



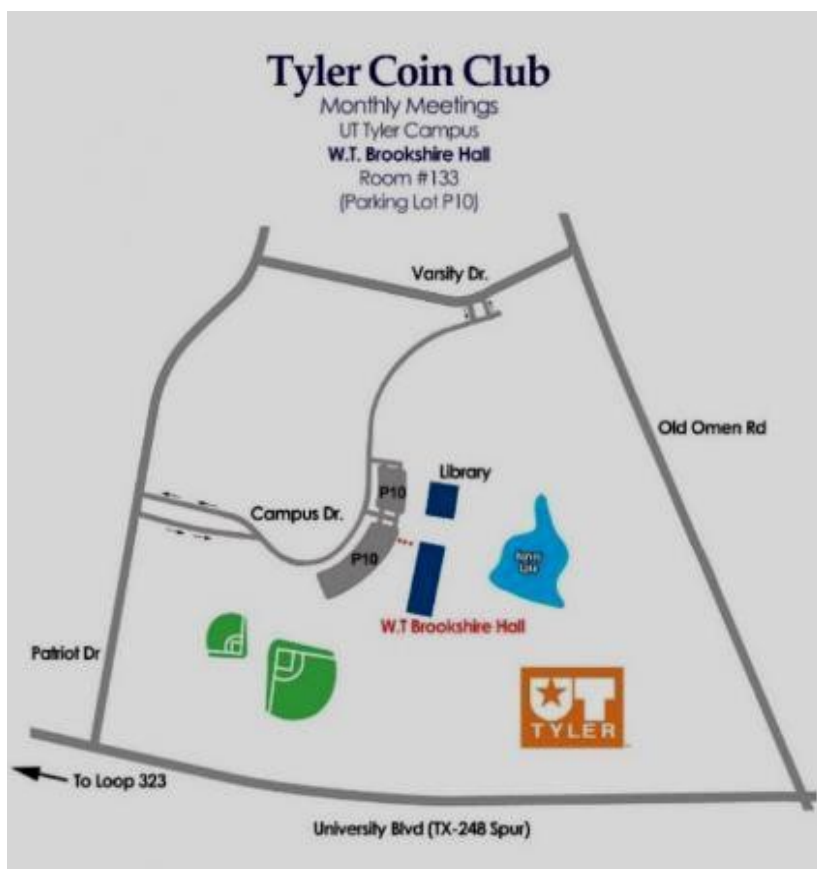
The Tyler, Texas Coin Club (TCC) meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Please consider yourself welcome. Meetings include great fellowship, numismatic education, a brief business session, and a spirited numismatic auction. The TCC meets on the campus of the University of Texas Tyler in room 133 of the W. T. Brookshire Building. Enter the campus via the identified “west entrance” off University Boulevard. Turn toward campus onto Patriot Dr. Enter campus and proceed on Campus Dr. to Parking Lot P10. (See map) The W. T. Brookshire Building is in full view from the parking lot just to the right of the library.



YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH APRIL 2020

VISIT THE TYLER, TEXAS COIN CLUB
IN PERSON AND ON THE INTERNET AT:
TYLERCOINCLUB.ORG

April Meeting Cancelled



Numismatic Notes

Thoughts from Our President
Lane B.



One of Thirty

Lane B.

The name Judas has gravitas. The name is well beyond its biblical reference and is entrenched in Western culture. And when we speak of Judas, we use the name to symbolize betrayal, deceit, and treachery. Such is the powerful image the apostle Judas Iscariot identifying Jesus Christ to the Sanhedrin.

Matthew 26:15

15And asked, "What are you willing to give me if I delivery him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver.

Judas betrayed Jesus for money and payment was made with 30 pieces of silver. The pieces of silver would have been coins commonly used in the region and not unmonetized silver medals or raw silver. The coins used were likely struck in the Phoenician city of Tyre, which still exists as the fifth largest city in modern-day Lebanon.

Founded circa 2750 BC, during the time of Christ, Tyre was an important commercial city and despite the rise of the Roman Empire, Tyre remained somewhat independent as a *civitas foederati* (the most autonomous city type under Roman rule). This status also allowed Tyre to continue minting its own coins, which it had been doing for about 500 years. And when Judas accepted his bounty, the two most dominant coins for trade and tribute were the silver shekel and half-shekel.

Tyre shekel coinage was known for its high silver purity, which was critically important for merchants and for the temple priests. With minor differences, the design of the Tyre shekels remained consistent for nearly 200 years. As such, the shekels of Tyre were some of the most recognized and trusted coins in the region. Payment in Tyre shekels would not have been questioned by Judas.

A silver tetradrachm (shekel) of Tyre dated year 29 (98/97 BC) weighing 14.37 g (29 mm diameter). The obverse is a laurate head of Melkart (Hercules). The reverse is an eagle standing on a ship's prow with a palm branch over its shoulder.

A half-shekel is also referenced in the Book of Exodus where the half-shekel was used as payment to the temple. However, the use in Exodus is likely referring to a weight of silver and not a specific coin.

Exodus 30:13

13 Each one who crosses over to those already counted is to give a half shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs. This half shekel is an offering to the Lord.

In the books of Matthew and John, the story of Jesus overturning the tables of the temple money changers is told. The coins used to pay tribute were half-shekels, likely struck in Tyre.

Matthew 21:12-13

12 Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 13 "It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"

John 2:14-16

14 In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. 15 So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of

the money changers and overturned their tables. 16 To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!"

The other reference is found in Matthew 17 where the story of Peter retrieving a four-drachma coin (equivalent to one shekel) from the mouth of a fish.

Matthew 17:24-27

24 After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma temple tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?"

25 "Yes, he does," he replied.

