64.
35	1849-O AU-55.	79	1854 Type I. MS-63.	150	1861-D MS-62 (PCGS).	225	1882 MS-64.	292	1836 Breen-6143. Head of 1835. MS-62 (PCGS).
36	1850 MS-66 (PCGS).	80	1854 Type I. MS-62.	151	1862 MS-64.	226	1882 MS-63 PL.	293	1836 Breen-6143. Head of 1835. MS-61.
37	1850 MS-63 (PCGS).	81	1854 Type I. MS-62.	152	1862 MS-63.	227	1883 Proof-64.	294	1836 Breen-6143. Head of 1835. AU-55.
38	1850 MS-63.	82	1854-D Type I. MS-61 (PCGS).	153	1862 MS-62.	228	1883 MS-65.	295	1836 Breen-6143. Head of 1835. EF-45.
39	1850-C MS-61 (PCGS).	83	1854-S Type I. AU-58 (PCGS).	154	1863 MS-63 (PCGS).	229	1883 MS-64.	297	1836 Breen-6144. Head of 1837. MS-66 (PCGS).
40	1850-D MS-62 (PCGS).	84	1854-S Type I. AU-55.	155	1863 MS-62 (PCGS).	230	1883 MS-64.	298	1836 Breen-6144. Head of 1837. AU-58.
41	1850-O MS-64 (PCGS).	85	1854 Type II. MS-64 (PCGS).	156	1864 MS-63.	231	1883 MS-64.	299	1836 Breen-6144. Head of 1837. AU-58.
42	1850-O AU-55.	86	1854 Type II. MS-64 (PCGS).	157	1864 MS-62.	232	1883 MS-63.	300	1836 Breen-6144. Head of 1837. AU-50.
43	1851 MS-66 (PCGS).	87	1854 Type II. AU-58.	158	1864 AU-58 (PCGS).	233	1883 MS-62.	301	1836 Breen-6144. Head of 1837. AU-50.
44	1851 MS-66 (PCGS).	88	1854 Type II. AU-55.	159	1865 MS-65 (PCGS).	234	1884 Proof-66 (PCGS).	302	1836 Breen-6144. Head of 1837. AU-50.
45	1851 MS-64 (PCGS).	89	1854 Type II. AU-55.	160	1865 MS-62 (PCGS).	235	1884 MS-65.		
46	1851 MS-64 (PCGS).	90	1854 Type II. AU-55.	161	1865 AU-58.	236	1884 MS-64.		
47	1851 MS-63.	91	1855 MS-65 (PCGS).	162	1865 AU-55.	237	1884 MS-63 PL.		
48	1851 MS-62.	92	1855 MS-64 (PCGS).	163	1866 Proof-63 (PCGS).	238	1884 MS-63.		
49	1851-C MS-63 (PCGS).	93	1855 MS-63 (PCGS).	164	1866 MS-67 (PCGS).	239	1884 MS-63.		
50	1851-C AU-58.	94	1855 MS-63 (PCGS).	165	1867 MS-64 (PCGS).	240	1884 MS-63.		
51	1851-C AU-55.	95	1855 MS-63 (PCGS).	166	1867 MS-63.	241	1884 MS-62.		
52	1851-D MS-62 (PCGS).	96	1855 MS-62 (PCGS).	167	1867 MS-60.	242	1885 MS-65.		
53	1851-D AU-55 (PCGS).	97	1855-C AU-58 (PCGS).	168	1867 AU-55.	243	1885 MS-64.		
54	1851-D AU-50.	98	1855-C AU-55 (PCGS).	169	1868 Proof-63 (PCGS).	244	1885 MS-63.		
		99	1855-C VF-35.	170	1868 MS-65 (PCGS).	246	1886 Proof-65 (PCGS).		
		100	1855-C Net VF-25.	171	1868 MS-64 (PCGS).	247	1886 MS-66 (PCGS).		
		101	1855-D MS-62 (PCGS).	172	1868 MS-63.	248	1886 MS-64.		
		102	1855-D AU-53 (PCGS).	173	1869 Proof-64 (PCGS).	249	1886 MS-63 PL.		
		103	1855-D AU-53 (PCGS).	174	1869 MS-67 (PCGS).	250	1886 MS-63.		
		104	1855-O MS-60.	175	1870 MS-67 (PCGS).	251	1887 Proof-65 (PCGS).		
		105	1855-O AU-58 (PCGS).	176	1870 MS-63 PL.	252	1887 MS-64.		
		106	1856-S Type II. MS-63 (PCGS).	177	1870 MS-62.	253	1887 MS-64.		
		107	1856-S Type II. MS-61 (PCGS).	178	1870-S MS-62 (PCGS).	254	1888 MS-65.		
		108	1856-S Type II. Breen-6045. Double S. AU-58 (PCGS).	179	1871 MS-64.	255	1888 MS-64.		
		109	1856-S Type II. Breen-6045. Double S. EF-40.	180	1871 MS-64.	256	1888 MS-63.		
		110	1856-S Type II. EF-40.	181	1872 MS-63 (PCGS).	257	1888 MS-62.		
		111	1856-S Type II. Slanted 5. Breen-6047. MS-65 (PCGS).	182	1872 MS-60.	258	1889 MS-64.		
		112	1856 Type III. Slanted 5. Breen-6047. MS-63.	183	1873 Closed 3. MS-60.	259	1889 MS-64.		
		113	1856 Type III. Slanted 5. Breen-6047. MS-63.	184	1873 Closed 3. AU-58 (PCGS).	260	1889 MS-63.		
		114	1856-D AU-55 (PCGS).	185	1873 Closed 3. AU-58 (PCGS).				
		115	1857 MS-67 (PCGS).	186	1873 Open 3. MS-64.	261	1796 Breen-6113, Breen-1. Rarity-4. No Stars. AU-58 (PCGS).		
		116	1857 MS-62.	187	1873 Open 3. MS-63.	262	1796 Breen-6113, B-1. Rarity-4. No Stars. AU-53 (PCGS).		
		117	1857-C EF-45.	189	1874 MS-64.	263	1802/1 Breen-6118, B-1, 3. Rarity-4. Overdate. AU-55 (PCGS).		
		118	1857-C Net VF-20.	190	1874 MS-63.	264	1802/1 Breen-6118, B-2. Rarity-6. Overdate. VF-25. (PCGS).		
		119	1857-D AU-58 (PCGS).	191	1874 MS-63.	265	1804 Breen-6119, B-1. Rarity-4. 14 Reverse Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).		
		120	1857-D AU-58 (PCGS).	192	1874 MS-63.				
		121	1857-S MS-63 (PCGS).	194	1875 MS-65 (PCGS).				
		122	1857-S AU-50.	195	1875 MS-65 (PCGS).				
		123	1857-S EF-40.	196	1876 Proof-64 (PCGS).				
		124	1858 Proof-64 (PCGS).	197	1876 MS-64.				
		125	1858/7 Breen-6055. MS-62.	198	1876 MS-63 PL.				
				199	1876 MS-63.				
				200	1876 MS-62.				







668	1859 Breen-6362. Repunched 1 and 8 in Date. MS-62 (PCGS).	721	1797 Breen-6420, B-12K. Rarity-5+. Small Eagle. 16 Stars. AU-55 (PCGS).	750	1803/2 Breen-6441, B-1C. Rarity-1. Overdate. AU-58 (PCGS).	779	1807 Breen-6449, B-1A. Rarity-5. Draped Bust. Small Date and Stars. MS-63 (PCGS).	809	1818 Breen-6471, B-1A. Rarity-5. Normal Reverse. EF-40.
669	1859 Breen-6362. Repunched 1 and 8 in Date. AU-50.	722	1798 Breen-6426, Breen-1B. Rarity-5+. Large 8, 13 Stars Reverse. MS-62 (PCGS).	751	1803/2 Breen-6441, B-1D. Rarity-4. Overdate. AU-58 (PCGS).	780	1807 Breen-6450, B-1B. Rarity-6. Draped Bust. MS-63 (PCGS).	810	1818 Breen-6472, B-3C. Rarity-6. 5D Over 50. MS-63 (PCGS).
670	1859 Breen-6362. Repunched 1 and 8 in Date. EF-45.	723	1798 Breen-6426, Breen-1B. Rarity-5+. Large 8, 13 Stars Reverse. AU-50 (PCGS).	752	1803/2 Breen-6441, B-2D. Rarity-4. Overdate. AU-58 (PCGS).	781	1807 Breen-6450, B-2C. Rarity-5+. Draped Bust. MS- 63 (PCGS).	811	1818 Breen-6472, B-3C. Rarity-6. 5D Over 50. AU-58 (PCGS).
671	1860 MS-66 (PCGS).	724	1798 Breen-6427, B-2C. Rarity-6. Large 8, 14 Stars Reverse. AU-55 (PCGS).	753	1803/2 Breen-6441, B-1C. Rarity-4. Overdate. EF-45.	782	1807 Breen-6450, B-1B. Rarity-6. Draped Bust. EF-40.	812	1819 Breen-6473, B-1A. Rarity-6. 5D over 50. MS-63 (PCGS).
672	1860-S MS-62 (PCGS).	725	1798 Breen-6427, B-2C. Rarity-6. Large 8, 14 Stars Reverse. AU-53 (PCGS).	754	1804 Breen-6442, B-1A. Rarity-4+. Small over Large Date. MS-63 (PCGS).	783	1807 Breen-6451, B-3C. Rarity-7. Draped Bust. MS-63 (PCGS).	813	1820 Breen-6476, B-7F. Rarity-7. Square Base 2. VF- 35.
673	1861 MS-64 (PCGS).	726	1798 Breen-6428, B-2D. Rarity-4. Large 8, 13 Stars Reverse. MS-61 (PCGS).	755	1804 Breen-6442, B-1B. Rarity-5+. Small over Large Date. AU-58 (PCGS).	784	1807 Breen-6452, B-4C. Rarity-4+. Draped Bust. AU- 58 (PCGS).	814	1820 Breen-6477, B-6C. Rarity-6. Curved Base 2, Large Letters. MS-65 (PCGS).
674	1861 EF-40.	727	1798 Breen-6429, B-3E. Rarity-5+. Large 8, 13 Stars Reverse. AU-53 (PCGS).	756	1804 Breen-6442, B-1E. Rarity-7. Small over Large Date. AU-58 (PCGS).	785	1807 Breen-6453, B-5D. Rarity-3. Capped Bust. MS- 64 (PCGS).	815	1820 Breen-6477, B-3C. Rarity-5+. Curved Base 2, Large Letters. MS-65 (PCGS).
675	1862 Breen-6367. Without Distinct Neckline. MS-65 (PCGS).	728	1798 Breen-6431, B-6H. Rarity-5+. Small 8. AU-53 (PCGS).	757	1804 Breen-6443, B-2C. Rarity-5. Small Date. MS-63 (PCGS).	786	1807 Breen-6453, B-5D. Rarity-3. Capped Bust. MS- 63 (PCGS).	816	1820 Breen-6477, B-3C. Rarity-5+. Curved Base 2, Large Letters. MS-63 (PCGS).
676	1862 Breen-6367. Without Distinct Neckline. AU-55.	729	1799 Breen-6432, B-2C. Rarity-8. Small Reverse Stars. AU-55 (PCGS).	758	1804 Breen-6443, B-2E. Rarity-5. Small Date. AU-58 (PCGS).	787	1807 Breen-6453, B-5E. Rarity-6+. Capped Bust. MS- 61 (PCGS).	817	1823 Breen-6481, B-1A. Rarity-4. MS-63 (PCGS).
677	1863 MS-65 (PCGS).	730	1799 Breen-6433, B-1A. Rarity-6. Small Reverse Stars. AU-55 (PCGS).	759	1804 Breen-6443, B-3E. Rarity-5. Small Date. AU-58 (PCGS).	788	1808/7 Breen-6455, B-2A. Rarity-5. Overdate. EF-40.	818	1827 Breen-6486, B-1A. Rarity-5. AU-58 (PCGS).
678	1864 MS-65 (PCGS).	731	1799 Breen-6435, B-3D. Rarity-7. Small Reverse Stars. AU-55 (PCGS).	760	1804 Breen-6443, B-3E. Rarity-5. Small Date. AU-55 (PCGS).	789	1808 Breen-6456, B-4A. Rarity-4. Normal Date. MS- 63 (PCGS).	819	1828 Breen-6488, B-2B. Rarity-6+. Normal Date. MS- 62 (PCGS).
679	1865 MS-64 (PCGS).	732	1799 Breen-6436, B-3F. Rarity-6. Large Reverse Stars. AU-58 (PCGS).	761	1804 Breen-6443, B-2E. Rarity-5. Small Date. Net EF- 40.	790	1808 Breen-6457, B-4B. Rarity-4. Normal Date. AU-58.	820	1829 Breen-6489, B-1A. Rarity-7. Large Planchet. MS- 65 (PCGS).
680	1866 AU-55.	733	1799 Breen-6437, B-4G. Rarity-7. Large Reverse Stars. MS-62 (PCGS).	762	1805 Breen-6444, B-1B. Rarity-7. AU-58 (PCGS).	791	1809/8 Breen-6458, B-1A. Rarity-3. Overdate. MS-64 (PCGS).	821	1829 Breen-6490, B-2B. Rarity- 7. Small Planchet. MS-61 PL.
681	1866 AU-50.	734	1799 Breen-6437, B-4H. Rarity-6+. Large Reverse Stars. AU-55 (PCGS).	763	1805 Breen-6444, B-4B. Rarity-8. Wide Date. AU-58 (PCGS).	792	1810 Breen-6459, B-1A. Rarity-3. Large Date, Large 5. MS-62 (PCGS).	822	1830 Breen-6492, B-2. Rarity-5. Small 5D. MS-62 (PCGS).
682	1867 MS-66 (PCGS).	735	1799 Breen-6437, B-4G. Rarity-7. Large Reverse Stars. VF-30.	764	1805 Breen-6444, B-2B. Rarity-5+. Wide Date. AU-58 (PCGS).	793	1810 Breen-6459, B-1A. Rarity-3. Large Date, Large 5. EF-45.	823	1833 Breen-6498, B-II. Rarity-5. AU-50.
683	1868 MS-63 (PCGS).	736	1800 Breen-6438, B-1D. Rarity-4. MS-63 (PCGS).	765	1805 Breen-6445, B-3B. Rarity-4+. Close Date. MS-64 (PCGS).	794	1810 Breen-6460, B-1B. Rarity-7. Large Date, Small 5. EF-40.	824	1834 Breen-6501. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-63 (PCGS).
684	1869 MS-65 (PCGS).	737	1800 Breen-6438, B-1B. Rarity-4. Normal Dies. MS-62 (PCGS).	766	1805 Breen-6445, B-3B. Rarity-4+. Close Date. MS-63 (PCGS).	795	1810 Breen-6461, B-2B. Rarity-7. Small Date, Small 5. EF-45 (PCGS).	825	1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-63 (PCGS).
685	1870 MS-64 (PCGS).	738	1800 Breen-6438, B-1D. Rarity-4. Normal M. MS-62 (PCGS).	767	1805 Breen-6445, B-3B. Rarity-4+. Close Date. MS-63 (PCGS).	796	1810 Breen-6462, B-2D. Rarity-4. Small Date, Tall 5. MS-63 (PCGS).	826	1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto. MS-63 (PCGS).
686	1870 MS-63 (PCGS).	739	1800 Breen-6439, B-1C. Rarity-4+. Blundered M. MS- 63 (PCGS).	768	1805 Breen-6445, B-3D. Rarity-4. Close Date. MS-62 (PCGS).	797	1810 Breen-6462, B-2D. Rarity-4. Small Date, Tall 5. MS-63 (PCGS).	827	1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-62 (PCGS).
687	1870 AU-58 PL.	740	1800 Breen-6439, B-1C. Rarity-4+. Blundered M. AU- 55 (PCGS).	769	1805 Breen-6445, B-3D. Rarity-4. Close Date. AU-58 (PCGS).	798	1811 Breen-6463, B-1A. Rarity-4. Tall 5. MS-63 (PCGS).	828	1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. AU-58.
688	1871 MS-66 (PCGS).	741	1802/1 Breen-6440, B-2I. Rarity-4. High Overdate. MS- 64 (PCGS).	770	1806 Breen-6446, B-1A. Rarity-4+. Pointed 6. AU-58 (PCGS).	799	1811 Breen-6463, B-1A. Rarity-4. Tall 5. MS-60 (PCGS).	829	1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. AU-58.
689	1872 AU-55.	742	1802/1 Breen-6440, B-2F. Rarity-5. High Overdate. MS- 63 (PCGS).	771	1806 Breen-6447, B-3D. Rarity-6+. Pointed 6. MS-62 (PCGS).	800	1811 Breen-6464, B-1B. Rarity-3+. Small 5. MS-62 (PCGS).	830	1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. AU-50.
690	1873 Closed 3. MS-62 (PCGS).	743	1802/1 Breen-6440, B-2I. Rarity-4. High Overdate. MS- 63 (PCGS).	772	1806 Breen-6447, B-3D. Rarity-6+. Pointed 6. MS-62 (PCGS).	801	1812 Breen-6466, B-1B. Rarity-3+. Wide 5D. MS-62 (PCGS).	831	1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. AU-50.
691	1873 Closed 3. AU-58 (PCGS).	744	1802/1 Breen-6440, B-1D. Rarity-4+. Low Overdate. MS-60.	773	1806 Breen-6447, Breen obverse 1. Rarity-7. Pointed 6. AU-58 (PCGS).	802	1812 Breen-6466, B-1B. Rarity-3+. Wide 5D. MS-61 (PCGS).	832	1834 Breen-6502. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-64 (PCGS).
692	1874 MS-64 (PCGS).	745	1802/1 Breen-6440, B-1C. Rarity-5. Low Overdate. AU- 58 (PCGS).	774	1806 Breen-6447, B-4E. Rarity-7. Pointed 6. AU-58 (PCGS).	803	1813 Breen-6467, B-1A. Rarity-3. MS-63.	833	1834 Breen-6502. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-64 (PCGS).
693	1874 MS-64 (PCGS).	746	1802/1 Breen-6440, B-2F. Rarity-5. High Overdate. AU- 53 (PCGS).	775	1806 Breen-6447, B-3D. Rarity-6+. Pointed 6. AU-55 (PCGS).	804	1814/3 Breen-6468, B-1A. Rarity-4. Overdate. MS-62.	834	1834 Breen-6502. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-61.
694	1874 MS-62 (PCGS).	747	1802/1 Breen-6440, B-1C. Rarity-5. Low Overdate. EF-45.	776	1806 Breen-6448, B-5E. Rarity-3-. Round Top 6. MS- 64 (PCGS).	805	1815 Breen-6469, B-1A. Rarity-7-. AU-58 (PCGS).	835	1834 Breen-6502. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. AU-55.
695	1876 Proof-64 (PCGS).	748	1803/2 Breen-6441, B-1D. Rarity-1. Overdate. MS-63 (PCGS).	777	1806 Breen-6448, B-5E. Rarity-3-. Round Top 6. MS- 62 (PCGS).	806	1818 Breen-6470, B-2B. Rarity-4. STATESOF One Word. MS-64 (PCGS).	836	1834 Breen-6502. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. AU-55.
696	1877 MS-64 (PCGS).	749	1803/2 Breen-6441, B-1B. Rarity-5. Overdate. MS-63 (PCGS).	778	1806 Breen-6448, B-5E. Rarity-3-. Round Top 6. AU- 58.	807	1818 Breen-6470, B-2B. Rarity-4. STATESOF One Word. AU-53 (PCGS).	837	1834 Breen-6503. Classic Head. No Motto, Crosslet 4. AU-55 (PCGS).
697	1878 MS-64 (PCGS).					808	1818 Breen-6471, B-1A. Rarity-5. Normal Reverse. AU-55 (PCGS).		
698	1879 MS-65 (PCGS).								
699	1880 MS-66 (PCGS).								
700	1881 MS-63 (PCGS).								
701	1882 MS-64 (PCGS).								
702	1883 MS-64 (PCGS).								
703	1884 Proof-62 (PCGS).								
704	1885 MS-65 (PCGS).								
705	1886 Proof-64 (PCGS).								
706	1887 Proof-64 (PCGS).								
707	1887 Proof-64 (PCGS).								
708	1887 MS-65 (PCGS).								
709	1888 MS-66 (PCGS).								
710	1889 MS-64 (PCGS).								
	<b>Half Eagles</b>								
711	1795 Breen-6412, B-2C. Rarity-5. Small Eagle. MS-63 (PCGS).								
712	1795 Breen-6412, Breen-1B. Rarity-4. Small Eagle. AU-53 (PCGS).								
713	1795 Breen-6414, B-4D. Rarity-5. Small Eagle. STATES over STATED. AU- 55 (PCGS).								
714	1795 Breen-6415, B-6E. Rarity-5+. Small Eagle. AU- 55 (PCGS).								
715	1795 Breen-6416, B-6G. Rarity-5. Small Eagle. MS-61 (PCGS).								
716	1795 Breen-6423, B-7X. Rarity-5+. Heraldic Eagle. AU-58 (PCGS).								
717	1796/5 Breen-6418, B-9I. Rarity-4. Overdate. AU-53 (PCGS).								
718	1797/5 Breen-6425, B-13Y. Rarity-7. Heraldic Eagle. Overdate. AU-53 (PCGS).								
719	1797 Breen-6419, B-10J. Rarity-7. Small Eagle. 15 Stars. AU-55 (PCGS).								
720	1797 Breen-6419, B-11J. Rarity-6+. Small Eagle. 15 Stars. AU-53 (PCGS).								



