

\$1.95

A Quick Guide to Better Date United States Coins of the 20th and 21st Century



PLEASE READ FIRST!!!

This publication is designed to be a simple guide for those who have inherited coins or have a beginning interest in coin collecting. We hope that the information contained in it's pages will assist you in determining if you have better date or rare coins. It is important to understand that there are other dates, depending upon condition that can be quite valuable. For further reading we suggest a copy of The Official Red Book, "A Guide Book of United States Coins". Also, we suggest you look at www.pcgs.com/photograde for additional assistance in determining condition. Please note coins that have been cleaned, scratched, or otherwise damaged will be worth less than coins that are problem free. Always feel free to reach out to us here at Archangel Coins.

PLEASE DO NOT CLEAN YOUR COINS
FOR ANY REASON!!!

FLYING EAGLE & INDIAN HEAD CENTS

Flying Eagle 1856-1858

Weight: 4.67grams

Copper Nickel 1859-1864

Weight: 4.67 grams

Bronze 1864-1909

Weight: 3.11 grams

Diameter: 19mm

1856-1909



Mint Mark

1856
1861
1864 with L
1866
1867

1868
1869
1869/69
1870
1871

1876
1877
1878
1908 S
1909 S



GOOD



VERY FINE



UNCIRCULATED

Lincoln Cents

Weight: 3.11 grams

Diameter: 19mm

1909-1958



Mint Mark



1909 with V.D.B

Lincoln Cents Continued

1909-1958

1909 S
1909 S VDB

1910 S

1911 S

1912 S

1914 D

1914 S

1922 No D

1924 D

1931 S

1943 Copper

1955 Double Die

1943 steel cents weigh 2.70 grams (these are relatively common) and will stick to a magnet. Counterfeits, in which the date has been altered from another year exist.

1955 Double Die

Error



GOOD



VERY FINE



UNCIRCULATED

Liberty Head / V - Nickels

Weight: 5 grams

Diameter: 21.2 mm

1883-1913



No Cents Reverse



With Cents Reverse



Mint Mark

Liberty Head / V - Nickels Continued

1883-1913

1883 With Cents

1885

1888

1884

1886

1912 S

The 1913 is extremely rare, only 5 examples are known to exist. This coin has a notorious history of being heavily counterfeited. For an example to be accepted as genuine it would need to be authenticated by one of the grading services.



GOOD



VERY FINE



UNCIRCULATED

Buffalo / Indian Head Nickels

Weight: 5 grams

1913-1938

Diameter: 21.2 mm



Type 1 Reverse



Mint Mark

Type 2 Reverse

1913 S Type 1

1915 D

1924 S

1913 D Type 2

1915 S

1926 S

1913 S Type 2

1917 D

1936 D 3 1/2 Leg

1914 D

1917 S

1937 D 3 Leg

1914 S

1921 S

The difference in value between coins with partial dates and strong full dates can be significant.

Buffalo / Indian Head Nickels Continued

1913-1938



1936 D 3 1/2 Leg



1937 D 3 Leg

The two varieties shown above are heavily counterfeited. Some counterfeits are created by altering normal 1936 D and 1937 D nickels, others are later reproductions.

When purchasing an example it is best to buy a graded one.



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UNCIRCULATED

Jefferson Nickels

1938– Present

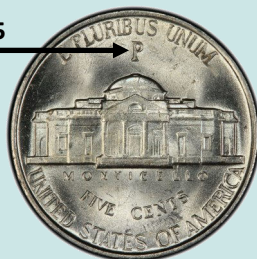
Weight: 5 grams

Diameter: 21.2 mm



Mint Mark 1938– 1966

Mint Mark 1942-1945



1942 P

1943 S

1945 P

1942 S

1944 P

1945 D

1943 P

1944 D

1945 S

1943 D

1944 S

1950 D

*1942-1945 Nickels are made of 56% copper, 35% silver, & 9% manganese

All other years are made of 75% copper & 25% nickel

Barber Dimes

Weight: 2.50

Diameter: 17.9 mm

1892-1916



Mint Mark

1892 S

1895 O

1901 S

1893 O

1895 S

1903 S

1894 O

1896 O

1904 S

1894 S

1896 S

1913 S

1895

1897 O

1894 S Barber Dimes are heavily counterfeited. Only 24 were struck. Genuine examples would need to be certified by one of the grading services.



GOOD



VERY FINE



UNCIRCULATED

Mercury Dimes

Weight: 2.50

Diameter: 17.9 mm

1916-1945



Mint Mark

1916 D

1921

1921 D

1942/41 Overdate

This overdate is known on both Philadelphia and Denver coins. The Philadelphia is much more dramatic and pictured to the right.