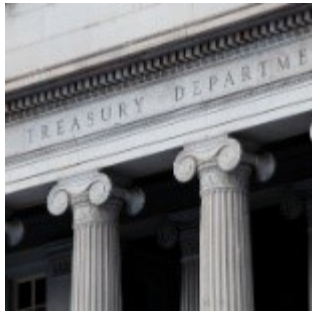
When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own children or from others?"

26 "From others," Peter answered.

"Then the children are exempt," Jesus said to him. 27 "But so that we may not cause offense, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

The shekels of Tyre circulated during the most significant time in the history of the Christian faith. So important were these coins to the fate of Jesus that their connection to Judas' betrayal has been sealed in the lexicon of Western culture. Thirty pieces of silver is the price of treachery.

TREASURERS REPORT \$\$\$\$



Balance as of the March 10 club meeting	\$10,686.88
Deposit - Show Tables deposits	+ 1,000.00
Deposit - dues & auction checks	+ 398.00
Balance in bank	\$12,084.88
Dues paid at meeting:	
Current Members	5 paid
New Members	3 paid
Dues collected for 2020	56 paid

March 2020 Club Auction Results:

Sellers - 11 members
Buyers - 20 members
Results - \$2138.00

Royce

EDITOR'S NOTES

Due to our current situation, and not being able to go anywhere, I am going to try to put out a little more entertainment for you folks. Just maybe you will have a few spare moments to give the newsletter a look over. You might even read something you didn't know. Anyway, I hope you enjoy and please stay safe and God Bless!

The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'TOILET PAPER MAN' website. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, My Account, Order Status, View Cart, and Sign in or Create an account. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The left sidebar lists various product categories such as Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, A4 Paper, Air Fresheners, Cleaning Products, Cling Wrap & Foils, Cups, Facial Tissues, Garbage Bags, Gloves, Rags, Serviettes, and Wet Wipes. The main content area displays the product '22 Carat Gold Toilet Paper - 1 Roll'. The product image shows a roll of gold-colored toilet paper on a holder. The price is listed as 1,376,900.00. The availability is 'Delivered Personally with a bottle of Champagne'. The current stock is 1. There is a quantity selector set to 1 and an 'Add To Cart' button. The breadcrumb trail shows the path: Home > Toilet Paper > 22 Carat Gold Toilet Paper - 1 Roll.



Although the Weir Farm National Historic Site quarter dollar is the second America the Beautiful quarter dollar to be issued in 2020, the 2020-W strikes are the first of the West Point Mint production for 2020 to be released.

Images courtesy of the U.S. Mint.

United States Mint officials are preparing for the release of the first circulating 2020-W quarter dollars, a move that would normally prompt collectors to start searching for the coins. However, the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) and the threat to our lives that the coronavirus poses will undoubtedly make searching this year tougher than it was last year.

The 2020-W Weir Farm National Historic Site quarter dollar enters circulation starting April 6 in the cities on the list Mint officials provided .

[Last year](#), collectors found the 2019-W America the Beautiful quarter dollars by acquiring boxes of new quarters at local banks or simply by running across them in general circulation as they made everyday purchases.

Today, however, most states have ordered their residents to stay at home, except to go out to purchase groceries, prescriptions, or other essential goods and services. Many businesses are closed, and those restaurants that remain open offer take-out only, not in-house dining. Banks have closed lobbies and are conducting all business via drive-through lanes or Internet. Some authorities are even recommending contact-free payments rather than cash transactions. All these changes to commerce surely will affect the demand for coinage in circulation.

During the 2008–2009 economic crisis and recession, mintages of circulating coins fell sharply as demand for coinage plummeted. Mintages for 2009 coins in particular reached their lowest levels in decades. Now, it appears we are entering another recession due to the pandemic; could falling mintages again result?

Nonetheless, the Mint is committed to placing the 2020-W quarter dollars into circulation. I suspect that collectors will cautiously begin searching for the coins while at the same time continuing to follow CDC recommendations about physical distancing and attention to hygiene through frequent hand cleaning.

It is comforting to have a hobby like coin collecting that one can enjoy while sequestered at home. Online auctions await your attention. Searches for the 2020-W America the Beautiful quarters can wait until it is safer to do so.

Article curtesy of Coin World

Questions for Dr. Coyne:

1. What is this piece? It is the size of a Large Cent, but no 1815-dated Large Cents are found in catalogs.



2. This coin appeared in last month's Dr. Coyne. Comments were heard that Dr Coyne's answer was correct, but incomplete. What ELSE do you see on this 1893-S Dollar that helps you to authenticate it?



3. What coin is regarded as being the first U.S. silver commemorative half of the modern series? Hint: issued 1982

4. What U.S. branch mint was located on ground now not a part of the United States?

5. Does the gold seal on the North Africa \$10 Federal Reserve notes of 1934 indicate any tie to a gold standard or redeemability?

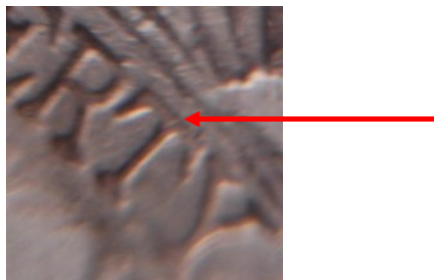
6. A collector seeking the most economical purchase of an uncirculated U.S. One dollar coin should look to what issue? Hint: consider total acquisition cost JB Probably not use this one

7. What is a “Broken Bank Note”? Are these U.S. federal currency?

Dr. Coyne Responds

1. This is a clumsy attempt to create an 1815 hole-filler. Genuine Large Cents are known for all years 1793 through 1857, but none bearing the 1815 date are known. Perhaps this sorry example was crafted from an 1825 many years ago when collectors first began forming date sets. It is fairly easy to see the scratches through the “2” making it look something like a “1”, but the whole style of the coin is wrong if it was intended to match the style of 1808-1814. It is incorrect, though, to say that no genuine 1815 cents were made in 1815: latest research says that the final load of pre-War (of 1812) Boulton planchets was used up in 1814, but that the Mint Director anticipated getting a new load in early 1816 and caused cent dies to be made up in advance. When the ship arrived from Birmingham a bit early, he took them directly to the presses in December 1815 and struck coins bearing the date 1816. The need for new coinage in the land was too great to wait.