838	1834 Breen-6503. Classic Head. No Motto. Crosslet 4. AU-55.	887	1840-D Breen-6527. Narrow Mill, Mintmark above VE of FIVE. AU-55 (PCGS).	926	1843-O Breen-6548. Large Date, Small Letters. AU-55 (PCGS).	970	1847 Breen-6567. Normal Date. MS-63 (PCGS).	1029	1851-O First 1 in Date Repunched. MS-62 (PCGS).
839	1835 Breen-6504. MS-62 (PCGS).	888	1840-D Breen-6527. Narrow Mill, Mintmark above VE of FIVE. AU-53 (PCGS).	927	1843-O Breen-6548. Large Date, Small Letters. AU-50 (PCGS).	971	1847 Breen-6567. Normal Date. MS-63 (PCGS).	1030	1851-O First 1 in Date Repunched. Broadly Repunched. Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).
840	1835 Breen-6504. MS-62 (PCGS).	889	1840-D Breen-6527. Narrow Mill, Mintmark above VE of FIVE. AU-50.	928	1843-O Breen-6549. Large Date, Large Letters. MS-64 (NGC).	972	1847 Breen-6567. Normal Date. MS-62 (PCGS).	1031	1851-O EF-45 (PCGS).
841	1835 Breen-6504. AU-58.	890	1840-D Breen-6527. Narrow Mill, Mintmark above V of FIVE. Repunched 18. EF-40.	929	1843-O Breen-6549. Large Date, Large Letters. AU-50.	973	1847 Breen-6567. Normal Date. MS-60.	1032	1852 Light Numerals. Open 5. MS-64 (PCGS).
842	1835 Breen-6504. AU-55.	891	1840-O Breen-6529. Narrow Mill, Small O Mintmark. AU-53 (PCGS).	930	1844 MS-63 (PCGS).	974	1847 Breen-6569. Extra 1 in Neck. MS-63 (PCGS).	1033	1852 Heavy Numerals. Closed 5. MS-62 (PCGS).
843	1835 Breen-6504. AU-55.	892	1840-O Breen-6530. Narrow Mill, Medium O Mintmark. MS-62 (PCGS).	931	1844 MS-62 (PCGS).	975	1847 Breen-6569. Extra 1 in Neck. AU-55.	1034	1852-C Numeral 1 in Date Touches Bust. MS-60.
845	1835 Breen-6505. AU-58 (PCGS).	893	1840-O Breen-6530. Narrow Mill, Medium O Mintmark. AU-50.	932	1844-C MS-63 (PCGS).	976	1847 Breen-6570. Double 7 in Date. MS-61 (PCGS).	1035	1852-C AU-50.
848	1836 Breen-6508. MS-64 (PCGS).	894	1840-O Breen-6530. Narrow Mill, Medium O Mintmark. AU-50.	933	1844-C AU-50.	977	1847 Breen-6570. Double 7 in Date. MS-60.	1036	1852 MS-61 (PCGS).
849	1836 Breen-6509. MS-63 (PCGS).	895	1841 MS-64 (PCGS).	934	1844-C EF-40 (PCGS).	978	1847-C AU-58 (PCGS).	1037	1852-D AU-53 (PCGS).
850	1836 Breen-6509. MS-62 (PCGS).	896	1841 MS-62 (PCGS).	935	1844-D MS-61 (PCGS).	979	1847-C EF-45.	1038	1852-D EF-45.
851	1836 Breen-6509. MS-61 (PCGS).	897	1841 AU-55.	936	1844-D EF-45.	980	1847-D MS-62 (PCGS).	1039	1853 Date Under Bust. MS-62 (PCGS).
852	1836 Breen-6509. AU-58 (PCGS).	898	1841-C MS-61 (PCGS).	937	1844-O Breen-6553. Normal Stars. MS-65 (PCGS).	981	1847-D AU-58 (PCGS).	1040	1853 MS-60.
853	1836 Breen-6509. AU-58.	899	1841-C AU-58 (PCGS).	938	1844-O Breen-6553. Normal Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).	982	1847-D AU-50 (PCGS).	1041	1853-C MS-64 (PCGS).
854	1836 Breen-6509. AU-55.	900	1841-D Breen-6534. Small D Mintmark, Repunched Date. MS-61 (PCGS).	939	1844-O Breen-6553. Normal Stars. AU-58 (PCGS).	983	1847-D AU-50.	1042	1853-C AU-50.
855	1836 Breen-6509. AU-53.	901	1841-D Breen-6534. Small D Mintmark, Repunched Date. AU-58 (PCGS).	940	1844-O Breen-6553. Normal Stars. AU-55 (PCGS).	984	1847-O AU-53 (PCGS).	1043	1853-C EF-45.
857	1836 Breen-6510. AU-55.	902	1841-D Breen-6534. Small D Mintmark, Repunched Date. AU-58 (PCGS).	941	1844-O Breen-6553. Normal Stars. AU-55.	985	1847-O Breen-6574. Weak O Mintmark. AU-50 (PCGS).	1044	1853-D MS-62 (PCGS).
858	1837 Large date. Breen-6511. AU-58.	903	1841-D Breen-6534. Small D Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).	942	1844-O Breen-6554. Small Thin Stars. AU-50.	986	1848 Repunched 1 in Date. Not in Breen. MS-64 (PCGS).	1045	1853-D AU-58 (PCGS).
859	1837 Large date. Breen-6511. AU-55.	904	1841-D Breen-6534. Small D Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).	943	1845 Breen-6555. Heavy Numerals. MS-64 (PCGS).	987	1848 MS-60.	1046	1853-D AU-55 (PCGS).
860	1837 Breen-6512. MS-66 (PCGS).	905	1842 Breen-6536. Small Letters. AU-55.	944	1845 Breen-6555. Heavy Numerals. MS-60.	988	1848 Net AU-58.	1047	1853-D AU-55.
861	1837 Large date. Breen-6512. MS-62 (PCGS).	906	1842 Breen-6537. Large Letters. AU-58 (PCGS).	945	1845 Breen-6555. Heavy Numerals. MS-60.	989	1848 AU-58.	1048	1853-D AU-50.
862	1837 Small date. Breen-6513. AU-53.	907	1842 Breen-6537. Large Letters. AU-58 (PCGS).	946	1845 Breen-6556. Partly Repunched Date. AU-58 (PCGS).	990	1848-C MS-64 (PCGS).	1049	1854 MS-62 (PCGS).
863	1838 Breen-6514. MS-65 (PCGS).	908	1842 Breen-6537. Large Letters. AU-53 (PCGS).	947	1845 Breen-6557. Thin Numerals. MS-60.	991	1848-C AU-50.	1050	1854 AU-58.
864	1838 Breen-6514. Large Arrows, Small 5. MS-61 (PCGS).	909	1842-C Breen-6538. Small Date, Small Letters. VF-35 (PCGS).	948	1845-D MS-65 (PCGS).	992	1848-D AU-58 (PCGS).	1051	1854-C Breen-6607. Weak C Mintmark. MS-62 (PCGS).
865	1838 Breen-6515. Small Arrows, Large 5. MS-65 (PCGS).	910	1842-C Breen-6539. Large Date. MS-63 (PCGS).	949	1845-D MS-63 (PCGS).	993	1848-D AU-55 (PCGS).	1052	1854-C Breen-6607. Weak C Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).
866	1838-C Breen-6516. Repunched 5. MS-63 (PCGS).	911	1842-C Breen-6539. Large Date. AU-55.	950	1845-D AU-55 (PCGS).	994	1848-D AU-53 (PCGS).	1053	1854-C Strong C Mintmark. AU-53 (PCGS).
867	1838-C Breen-6516. EF-40 (PCGS).	912	1842-D Breen-6540. Small Date, Small Letters. AU-55 (PCGS).	951	1845-D AU-55 (PCGS).	995	1848-D AU-50.	1054	1854-D Breen-6608. Strong D Mintmark. MS-63 (PCGS).
868	1838-C Breen-6517. Normal 5. AU-55 (PCGS).	913	1842-D Breen-6540. Small Date, Small Letters. AU-50.	952	1845-O Breen-6560. Repunched 18. MS-63 (PCGS).	996	1848-D AU-50.	1055	1854-D Breen-6608. Strong D Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).
869	1838-C Breen-6517. Normal 5. AU-53 (PCGS).	914	1842-D Breen-6540. Small Date, Small Letters. EF-45 (PCGS).	953	1845-O Breen-6560. Repunched 18. MS-62 (PCGS).	997	1848-D AU-50.	1056	1854-D Breen-6608. Strong D Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).
870	1838-D Breen-6518. MS-62 (PCGS).	915	1842-O Small Date, Small Letters. MS-61 (PCGS).	954	1845-O Breen-6560. Repunched 18. AU-55 (PCGS).	998	1848-D AU-50.	1057	1854-D Breen-6608. Strong D Mintmark. AU-50.
871	1838-D Breen-6518. EF-45 (PCGS).	916	1842-O Small Date, Small Letters. AU-50 (PCGS).	955	1846 Breen-6561. Large Date. MS-63 (PCGS).	999	1848-D EF-45.	1058	1854-D Breen-6608. Strong D Mintmark. AU-50.
872	1839-C MS-61 (PCGS).	917	1843 Breen-6543. Normal Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).	956	1846 Breen-6561. Large Date. MS-60.	1000	1848-D EF-45.	1059	1854-D Breen-6610. Weak D Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).
873	1839-D Breen-6521. Mintmark above 39 in date. AU-58 (PCGS).	918	1843 Breen-6543. Normal Stars. MS-60.	957	1846 Breen-6561. Large Date. MS-60.	1001	1849 MS-62 (PCGS).	1060	1854-D Breen-6610. Weak D Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).
874	1839-D Breen-6521. Mintmark above 3. AU-53 (PCGS).	919	1843 Breen-6543. Normal Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).	958	1846 Breen-6562. Small Date. AU-58.	1002	1849 Breen-6582. Repunched 49. AU-58.	1061	1854-O MS-63 (PCGS).
875	1840 Breen-6522. Broad Mill. AU-58 (PCGS).	920	1843-C Broad Mill. MS-63 (PCGS).	959	1846 Breen-6562. Small Date. AU-55.	1003	1849-C MS-64 (PCGS).	1062	1854-O AU-58 (PCGS).
876	1840 Breen-6522. Broad Mill. EF-40.	921	1843-C Broad Mill. MS-61 (PCGS).	960	1846 Breen-6562. Small Date. AU-55.	1004	1849-C MS-62 (PCGS).	1063	1854-O AU-55.
877	1840 Breen-6523. Narrow Mill. AU-58 (PCGS).	922	1843-C Broad Mill. EF-45.	961	1846-C Repunched 1 in Date. MS-62 (PCGS).	1005	1849-C Net EF-40.	1064	1854-O AU-50.
878	1840 Breen-6523. Narrow Mill. AU-55.	923	1843-D Breen-6547. Large D Mintmark. MS-64 (PCGS).	962	1846-D Breen-6564. Normal D Mintmark. MS-61 (PCGS).	1006	1849-D AU-55 (PCGS).	1065	1854-O AU-50.
879	1840 Breen-6523. Narrow Mill. AU-55.	924	1843-D Breen-6547. Large D Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).	963	1846-D Breen-6564. Normal D Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).	1007	1849-D AU-55 (PCGS).	1066	1855 Misplaced Date. MS-62 (PCGS).
880	1840 Breen-6523. Narrow Mill. AU-55.	925	1843-D Breen-6546. Small D Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).	964	1846-D Breen-6565. Repunched D Mintmark. MS-62 (PCGS).	1008	1849-D AU-53 (PCGS).	1067	1855 MS-62 (PCGS).
881	1840 Breen-6523. Narrow Mill. AU-50.			965	1846-D Breen-6565. Repunched D Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).	1009	1849-D AU-53 (PCGS).	1068	1855-C MS-63 (PCGS).
882	1840 Breen-6523. Narrow Mill. AU-50.			966	1846-D Breen-6565. Repunched D Mintmark. AU-50 (PCGS).	1010	1850 MS-61 (PCGS).	1069	1855-C AU-55 (PCGS).
883	1840 Breen-6523. Narrow Mill. AU-50.			967	1846-O AU-58 (PCGS).	1011	1850 AU-55.	1070	1855-C AU-53 (PCGS).
884	1840-C AU-53 (PCGS).			968	1846-O AU-58 (PCGS).	1012	1850 AU-50.	1071	1855-C EF-45.
885	1840-C AU-50 (PCGS).			969	1846-O AU-53 (PCGS).	1013	1850-C Strong C Mintmark. MS-62 (PCGS).	1072	1855-D AU-58 (PCGS).
886	1840-C AU-50 (PCGS).					1014	1850-C Strong C Mintmark. MS-62 (PCGS).	1073	1855-D AU-58.
						1015	1850-C Strong C Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).	1074	1855-D AU-53 (PCGS).
						1016	1850-C Strong C Mintmark. AU-53 (PCGS).	1075	1855-O MS-61 (PCGS).
						1017	1850-D Strong D Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).	1076	1855-O AU-55 (PCGS).
						1018	1850-D Breen-6588. Weak D Mintmark. AU-55.	1077	1855-S MS-62 (PCGS).
						1019	1850-D Net VF-35.	1078	1855-S AU-53 (PCGS).
						1020	1851 MS-60.	1079	1855-S AU-50 (PCGS).
						1021	1851 AU-58 (PCGS).	1080	1855-S AU-50 (PCGS).
						1022	1851 AU-58 (PCGS).	1081	1856 MS-64 (PCGS).
						1023	1851-C Normal Earlobe. AU-55 (PCGS).	1082	1856 MS-60.
						1024	1851-C AU-53 (PCGS).	1083	1856-C AU-58 (PCGS).
						1025	1851-D Breen-6593. Mintmark Far to Right. AU-58 (PCGS).	1084	1856-C AU-50.
						1026	1851-D Breen-6595. First 1 in Date Repunched. AU-55 (PCGS).	1085	1856-D MS-61 (PCGS).
						1027	1851-D Breen-6595. First 1 in Date Repunched. AU-50.	1086	1856-D AU-55.
						1028	1851-D Weak Mintmark. EF-45.	1087	1856-D AU-50 (PCGS).
								1088	1856-O Repunched 1 in Date. AU-58 (PCGS).
								1089	1856-O AU-50.
								1090	1856-S AU-55.
								1091	1856-S AU-55.



