

Coin Chronicles

The Newsletter of the Trenton Numismatic Club

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Top 10 Coins Worth Collecting

BY JAMES BUCKI

The following 10 coins will add beauty and value to any coin collection. They were selected based upon the artistic beauty of the coin's design, popularity with collectors and/or the potential to increase in value over time. You will find an assortment of coins that are affordable for the beginning collector, as well as challenging enough for the more advanced collector and everyone in between. Make sure you buy these coins from a reputable coin dealer or have them certified by a third party.

1909-S V.D.B. Lincoln Cent

In 1909 the United States changed the design the one cent coin from the Indian Head to a design to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Pres. Abraham Lincoln's birth. The coin was an instant success with the public. However, Victor David Brenner placed his three initials on the reverse of the coin near the bottom. Previous designers only use their last



initial and mint designer Charles Barber took exception to this new trend. After 484,000 new Lincoln pennies were produced at the San Francisco mint, the initials on the reverse were removed. This created an instant scarcity.

Some may argue that the 1909-S VDB Lincoln Cent is the most popular U.S. coin. Many coin collectors begin their coin collecting journey by collecting Lincoln pennies. Given its scarcity, the 1909-S VDB is the "Holy Grail" of Lincoln pennies. This is usually the last coin Lincoln penny collectors will add to their collection. Over the years, this coin has maintained its value and prestige among collectors of United States coins.

1921 Peace Dollar

The Peace silver dollar was designed by Anthony DeFrancisci and was first produced in December 1921 following a large mintage of 1921 dated Morgan silver

dollars. The idea to commemorate the peace that followed the "Great War" was first proposed by Farran Zerbe, former President of the American Numismatic Association from 1908 to 1910. The idea caught on and DeFrancisci produced a beautiful design emblematic of liberty on the obverse and peace symbolized by an American Eagle on the reverse. The first coins minted in 1921 had a high relief but were too difficult to strike up. The first 1921 peace dollars were not struck until December 26, 1921. This gave a limited time for the United States Mint to produce these new dollars. Slightly more than 1 million coins were struck and the public snapped them up rapidly. Although this coin can be considered scarce, a beginning collector can acquire a circulated example at a modest cost.

1878-CC Morgan Silver Dollar

In 1878 the United States Congress passed the Bland-Allison Act that required the U.S. government to

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COIN SHOW SCHEDULE

By Bill Liatys

October 2017

LOCAL SHOW SCHEDULE

PARSIPPANY *October 1st Sunday 9 AM – 3 PM*
Pal Bldg 33 Baldwin Road Parsnippany NJ

BURLINGTON *October 8th Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM*
Burlington Mason Lodge Route 541 Burlington, NJ

TREVOSE *October 15th Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM*
Trevose Fire house 4900 Street Road Trevose PA

TRI-STATE COIN & STAMP SHOW *October 22nd Sunday 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM*
Sheraton Bucks County 400 Oxford Valley Road Langhorne, PA

TRENTON NUMISMATIC FALL COIN SHOW

October 29 Sunday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Ramada Inn Exit 7 NJ Turnpike 1083 Route 206 North Bordentown, NJ

WHITMAN COIN & COLLECTIBLES *November 9th-12th Thursday – Sunday*
Thursday – Noon – 6 PM Friday – Saturday - 10 AM – 6 PM Sunday – 10 AM – 3 PM
Baltimore Convention Center One W. Pratt Street Baltimore, MD

purchase large quantities of silver and turn it into silver dollars. Engraver George T. Morgan initially created this design to be used on a half dollar. It was eventually modified and adopted for the silver dollar beginning in 1878. The United States Mint was totally consumed with producing silver dollars to fulfill the requirements of the Bland-Allison act.

Although the 1877-CC Morgan silver dollar is not a key date nor scarce with approximately two million pieces minted in the Carson City, Nevada branch mint facility, owning one of the early coins produced at the Carson City mint will add character to any coin collection. Circulated pieces are moderately priced within the budget a beginning collector. Uncirculated pieces are also within the budget of an intermediate collector.

1914-D Lincoln Cent

Although not as scarce as the 1909-S VDB Lincoln cent, the 1914-D coin comes in a close second with a mintage of 1,193,000 coins produced. What makes this coin desirable is that uncirculated specimens were not saved in the same quantities that the 1909-S VDB coins were. Therefore, uncirculated 1914-D specimens are scarcer than the more popular 1909-S V.D.B. coins.