2. The 1893-S dollar is a prime examples of a coin which should be bought in top-tier third party grading “slab” in today’s market. There are too many “raw” counterfeit or altered pieces circulating in today’s market. The genuine specimen, even if worn down to VG should still show the die line (scratch on the die) in the letter T in the headband. The alignment of the date with the adjacent denticles is also different on 1893-S and 1893 Philadelphia. It was not until 1909 that all U.S. mint regular issues began having the date as part of the master hub, so until 1909, the date placement can be subtly different on each working die. Additionally, on most genuine specimens, some deterioration of the left foot of the letter “R” of Liberty can be seen.



This coin was graded by a top-tier service; the cleaning notwithstanding

3. Discussions raged in the 1970's about the potential for restarting the U.S. commemorative coin program. There were the regular-issue Bicentennial issues of 1975-76, but no traditional half dollar commemoratives until the 1982 George Washington issue, showing the Father of Our Country on horseback on the obverse and Mt. Vernon on the reverse. Proof and circulation-quality issues exist; both come in special mint packaging.

4. The first and only U.S. branch mint established off-shore was the one built in 1920 in the Philippine Islands (then a U.S. protectorate). After 1925, this mint issued a range of peso-denominated coins for local use bearing the "M" mintmark for Manila. It was closed near the outset of World War II. Large issues for the Philippines were struck at U.S. mainland mints in 1944-45. The Philippines became an independent republic on July 4, 1946.

5. Collectors of U.S. currency in the small (current) size will find the "North Africa" \$10 with gold seal on \$10 silver certificates of series 1934 and 1934-A. These notes are close cousins of the Hawaii overprint notes, though those notes came on a wider variety of denominations. The gold color of the seal has nothing to do with gold redeemability. There are also \$1 and \$5 North Africa notes.

6. The most economical U.S. dollar coins to acquire would be the current issue Presidential Dollars or the Sacagawea Dollars with Indian reverse. These are available for \$1.00 each at banks. But an even better deal is available to those holding a credit card bearing "reward points" by using it to buy 250 or 500 new coins on the Mint's "direct ship" program. Boxes of coins can be ordered for home delivery with the Mint paying the shipping cost and the collector keeping his credit card "reward points" for the face value of the order.

5) "Broken Bank" refers to the financial health of the issuing bank. If the bank became insolvent (broke), its notes became worthless. Collecting of these issues has become more popular and more organized with the publication of new references in the last few years. These issues do not (and never did) have the backing of the U.S. treasury. The issues mainly predate the 1860s. Here is an example:



A VISIT TO “THE COIN CABINET”

by Larry V.

The 10 shekel coin pictured was minted in 1995 and depicts the portrait of Prime Minister Golda Meir of Israel.



It is interesting to note that when this coin was issued, it was described as a poor way of commemorating the only woman to head the Israeli government, from 1969 to 1974, and one of the country's best-known personalities overseas. Upon obtaining my example of the coin, one of about 1.5 million minted, I couldn't help but DISAGREE. I find the coin to be a brilliant piece of art.

While the portrait is clearly a realistic portrayal of the Prime Minister when viewed in its coin-size existence (23 mm diameter), the small size actually masks its true creative detail. Note that as the portrait is blown up to examine its detail, it takes on an abstract personality of ridges and marks. It was engraved by Gabi Neumann.

The coin is made from a planchet with a bronze center bonded in a nickel steel ring. It was minted at the Utrecht's Royal Dutch Mint in the Netherlands.

Golda Meir was born Golda Mabovitch in Russia in 1898, grew up in Milwaukee and settled in pre-state Palestine in 1921. She died on December 8, 1978. She was an Israeli teacher, kibbutznik, stateswoman, politician, fourth Prime Minister of Israel and the first female Prime Minister.

Gabi Neumann was born in Obyce, Czechoslovakia, in 1937. In 1942, his family was deported to Auschwitz. He and his sister were sent to the children's block, where they remained until liberation. In 1949, he immigrated to Israel with the Youth Aliyah and studied graphic design at the Bezalel academy of Art and Design.

"KIDS CORNER"

Coin Collecting For Kids:

How To Help A Child Start Their First Coin Collection

If you're interested in getting your children started early in coin collecting I have a few tips and pointers for you.

Some ideas as far as which coins might be the best for kids to collect...

Their first coin collection that you will be helping them set up is very important in determining whether or not they're going to stick with it or just get bored with it and go spend the coins on candy instead.

For example, you don't want to start your child out collecting silver Walking Liberty half dollars, because that is going to cost over \$1,000 to complete the set.

Start A State Quarters Collection

For a youngster's first collection of state quarters, I would recommend a state quarter map.

A state quarter map shows a picture of each state in the U.S. and has a slot to insert the corresponding coin that was minted for that particular state.



"KIDS CORNER"

Or, Collect Lincoln Pennies

Another good idea (and even cheaper one) would be to start them out collecting Lincoln cents.

Not everyone has quarters lying around the house, but what about pennies? Pennies are plentiful and a great way to jump-start a collection.

The best thing about this type of coin collection is that just about every coin in it can be found in everyday pocket change!

They make coin folders for collecting Lincoln cents. These folders are not as fun to look at as the state quarter map, but they still have a slot to put every penny minted between 1975 and 2002.

NOTE: The folder pictured here is #3 of the series. If your child finishes this one, they also make folders #1 and #2 that go all the way back to 1909. By the time they finish these small collections and are looking to start more, they will be on their way to being an experienced collector.