1092	1856-S Breen-6628. Repunched 185. AU-53 (PCGS).	1159	1867 MS-61 (PCGS).	1233	1881-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	1307	1799 Breen-6838, B-2A, T- 14. Rarity-6. Small Reverse Stars. AU-53 (PCGS).	1376	1847-O MS-60.
1093	1856-S AU-50.	1160	1867 AU-58 (PCGS).	1234	1881-S MS-63.	1308	1799 Breen-6840, B-4E, T-19. Rarity-3. Irregular Date. MS- 62 (PCGS).	1377	1847-O AU-58.
1094	1857 Repunched 185 in Date. MS-63 (PCGS).	1161	1867-S AU-53 (PCGS).	1235	1882 MS-64.	1309	1799 Breen-6840, B-4E, T-19. Rarity-3. Irregular Date. MS- 61 (PCGS).	1378	1847-O AU-50.
1095	1857 MS-62.	1162	1868 AU-55 (PCGS).	1236	1882 MS-63.	1310	1800 Breen-6842, B-1A, T- 23. Rarity-4. AU-55 (PCGS).	1379	1847-O AU-50.
1096	1857-C MS-62 (PCGS).	1163	1868 AU-50 (PCGS).	1237	1882-CC AU-58.	1311	1801 Breen-6843, B-2B, T- 25. Rarity-3. MS-64 (PCGS).	1380	1847-O AU-50.
1097	1857-C AU-55 (PCGS).	1164	1868-S AU-58 (PCGS).	1238	1882-CC AU-58.	1312	1801 Breen-6843, B-1A, T- 24. Rarity-5. AU-58 (PCGS).	1383	1848 AU-50.
1098	1857-D MS-63 (PCGS).	1165	1868-S AU-50.	1239	1882-S MS-64.	1313	1803 Breen-6844, B-1B, T- 29. Rarity-4. Small Reverse Stars. AU-55 (PCGS).	1384	1848-O AU-50.
1099	1857-D AU-53 (PCGS).	1166	1869 MS-64 (PCGS).	1240	1882-S MS-63.	1314	1838 AU-58 (PCGS).	1385	1848-O AU-50.
1100	1857-O AU-53 (PCGS).	1167	1869-S AU-53 (PCGS).	1241	1883-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	1315	1839 Large Letters Reverse. EF-45.	1386	1848-O EF-40.
1101	1857-S Breen-6632. Large S Mintmark. MS-62 (PCGS).	1168	1869-S AU-53 (PCGS).	1242	1883-CC AU-53 (PCGS).	1316	1839 Small letters reverse. AU-58 (PCGS).	1387	1849/8 Overdate. AU-53.
1102	1857-S Breen-6632. Large S Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).	1169	1870 MS-61 (PCGS).	1243	1883-S MS-62 (PCGS).	1317	1840 AU-50.	1388	1849 Breen-6885. AU-55.
1103	1857-S AU-55 (PCGS).	1170	1870-CC AU-58 (PCGS).	1244	1883-S AU-58 (PCGS).	1318	1840 EF-45.	1389	1849 Breen-6885. AU-50.
1104	1858 MS-64 (PCGS).	1171	1870-S AU-55 (PCGS).	1245	1884 Net MS-60.	1319	1841 AU-53.	1390	1849 Breen-6886. Double 1. AU-58.
1105	1858 AU-58.	1172	1870-S AU-53 (PCGS).	1246	1884-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	1320	1841 AU-50.	1391	1849 Breen-6886. Double 1. AU-50.
1106	1858-C MS-62 (PCGS).	1173	1871 Proof-53 (PCGS).	1247	1884-CC EF-45.	1321	1841 AU-50.	1394	1849-O AU-55 (PCGS).
1107	1858-C AU-53 (PCGS).	1174	1871 AU-53 (PCGS).	1248	1884-S MS-63.	1322	1841-O AU-53 (PCGS).	1395	1849-O EF-45.
1108	1858-D Breen-6636. Large D Mintmark. MS-62 (PCGS).	1175	1871-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	1249	1885-S MS-63.	1323	1841-O Net VF-35.	1396	1849-O Net EF-40.
1109	1858-D Breen-6636. Large D Mintmark. AU-50.	1176	1871-CC EF-45 (PCGS).	1250	1885-S MS-63.	1324	1842 Small date. MS-62 (PCGS).	1397	1849-O EF-40.
1110	1858-S AU-58 (PCGS).	1177	1871-S Breen-6678. Repunched Date. MS-61 (PCGS).	1251	1886-S MS-63.	1334	1842-O Large date. AU-53 (PCGS).	1398	1850 Large Date. MS-61 (PCGS).
1111	1859 MS-62 (PCGS).	1178	1871-S Breen-6678. Repunched Date. AU-55 (PCGS).	1252	1886-S MS-63.	1338	1843 EF-45.	1399	1850 Large Date. AU-55 (PCGS).
1112	1859-C AU-55 (PCGS).	1179	1871-S Breen-6678. Repunched Date. AU-50 (PCGS).	1253	1888-S MS-60.	1339	1843-O AU-50.	1400	1850 Large Date. AU-50.
1113	1859-C AU-50 (PCGS).	1180	1872 MS-63 (PCGS).	1254	1889 MS-67 (PCGS).	1340	1843-O AU-50.	1401	1850 Small Date. AU-50.
1114	1859-D Small D Mintmark. MS-61 (PCGS).	1181	1872-CC AU-53 (PCGS).	1255	1890-CC AU-58.	1341	1843-O AU-50.	1402	1850 Small Date. EF-45.
1115	1859-D Small D Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).	1182	1872-CC AU-50 (PCGS).	1256	1891 MS-64 (PCGS).	1342	1844 AU-53 (PCGS).	1403	1850-O EF-45.
1116	1859-D Small D Mintmark. AU-50.	1183	1872-S AU-50 (PCGS).	1257	1891-CC MS-62.	1343	1844 AU-50 (PCGS).	1404	1850-O EF-40.
1117	1859-D Large D Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).	1184	1872-S AU-50.	1258	1892-CC AU-58.	1344	1844 EF-40.	1405	1850-O EF-40.
1118	1859-S MS-62 (PCGS).	1185	1873 Open 3. Breen-6684. MS-65 (PCGS).	1259	1892-O AU-55.	1345	1844-O AU-55.	1406	1851 AU-55.
1119	1859-S AU-53 (PCGS).	1186	1873 Open 3. MS-62.	1260	1893 MS-64.	1346	1844-O AU-53.	1407	1851 EF-45.
1120	1860 MS-64 (PCGS).-	1187	1873-CC MS-62 (PCGS).	1261	1893-CC MS-64 (PCGS).	1348	1845 EF-40.	1408	1851-O AU-50.
1121	1860 AU-58.	1188	1873-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	1262	1893-CC AU-55.	1349	1845 EF-40.	1409	1851-O AU-50.
1122	1860-C Breen-6645. Doubled Date. AU-58 (PCGS).	1189	1873-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	1263	1893-O MS-62.	1350	1845-O Breen-6868. Normal Date. EF-45.	1410	1851-O AU-50.
1123	1860-C AU-58 (PCGS).	1190	1873-CC EF-45 (PCGS).	1264	1894-O AU-58.	1351	1845-O Breen-6869. Repunched 84. EF-45.	1411	1851-O EF-45.
1124	1860-C Net AU-50.	1191	1873-CC VG-10 (PCGS).	1265	1894-O AU-53.	1352	1845-O Breen-6869. Repunched 84. EF-40.	1412	1851-O EF-45.
1125	1860-D MS-62 (PCGS).	1192	1873-S AU-53 (PCGS).	1266	1895 MS-63.	1353	1845-O Breen-6869. Repunched 84. EF-40.	1413	1851-O EF-45.
1126	1860-D AU-58 (PCGS).	1193	1874 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1267	1895-S AU-58.	1354	1845-O Breen-6871. So- called Overdate. AU-50.	1414	1851-O EF-45.
1127	1860-D AU-55 (PCGS).	1194	1874 MS-63 (PCGS).	1268	1896 MS-63.	1355	1845-O Breen-6871. So- called Overdate. EF-40.	1415	1851-O EF-40.
1128	1860-D VF-35.	1195	1874 AU-50 (PCGS).	1269	1896-S AU-58.	1356	1845-O Breen-6871. So- called Overdate. VF-35.	1416	1852 AU-50.
1129	1860-S MS-62 (PCGS).	1196	1874-CC AU-58 (PCGS).	1270	1897 MS-64.	1357	1846 AU-50 (PCGS).	1417	1852-O AU-58 (PCGS).
1130	1860-S AU-50 (PCGS).	1197	1874-CC AU-53 (PCGS).	1271	1897-S MS-63 (PCGS).	1358	1846 EF-40.	1418	1852-O AU-53 (PCGS).
1131	1860-S AU-50 (PCGS).	1198	1874-CC EF-45 (PCGS).	1272	1898 MS-63.	1359	1846 EF-40.	1419	1852-O Net VF-35.
1132	1860-S EF-45.	1199	1874-S AU-53 (PCGS).	1273	1899 MS-63.	1360	1846/5-O Breen-6875. So- called Overdate. AU-55 (PCGS).	1420	1853/2 Breen-6905. Overdate. EF-40.
1133	1861 MS-64 (PCGS).	1200	1875 AU-53 (PCGS).	1274	1899-S MS-64.	1361	1846/5-O Breen-6875. So- called Overdate. AU-53 (PCGS).	1421	1853 AU-50.
1134	1861 MS-62 (PCGS).	1201	1875-CC Breen-6694. Doubled Die Reverse. AU-55 (PCGS).	1275	1900 MS-63.	1362	1846/5-O Breen-6875. So- called Overdate. EF-45.	1422	1853-O MS-61 (PCGS).
1135	1861 AU-58 (PCGS).	1202	1875-CC EF-45 (PCGS).	1276	1901 Proof-58 (PCGS).	1363	1846/5-O Breen-6875. So- called Overdate. EF-45.	1423	1853-O Net EF-45.
1136	1861-C AU-55 (PCGS).	1203	1875-CC EF-45 (PCGS).	1277	1901-S MS-64.	1364	1846/5-O Breen-6875. So- called Overdate. EF-40.	1424	1853-O EF-45.
1137	1861-D MS-61 (PCGS).	1204	1875-S MS-63 (PCGS).	1278	1902 MS-63.	1365	1846/5-O Breen-6875. So- called Overdate. EF-40.	1425	1853-O EF-45.
1138	1861-S AU-53 (PCGS).	1205	1875-S AU-53 (PCGS).	1279	1902-S MS-64.	1366	1846/5-O Breen-6875. So- called Overdate. VF-20.	1426	1854 Breen-6911. Blundered Date. AU-50.
1139	1861-S EF-40.	1206	1876 MS-64 (PCGS).	1280	1903-S MS-65 (PCGS).	1367	1847 MS-62 (PCGS).	1427	1854 AU-50.
1140	1862 MS-61 (PCGS).	1207	1876-CC AU-58 (PCGS).	1281	1903-S MS-64.	1368	1847 MS-62 (PCGS).	1428	1854-O Small Date AU-58 (PCGS).
1141	1862-S AU-55 (PCGS).	1208	1876-CC AU-58 (PCGS).	1282	1903-S MS-63.	1369	1847 AU-58.	1429	1854-O Small Date AU-50.
1142	1862-S EF-45 (PCGS).	1209	1876-CC EF-45 (PCGS).	1283	1904 MS-63.	1370	1847 AU-55.	1430	1854-O Small Date EF-40.
1143	1863 AU-58 (PCGS).	1210	1876-S EF-40.	1284	1904-S MS-67 (PCGS).	1371	1847 AU-53.	1431	1854-O Large Date AU-50.
1144	1863 AU-55 (PCGS).	1211	1877 MS-62 (PCGS).	1285	1905 MS-65 (PCGS).	1372	1847 AU-50.	1432	1854-O Large Date AU-50.
1145	1863-S AU-55 (PCGS).	1212	1877-CC MS-60 (PCGS).	1286	1906 MS-66 (PCGS).	1373	1847 AU-50.	1433	1854-O Large Date AU-50.
1146	1863-S AU-50 (PCGS).	1213	1877-S MS-63.	1287	1906-D MS-64.			1434	1854-O Large Date AU-50.
1147	1863-S EF-45 (PCGS).	1214	1877-S AU-55 (PCGS).	1288	1906-S MS-64.			1435	1854-O Large Date EF-45.
1148	1864 MS-61 (PCGS).	1215	1878 Breen-6703. Repunched 8 in Date. MS- 63.	1289	1907 MS-64.			1436	1854-O Large Date EF-45.
1149	1864 AU-55.	1216	1878-CC AU-50 (PCGS).	1290	1907-D MS-63.			1437	1854-O Large Date EF-45.
1150	1864-S MS-65 (PCGS).	1217	1878-S MS-60.	1291	1908 Liberty. MS-65 (PCGS).			1438	1854-S AU-50.
1151	1864-S EF-40 (PCGS).	1218	1879-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	1292	1908 Indian. MS-63.			1439	1854-S EF-45.
1152	1865 AU-58 (PCGS).	1219	1879-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	1293	1908-S MS-65 (PCGS).			1440	1855 MS-63 (PCGS).
1153	1865 AU-55 (PCGS).	1220	1879-S Breen-6707. Repunched Date. MS-63 (PCGS).	1294	1909-O AU-58 (PCGS).			1441	1855 AU-58.
1154	1865-S Breen-6661. Large S Mintmark. AU-53 (PCGS).	1221	1879-S MS-60.	1295	1909-S MS-64 (PCGS).			1442	1855-O EF-40.
1155	1866-S No Motto. AU-58 (PCGS).	1222	1880-CC AU-58 (PCGS).	1296	1909-S MS-64 (PCGS).			1443	1855-S Net EF-40.
1156	1866-S No Motto. EF-45 (PCGS).	1223	1880-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	1297	1911 MS-63 (PCGS).			1444	1856 AU-55.
1157	1866 With Motto. AU-55 (PCGS).	1224	1880-CC AU-50.	1298	1911-D MS-61 (PCGS).			1445	1856 AU-50.
1158	1866-S With Motto. Net EF- 40.	1225	1881/0 Breen-6715. Overdate. AU-50.	1299	1911-S MS-63 (PCGS).			1446	1856 AU-50.
		1226	1881 Proof-63 (PCGS).	1300	1912-S MS-64 (PCGS).			1447	1856-O EF-45.
		1227	1881 MS-64.	1301	1913-S MS-62 (PCGS).			1448	1856-O EF-40.
		1228	1881 MS-63.	1302	1915 Doubled Die Reverse. MS-63.			1449	1856-O EF-40.
				<b>Eagles</b>				1450	1856-S Medium Mintmark. AU-50.
				1303	1795 Breen-6830, Breen-2A, Taraszka-2. Rarity-4. 13 Leaves. AU-55 (PCGS).			1451	1856-S Medium Mintmark. EF-45.
				1304	1797 Breen-6833, B-1A, T-7. Rarity-5. Small Eagle. AU-58 (PCGS).			1452	1856-S Medium Mintmark. EF-40.
				1305	1797 Breen-6834, B-2B, T-8. Rarity-4. Heraldic Eagle. AU- 53 (PCGS).				
				1306	1799 Breen-6838, B-2A, T- 14. Rarity-6. Small Reverse Stars. MS-62 (PCGS).				