Given the popularity of Lincoln cents among coin collectors, this coin has also maintained its value over time, especially for intermediate and expert collectors seeking a quality uncirculated coin. However, circulated specimens are also within the coin collecting budget of beginning and intermediate coin collectors.

1955/55 Doubled Die Lincoln Cent

The 1955 Doubled Die Lincoln cent is another coin that is extremely popular among Lincoln penny collectors. Although this is considered an error coin, many collectors still seek to add one to their collection. This coin is undoubtedly the most famous error coin ever produced by the United States mint.

The tale of this error coin began when the United States mint used a coin die that received two impressions that were slightly offset from each other. Mint workers discovered the error after approximately 20,000 to 24,000 coins were already mixed with a batch of properly produced coins. The mint decided that it was not worth the expense to melt the entire batch of coins in order to scrap the error coins that got mixed in. When news of this error coin began appearing in local papers in the northeastern United States, many people pulled the coins out of circulation. There are many uncirculated and About Uncirculated examples that can be obtained for your collection.

1937-D 3 Legged Buffalo Nickel

The 1937-D Three Legged Buffalo nickel is another error coin that became very popular with collectors. Given the time and cost to produce coin dies, many dies were polished or ground in order to extend their die life. Clearly, an overzealous mint employee ground the surface of the die to the point where it removed the details for the front leg of the Buffalo on the reverse of the coin.

This coin did not immediately receive the popularity and newsworthiness of the 1955 Doubled

Die Lincoln cent. Therefore a majority of these coins saw circulation. Most intermediate and advanced collectors of Buffalo Nickels will want to add one to their collection. Circulated examples are moderately priced, but uncirculated examples are scarce and only coin collectors with a deep enough pocket will be able to afford one.

1916-D Mercury Dime

Another coin that was part of the American Renaissance of American Coinage in 1916 was the Mercury dime. Although the proper name for this coin is the "Winged Liberty Head Dime," the public thought that the lady with wings on her head was actually the Roman god Mercury. Production of this coin at the Denver mint in 1916 yielded only 264,000 coins. This immediately made the coin very rare. Coupled with the popularity of the new design, only intermediate and advanced collectors will be able to afford one of these coins for their collection.

1917 Standing Liberty Quarter - Type 1

The Standing Liberty Quarter was first produced in 1916 with a very limited mintage. Therefore, the 1916 Standing Liberty quarter is extremely rare and expensive. Consequently, the second year of production in 1917 is a more affordable example of a classic United States coin.

The Type 1 coin features Lady Liberty with her left breast exposed. Some people believe outrage sparked by the public caused the United States Mint to produce a second type of coin

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with lady liberty's chest covered by a coat of chain mail. Another theory is that the United States was preparing for entrance into World War I in 1917 and the coat of chain mail was added to indicate that Lady Liberty was ready for battle. Circulated examples of this coin are affordable for even the beginning collector. Uncirculated examples can easily be obtained by an intermediate coin collector.

1932-D Washington Quarter

The Washington quarter first produced in 1932 and was intended to be a one-year commemorative coin to commemorate the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth. Due to the Great Depression, no Washington quarters were produced in 1933. However, the issue proved to be so popular that the design was permanently adopted in 1934 and is still in use to this date. The 1932-S Washington quarter has a lower mintage than the 1932-D but more of them were saved and are readily available and higher grades. The 1932-D quarter is scarce and will prove to be a better addition to your coin collection and most probably will appreciate in value better than the San Francisco issue.

1908 St. Gaudens Arabic Numerals No Motto

The Saint-Gaudens \$20 gold coin was first minted in 1907. The first coins were made in ultra-high relief but proved too difficult to strike properly and

did not stack neatly for bankers. The relief was lowered in 1908 and coins were readily made for production. Most numismatists agree that the Saint-Gaudens \$20 gold coins the most beautiful coin ever made by the United States mint. Originally, the motto "IN GOD WE TRUST" was not included in the original design by Augustus Saint-Gaudens. The design was modified at the end of 1908 to include the motto on the reverse of the coin. This "No Motto" coin is available at a modest price considering it is a gold coin that will add value to any coin collection. Reprinted from www.thespruce.com



Give us your two cents!

Send an article to Coin Chronicles.
Joe@pargola.com

The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself.



-Benjamin Franklin

Meeting Schedule

The Trenton Numismatic Club meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
 ONE JUSTICE SAMUEL A. ALITO JR. WAY
 HAMILTON, NJ 08619-3809

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