Careful... they may eventually end up asking mom or dad to buy the rare ones they can't afford for Christmas presents...so watch out.

Proof Sets and Mint Sets

The typical coin gifts of this type are mint sets, such as the U.S. Mint's annual uncirculated coins set, or the annual Proof set. These sets typically cost less than \$25 for the uncirculated sets and approximately \$50 for a non-silver proof set. Fancier silver proof sets run \$50 and up. Historically, the United States Mint Proof sets and uncirculated sets make bad investments. However, the bright and brilliant surfaces of these specially minted coins can spark an interest in a young collector.

What Are Shell Case Pennies?

How Much Are They Worth?

And Why Were These Special World War II Pennies Made?

They are wheat pennies from the World War II era that are made from spent copper shell cases used for ammunition. Yep, recycled copper!

Special relics from WWII, Lincoln shell case pennies have a direct connection to the international conflict that spanned from 1939 through 1945. And they're awesome collectibles!

But what's the real story behind these old pennies? Why are shell case pennies so important to collectors? And how much are they worth today?

Facts About WW2 Pennies

Here are a few key things you should know about the shell case penny:

- **Shell case Lincoln cents were struck from 1944 through 1946. With the exception of off-metal errors, all Lincoln pennies made during that time are classified as shell case cents. Shell case cents are common in circulated grades and on occasion can still be found in pocket change.**

Shell Case Penny Value

So, what are these old Lincoln wheat pennies worth?

Since shell case cents are really very common coins, they're worth a little bit over face value in circulated condition — but in uncirculated condition, they're worth a lot more!

Here's a rundown on shell case penny values for 1944, 1945, and 1946, including all mintmark combinations

1944 Penny

The 1944 penny with no mintmark (made at the Philadelphia Mint) became the first United States coin to ever see a mintage of more than 1 billion. A total of 1,435,400,000 were minted, and they are worth:

- **3 to 10 cents in worn (circulated) condition**
- **80 cents and up in unworn (uncirculated) grades**

1944-D Penny

Though not as common as the 1944 Philadelphia penny, the 1944-D shell case penny with a “D” mintmark was struck at the Denver Mint to the tune of 430,578,000 pieces and is still widely available today. They’re worth:

- **3 to 10 cents (circulated)**
- **65 cents or more (uncirculated)**

1944-S Penny

The 1944-S penny saw a mintage of just 282,760,000 pieces. Although this San Francisco-minted penny is the lowest-mintage 1944 Lincoln wheat cent, it’s still a highly common coin. Values for the 1944-S penny are:

- **5 to 15 cents (circulated)**
- **90 cents and up (uncirculated)**

1945 Penny

Though not quite as high a mintage as its 1944 Philly Mint predecessor, the 1945 Lincoln cent still saw more than 1 billion examples struck – 1,040,515,000, to be exact. Here’s what they’re worth:

- **3 to 7 cents (circulated)**
- **70 cents or more (uncirculated)**

1945-D Penny

This Denver-minted penny is one of the scarcer Lincoln cents from the era, though that term is used on a relative basis here. Still, a whopping 266,268,000 were minted — making this a common coin for all intents and purposes. Here are 1945-D penny values:

- **3 to 10 cents (circulated)**
- **75 cents and up (uncirculated)**

1945-S Penny

The scarcest of the 9 regular-issue pennies profiled here is the 1945-S Lincoln cent. Only 181,770,000 were made. And while they’re common in collections they’re among the tougher 1940s wheat cents to find in circulation. Here’s what they’re worth:

- **5 to 10 cents (circulated)**
- **75 cents or more (uncirculated)**

1946 Penny

The 1946 Lincoln cent is the third-most common of the shell case pennies — with a total of 991,655,000 struck. It can be found in circulation with a little searching. Here's what these pennies are worth:

- **3 to 10 cents (circulated)**
- **45 cents or more (uncirculated)**

1946-D Penny

The 1946-D Lincoln wheat cent is a common shell case penny all around — with a mintage of 315,690,000 pieces. These still turn up on occasion in circulation. Here are values for this coin:

- **3 to 10 cents (circulated)**
- **50 cents and up (uncirculated)**

1946-S Penny

Of the 9 coins listed here, this is the only one (other than the 1945-S penny) with a mintage lower than 200 million pieces. It's not quite as scarce as the 1945-S penny though. A total of 198,100,000 were struck — making them one of the tougher Lincoln wheat cents of the 1940s to find in circulation. Here are values for this old San Francisco penny:

- **5 to 15 cents (circulated)**
- **55 cents or more (uncirculated)**

Do Shell Case Pennies Look Different From Regular Pennies?

Shell case pennies were struck from copper shell casings that were spent during World War II. It is unknown if the entire mintage of these coins was struck only from spent shell casings — or just a smaller portion of the total mintage. However, what *is* known for sure is the composition of the pennies made from 1944 through 1946 is different than from other years. The composition of the 1944, 1945, and 1946 shell case pennies is 95% copper, 5% zinc. However, the bronze Lincoln cents made before and after (not counting 1943, the year steel pennies were made) also contain some tin. Though a minor difference, it's a noteworthy one.



Virtually all circulated shell case cents look identical to any other old, worn copper pennies, with these caveats:

- **Some longtime Lincoln cent collectors say they see a slight color difference between uncirculated shell case pennies and Mint State versions of other bronze Lincoln cents made before or after.**
- **Many veteran collectors notice more vibrant toning on the Lincoln wheat cents made from 1944 through 1946 — with many showcasing pinks, violets, and purples as well as spotty or mottled toning. This could have been caused by impurities in the metal.**

Why Were Shell Case Pennies Made Anyway?

As with so many old coins, there's an interesting story behind shell case pennies...

The onset of World War II and United States military involvement in the conflict beginning in 1941 brought about many materials shortages. Among the items rationed were certain metals. And copper was critical to the war effort for making ammunition shells.