1453 1856-S Large Mintmark. EF-45.	1526 1871-CC EF-45.	1605 1883-CC Tall Close mintmark. VF-35.	1700 1853-O EF-45.	1795 1869 Proof-64 (PCGS)
1454 1856-S Large Mintmark. EF-40.	1527 1871-S AU-50 (PCGS).	1606 1883-S AU-55.	1703 1854 Large Date. AU-55.	1796 1869 MS-63 (PCGS).
1455 1857 AU-50.	1528 1871-S VF-35.	1607 1883-S AU-55.	1704 1854-S MS-63.	1797 1869 AU-55
1456 1857 EF-40.	1529 1872 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1608 1884 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1705 1855 MS-61 (PCGS).	1798 1869 EF-45.
1457 1857 EF-40.	1530 1872 AU-55 (PCGS).	1609 1884-CC Breen-7019. AU-55 (PCGS).	1706 1855-O VF-35.	1799 1869-S AU-55.
1458 1857 "Overdate." VF-20.	1531 1872-CC Breen-6971. Doubled Reverse Die. EF-45 (PCGS).	1610 1884-CC Breen-7019. "Canceled Obverse." EF-45.	1707 1855-S MS-61 (PCGS).	1800 1869-S AU-50.
1459 1857-O AU-55 (PCGS).	1532 1872-CC VF-35 (PCGS).	1611 1885 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1708 1855-S AU-50.	1801 1870 Proof-64 (PCGS).
1460 1857-S EF-45.	1533 1872-S EF-45.	1612 1886 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1710 1856 AU-55.	1802 1870 AU-50.
1461 1857-S Net EF-40.	1534 1872-S EF-45.	1613 1887 Proof-65 (PCGS).	1711 1856-O AU-53 (PCGS).	1803 1870 EF-40.
1462 1857-S EF-40.	1535 1872-S EF-40.	1614 1887-S MS-62.	1712 1856-S MS-63 (PCGS).	1804 1870-CC EF-45 (PCGS).
1463 1858-O AU-55 (PCGS).	1536 1872-S VF-35.	1615 1888 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1713 1856-S AU-58.	1805 1870-S EF-45.
1464 1858-O AU-50.	1537 1873 Closed 3. Proof-64 (PCGS).	1616 1888 AU-58.	1714 1856-S AU-55.	1806 1871 AU-50.
1465 1858-O EF-40.	1538 1873-CC Closed 3. AU-53 (PCGS).	1617 1888-O MS-62.	1715 1856-S AU-50.	1807 1871 EF-40.
1466 1858-O EF-40.	1539 1873-CC EF-45 (PCGS).	1620 1888-S MS-62.	1717 1857 AU-55.	1808 1871-CC EF-45 (PCGS).
1467 1858-S AU-55 (PCGS).	1540 1873-S Closed 3. AU-53 (PCGS).	1621 1889 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1718 1857-O EF-45.	1809 1871-S MS-62 (PCGS).
1468 1859 MS-61 (PCGS).	1541 1873-S Net VF-30.	1622 1889 AU-55.	1719 1857-S AU-55.	1810 1871-S AU-50.
1469 1859 EF-45.	1542 1874 Proof-64.	1623 1890 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1720 1857-S AU-50.	1811 1872 AU-50.
1470 1859 EF-40.	1543 1874 MS-64 (PCGS).	1624 1890-CC AU-58.	1722 1858 AU-55 (PCGS).	1812 1872-CC EF-45.
1471 1859-O AU-53 (PCGS).	1544 1874-CC AU-53 (PCGS).	1625 1891 Proof-65 (PCGS).	1723 1858 EF-45.	1813 1872-CC VF-35.
1472 1859-S AU-53 (PCGS).	1545 1874-CC AU-50 (PCGS).	1626 1891-CC MS-60.	1724 1858-O AU-55 (PCGS).	1814 1872-S AU-50.
1473 1860 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1546 1874-S AU-50 (PCGS).	1629 1892 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1725 1858-O VF-25.	1815 1873 Closed 3. Proof-63 (PCGS).
1474 1860 MS-64 (PCGS).	1547 1874-CC AU-53 (PCGS).	1630 1893 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1726 1858-S MS-61 (PCGS).	1816 1873 Closed 3. AU-50.
1475 1860 Net EF-45.	1548 1874-CC AU-50 (PCGS).	1631 1893 MS-63.	1727 1858-S AU-55.	1817 1873 Closed 3. EF-45.
1476 1860 EF-45.	1549 1874-S AU-50 (PCGS).	1633 1893-CC EF-45.	1728 1858-S AU-50.	1818 1873 Open 3. AU-58.
1477 1860 EF-40.	1550 1874-S EF-45 (PCGS).	1636 1894 Proof-66 (PCGS).	1729 1859 AU-53 (PCGS).	1822 1873-CC Closed 3. AU-55 (PCGS).
1478 1860-O AU-50.	1551 1875 EF-45 (PCGS).	1638 1894-O AU-58.	1730 1859 VF-35.	
1479 1860-O EF-40.	1552 1875-CC Net AU-50.	1639 1894-O AU-58.	1731 1859-O Heavy Clash Marks. AU-58 (PCGS).	1823 1873-CC Closed 3. VF-20.
1480 1860-S Net VF-20.	1553 1876 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1640 1894-S AU-53.	1732 1859-O AU-53 (PCGS).	1824 1873-S Closed 3. AU-55.
1481 1861 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1554 1876-CC EF-45 (PCGS).	1641 1895 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1733 1859-O AU-50 (PCGS).	1828 1873-S Open 3. AU-50.
1482 1861 AU-58.	1555 1876-S AU-53 (PCGS).	1642 1895-S AU-50.	1734 1859-S AU-50.	1829 1873-S Open 3. AU-50.
1483 1861 AU-50.	1556 1877 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1643 1896 Proof-65 (PCGS).	1735 1859-S AU-50.	1831 1874-CC AU-50.
1484 1861-S AU-58.	1557 1877-CC EF-40.	1644 1896-S AU-50.	1736 1860 MS-61 (PCGS).	1832 1874-CC EF-45.
1485 1861-S AU-50 (PCGS).	1558 1877-S EF-45.	1645 1896-S AU-50.	1737 1860 AU-55.	1833 1874-S AU-55.
1486 1861-S VF-35.	1559 1877-S EF-45.	1646 1897 Proof-65 (PCGS).	1738 1860-O AU-55 (PCGS).	1835 1875 Proof-63 (PCGS).
1487 1862 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1560 1877-S EF-40.	1647 1897-O MS-61.	1739 1860-S AU-58 (PCGS).	1836 1875 MS-61.
1488 1862 AU-55 (PCGS).	1561 1878 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1648 1898 Proof-65 (PCGS).	1740 1860-S EF-45.	1837 1875 Breen-7254. "Canceled J.B.L." MS-60.
1489 1862-S EF-45 (PCGS).	1562 1878 MS-64 (PCGS).	1650 1899 Proof-62 (PCGS).	1741 1861 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1838 1875-CC MS-62 (PCGS).
1490 1863 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1563 1878 MS-60.	1651 1899-S MS-62.	1742 1861 MS-65 (PCGS).	1839 1875-CC MS-60.
1491 1863 AU-55 (PCGS).	1564 1878 AU-58.	1652 1900 Proof-65 (PCGS).	1743 1861 MS-63 (PCGS).	1840 1875-CC MS-60.
1492 1863-S AU-53 (PCGS).	1565 1878-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	1653 1900 MS-61.	1744 1861 MS-62 (PCGS).	1841 1875-CC AU-58.
1493 1863-S Net EF-40.	1566 1878-CC AU-50 (PCGS).	1654 1901 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1745 1861 MS-61 (PCGS).	1842 1875-CC AU-55.
1494 1864 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1567 1878-S EF-40.	1655 1901 Proof-63 (PCGS).	1746 1861 MS-60.	1844 1875-S AU-58.
1495 1864 AU-55 (PCGS).	1568 1878-S Net VF-30.	1656 1902 Proof-63 (PCGS).	1747 1861 AU-58.	1845 1875-S AU-58.
1496 1864-S VF-35 (PCGS).	1569 1878-S Net VF-20.	1657 1902-S MS-63.	1748 1861 AU-55.	1846 1875-S AU-55.
1497 1865 Proof-63 (PCGS).	1570 1879/8 Breen-6993. Overdate. MS-61.	1658 1903 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1749 1861 AU-50.	1850 1876 Proof-64 (PCGS).
1498 1865 AU-55 (PCGS).	1571 1879 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1659 1903 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1751 1861-O AU-50 (PCGS).	1851 1876 MS-61.
1499 1865-S AU-50 (PCGS).	1572 1879 MS-60.	1660 1904 MS-63.	1752 1861-S AU-55.	1852 1876 MS-60.
1500 1865-S EF-45 (PCGS).	1573 1879-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	1661 1905 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1753 1861-S EF-45.	1853 1876 AU-58.
1501 1865-S 865 over inverted 186. AU-50 (PCGS).	1574 1879-O AU-55 (PCGS).	1662 1905-S AU-58.	1755 1862 AU-55 (PCGS).	1854 1876 AU-58.
1502 1866-S No Motto. AU-53 (PCGS).	1575 1879-S AU-58.	1663 1906 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1756 1862 EF-45.	1855 1876 AU-55.
1503 1866 With Motto. Proof-64 (PCGS).	1576 1879-S AU-55.	1664 1906-O MS-64 (PCGS).	1757 1862-S AU-50.	1856 1876-CC AU-58.
1504 1866 With Motto. Breen-6952. Doubled Date. AU-55.	1577 1880 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1665 1907 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1758 1862-S EF-45.	1857 1876-CC AU-55.
1505 1866-S With Motto. AU-50 (PCGS).	1578 1880-CC AU-58 (PCGS).	1666 1908-D Indian Head. No Motto. MS-64 (PCGS).	1760 1863 EF-45.	1858 1876-CC AU-53.
1506 1867 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1579 1880-CC AU-50.	1667 1909 MS-64 (PCGS).	1761 1863 VF-35.	1860 1876-S MS-60.
1507 1867 AU-53 (PCGS).	1580 1880-CC AU-50.	1668 1909-S MS-63.	1762 1863-S AU-58 (PCGS).	1861 1876-S AU-58.
1508 1867-S AU-50 (PCGS).	1581 1880-CC VF-35.	1669 1910-D MS-62.	1763 1863-S AU-53.	1863 1877 MS-62.
1509 1868 Proof-65 (PCGS).	1582 1880-CC Net VF-30.	1670 1911-D MS-63 (PCGS).	1764 1863-S AU-50.	1864 1877-CC AU-55 (PCGS).
1510 1868 EF-40.	1583 1880-CC VF-30.	1671 1912 MS-63.	1765 1863-S EF-45.	1865 1877-CC VF-35.
1511 1868-S AU-53 (PCGS).	1584 1880-O EF-45.	1672 1912-S AU-50.	1766 1864 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1868 1878 Proof-63 (PCGS).
1512 1868-S AU-53.	1585 1880-O EF-40.	1673 1913 MS-64.	1767 1864 AU-50.	1869 1878 MS-61.
1513 1868-S EF-40.	1586 1881 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1674 1914 MS-62 (PCGS).	1768 1864 AU-50.	1870 1878-CC AU-53 (PCGS).
1514 1869 Proof-65 (PCGS).	1588 1881 AU-55.	1675 1914-S MS-62 (PCGS).	1769 1864 EF-45.	1871 1879 Proof-63 (PCGS).
1515 1869-S EF-45.	1589 1881-CC AU-55.	1676 1915 MS-63.	1770 1865 AU-55.	1872 1879 MS-61.
1516 1869-S Net EF-40.	1590 1881-CC AU-55.		1771 1865 AU-50.	1874 1879-CC AU-50 (PCGS).
1517 1870 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1591 1881-O EF-45.		1772 1865 AU-50.	1875 1879-O EF-40.
1518 1870 Breen-6961. Repunched 0. AU-50 (PCGS).	1593 1882 Proof-64 (PCGS).		1773 1865 EF-45.	1876 1879-S MS-62 (PCGS).
1519 1870 Breen-6961. Repunched 0. EF-40.	1595 1882-CC AU-58 (PCGS).		1774 1865-S AU-50.	1877 1880 Proof-64 (PCGS).
1520 1870-CC EF-40 (PCGS).	1596 1882-CC AU-55 (PCGS).		1775 1865-S EF-45.	1878 1880 Proof-64 (PCGS).
1521 1870-S AU-53 (PCGS).	1597 1882-O AU-55.		1776 1865-S EF-45.	1879 1881 AU-55 (PCGS).
1522 1871 Proof-64 (PCGS).	1598 1882-O AU-50.		1781 1866-S No Motto. EF-40.	1880 1882 Proof-63 (PCGS).
1523 1871 AU-55 (PCGS).	1599 1883 Proof-64 (PCGS).		1782 1866 With Motto. AU-55.	1881 1882-CC MS-60.
1524 1871 EF-45.	1600 1883-CC Tall Close mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).		1783 1866 With Motto. AU-55.	1882 1882-CC AU-55 (PCGS).
1525 1871-CC AU-50 (PCGS).	1601 1883-CC Tall Close mintmark. EF-45.		1784 1866-S With Motto. AU-50.	1883 1882-CC AU-53 (PCGS).
	1602 1883-CC Small Wide mintmark. EF-45.		1785 1866-S With Motto. AU-50.	1884 1883 Proof-64 (PCGS).
	1603 1883-CC Tall Close mintmark. VF-35.		1786 1867 MS-61 (PCGS).	1885 1883-CC AU-55.
	1604 1883-CC Tall Close mintmark. VF-35.		1787 1867-S AU-58 (PCGS).	1886 1883-CC AU-50.
			1788 1867-S AU-50.	1887 1883-CC VF-35.
			1789 1867-S AU-50.	1888 1883-S MS-62 (PCGS).
			1790 1868 Proof-63 (PCGS).	1889 1883-S MS-62.
			1791 1868 AU-50.	1891 1884 Proof-63 (PCGS).
			1792 1868 EF-40.	1892 1884-CC AU-55.
			1793 1868-S AU-50.	1893 1884-S MS-62 (PCGS).
			1794 1868-S AU-50.	1894 1884-S MS-62 (PCGS).

**Double Eagles**



**Bass III  
May 2000  
(the present sale)**

**Gold Dollars**

1895	1885 Proof-65 (PCGS).
1896	1885 MS-63 (PCGS).
1898	1886 Proof-65 (PCGS).
1899	1887 Proof-64 (PCGS).
1902	1888 Proof-65 (PCGS).
1903	1889 Proof-62 (PCGS).
1905	1890 Proof-64 (PCGS).
1906	1891 Proof-67 (PCGS).
1907	1891-S MS-63.
1908	1892 Proof-65 (PCGS).
1909	1892-C MS-62 (PCGS).
1910	1893 Proof-64 (PCGS).
1913	1893-CC MS-60.
1914	1894 Proof-64 (PCGS).
1915	1895 Proof-65 (PCGS).
1918	1896 Proof-65 (PCGS).
1919	1896-S MS-62.
1920	1897 Proof-64 (PCGS).
1924	1898 Proof-66 (PCGS).
1925	1898-S MS-62 PL.
1926	1898-S MS-62.
1927	1899 Proof-65 (PCGS).
1928	1899 MS-63.
1929	1899 MS-63.
1931	1900 Proof-63 (PCGS).
1932	1900 MS-63.
1933	1902 Proof-63 (PCGS).
1934	1902 AU-58 PL.
1935	1902 AU-58.
1936	1902 AU-55.
1939	1903 Proof-65 (PCGS).
1940	1903 MS-63.
1941	1904 Proof-65 (PCGS).
1942	1904 MS-64 PL.
1943	1904 MS-64.
1944	1904 MS-63.
1945	1904 MS-63.
1946	1904-S MS-64.
1948	1905 Proof-65 (PCGS).
1949	1906 Proof-64 (PCGS).
1950	1906-D MS-63.
1952	1907 Liberty Head. Proof-66 (PCGS).
1953	1907-D MS-64 PL.
1954	1907-D MS-63.
1955	1907-D MS-62.
1956	1907-S MS-62.
1957	MCMVII (1907) High Relief. Wire Rim. MS-64.
1958	MCMVII (1907) High Relief. MS-63 (PCGS).
1959	MCMVII (1907) High Relief. Partial Wire Rim. MS-63 (PCGS).
1960	MCMVII (1907) High Relief. Wire Rim. MS-63 (PCGS).
1961	MCMVII (1907) High Relief. Flat Rim. AU-50.
1962	1907 Saint-Gaudens, Arabic Date. MS-63.
1964	1909/8 Overdate. AU-58.
1965	1909/8 Overdate. AU-50.
1	1849 Open Wreath. Small Head, No L. MS-64 (PCGS).
2	1849 Open Wreath. Large Head, With L. MS-64 (PCGS).
3	1849 Open Wreath. Large Head, With L. MS-63.
4	1849 Closed Wreath. MS-64 PL.
5	1849-D MS-61 (PCGS).
6	1849-O MS-62.
7	1851 MS-64.
8	1851-C MS-64 (PCGS).
9	1851-C AU-50.
10	1851-D AU-55.
11	1851-O MS-62.
14	1852-O MS-63 (PCGS).
15	1853 MS-64.
16	1853-D AU-55.
17	1853-O MS-62.
18	1854 Type I. MS-63 (PCGS).
19	1854 Type I. MS-63.
20	1854 Type II. MS-63 (PCGS).
21	1854 Type II. AU-58.
22	1855 MS-62 (PCGS).
23	1855 MS-61.
24	1855-C EF-45.
25	1855-C EF-40.
26	1855-O AU-50.
27	1856-S Type II. Normal Mintmark. AU-50.
28	1856 Type III. Slanted 5. Proof-64 (PCGS).
29	1857 Proof-66 (PCGS).
30	1858 Proof-64 (PCGS).
31	1859 Proof-64 (PCGS).
33	1860 Proof-65 (PCGS).
34	1861 Proof-65 (PCGS).
35	1861 MS-64.
36	1861 MS-63.
37	1862 Proof-65 (PCGS).
38	1862 MS-63.
39	1863 Proof-64 (PCGS).
40	1864 Proof-63 (PCGS).
41	1864 MS-62.
42	1865 Proof-62.
43	1866 Proof-66 (PCGS).
44	1867 Proof-64 (PCGS).
45	1867 MS-63.
46	1868 Proof-64 (PCGS).
47	1868 MS-63.
48	1869 Proof-65 (PCGS).
49	1870 Proof-64 (PCGS).
50	1871 Proof-63 (PCGS).
51	1872 Proof-65 (PCGS).
52	1873 Closed 3. MS-62 (PCGS).
53	1873 Open 3. MS-64.
54	1873 Open 3. MS-63.
55	1874 Proof-65 (PCGS).
56	1874 MS-64.
58	1875 Proof-66 (PCGS).
59	1876 Proof-65 (PCGS).
60	1876 MS-63.
61	1877 Proof-64 (PCGS).
62	1877 MS-63.
63	1878 Proof-65 (PCGS).
64	1879 Proof-65 (PCGS).
65	1880 MS-66 (PCGS).
66	1880 MS-65.
67	1881 Proof-64 (PCGS).
68	1881 MS-67 (PCGS).
69	1881 MS-65.
70	1882 Proof-66 (PCGS).
71	1883 Proof-65 (PCGS).
72	1883 MS-64.
73	1883 MS-63.

74	1884 Proof-66 (PCGS).
75	1885 MS-64.
76	1886 Proof-65 (PCGS).
77	1887 Proof-66 (PCGS).
78	1888 Proof-65 (PCGS).
79	1889 Proof-61.
80	1796 Breen-6113, Breen-3, Hilt-2A. Rarity-7+. No Stars. Net VF-20.
81	1802 Breen-6118, Breen-1,3. "Overdate". AU-55 (PCGS).
82	1826 Breen-6130, Breen-1. Rarity-5+. "Overdate". EF-45.
83	1834 Breen-6140. No Motto, Large or Booby Head. MS-64 (PCGS).
84	1834 Breen-6140. No Motto, Large or Booby Head. AU-58.
86	1835 Breen-6141. MS-63 (PCGS).
88	1836 Breen-6142. Head of 1834. MS-63 (PCGS).
89	1836 Breen-6142. Head of 1834. MS-61 (PCGS).
90	1836 Breen-6143. Head of 1835. MS-62 (PCGS).
91	1836 Breen-6143. Head of 1835. AU-50.
92	1836 Breen-6144. Head of 1837. Proof-64 (PCGS).
93	1836 Breen-6144. Head of 1837. AU-58.
94	1837 Breen-6145. Repunched 8 and 7. Proof-65 (PCGS).
95	1838-C EF-40.
96	1839/8 Breen-6148. "Overdate." AU-55.
97	1839-C Net VF-20.
98	1839-O Low Date, Close Fraction. AU-58.
99	1840 MS-60 (PCGS).
100	1840 EF-40.
101	1840-C AU-55.
102	1840-D EF-45 (PCGS).
103	1840-O Small O. EF-45.
104	1840-O Small O. EF-40.
105	1841 "Little Princess." Proof-64 (PCGS).
106	1841-D EF-40.
107	1842-D Repunched 184. AU-55 (PCGS).
108	1842-O EF-40.
109	1843 Large Date. MS-61.
111	1843-D Small Date, Small D. AU-55 (PCGS).
112	1843-D Small Date, Small D. AU-50.
113	1843-D Small Date, Large D. Net EF-40.
114	1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4. MS-60.
115	1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4. MS-60.
116	1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4. MS-60.
120	1843-O Large Date, Plain 4. Repunched Mintmark. AU-55.
121	1844 AU-50.
122	1844-D MS-61 (PCGS).
123	1844-D AU-55.
124	1845 MS-62.
125	1845 MS-62.
126	1845 MS-61.
127	1845-D AU-50.
128	1845-O AU-58 (PCGS).
129	1846 AU-53.
130	1846-C AU-58 (PCGS).
131	1846-D Normal Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).

**Quarter Eagles**

132	1846-D AU-55 (PCGS).
133	1846-D AU-50.
134	1846-O AU-55.
135	1846-O AU-50.
136	1847 Repunched 18. AU-58 (PCGS).
137	1847 Repunched 18. AU-53.
138	1847-C AU-58 (PCGS).
139	1847-C Net AU-50.
140	1847-D AU-55 (PCGS).
141	1847-O AU-50.
142	1848 AU-50.
143	1848-C AU-58.
144	1848-D AU-55 (PCGS).
145	1849 AU-50.
146	1849-C AU-55 (PCGS).
147	1849-D AU-55 (PCGS).
148	1850 MS-62.
149	1850 MS-60.
150	1850-C AU-50.
151	1850-O MS-62 (PCGS).
152	1850-O Recut 5. AU-55.
153	1851 MS-64.
154	1851 MS-63.
157	1851-C Net AU-50.
158	1851-D AU-50.
159	1851-O Doubled Date. AU-58.
160	1851-O Doubled Date. AU-55.
164	1852-D AU-58 (PCGS).
165	1852-O Normal Mintmark. AU-53.
166	1853 MS-66 (PCGS).
169	1854 MS-63.
170	1854-C AU-58 (PCGS).
171	1854-O AU-58.
172	1855 MS-63 (PCGS).
173	1855 MS-63.
174	1855-C AU-55 (PCGS).
175	1856 MS-63.
177	1856-C Net EF-45.
178	1856-O AU-55.
179	1856-S MS-62 (PCGS).
180	1856-S AU-53.
181	1856-S AU-50.
182	1857 MS-63.
183	1857-D AU-55 (PCGS).
184	1857-O MS-60 PL.
185	1857-O AU-55.
186	1857-S AU-55.
187	1857-S AU-53.
188	1858 MS-61.
189	1858 AU-55.
190	1858-C Net EF-40.
191	1859 Proof-66 (PCGS).
192	1859 Type I reverse. AU-50.
193	1859 Type II reverse. AU-58.
194	1859-D Type I reverse. AU-55 (PCGS).
195	1859-S AU-53.
196	1859-S EF-45.
197	1860 Type II Reverse. Proof-66 (PCGS).
198	1860 Breen-6252. Repunched 1 in Date, Type II Reverse. AU-58.
199	1860-S Breen-6255. Repunched 1 in Date, Type I Reverse. AU-55.
200	1861 Proof-64 (PCGS).
201	1861 MS-64.
204	1861-S AU-50.
205	1862 Proof-64 (PCGS).
206	1862 MS-61.
207	1862-S Type I Reverse. EF-45.
208	1863 Proof-64 (PCGS).
209	1863-S Net EF-40.
210	1864 Proof-66 (PCGS).
211	1865 Proof-66 (PCGS).
212	1865-S AU-50.
213	1866 Proof-64 (PCGS).
214	1866-S EF-45.
215	1866-S EF-40.

216	1866-S EF-40.
217	1867 Proof-67 (PCGS).
218	1867-S AU-55.
219	1867-S EF-45.
220	1868 Proof-64 (PCGS).
221	1868-S AU-58.
222	1869 Proof-64 (PCGS).
223	1869-S AU-58.
224	1870 Proof-65 (PCGS).
225	1870-S AU-55 (PCGS).
226	1871 Proof-64 (PCGS).
227	1871-S AU-58.
228	1872 Proof-64 (PCGS).
229	1872-S EF-45.
230	1873 Closed 3. Proof-65 (PCGS).
231	1873 Closed 3. MS-65 (PCGS).
232	1873 Closed 3. MS-62.
234	1873 Open 3. MS-63 PL.
235	1873-S Closed 3. AU-50.
236	1874 Proof-64 (PCGS).
237	1875 Proof-64 (PCGS).
238	1876 Proof-66 (PCGS).
239	1877 Proof-65 (PCGS).
240	1878 Proof-64 (PCGS).
242	1879 Proof-64 (PCGS).
243	1880 Proof-65 (PCGS).
244	1882 Proof-65 (PCGS).
245	1883 Proof-65 (PCGS).
246	1884 Proof-65 (PCGS).
247	1885 Proof-66 (PCGS).
248	1886 Proof-65 (PCGS).
249	1887 Proof-65 (PCGS).
250	1888 Proof-65 (PCGS).
251	1889 Proof-65 (PCGS).
252	1890 Proof-66 (PCGS).
253	1891 Proof-65 (PCGS).
254	1892 Proof-66 (PCGS).
255	1893 Proof-66 (PCGS).
256	1894 Proof-65 (PCGS).
257	1895 Proof-66 (PCGS).
258	1896 Proof-67 (PCGS).
259	1897 Proof-65 (PCGS).
260	1898 Proof-67 (PCGS).
261	1899 Proof-67 (PCGS).
262	1900 Proof-64 (PCGS).
263	1901 Proof-65 (PCGS).
264	1902 Proof-66 (PCGS).
265	1903 Proof-65 (PCGS).
266	1904 Proof-66 (PCGS).
267	1905 Proof-63 (PCGS).
268	1906 Proof-66 (PCGS).
269	1907 MS-63.
270	1910 Proof-64 (PCGS).
	<b>Three-Dollar Gold</b>
271	1855 Proof-64 (PCGS).
272	1856-S Small S. AU-58 (PCGS).
273	1856-S Small S. EF-45.
274	1859 Proof-65 (PCGS).
275	1859 MS-60.
276	1865 Proof-63 (PCGS).
277	1866 AU-58.
278	1870 AU-58 PL.
279	1872 Proof-64 (PCGS).
280	1873 Closed 3. AU-58 (PCGS).
281	1874 Proof-65 (PCGS).
282	1874 MS-62 (PCGS).
283	1875 Proof-64 (PCGS).
284	1881 Proof-64 (PCGS).
285	1882 Proof-64 (PCGS).
286	1887 Proof-66 (PCGS).
287	1887 Breen-6403. Triple Struck. Proof-64 (PCGS).
	<b>Half Eagles</b>
288	1795 Breen-6112, Breen-2C. Rarity-5. Small Eagle. AU-50.
289	1795 Breen-6123, B-7X. Rarity-5+. Heraldic Eagle. MS-61 (PCGS).