In 1943, the United States Mint began striking pennies from a zinc-coated steel composition to save copper for the war. However, the 1943 steel cents weren't widely embraced by the public. People complained of confusing them with the similarly colored and sized dime. Also, the coins began rusting as soon as the zinc coating wore away to reveal the steel underneath.

The United States government promised that it wouldn't make any more steel cents after 1943 — returning to the more familiar copper-based composition. However, a popular collectible had already been born with the introduction of the steel penny. Although the public may have despised steel cents way back when, collectors love these distinctive coins today!

The shell-case pennies proved to be popular and patriotic with the public. And you might say it was a form of upcycling before the term was even officially coined!

Are There Any Shell Case Penny Errors?

Yes! There are a few notable errors and varieties to be found among shell case pennies and other Lincoln cents made during in 1944, 1945, and 1946, including:

1944 steel cents – The most valuable of Lincoln penny errors from the shell case cent era isn't even a shell case cent! It's a 1944-dated steel cent, exhibiting what happened when 1944 dies struck leftover zinc-coated steel planchets intended for use in 1943. These are very rare off-metal transitional errors that number perhaps fewer than 2 dozen in total. They are known from the Philadelphia, Denver, and San Francisco Mints and are highly valuable. Most sell for around \$75,000 and up.

1944-D, D Over S – It's kind of hard for any coin to follow the extraordinary 1944 steel cent in a list of error pennies, but the 1944-D, D Over S is nothing to sneeze at. It's a tough variety in its own right, showing a "D" mintmark punch over an "S." This is a pretty popular overmintmark variety — and even worn examples are worth \$50 or more.

- 1946-S, S Over D – Another neat overmintmark variety came just 2 years after the aforementioned 1944-D, D Over S. Though this time it's the reverse situation. The 1946 penny in question features an "S" mintmark over a "D." While quite popular with collectors, they're not quite as valuable as the other overmintmark penny from the era. The 1946-S, S Over D Lincoln penny is worth about \$25 and up.**

PAPER MONEY GRADING

INTRODUCTION, Grading is the most controversial component of paper money collecting. Small differences in grade can mean significant differences in value. To facilitate communication between sellers and buyers, it is essential that grading terms and their meanings be as standardized and as widely used as possible. The standardization should reflect common usage as much as practicable. The grades and definitions as set forth below cannot reconcile all the various systems and grading terminology variants. Rather, the attempt is made here to try and diminish the controversy with some common-sense grades and definitions that aim to give more precise meaning to the grading language of paper money.

GRADING GUIDE. **Crisp Uncirculated (CU):** A perfectly preserved note, never mishandled by the issuing authority, a bank teller, the public or a collector. Paper is clean and firm, without discoloration. Corners are sharp and square, without any evidence of rounding. (Rounded corners are often a tell-tale sign of a cleaned or “doctored” note.) An uncirculated note will have its original, natural sheen. **About Uncirculated (AU):** A virtually perfect note, with some minor handling. May show evidence of bank counting folds at a corner or one light fold through the center, but not both. An AU note cannot be creased, a crease being a hard fold which has usually “broken” the surface of the note. Paper is clean and bright with original sheen. Corners are not rounded. **Extremely Fine (XF):** very attractive note, with light handling. May have a maximum of three light folds or one strong crease. Paper is clean and bright with original sheen. Corners may show only the slightest evidence of rounding. There may also be the slightest sign of wear where a fold meets the edge. **Very Fine (VF):** An attractive note, but with more evidence of handling and wear. May have a number of folds both vertically and horizontally. Paper may have minimal dirt, or possible color smudging. Paper itself is still relatively crisp and not floppy. There are no tears into the border area, although the edges do show slight wear. Corners also show wear but not full rounding. **Fine:** A note which shows considerable circulation, with many folds, creases and wrinkling. Paper is not excessively dirty but may have some softness. Edges may show much handling, with minor tears in the border area. Tears may not extend into the design. There will be no center hole because of excessive folding. Colors are clear but not very bright. A staple hole or two would not be considered unusual wear in a Fine note. Overall appearance is still on the desirable side. **Very Good (VG):** A well-used note, abused but still intact. Corners may have much wear and rounding, tiny nicks, tears may extend into the design, some discoloration may be present, staining may have occurred, and a small hole may be seen at center from excessive folding. Staple and pinholes are usually present, and the note itself is quite limp but no pieces of the note are missing. A note in VG condition may still have an overall not unattractive appearance. **Good (G):** A well-worn and heavily-used note. Normal damage from prolonged circulation will include strong multiple folds and creases, stains, pinholes and/or staple holes, dirt, discoloration, edge tears, center hole, rounded corners and an overall unattractive appearance. No large pieces of the note may be missing. Graffiti is commonly seen on notes in Good condition. **Fair:** A totally limp, dirty, and very well-used note. Large pieces may be half torn off or missing besides the defects mentioned under the Good category. Tears will be larger, obscured portions of the note will be bigger. **Poor:** A “rag” with severe damage because of wear, staining, pieces missing, graffiti, larger holes. May have tape holding pieces of the note together. Trimming may have taken place to remove rough edges. The above Introduction and Grading Guide is an adaptation work prepared under the guidance of the Grading Committee of the International Bank Note Society.