290	1798 Breen-6427, B-2C. Rarity-6. 14 Stars. AU-55 (PCGS).	322	1834 Breen-6502. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. AU-50.	386	1845 MS-64 (PCGS).	467	1856-D AU-58 (PCGS).	549	1893-O AU-55
291	1799 Breen-6435, B-3E. Rarity-4. Recut 9. MS-61 (PCGS).	324	1835 Breen-6504. MS-60.	387	1845 MS-63 (PCGS).	468	1856-D EF-15.	550	1894-O MS-62
292	1800 Breen-6438, B-1D. Rarity-4. MS-62 (PCGS).	325	1835 Breen-6504. AU-58.	388	1845 Recut 18. MS-60.	469	1856-O MS-61 (PCGS).	551	1894-S AU-55
293	1800 Breen-6438, B-1D. Rarity-4. AU-58 (PCGS).	326	1835 Breen-6504. AU-50.	389	1845-D MS-61 (PCGS).	470	1856-S Breen-6625. Large S. AU-58.	552	1897-S MS-62.
294	1800 Breen-6438, B-1D. Rarity-4. AU-55.	327	1835 Breen-6504. AU-50.	390	1845-D AU-55.	471	1857 MS-62 (PCGS).	553	1900-S MS-63 (PCGS).
295	1802/1 Breen-6440, B-21. Rarity-4. High Overdate. MS-62 (PCGS).	328	1835 Breen-6505. AU-55.	391	1845-O Repunched Date. AU-55 (PCGS).	472	1857-C AU-58 (PCGS).	554	1902-S MS-64.
296	1802/1 Breen-6440, B-21. Overdate. Net AU-50.	329	1835 Breen-6505. AU-50.	392	1846 Large Date. MS-61.	473	1857-D MS-62 (PCGS).	555	1903-S MS-64.
297	1802/1 Breen-6440, B-21. Rarity-4. High Overdate. AU-50.	330	1836 Breen-6507. MS-62 (PCGS).	393	1846 Small Date. AU-58.	474	1857-O AU-55 (PCGS).	556	1907 MS-64.
298	1803/2 Breen-6441, B-1D. Rarity-4. Overdate. MS-62 (PCGS).	331	1836 Breen-6508. AU-55.	396	1846 Small Date. AU-50.	475	1857-S Breen-6633. Small S. MS-61 (PCGS).	557	1908 MS-64.
299	1803/2 Breen-6441, B-2D. Rarity-4. Overdate. AU-55.	332	1836 Breen-6509. MS-60.	398	1846-C Small Date. AU-50.	476	1858 AU-58.	<b>Eagles</b>	
300	1804 Breen-6442, B-1B. Rarity-5+. Small Over Large Date. MS-62 (PCGS).	333	1836 Breen-6509. MS-60.	399	1846-D Small Date. Repunched Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).	477	1858 AU-50.	558	1795 Breen-6830, Breen-1A. Taraszk-1. 13 Leaves. MS-60.
301	1804 Breen-6443, B-3E. Small Date. AU-58.	334	1836 Breen-6509. AU-50.	400	1846-D Small Date. Perfect Mintmark. Net EF-45.	478	1858-C AU-58 (PCGS).	559	1796 Breen-6832, Breen-1A. Taraszk-6. Rarity-4. MS-62 (PCGS).
302	1805 Breen-6445, B-3D. Rarity-4. Close Date. MS-63 (PCGS).	335	1836 Breen-6509. AU-50.	401	1846-O AU-55 (PCGS).	479	1858-D AU-55 (PCGS).	560	1797 Breen-6834, B-2B, T-8. Rarity-4. Heraldic Eagle. AU-55 (PCGS).
303	1805 Breen-6445, B-3D. Rarity-4. Close Date. AU-58 (PCGS).	337	1837 Breen-6512. Large Date. MS-62.	402	1847 MS-62 (PCGS).	480	1859 AU-58.	561	1798/7 Breen-6836, B-1A, T-9. Rarity-4+. Overdate, 9X4 Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).
304	1805 Breen-6445, B-3B. Rarity-4+. Close Date. AU-55.	338	1837 Breen-6513. Small Date. AU-55.	403	1847 1 in Neck. MS-61 (PCGS).	481	1859-D Large Mintmark. AU-53 (PCGS).	562	1799 Breen-6838, B-3B, T-18. Rarity-6. Small Stars. AU-58 (PCGS).
305	1806 Breen-6447, B-3D. Rarity-6+. Pointed 6. Stars 8X5. MS-63 (PCGS).	339	1838 Breen-6514. Large Arrows, Small 5. MS-63 (PCGS).	404	1847 Doubled 7. MS-60.	482	1859-S AU-53 (PCGS).	563	1799 Breen-6840, B-4E (same as reverse B), T-19. Rarity-3. Small Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).
306	1806 Breen-6448, B-5E. Rarity-3-. Round Top 6. Stars 7X6. AU-58 (PCGS).	340	1838-C Breen-6517. Normal 5. AU-58 (PCGS).	408	1847-C AU-50.	483	1860 AU-50.	564	1799 Breen-6841, B-5F, T-21. Rarity-6. Large Stars. AU-58 (PCGS).
307	1806 Breen-6448, B-5E. Rarity-3-. Round Top 6. Stars 7X6. AU-58 (PCGS).	341	1838-D Breen-6518. Recut Date. AU-58 (PCGS).	409	1847-D AU-58 (PCGS).	484	1860 EF-45.	565	1801 Breen-6843, B-1A, T-24. Rarity-5. MS-61 (PCGS).
308	1807 Breen-6449, B-1A. Rarity-5. Bust Right. AU-58.	342	1839 Breen-6519. MS-63 (PCGS).	410	1847-D Net EF-45.	485	1860-C MS-63 (PCGS).	566	1838 Type I. First Head. Large Letters. AU-55 (PCGS).
309	1807 Breen-6453, B-5D. Rarity-3. Bust Left. MS-61 (PCGS).	343	1840 Broad Mill. AU-58.	411	1847-D VF-35.	486	1860-D Large Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).	567	1839 Type I. Head of 1838, Large Letters, Normal Date. VF-35.
310	1810 Breen-6459, B-1A. Rarity-3. Large Date, Large 5. MS-64 (PCGS).	344	1840 Broad Mill. AU-55.	412	1847-D AU-53 (PCGS).	487	1860-D Medium Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).	568	1839 Type II. Head of 1840, Small Letters. AU-53 (PCGS).
311	1811 Breen-6463, B-1A. Rarity-4. Tall 5. MS-63 (PCGS).	345	1840 Narrow Mill. MS-60.	413	1848 MS-63 (PCGS).	488	1860-S EF-45 (PCGS).	569	1840 AU-50.
312	1812 Breen-6466, B-1B. Rarity-3+. Wide 5D. MS-64 (PCGS).	346	1840 Narrow Mill. AU-58.	414	1848 MS-60.	489	1861 MS-65 (PCGS).	570	1840 EF-45.
313	1818 Breen-6470, B-2B. Rarity-4. STATESOF. MS-62 (PCGS).	347	1840 Narrow Mill. AU-55.	415	1848-C AU-50.	490	1861 MS-62.	571	1841 AU-55.
314	1818 Breen-6471, B-1A. Rarity-5. Normal Reverse. Net EF-40.	348	1840-C 18 in Dentils, Broad Mill. AU-55 (PCGS).	416	1848-C Net EF-45.	491	1861-C AU-53 (PCGS).	572	1841-O Net EF-40.
315	1820 Breen-6477, B-6C. Rarity-5+. Curl Base 2, Large Letters. MS-61 (PCGS).	349	1840-C 18 in Dentill, Broad Mill. EF-40.	417	1848-D AU-58 (PCGS).	492	1861-D AU-55 (PCGS).	573	1842 Small Date. AU-50.
316	1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-63 (PCGS).	350	1840-D Tall Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).	418	1848-D AU-50.	493	1861-S AU-50 (PCGS).	574	1842 Large Date. AU-50.
317	1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-61 (PCGS).	351	1840-O Small Mintmark. MS-61 (PCGS).	419	1848-D EF-45.	494	1862 AU-58.	575	1842-O AU-50.
318	1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. AU-58.	352	1840-O Large Mintmark. AU-50.	420	1849 MS-62.	495	1862-S AU-53 (PCGS).	576	1842-O AU-50.
319	1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. AU-53.	353	1841 MS-64 (PCGS).	421	1849 AU-58.	496	1862-S EF-45 (PCGS).	577	1842-O EF-45.
321	1834 Breen-6502. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-64 (PCGS).	354	1841 EF-45.	422	1849 Doubled 49. AU-50.	497	1863 EF-45.	578	1843-O AU-55.
		355	1841-C AU-55 (PCGS).	423	1849-C MS-62 (PCGS).	498	1863-S AU-55 (PCGS).	579	1844 AU-53 (PCGS).
		356	1841-D Tall D Mintmark. MS-63 (PCGS).	424	1849-D AU-58 (PCGS).	499	1864 AU-58 (PCGS).	580	1844 EF-45.
		357	1841-D Tall D Mintmark. EF-40.	425	1849-D AU-50.	500	1864-S AU-53 (PCGS).	581	1844-O Repunched Mintmark. AU-55.
		358	1841-D Small D Mintmark. VF-20.	426	1850 MS-62 (PCGS).	501	1865 AU-53 (PCGS).	582	1844-O Repunched Mintmark. AU-50.
		359	1842 Small Letters. AU-58.	427	1850-C MS-62 (PCGS).	502	1865-S Medium S. AU-50 (PCGS).	583	1845 AU-50.
		360	1842 Large Letters. VF-20.	428	1850-C AU-55 (PCGS).	503	1866 Motto. AU-50.	584	1845-O Doubled Date. AU-50.
		361	1842-C Small Date, Small Letters. AU-53 (PCGS).	429	1850-D AU-55.	504	1867 AU-58 (PCGS).	585	1845-O Over Smaller Date. EF-45.
		362	1842-C Large Date. AU-55 (PCGS).	430	1850-D AU-50 (PCGS).	505	1867-S EF-45 (PCGS).	586	1845-O Repunched 84. EF-45.
		363	1842-D Small Date. Net EF-40.	431	1851 MS-63 (PCGS).	506	1872 MS-63 (PCGS).	587	1845-O Repunched 84. EF-40.
		364	1842-D Small Date. Net EF-40.	432	1851-C Net EF-45.	507	1872-CC AU-50 (PCGS).	588	1846 AU-50.
		365	1842-D Large Date. AU-53 (PCGS).	433	1851-D AU-58 (PCGS).	508	1872-S AU-55 (PCGS).	589	1846 Net VF-20.
		366	1842-O MS-60.	434	1851-D AU-53 (PCGS).	509	1873 Open 3. MS-65 (PCGS).	590	1846-O Repunched Date. AU-50.
		367	1842-O EF-45.	435	1851-O AU-58 (PCGS).	510	1873 Open 3. MS-62 (PCGS).	591	1846-O Doubled Date as preceding. EF-45.
		368	1843 MS-62 (PCGS).	436	1851-O AU-50.	511	1873-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	592	1846-O Doubled Date as preceding. EF-40.
		369	1843-C AU-58.	437	1852 MS-64 (PCGS).	512	1873-S Closed 3. AU-50.	593	1847 MS-62 (PCGS).
		370	1843-D Medium Mintmark. MS-61 (PCGS).	438	1852-C AU-55.	513	1874-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	594	1847 AU-58.
		371	1843-O Large Date, Large Letters, Plain 4. MS-64 (NGC).	439	1852-D AU-55 (PCGS).	514	1875-CC Doubled Die Reverse. AU-50 (PCGS).	595	1847-O MS-63 (PCGS)
		372	1843-O Large Date, Small Letters. AU-55 (PCGS).	440	1852-D AU-50.	515	1875-CC EF-40.	596	1847-O MS-63 (PCGS)
		373	1843-C AU-58.	441	1853 MS-63 (PCGS).	516	1875-S AU-55 (PCGS).	597	1847-O MS-63 (PCGS)
		374	1843-D Medium Mintmark. MS-61 (PCGS).	442	1853-C Net VF-35.	517	1876-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	598	1847-O MS-63 (PCGS)
		375	1843-O Large Date, Large Letters, Plain 4. MS-64 (NGC).	443	1853-C Net VF-35.	518	1876-S AU-53 (PCGS).	599	1847-O MS-63 (PCGS)
		376	1843-O Large Date, Small Letters. AU-55 (PCGS).	444	1853-D AU-58 (PCGS).	519	1877 AU-55 (PCGS).	600	1847-O MS-63 (PCGS)
		377	1844 MS-62.	445	1853-D AU-55.	520	1877-S AU-53 (PCGS).	601	1847-O MS-63 (PCGS)
		378	1844 MS-62.	446	1853-D AU-50.	521	1878 MS-64.	602	1847-O MS-63 (PCGS)
		379	1844-C AU-55 (PCGS).	447	1853-D AU-50.	522	1879 MS-63.	603	1847-O MS-63 (PCGS)
		380	1844-D AU-55 (PCGS).	448	1854 MS-63 (PCGS).	523	1879-CC AU-53 (PCGS).	604	1847-O MS-63 (PCGS)
		381	1844-O Normal Stars. MS-63 (PCGS).	449	1854-C MS-60 (PCGS).	524	1879-CC AU-53.	605	1847-O MS-63 (PCGS)
		382	1844-O Small Thin Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).	450	1854-C EF-45.	525	1879-S MS-60.	606	1847-O MS-63 (PCGS)
		383	1844-O Small Thin Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).	451	1854-D Large Mintmark. MS-62 (PCGS).	526	1880-CC MS-62 (PCGS).	607	1847-O MS-63 (PCGS)
		384	1844-O Small Thin Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).	452	1854-D Large Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).	527	1880-S MS-63.	608	1847-O MS-63 (PCGS)
		385	1844-O Small Thin Stars. AU-55.	453	1854-D Medium Mintmark. AU-55.	528	1880-S MS-63.		
		386		454	1854-O AU-58.	529	1881 MS-63.		
		387		455	1854-O AU-55.	530	1882 MS-63.		
		388		456	1854-O AU-50.	531	1882-CC AU-58 (PCGS).		
		389		457	1855 MS-62 (PCGS).	532	1882-S MS-63.		
		390		458	1855-C AU-55.	533	1883-CC AU-58 (PCGS).		
		391		459	1855-D Medium Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).	534	1883-S MS-63 (PCGS).		
		392		460	1855-D Medium Mintmark. AU-50.	535	1884-CC AU-50.		
		393		461	1855-O AU-58 (PCGS).	536	1884-S MS-63.		
		394		462	1855-S AU-58 (PCGS).	537	1885-CC MS-62.		
		395		463	1855-S Net EF-10.	538	1891 MS-63.		
		396		464	1856 MS-64 (PCGS).	539	1891-CC MS-61.		
		397		465	1856 MS-62 (PCGS).	540	1892-CC AU-55.		
		398		466	1856-C AU-55 (PCGS).	541	1893-CC MS-62.		
		399				542	1893-CC AU-50.		
		400				543			
		401				544			
		402				545			
		403				546			
		404				547			
		405				548			



**Bass IV**  
**Forthcoming in**  
**November 2000**  
**(descriptions tentative;**  
**subject to change)**

**Gold Dollars**

609	1848-O EF-45.	683	1874 MS-64 (PCGS).	761	1850 VF-30.	833	1869 MS-64 (PCGS).		
610	1849 MS-60.	684	1874 MS-60.	762	1850-O AU-55 (PCGS).	834	1869-S MS-61 (PCGS).		
611	1849 AU-58.	686	1874-S AU-58 (PCGS).	763	1850-O EF-40.	835	1870 AU-58 (PCGS).		
612	1849 Dramatically double punched date. AU-50.	687	1875-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	764	1851 MS-63 (PCGS).	836	1871 EF-40.		
613	1849-O EF-45.	688	1876-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	765	1851 AU-58.	837	1871-S MS-62 (PCGS).		
614	1849-O EF-40.	689	1876-S EF-40.	766	1851 AU-50.	838	1872 MS-62 (PCGS).		
615	1850 Small Date. MS-61 (PCGS).	690	1877-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	767	1851-O AU-58 (PCGS).	839	1872-CC AU-55.		
616	1850 Small Date. EF-45.	691	1877-S AU-50.	768	1852 MS-63 (PCGS).	840	1872-S MS-62 (PCGS).		
617	1850-O Medium Date. AU- 50.	692	1877-S EF-40.	769	1852 Doubled Date. EF-45.	842	1873 Closed 3. EF-45.		
618	1850-O Medium Date. EF-40.	693	1878 MS-63.	770	1852 EF-45.	843	1873 Closed 3. EF-45.	1	1819 Open Wreath. Small Head. No L on Truncation. MS-65 (PCGS).
619	1851-O AU-58.	695	1878-S EF-45.	771	1852-O MS-62 (PCGS).	844	1873 Open 3. MS-62 (PCGS).	2	1849 Open Wreath. Small Head. No L on Truncation. MS-63.
620	1852-O AU-50.	696	1878-S EF-40.	772	1853 Blundered Date. MS-62 (PCGS).	845	1873-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	3	1849 Open Wreath. Small Head. No L on Truncation. MS-63.
621	1852-O EF-45.	697	1879 MS-63.	773	1853 AU-58.	846	1873-S Closed 3. MS-61.	4	1849 Open Wreath. Small Head. No L on Truncation. MS-62.
622	1853 '2 So-called Overdate. EF-45.	698	1879 MS-62.	774	1853 Net AU-50.	850	1874-CC AU-55.	6	1849 Open Wreath. Large Head. L on Truncation. MS- 63.
623	1854 Misplaced Date. AU-50.	700	1879-S MS-63.	775	1853-O EF-45.	851	1874-CC AU-50.	7	1849 Open Wreath. Large Head. L on Truncation. MS- 62.
624	1854-O Small Date. AU-50.	701	1880 MS-62.	776	1853-O VF-35.	852	1874-S MS-61 (PCGS).	8	1849 Closed Wreath. L on Truncation. MS-64.
625	1854-O Large Date. AU-50.	702	1880-CC AU-58.	777	1854 Small Date. Repunched Date. MS-62 (PCGS).	853	1875 MS-60.	9	1849-D MS-61 (PCGS).
626	1854-O Large Date. AU-50.	703	1880-CC Net AU-53.	778	1854 Small Date. VF-30.	854	1875-CC MS-62 (PCGS).	10	1849-D AU-55 (PCGS).
627	1854-O Large Date. EF-45.	704	1880-CC EF-45.	779	1854 Large Date. AU-50.	855	1875-CC MS-62 (PCGS).	12	1850 MS-63 (PCGS).
628	1854-S Medium Date. AU-55.	705	1880-O AU-58.	780	1854-O AU-55 (PCGS).	856	1875-S MS-60.	13	1850-C AU-58 (PCGS).
629	1855 MS-64.	706	1880-O EF-40.	781	1854-S MS-61 (PCGS).	857	1875-S AU-58.	14	1850-D Net VF-30.
630	1855 AU-58.	708	1881-CC AU-58.	782	1854-S MS-61 (PCGS).	858	1876 MS-62 (PCGS).	15	1850-O MS-62 (PCGS).
631	1855-O Net EF-40.	709	1881-O AU-58.	783	1855-O AU-50 (PCGS).	859	1876 MS-62.	16	1851 MS-63.
632	1855-S EF-45.	710	1881-S MS-62.	784	1855-S AU-55.	861	1876-CC MS-61.	17	1851-C Repunched Mintmark. AU-50.
633	1856 MS-60.	711	1882 MS-63.	785	1855-S AU-50.	862	1876-CC AU-58.	18	1851-D AU-55 (PCGS).
634	1856-O EF-45.	712	1882-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	786	1855-S EF-45.	863	1876-CC AU-55.	19	1851-D AU-55.
635	1856-O EF-40.	713	1882-O AU-50.	787	1856 MS-62 (PCGS).	864	1876-S MS-61.	20	1851-D Net AU-50.
636	1856-S Medium S. AU-55.	714	1882-S MS-62.	788	1856-S MS-62 (PCGS).	867	1877 Proof-64 (PCGS).	21	1851-O MS-60.
637	1857 AU-55.	715	1883-CC AU-58.	789	1856-S AU-55.	868	1877-CC AU-50.	22	1852 MS-64 (PCGS).
638	1857-O Net EF-45.	716	1883-CC AU-53.	790	1856-S Repunched 56. AU- 50.	869	1877-S MS-63 (PCGS).	24	1852-C MS-61 (PCGS).
639	1857-S EF-45.	717	1883-O AU-50.	791	1857 MS-63 (PCGS).	870	1877-S MS-62.	25	1852-D Net EF-45.
640	1858-O AU-55.	718	1884 MS-62.	792	1857-O MS-63 (PCGS).	871	1877-S AU-55.	26	1852-D Net VF-35.
641	1858-O AU-50.	720	1886 MS-62.	793	1857-S EF-45.	872	1878 MS-62 (PCGS).	27	1852-O MS-63 (PCGS).
642	1858-S AU-55 (PCGS).	722	1887-S MS-63.	794	1858 Blundered Die. MS-63 (PCGS).	873	1878 MS-61.	28	1853 MS-64.
643	1859 AU-55.	723	1888-O MS-61.	795	1858-O MS-62 (PCGS).	874	1878-CC AU-53 (PCGS).	29	1853 MS-63.
644	1859-O AU-55 (PCGS).	724	1888-S MS-62.	796	1858-S MS-62 (PCGS).	876	1879-O Net EF-40.	32	1853-C MS-62 (PCGS).
645	1860 AU-50.	725	1889 Net Proof-50.	797	1858-S AU-50.	877	1879-S MS-62 (PCGS).	33	1853-D Net EF-40.
646	1860 EF-45.	726	1890 MS-62.	798	1859 EF-40.	878	1880 AU-58 (PCGS).	34	1853-O MS-63 (PCGS).
647	1860-O AU-50.	727	1890 MS-61.	799	1859-O AU-50 (PCGS).	879	1880 AU-53.	35	1854 Type I. MS-64 (PCGS).
648	1860-S Net EF-45.	728	1891-CC MS-62.	800	1859-S Repunched 18. AU- 58 (PCGS).	880	1881-S MS-61.	36	1854-D Type I. AU-50.
649	1861 AU-58.	729	1891-CC MS-61.	801	1860 MS-64 (PCGS).	881	1882-CC MS-61 (PCGS).	37	1854-S Type I. AU-58 (PCGS).
650	1861 AU-55.	730	1891-CC MS-60.	802	1860-S MS-62 (PCGS).	882	1882-CC AU-55.	38	1854 Type II. MS-65 (PCGS).
651	1861-S AU-50.	731	1892 MS-62.	803	1861 MS-64 (PCGS).	883	1882-S MS-61.	39	1854 Type II. AU-58.
652	1862 EF-45.	732	1893 MS-63.	804	1861 MS-62.	885	1883-CC AU-58.	41	1855 MS-64 (PCGS).
653	1862-S AU-55 (PCGS).	733	1893-CC AU-58.	805	1861 AU-58.	886	1883-CC AU-50.	42	1855 MS-61 (PCGS).
654	1863-S EF-40.	734	1894-O MS-62.	806	1861 AU-50.	887	1883-S MS-62.	43	1855 AU-58.
655	1863-S Net VF-30.	735	1894-S AU-55.	807	1861-O AU-55 (PCGS).	888	1883-S MS-62.	44	1855-C AU-55 (PCGS).
656	1864-S AU-55 (PCGS).	736	1895-O MS-62.	808	1861-S Paquet Reverse. AU- 50 (PCGS).	889	1884-CC AU-58.	45	1855-D AU-50 (PCGS).
657	1865 AU-55 (PCGS).	737	1896 Proof-60.	809	1862 MS-62 (PCGS).	890	1884-S MS-63.	46	1855-O AU-50.
658	1865-S EF-45 (PCGS).	738	1897-O MS-63.	810	1862-S AU-50.	891	1884-S MS-63.	47	1856-S Type II. MS-62 (PCGS).
659	1865-S 865 Over Inverted 186. AU-55 (PCGS).	739	1898 MS-63.	811	1862-S EF-45.	892	1889-CC AU-58.	48	1856-S Type II. Repunched Mintmark. MS-61 (PCGS).
660	1866-S Motto. AU-55 (PCGS).	740	1899 MS-64.	812	1863 EF-45.	893	1890-CC AU-50.	49	1856 Type III. Upright 5. MS-63.
661	1866-S Motto. Net EF-40.	741	1900 MS-63.	813	1863 VF-35.	894	1891-CC AU-58 (PCGS).	50	1856 Type III. Upright 5. MS-62.
662	1867 AU-50.	742	1901-S MS-64.	814	1863-S MS-62 (PCGS).	895	1891-CC AU-58 (PCGS).	51	1856-D Upright 5. AU-53 (PCGS).
663	1867-S EF-45.	743	1902-S MS-63.	815	1863-S AU-50.	896	1892 MS-64 (PCGS).	52	1857-C EF-45.
664	1868 AU-50.	744	1903-O MS-62.	816	1864 AU-55.	897	1893-CC MS-62 (PCGS).	53	1857-D AU-55 (PCGS).
665	1868-S Net EF-40.	745	1904-O MS-64.	817	1864 AU-50.	898	1893-CC AU-58.	54	1857-S AU-55.
666	1868-S EF-40.	746	1906-D MS-63.	818	1865 AU-55.	899	1894 MS-64 (PCGS).	55	1858 Proof-62 (PCGS).
667	1869 Net VF-35.	747	1907-D MS-63.	819	1865 Repunched 186. AU- 50.	900	1894-S MS-63.	56	1858-D MS-61 (PCGS).
668	1869-S Net VF-30.	748	1908 No Motto. MS-64 (PCGS).	820	1865-S AU-55.	901	1896-S MS-63.	57	1858-S MS-65 (PCGS).
669	1870 EF-40.	749	1908-D No Motto. MS-62 (PCGS).	821	1865-S EF-45.	902	1897 MS-63.	58	1859-D AU-50.
670	1870-S AU-58 (PCGS).	750	1910-D MS-63.	822	1865-S EF-40.	903	1899 MS-63.		
671	1871 Proof-45.	751	1911 MS-64.	823	1866-S No Motto. AU-50 (PCGS).	904	1900 MS-63.		
672	1871 AU-50.	752	1911-S AU-55.	824	1866 Motto. AU-58.	905	1901-S MS-62.		
673	1871-CC EF-45 (PCGS).	753	1912-S MS-62.	825	1866-S Motto. MS-61 (PCGS).	906	1903 MS-64 (PCGS).		
674	1871-S EF-45.	754	1914-S MS-61.	826	1866-S Motto. EF-45.	907	1904 MS-64.		
675	1871-S VF-35.	755	1916-S MS-64 (PCGS).	827	1867 MS-61 (PCGS).	908	1905 MS-63 (PCGS).		
676	1872 Proof-61 (PCGS).			828	1867-S AU-58 (PCGS).	909	1906 MS-64 (PCGS).		
677	1872 Net VF-30.			829	1867-S AU-50.	910	1906-S MS-63.		
678	1872-C VF-35.			830	1867-S EF-45.	911	1907-D MS-65 (PCGS).		
679	1872-S EF-45.			831	1868 AU-55 (PCGS).	912	MCMVII (1907) High Relief. Flat Rim. MS-66 (PCGS).		
680	1872-S VF-30.			832	1868-S AU-58.	913	MCMVII (1907) High Relief. Wire Rim. MS-65 (PCGS).		
681	1873-CC Repunched 18. AU- 53 (PCGS).					914	MCMVII (1907) High Relief. Flat Rim. MS-63 (PCGS).		
682	1873-S EF-40.					915	1908-S MS-65 (PCGS).		
						916	1909/8 Overdate. MS-65 (PCGS).		
						917	1909-D MS-66 (PCGS).		
						919	1925-D MS-64 (PCGS).		
						920	1927-S MS-63 (PCGS).		

**Territorial Gold**

756 1850 Baldwin & Co. \$10  
Gold. The Horseman or  
*Vaquero*. Kagin-3. Rarity-6. MS-  
64 (PCGS).

**Double Eagles**

757 1850 MS-64 (PCGS).  
758 1850 MS-60.  
759 1850 EF-40.  
760 1850 VF-30.