STANDARD INTERNATIONAL NUMERAL SYSTEMS

Prepared especially for the *Standard Catalog of World Coins*© 2011 by Krause Publications

Western	0	½	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	50	100	500	1000
Roman			I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	L	C	D	M
Arabic-Turkish	•	½	۱	۲	۳	۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	۱۰	۵۰	۱۰۰	۵۰۰	۱۰۰۰
Malay-Persian	•	½	۱	۲	۳	۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	۱۰	۵۰	۱۰۰	۵۰۰	۱۰۰۰
Eastern Arabic	۰	½	۱	۲	۳	۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	۱۰	۵۰	۱۰۰	۵۰۰	۱۰۰۰
Hyderabad Arabic	۰	½	۱	۲	۳	۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	۱۰	۵۰	۱۰۰	۵۰۰	۱۰۰۰
Indian (Sanskrit)	०	½	१	२	३	४	५	६	७	८	९	१०	५०	१००	५००	१०००
Assamese	০	½	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	৫০	১০০	৫০০	১০০০
Bengali	০	½	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	৫০	১০০	৫০০	১০০০
Gujarati	૦	½	૧	૨	૩	૪	૫	૬	૭	૮	૯	૧૦	૫૦	૧૦૦	૫૦૦	૧૦૦૦
Kutch	૦	½	૧	૨	૩	૪	૫	૬	૭	૮	૯	૧૦	૫૦	૧૦૦	૫૦૦	૧૦૦૦
Devanagari	०	½	१	२	३	४	५	६	७	८	९	१०	५०	१००	५००	१०००
Nepalese	०	½	१	२	३	४	५	६	७	८	९	१०	५०	१००	५००	१०००
Tibetan	༠	½	༡	༢	༣	༤	༥	༦	༧	༨	༩	༡༠	༥༠	༡༠༠	༥༠༠	༡༠༠༠
Mongolian	᠐	½	᠑	᠒	᠓	᠔	᠕	᠖	᠗	᠘	᠙	᠑᠐	᠕᠐	᠑᠐᠐	᠕᠐᠐	᠑᠐᠐᠐
Burmese	၀	½	၁	၂	၃	၄	၅	၆	၇	၈	၉	၁၀	၅၀	၁၀၀	၅၀၀	၁၀၀၀
Thai-Lao	๐	½	๑	๒	๓	๔	๕	๖	๗	๘	๙	๑๐	๕๐	๑๐๐	๕๐๐	๑๐๐๐
Lao-Laotian	໐		໑	໒	໓	໔	໕	໖	໗	໘	໙	໑໐				
Javanese	ᮀ		ᮁ	ᮂ	ᮃ	ᮄ	ᮅ	ᮆ	ᮇ	ᮈ	ᮉ	ᮊ	ᮋ	ᮌ	ᮍ	ᮎ
Ordinary Chinese Japanese-Korean	零	半	一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十	十五	百	百五	千
Official Chinese			壹	貳	叁	肆	伍	陸	柒	捌	玖	拾	拾伍	佰	佰伍	仟
Commercial Chinese			一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十	十五	一百	一百五	一千
Korean		반	일	이	삼	사	오	육	칠	팔	구	십	오십	백	오백	천
Georgian			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	20	30	40	50
Ethiopian	•		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	20	30	40	50
Hebrew			א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י	כ	ל	מ	נ
Greek			Α	Β	Γ	Δ	Ε	Ζ	Η	Θ	Ι	Ν	Ρ	Φ	Χ	Ω

How to collect coins

A coin collection can be whatever an individual wants it to be. Collect what you like and what brings you pleasure as a leisure-time hobby. It's also good to have a strategy and a road map to your collecting pursuits. Thus, following are some tips and comments on traditional collecting strategies.

By series. The traditional coin-collecting pursuit of acquiring one example of each date and mintmark within a particular series may seem daunting at first considering the vast scope of world coins. Some denominations and designs within those denominations span several decades or even a century or more. To get started, a collector can break down a series into smaller parts. For example, a collector interested in Lincoln cents can start with those depicting the Lincoln Memorial on the reverse, which begin in 1959. A collector can also get started by collecting simply one date of each Lincoln Memorial cent rather than seeking an example of every mintmark of a particular date.

By type. Rather than seeking an example of every date and mintmark within a series, many collectors seek just one example of each type of coin within a particular focus. For example, a collector assembling a 20th century type set of U.S. 5-cent coins would seek one Liberty nickel, one Buffalo nickel, and one Jefferson nickel. The representative coins could be of any date and mintmark within each series, thus accommodating any collecting budget.

By country. Collectors sometimes focus on coins of a particular country because of some emotional nexus with that land. It may have been their ancestors' homeland, or they may simply like the coin designs and history of a particular country.

By region. A coin collection can also focus on a particular continent or geographic region, such as Europe, the Middle East, or Southeast Asia.

By empire. A coin collection can be a virtual history book of an empire. It can document the dates of an empire's rise to power, the reigns of monarchs, and changes in political entities.

By era. Some collectors focus on coins of a particular era. It could be a certain century or decade, the reign of a certain monarch, an era with personal significance to a collector, or an important historical time.

One per country. Another common collecting strategy is to acquire one example of the coinage of as many countries as possible. Narrowing the focus here could include a particular geographic region, century, or era.

By theme. The proliferation of modern commemorative and circulating commemorative coins gave rise to collecting coins with a common theme. Examples include coins that depict animals or ships, coins from one or more countries that commemorate a certain event, or coins of a certain date, such as 2000.

By collector's choice. Various aspects of the listed strategies overlap and can be combined and mixed to form a goal that interests an individual collector. The result should be a coin collection that is affordable and attainable for the collector, and a collection that brings enjoyment and satisfaction.

How to Handle coins The less coins are handled, the better. Dirty, oily hands – even if they appear to be clean – lead to dirty, oily coins. Oftentimes, however, coins have to be handled, particularly when searching circulating coins or when transferring a coin to a holder. When it is necessary to handle a coin, it should be held by the edges between the thumb and forefinger. Avoid contact with the coin's obverse and reverse surfaces. Also, handle coins over a soft surface so they will not be damaged if accidentally dropped.

Should I clean my coins? No. Luster is an important aspect when grading certain highend coins, but in general, a coin's grade and its corresponding value depend on the amount of wear on the coin, not how shiny it is. Cleaning – particularly home-brewed methods – is often abrasive and will damage a coin rather than improve it. There may be certain instances when it is desirable to clean a coin, but that is best left to experienced opinions as to when and how.

Contemporary v. Modern Fantasy

■ *Why would it have been expected that there would be more demand for the 20-cent coin in western states in 1875 than in the East?*

There was a shortage of circulating currency in the West at that time, much of it brought about by the refusal of many people to accept anything but specie. This eliminated the circulation of the cent, 2-cent, 3-cent nickel, and the nickel 5-cent coins as well as paper money. Silver dollar production had ceased two years earlier, while Trade dollars weren't meant for domestic use.

■ *I know there were politics involved at the time the nickel 5-cent coin was introduced but why would our law makers have considered dumping a silver coin in favor of one of base metal other than lobbyists?*

Just about all specie coinage disappeared during the American Civil War, some being hoarded while some was melted for its intrinsic value. Congress recognized that 2- and 3-cent base metal composition coins were being accepted in circulation, emboldening them to try the same thing with the 5-cent denomination.

■ *I recently examined an 1878-S Trade dollar on which the obverse had been re-engraved to show Liberty seated on a toilet. Is there some special message?*

Trade dollars of several dates and mint marks have fallen victim to being retooled into 'potty' dollars. I have seen these advertised as being a post-Civil War version of the hobo nickel meant to suggest the debacle of the Panic of 1873 and that they may have been retooled during the 1890s due to the popular slogan 'No Free Trade.'

■ *How can I tell if a Hobo nickel is contemporary or a modern fantasy?*

There is not a simple answer to this question but there are several things to consider that may identify some of the more modern efforts to make these nickels. The earliest Buffalo nickels from which Hobos were carved are typically dated between 1913 and 1919 and were in at least Very Fine condition. Most modern Hobo nickels use well-worn coins of the 1920s or nickels of the 1930s as their host coin. Also, watch for coins on which any cleaning appears to be old rather than reasonably recent.

■ *Is there anyone who authenticates early Hobo nickels so I will know I didn't buy a modern copy?*

The Original Hobo Nickel Society offers authentication. Their web site is www.hobonickels.org.

■ *Would you explain the criteria for a Full Steps designation on a Jefferson nickel?*

The coin must first grade at least Mint State 60 to receive this designation. The coin must further show either five or six distinctly defined steps at the facing entrance to Monticello on the reverse. Cuts and marks on the steps disqualify a coin from being described as Full Steps.

Color Designations

■ *Are the color designations Brown, Red Brown, or Red a judgment call on half cents, cents, and 2-cent coins or is there some standard a coin must reach to be identified as such?*

Uncirculated and Proof U.S. copper coins are considered to be Brown if they retain less than 5 percent of their original mint glow, Red Brown if the original red color covers 5 to 95 percent of the obverse and reverse surface, and Red if more than 95 percent of the surface retains this original color.

■ *Can the original Red color be restored to a fully Mint State copper U.S. coin if, due to environmental factors, that Red fades to Red Brown?*

Due to environmental factors, the color of a Mint State or Proof copper coin may diminish in time. There are "coin doctors" who will try to replicate the original mint bloom using chemicals, however, artificially-toned coins are considered damaged and of lower value. Any attempt at color restoration falls into this category.

■ *Can the colors Red, Red Brown, and Brown be applied to circulated as well as Uncirculated Lincoln cents?*

Only the color Brown is assigned to any copper U.S. coin that will grade less than Mint State.

■ *I've heard that while full mint Red is the most desirable color on copper U.S. coins, the opposite is true for ancient copper coins. Can you explain this?*

Ancient copper and brass composition coins are typically recovered from the ground. Due to the chemistry of the soil, oxidation typically turns the surfaces green. Not only is this considered to be acceptable on ancient coins, but the eye appeal of this color alongside the condition of the coin may enhance its value.

■ *I have some bank notes that are too worn to be of collector value, but my problem is they smell musty. How can I get rid of the smell?*

You need to give these notes a bath in a bowl of warm soapy water to which a scented hand soap has been added. Lay the notes on paper towels, then gently brush them carefully with a soft bristle toothbrush, avoiding disturbing their inks. Rinse each note with clean warm water, then dry them on more paper towels.

■ *Does the strike have to be full on a coin for that coin to qualify as being Uncirculated?*

A Mint State coin has no wear on the high points, however marks, abrasions, dull luster, poor eye appeal, or a weak strike will not disqualify a coin from this grade. Once any form of friction or wear appears, the coin won't qualify for any grade higher than About Uncirculated.

Jeff Garrett: Buying Gold and Silver Today

Posted on 4/9/2020

In this COVID economy, people are especially intrigued by the prospect of investing in precious metals, but high premiums and availability are hindrances for many.



Rare coins have been the focus of my career for over 45 years. Like most rare coin dealers, my companies have also been very involved with selling precious metals. Indeed, my career was literally launched during the great silver price explosion of 1979 and 1980. Bunker Hunt and a group of his close allies tried to corner the market, and for a short time, silver jumped in price from about \$5 to nearly \$50.

This created a mad rush, as everyone tried to cash in on the boom. People were lined around the block selling precious metals, primarily silver. Sadly, however, silver prices crashed when the federal government placed limits on the commodities exchange. Over the next few years, silver drifted down and finally settled in the \$5 range for years.

The recent COVID-19 crisis and the extremely sharp drop in stock market values has led to another boom in precious metals. But this time, people are lining up to *buy* gold and silver.

For reasons that I do not fully understand, silver prices have plunged since the start of the COVID-19 crisis. In the last 30 days, spot silver prices started with a high of around \$18 and have now fallen to about \$14. This represents a loss of 22%, roughly equivalent to the loss of the S&P stock averages during the same period.

While spot silver prices have plunged, this has not tempered the physical demand for the precious metal. Many investors and even the general public have turned to the purchase of silver as survivalist play. I must personally admit that the sight of empty shelves in our local grocery stores can induce pangs of panic.