59	1859-D Net EF-45.	127	1838 Breen-6146. MS-63 (PCGS).	207	1860-S Net EF-40. (PCGS).	327	1834 Breen-6502. Small Plan 1, No Motto. MS-63.
60	1859-S AU-55.	128	1839-C Breen-6150. Repunched 39. AU-58 (PCGS).	208	1861 Old Reverse. AU-55.	286	1874 MS-65 (PCGS).
61	1861 MS-64.	129	1839/8 Breen-6150. Dahlonaga. AU-58 (PCGS).	209	1861 New Reverse. MS-64.	287	1881 AU-58 (PCGS).
62	1861 MS-63.	130	1839-O Breen-6152. Wide Fraction, Small Arrows. MS-62 (PCGS).	213	1862 MS-64 (PCGS).	288	1882 2 Over High 2. MS-64 (PCGS).
63	1861-D AU-58 (PCGS).	131	1840 MS-61 (PCGS).	214	1862 AU-58.	289	1884 MS-61 PL.
64	1862 MS-63.	132	1840 AU-50.	215	1862-S AU-55 (PCGS).	290	1885 MS-63 (PCGS).
65	1862 MS-63.	133	1840-C MS-61 (PCGS).	216	1863-S AU-58 (PCGS).		
66	1863 No Grade	134	1840-D AU-50 (PCGS).	217	1865-S MS-64 (PCGS).		
67	1864 MS-63.	135	1840-O Large O. AU-58 (PCGS).	218	1866 VF-35.		
68	1865 MS-65 (PCGS).	136	1841-C AU-58 (PCGS).	219	1866-S Blundered Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).	291	1795 Breen-6414. S D STATES. AU-50.
69	1865 MS-64 PL.	137	1841-D AU-55 (PCGS).	220	1866-S EF-40.	292	1795 Breen-6415. B-6F. Repunched D UNITED. Net EF-40.
70	1866 MS-62.	138	1842-O AU-53 (PCGS).	221	1866-S Blundered Mintmark. EF-40.	293	1798 Breen-6426. Large 8 Close Date. Net EF-45.
71	1866 MS-61.	139	1843-C Large Date, Plain 4. Repunched Mintmark. MS-62 (PCGS).	222	1867-S AU-58 (PCGS).	294	1798 13 Stars. AU-53 (PCGS).
72	1867 MS-66 (PCGS).	140	1843-D AU-58 (PCGS).	223	1868 EF-45.	295	1799 Breen-6432. Small 9's, Small Stars. Net VF-30.
73	1867 AU-58.	141	1843-D AU-58 (PCGS).	224	1868-S EF-40.	296	1799 Breen-6437. B-4G. Rarity-7. Large Reverse Stars. AU-58 (PCGS).
74	1868 MS-64.	142	1843-D AU-50.	225	1869 AU-58.	297	1800 Breen-6439. Blundered M. AU-58 (PCGS).
75	1870 Proof-60.	143	1843-D EF-40.	226	1869-S AU-55.	298	1800 Breen-6439. B-1c. Blundered M. AU-50.
76	1870-S MS-64 (PCGS).	144	1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4. MS-62 (PCGS).	227	1869-S EF-45.	299	1802/1 Breen-6440. Overdate. AU-58.
77	1871 Proof-63.	145	1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4. MS-60.	229	1871 AU-55.	300	1802/1 Breen-6440. B-2F. Overdate. AU-50.
78	1871 MS-63.	146	1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4. AU-58.	230	1872 MS-63 (PCGS).	301	1802/1 Breen-6440. B-1C. Overdate. EF-45.
79	1872 MS-60.	147	1844-D MS-62 (PCGS).	231	1872-S AU-55.	302	1802/1 Breen-6440. B-1D. Overdate. EF-40.
80	1873 Closed 3. MS-63.	148	1844-D AU-50.	232	1873 Closed 3. MS-66 (PCGS).	303	1803/2 Breen-6441. Overdate. AU-55 (PCGS).
81	1873 Closed 3. MS-62 (PCGS).	149	1844-D AU-50.	233	1874 AU-58 (PCGS).	304	1803/2 Breen-6441. Overdate. AU-50.
82	1873 Closed 3. Net EF-45.	150	1845 MS-64 (PCGS).	234	1874 AU-53.	305	1803/2 Breen-6441. Overdate. EF-45.
83	1873 Closed 3. EF-45.	151	1845 MS-62.	235	1875-S AU-50.	306	1804 Breen-6443. B-2E. AU-58 (PCGS).
84	1873 Open 3. MS-64.	152	1845 MS-60.	236	1876 AU-50.	307	1804 Breen-6443. EF-40.
85	1873 Open 3. MS-63.	153	1845 MS-60.	237	1876-S AU-55.	308	1805 Breen-6444. Wide Date. MS-61 (PCGS).
86	1874 Proof-64 (PCGS).	154	1845 MS-60.	238	1877 MS-60.	309	1805 Breen-6445. Close Date. AU-58 (PCGS).
87	1874 MS-64.	155	1845-D AU-58 (PCGS).	239	1879 MS-63.	310	1805 Breen-6445. Close Date. AU-55.
88	1874 MS-64.	156	1846-D MS-61 (PCGS).	240	1879-S MS-62 (PCGS).	311	1806 Breen-6446. Pointed Top 6, 8X5 Stars. EF-40.
89	1874 MS-63.	157	1846-D AU-58 (PCGS).	241	1880 MS-63 (PCGS).	312	1806 Breen-6447. Pointed Top 6, 8X5 Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).
90	1875 MS-65 (PCGS).	158	1846-D AU-58 (PCGS).	242	1880 MS-62.	313	1806 Breen-6447. Pointed Top 6, 8X5 Stars. AU-50.
91	1876 MS-64.	159	1846-D AU-50.	243	1881 MS-62 (PCGS).	314	1807 Bust Right. AU-58.
92	1877 MS-63.	160	1846-D Net VF-20,.	244	1882 MS-64 (PCGS).	315	1807 Bust Right, Repunched 180. AU-58.
93	1880 MS-65 (PCGS).	161	1846-O MS-62.	245	1883 AU-53.	316	1807 Breen-6453. Bust Left. AU-55.
94	1880 MS-65.	162	1846-O MS-61 (PCGS).	246	1884 MS-63.	317	1808 Breen-6457. Wide Date, Wide 5 D. MS-62 (PCGS).
95	1880 MS-64 PL.	163	1847 MS-61 (PCGS).	247	1886 MS-62.	318	1810 Breen-6462. Small Date, Tall 5. AU-58.
96	1881 MS-68 (PCGS).	164	1847 AU-58.	248	1888 MS-63.	319	1811 Breen-6463. Tall 5. AU-58.
97	1881 MS-65.	165	1847-C MS-63 (PCGS).	249	1895 MS-64.	320	1813 Breen-6467. AU-58.
98	1882 MS-64.	166	1847-D AU-55 (PCGS).	250	1896 MS-65.	321	1818 Breen-6470. STATESOF. MS-62 (PCGS).
99	1883 MS-65.	167	1847-O AU-55.	251	1897 MS-63.	322	1820 Breen-6478. Curve Base 2, Small Letters. MS-61 (PCGS).
100	1883 MS-64.	168	1847-O AU-50.	252	1901 MS-65.	323	1834 Breen-6501. No Motto. AU-58.
101	1883 MS-64.	169	1848-D AU-58 (PCGS).	253	1902 MS-64.	324	1834 Breen-6501. No Motto. AU-50.
102	1884 Proof-62.	170	1849 AU-58 (PCGS).	254	1903 MS-66 (PCGS).	325	1834 Breen-6502. Small Plain 4, No Motto. MS-64 (PCGS).
103	1884 MS-63 PL.	171	1849-D AU-58 (PCGS).	255	1904 MS-65.		
104	1884 MS-62 PL.	172	1850 MS-64 (PCGS).	256	1905 MS-63.		
105	1885 MS-66 (PCGS).	173	1850-C AU-58 (PCGS).	257	1906 MS-64.		
106	1885 MS-63.	174	1850-D AU-58.	258	1907 MS-64.		
107	1885 MS-63.	175	1850-O MS-63 (PCGS).	259	1907 MS-63.		
108	1886 MS-66.	176	1850-O AU-50.	260	1925-D MS-64.		
109	1886 MS-62.	177	1851 MS-66 (PCGS).				
110	1887 MS-64.	178	1851 MS-63.				
111	1888 Proof-63.	179	1851-O Doubled Date. MS-63 (PCGS).				
112	1889 MS-65.	180	1851-O Doubled Date. AU-53.				
113	1889 MS-64.	181	1852-O AU-58.				
		182	1854 MS-64.				
		183	1854 MS-63.				
		184	1854-O AU-58.				
		185	1855 MS-65 (PCGS).				
		186	1856 MS-64.				
		187	1856-S MS-63 (PCGS).				
		188	1856-S EF-45.				
		189	1857 MS-64 (PCGS).				
		190	1857-S AU-55 (PCGS).				
		191	1857-O AU-50.				
		192	1857-S AU-55.				
		193	1858 MS-62.				
		194	1858 AU-53.				
		195	1858 MS-62.				
		196	1858 AU-53.				
		197	1859 MS-61 (PCGS).				
		198	1859-S MS-61 (PCGS).				
		199	1859-S MS-61 (PCGS).				
		200	1859-S MS-61 (PCGS).				
		201	1860 Old Reverse. AU-55 (PCGS).				
		202	1860 New Reverse. MS-61.				
		203	1860-C Net EF-40.				
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390	1844-O MS-61 (PCGS).	472	1859-D AU-55.	556	1893-CC AU-58.	624	1847-O MS-61 (PCGS).	701	1873 AU-58 (PCGS).
391	1844-O AU-58.	473	1859-S AU-50 (PCGS).	557	1893-CC AU-50.	625	1847-O AU-55.	702	1873-S MS-61 (PCGS).
392	1844-O AU-53.	474	1860 Proof-65 (PCGS).	558	1893-O AU-55.	627	1848-O MS-64 (PCGS).	703	1874 Proof-64.
394	1845 MS-64 (PCGS).	475	1860-C AU-58 (PCGS).	559	1894 Proof-62 (PCGS).	628	1848-O EF-45.	704	1874 MS-64 (PCGS).
395	1845 MS-62.	476	1860-D AU-55 (PCGS).	560	1894-O MS-62.	629	1849 MS-63 (PCGS).	705	1874 MS-61.
396	1845-D AU-55 (PCGS).	477	1860-D VF-35.	561	1895 Proof-64 (PCGS).	630	1849 Repunched 9. MS-60.	707	1874 CC MS-63 (PCGS).
397	1845-D AU-50.	478	1860-S EF-45 (PCGS).	562	1896 Proof-64 (PCGS).	631	1849 AU-58.	708	1874-CC AU-50 (PCGS).
398	1846 Small Date. AU-58.	479	1861 MS-63.	563	1897 Proof-64 (PCGS).	632	1849 Repunched 9. AU-50.	709	1874-S EF-45.
399	1846 Small Date. AU-55.	480	1862 Proof-64 (PCGS).	564	1898 Proof-64 (PCGS).	633	1849-O MS-61 (PCGS).	710	1874-S EF-40.
401	1846-D AU-53 (PCGS).	481	1862-S AU-50 (PCGS).	565	1899 Proof-66 (PCGS).	634	1849-O Net EF-40.	711	1875-CC AU-55 (PCGS).
402	1846-D Repunched Mintmark. AU-53 (PCGS).	482	1863 EF-45 (PCGS).	566	1900 Proof-66 (PCGS).	635	1850 Large Date. MS-62 (PCGS).	712	1876 Proof-64 (PCGS).
403	1847 MS-62 (PCGS).	483	1863-S AU-50 (PCGS).	567	1901 Proof-65 (PCGS).			713	1876 Net AU-50.
406	1847-D AU-58.	484	1863-S EF-40.	568	1902 Proof-64 (PCGS).	636	1850 Large Date. AU-58.	714	1876-CC AU-55 (PCGS).
407	1847-D AU-55.	485	1864 Proof-64 (PCGS).	569	1903 Proof-63 (PCGS).	638	1850 Small Date. AU-55.	715	1876-S EF-45.
408	1848 Proof-63 (PCGS).	486	1864 AU-55 (PCGS).	570	1904 Proof-65 (PCGS).	639	1850-O AU-55.	716	1877 AU-55 (PCGS).
409	1848 MS-62 (PCGS).	487	1864-S EF-40.	571	1905 Recut 5. Proof-65 (PCGS).	640	1850-O EF-45.	717	1877-S EF-45.
410	1848-D Net AU-50.	488	1865 Proof-66 (PCGS).			641	1851-O MS-64 (PCGS).	718	1877-S EF-40.
411	1848-D EF-45.	489	1866-S No Motto. Net VF-35.	572	1906 Proof-63 (PCGS).	642	1851-O AU-55.	719	1878 MS-64 (PCGS).
412	1848-D Net VF-35.	490	1866 Motto. Proof-64 (PCGS).	573	1907 Proof-64 (PCGS).	643	1851-O AU-50.	720	1878-CC AU-53 (PCGS).
413	1849 Repunched 849. AU- 58.	491	1866-S Motto. EF-45 (PCGS).			644	1852 MS-61 (PCGS).	721	1878-S EF-45.
414	1849 AU-55.	492	1867 Proof-65 (PCGS).			645	1852-O Net VF-30.	722	1878-S EF-40.
415	1849-C MS-61 (PCGS).	493	1868 Proof-64 (PCGS).	574	1797 Breen-6834. B-2B. 10X6 Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).	646	1853 Recut 1. MS-63 (PCGS).	723	1879 Proof-64 (PCGS).
416	1849-C EF-40.	494	1868 AU-55 (PCGS).	575	1799 Breen-6839. MS-61 (PCGS).	647	1853-O AU-58 (PCGS).	724	1879-CC AU-55 (PCGS).
417	1849-D MS-62 (PCGS).	495	1868 AU-53.	576	1799 Breen-6839. AU-55.	648	1854 Blundered Date. AU- 58.	725	1880 MS-62.
418	1849-D AU-50 (PCGS).	496	1868-S AU-55.	577	1799 Breen-6840. Small Stars. MS-64 (PCGS).	649	1854-O Small Date. AU-55.	726	1880 MS-62.
419	1850 AU-50.	497	1868-S AU-53 (PCGS).	578	1799 Breen-6841. MS-62.	650	1854-O Large Date. AU-55.	727	1880-CC AU-58 (PCGS).
420	1850-C Weak Mintmark. AU- 58 (PCGS).	498	1869 Proof-63 (PCGS).	579	1800 Breen-6842. MS-61 (PCGS).	651	1854-O Large Date. AU-50.	728	1880-O EF-40.
421	1850-C Weak Mintmark. EF- 45.	499	1869-S AU-55 (PCGS).	580	1801 Breen-6843. MS-62 (PCGS).	652	1854-O Large Date. AU-50.	729	1880-O EF-45.
422	1850-C Net EF-45.	500	1869-S EF-45 (PCGS).	581	1804 Breen-6847. Crosslet 4. MS-62 (PCGS).	653	1854-O Large Date. EF-45.	732	1881-CC AU-58.
423	1850-D Weak Mintmark. EF- 45.	501	1870 Proof-64 (PCGS).	582	1839 Large Letters, Type I. AU-55 (PCGS).	654	1854-S AU-50.	733	1881-CC EF-40.
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435	1853-D AU-58 (PCGS).	513	1873 Closed 3. Proof-64 (PCGS).	598	1843-O AU-50.	666	1858 AU-53 (PCGS).	750	1890-CC Net AU-58.
436	1853-D AU-58.	514	1873 Open 3. MS-62.	599	1843-O AU-50.	667	1858-O MS-62 (PCGS).	751	1891 MS-62.
437	1853-D AU-50.	515	1873-CC EF-45 (PCGS).	600	1844 EF-45.	668	1858-O Net EF-40.	752	1891-CC MS-62.
438	1853-D EF-45.	516	1873-CC VF-35 (PCGS).	601	1844 EF-45.	669	1858-S EF-45.	753	1891-CC MS-61.
439	1854 AU-58.	517	1874 Proof-65 (PCGS).	602	1844 EF-40.	670	1859 AU-50.	754	1891-CC MS-60.
440	1854-C EF-45.	518	1874 MS-61 (PCGS).	603	1844-O AU-58 (PCGS).	671	1859 EF-45.	755	1891-CC AU-50.
441	1854-D AU-58 (PCGS).	519	1874-CC AU-58 (PCGS).	604	1844-O Recut Mintmark. AU-50.	672	1860 MS-64 (PCGS).	756	1892-CC AU-55.
442	1854-D AU-58 (PCGS).	520	1874-CC AU-53 (PCGS).	605	1845 AU-50.	673	1860 Net EF-45.	757	1893 MS-63.
443	1854-D AU-53.	521	1874-CC Double Struck. VF- 25.	606	1845 EF-45.	674	1860-O MS-62 (PCGS).	758	1893-O MS-63.
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447	1854-O AU-53.	525	1875-CC Doubled Die Reverse. VF-20.	610	1845-O Repunched 84. Net EF-40.	678	1862-S EF-45.	762	1895-S Double Punched Mintmark. AU-55.
448	1855 Blundered Date. MS-61 (PCGS).	526	1876 Proof-64 (PCGS).	611	1845-O Repunched 84. EF- 40.	679	1863 MS-63 (PCGS).	763	1896-S AU-58.
450	1855-C AU-53.	527	1877 Proof-64 (PCGS).	612	1846 AU-55 (PCGS).	680	1863-S MS-61 (PCGS).	764	1897 Recut 1 and 7. MS-64.
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452	1855-O AU-50 (PCGS).	529	1879 Proof-64 (PCGS).	614	1846/5-O Overdate. EF-45.	682	1865 Doubled Die Reverse. AU-50.	766	1899-S MS-65 (PCGS).
453	1855-S AU-50.	530	1879-S MS-60.	615	1846/5-O Overdate. Net EF- 40.	683	1865-S EF-40.	767	1900 MS-63.
454	1856 MS-63 (PCGS).	531	1880 Proof-65 (PCGS).	616	1846/5-O Overdate. EF-40.	684	1865-S 865 Over Inverted 186. AU-50 (PCGS).	768	1901 MS-64.
455	1856-C Net EF-40.	532	1880-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	617	1846-O Repunched 6. EF-40.	685	1866-S No Motto. AU-58 (PCGS).	769	1902-S MS-64.
456	1856-D AU-58 (PCGS).	533	1881 Proof-65 (PCGS).	618	1847 MS-61 (PCGS).	686	1866 Motto. Doubled Date. AU-58 (PCGS).	770	1902-S MS-63.
457	1856-O AU-50.	534	1881 MS-63.	619	1847 MS-62 (PCGS).	687	1867-S AU-55 (PCGS).	771	1903 MS-64.
458	1856-S Medium S. AU-55.	535	1882 Proof-65 (PCGS).	620	1847 MS-60.	688	1867-S EF-45.	772	1904 MS-66 (PCGS).
459	1856-S Large S. Net EF-45.	536	1882-CC AU-55.	621	1847 AU-55.	689	1868-S EF-45.	773	1905 MS-64.
460	1857 Proof-64 (PCGS).	537	1882-S MS-63.	622	1847-O Repunched 18. MS- 64 (PCGS).	690	1869-S MS-61 (PCGS).	774	1906 MS-63.
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463	1857-C AU-53.	539	1884 Proof-65 (PCGS).			692	1870 EF-45.	776	1908-D No Motto. MS-63 (PCGS).
464	1857-O EF-45.	540	1885 Proof-64 (PCGS).			693	1870-CC EF-45.	777	1908 Motto. MS-65 (PCGS).
465	1857-S Small S. AU-55.	541	1886 Proof-65 (PCGS).			694	1870-S MS-61 (PCGS).	778	1910 MS-64.
466	1857-S Small S. AU-50.	542	1887 Proof-64 (PCGS).			695	1871 Proof-64 (PCGS).	779	1910-S MS-66 (PCGS).
467	1858 Proof-65 (PCGS).	543	1888 Proof-65 (PCGS).			696	1871-CC EF-40.	780	1911-D AU-58 (PCGS).
468	1858 AU-58.	544	1889 Proof-64 (PCGS).			697	1871-S EF-40.	781	1913-S MS-66 (PCGS).
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		548	1893 Proof-64 (PCGS).						
		549							
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Eagles

Double Eagles



787	1851 MS-62 (PCGS).	823	1859-S Doubled Die Obverse. AU-50.	859	1868 VF-35.	901	1876-CC AU-58.	940	1903 MS-63.
788	1851 MS-60.			860	1868-S AU-50.	902	1876-S MS-62.	941	1903-S MS-63.
789	1851-O MS-60.	824	1860 AU-58.	861	1868-S VF-35.	904	1877 MS-62.	942	1904 MS-64.
790	1851-O EF-40.	825	1860 Net VF-30.	862	1869 AU-58.	905	1877-CC AU-55 (PCGS).	943	1904 MS-63.
791	1852 MS-60.	826	1860-O AU-55 (PCGS).	863	1869 AU-58.	906	1877-S MS-62.	944	1904-S MS-63 (PCGS).
792	1852 AU-50.	827	1860-S EF-45.	864	1869 AU-50.	907	1878 MS-61.	945	1906 MS-63.
793	1852 EF-45.	828	1861 MS-64.	865	1869-S AU-50.	908	1879 MS-63 (PCGS).	946	1907-D MS-63.
794	1852 EF-45.	829	1861 MS-62.	866	1869-S AU-50.	909	1879-CC AU-53 (PCGS).	947	1907-S MS-63.
795	1852-O AU-58.	830	1861 MS-60.	868	1870 AU-55.	910	1881 Proof-65 (PCGS).	948	MCMVII (1907) High Relief. Wire Rim. MS-65 (PCGS).
796	1852-O EF-45.	831	1861-S AU-55.	869	1870-S AU-58 (PCGS).	911	1881-S MS-60 (PCGS).	949	MCMVII (1907) High Relief. Wire Rim. MS-64 (PCGS).
797	1853 ? Overdate. MS-61 (PCGS).	832	1861-S EF-45.	871	1871 AU-53.	912	1881-S AU-58.	950	MCMVII (1907) High Relief. Wire Rim. MS-63 (PCGS).
798	1853 AU-50.	833	1862 AU-55.	872	1871-CC EF-45 (PCGS).	913	1882 AU-50.		
799	1853 EF-45.	834	1862 EF-45.	873	1871-S AU-58.	914	1882-CC AU-58 (PCGS).		
800	1853-O EF-45.	835	1862-S AU-55.	874	1871-S AU-50.	915	1883-CC MS-60.		
801	1854 Small Date. EF-45.	836	1863 EF-40.	875	1872 MS-62 (PCGS).	916	1883-CC VF-30.	951	1907 MS-63.
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		850	1866 Motto. AU-55.	894	1875-CC Doubled Die Reverse. AU-55.	933	1895 MS-64.	966	1924-S MS-62.
816	1857-S Net VF-35.	851	1866 Motto. AU-50.			934	1895-S MS-62.	967	1925 MS-64.
817	1858 AU-55.	852	1866-S Motto. AU-55.	895	1875-CC Doubled Die Reverse. Net VF-35.	935	1896-S MS-62.	968	1926-S MS-62 (PCGS).
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