For many years, I have told those interested in buying gold and silver that you should not consider the purchase as an investment. Rather, you are buying insurance in the case of a financial train wreck with the US and global economy. This nearly occurred during the 2008 financial crisis. But trying to buy gold and silver now is like trying to buy home insurance while your fire alarm is going off — very high premiums!

Unprecedented times, indeed

During the gold and silver boom of 1979 and 1980, physical precious metals traded for steep discounts. The refiners could not process silver fast enough to deliver to the Comex in New York. Coin shops around the country were paying anywhere from 20-40% less than the spot metal price for anything made of silver. A lot of family heirlooms ended up being melted during this time. As mentioned above, the party soon ended, and premiums returned to normal for the next few decades.

The exact opposite is now being played out in the gold and silver market. Spot prices on the commodities exchanges are low, but the price premium for actual physical precious metals has skyrocketed. Anyone who is trying to purchase precious metals at reasonable prices is extremely frustrated.

Another historical event that has occurred in the precious metals market has been the ratio of gold to silver prices. Gold is now about 115 times more costly than silver. This can probably be explained with the reasoning that silver is more closely tied to industrial use (which has fallen) and gold is considered a monetary instrument.



As I have mentioned many times before, I am not an economist. My advice is based solely on my observations over the years. Based on what is going on in the world, it is easy to understand why so many people are interested in owning gold and silver. Governments around the world seem determined to support fragile economies with stimulus spending. The two plus trillion-dollar plan just approved in the United States is staggering in size and scope. Additionally, lawmakers have made clear that more will be approved if needed. This is on top of already-record deficit spending.

For those interested in buying gold and silver, the options currently are difficult to navigate. You can no longer run to your corner coin shop and buy gold and silver. Most have very little or no physical stock on hand. Our coin shop in Florida is actually rationing small amounts to longstanding customers. Many other shops around the country are doing the same.

You will have better luck finding gold and silver online, but the premiums are stomach churning at current levels. A quick check today found the following average prices for silver:

	Price	Melt Value	Premium
90% Silver Bags	\$13,500	\$10,000	35%
One-ounce Silver Rounds	\$19 each	\$14	35%
US Silver Eagles	\$23.50 each	\$14	65%

The premiums for gold coins are much less for commonly traded issues. One-ounce US Gold Eagles are selling for about \$1,750 each with spot gold at \$1,600 (about a 10% premium). In a typical market, the expected premium would be around 5% over the spot melt price.

Based on the above, I would give the following advice depending on your circumstances.

Preppers or anyone who feels panicked by current world affairs

Buy small amounts when paying high premiums. Look for unusual bullion-related coins that can be purchased for less. Many older vintage world coins that have bullion content fit the bill. Consider vintage Morgan and Peace Dollars in mint condition. The prices for these have remained stable and are great bargains at current levels.

I cannot recommend strongly enough to only deal with well-known companies and buy certified coins when possible. I have seen very deceptive counterfeit bullion coins and silver dollars in recent years. If the deal seems too good to be true, it's probably not genuine.

Investors who have sold other assets and are looking for financial insurance

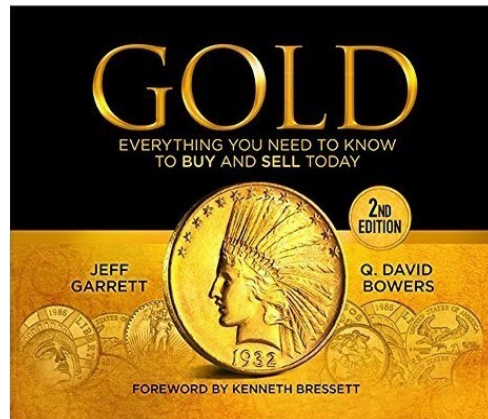
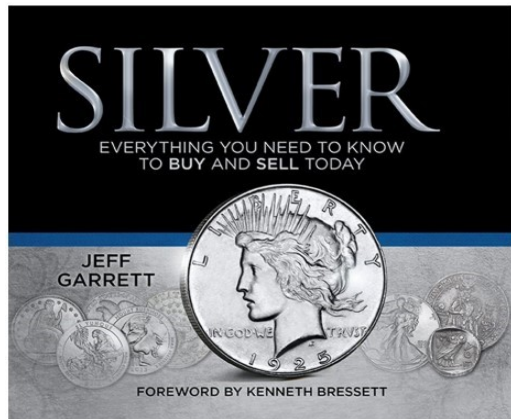
For anyone looking to spend considerable money on bullion, your only option is to carefully price shop. Call local shops, let them know your interest and ask to be put on a waiting list. Shops buy material every day, and you might get luck. I would urge caution buying bullion for future delivery. World conditions can change a lot in three to four months. You would also have to pay a deposit, and this is only protected by the company you are dealing with. For all purchases, I would recommend only transacting with well-established dealerships.

Large buyers looking for long-term investment

The only very low premium method of buying large amounts of silver at the moment is 1,000-ounce bars. These are used for delivery on the commodity exchanges. The obvious downside is the bars' size and weight. Your other option is to wait until premiums fall, which is guaranteed to happen at some point in the future.

These are uncertain and unprecedented times. Gold and silver have been considered financial safe havens for millennia. As with any financial decision, exercise patience and do your homework. Buying in panic mode usually leads to poor results.

The good news for the hobby of numismatics is that some percentage of new bullion buyers will discover rare coins. This has happened many times over the last several decades.



Finally, I would also like to recommend two books that I authored a few years ago (pictured Above): *Gold – Everything You Need to Know to Buy and Sell Today* and *Silver – Everything You Need to Know to Buy and Sell Today*. Both were produced by Whitman Publishing and should be available online.

The above article was taken out of the current ANA website news section. It was wrote by Jeff Garrett