Mercury Dimes Continued

1916-1945

1916 D and both 1942/41 dimes are heavily counterfeited.



GOOD



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UNCIRCULATED

Roosevelt Dimes

1946 - 1964

Weight: 2.50

Diameter: 17.9 mm

Mint Mark



This series does not have any particularly better dates. However all Roosevelt dimes made from 1946-1964 are 90% Silver. Condition is not generally important as their value is based on the price of silver.

Dimes dated after 1964 are usually only worth their face value.

Barber Quarters

1892 - 1916

Weight: 6.25

Diameter: 24.3 mm

Composition: 90% silver, 10% copper

Mint Mark



1892 S

1896 O

1896 S

1897 S

1897 O

1901 O

1901 S

1904 O

1905

1905 O

1905 S

1908 S

1909 O

1913 S

1914 S

Barber Quarters Continued

1892-1916

1896 S, 1901 S, and 1913 S quarters are heavily counterfeited.



GOOD



VERY FINE



UNCIRCULATED

Standing Liberty Quarters

1916 - 1930

Weight: 6.25

Diameter: 24.3 mm

Composition: 90% silver, 10% copper

Mint Mark



1916
1917 Type 1 and 2

1917 D Type 1 and 2
1917 S Type 1 and 2
1918/7 S

1923 S
1927 S



Type 1
No Stars



Type 2
With Stars



GOOD



VERY FINE



UNCIRCULATED

Washington Quarters

Weight: 6.25 g

Diameter: 24.3 mm

Composition: 90% silver, 10% copper

1932 - 1964



Mint Mark

1932 D

1932 S

All other dates 1932 - 1964 are common in heavily circulated grades. Their value is based on the price of silver.

Coins after 1964 are generally only worth their face value.



GOOD



VERY FINE



UNCIRCULATED

Barber Half Dollars

Weight: 12.5 gr.

Diameter: 30.6 mm

Composition: 90% silver, 10% copper

1892 - 1915



Mint Mark

1892 O

1896 O

1904 S

1892 S

1896 S

1913

1893 S

1897 O

1914

1895 O

1897 S

1915



GOOD



VERY FINE



UNCIRCULATED

Walking Liberty Half Dollars

Weight: 12.5 gr.

1916 - 1947

Diameter: 30.6 mm

Composition: 90% silver, 10% copper

Mint Mark



1916

1916 S

1921 S

1916 D

1921

1938 D

1921 D



GOOD



VERY FINE



UNCIRCULATED

Franklin Half Dollars

Weight: 12.5 gr.

1948 - 1963

Diameter: 30.6 mm

Composition: 90% silver, 10% copper

Mint Mark



This series has no significantly better dates in circulated grades. Their value is primarily because they are silver.



Kennedy Half Dollars

1964 - Present



1964 Kennedy Half Dollars are 90% silver (the only year for this composition).

1965-1970 Kennedy Half Dollars are 40% silver.

1971 and later are generally only worth their face value.

1976 Bicentennial Half Dollar are usually only worth their face value.

Morgan Silver Dollars

Weight: 26.7 g

Diameter: 38.1 mm

Composition: 90% silver, 10% copper

1878 - 1921

Mint Mark



1878 8TF	1886 S	1894
1878 7/8TF	1888 S	1894 S
1878 CC	1889 CC	1895
1879 CC	1890 CC	1895 O
1880 CC	1891 CC	1895 S
1881 CC	1892 S	1896 S
1882 CC	1892 CC	1899
1883 CC	1893	1902 S
1884 CC	1893 O	1903 O
1885 S	1893 S	1903 S
1885 CC	1893 CC	1904 S

Better date Morgan Silver Dollars are heavily counterfeited, particularly 1893-1895.

1895 Morgan Silver Dollars are Proof Only, examples suspected of being genuine **MUST** be sent in for authentication by PCGS or NGC.

Dates such as 1894, 1895, and 1899 are commonly counterfeited by removing a mint mark. There should be no unusual color, scratches, or marks where the mint mark would be.



GOOD



VERY FINE



UNCIRCULATED

Peace Silver Dollars

Weight: 26.7 g

Diameter: 38.1 mm

Composition: 90% silver, 10% copper

1921 - 1935

Mint Mark



1921



GOOD

1928



VERY FINE

1934 S



UNCIRCULATED

Other Dollar Coins



Eisenhower Dollars 1971-1978

Susan B. Anthony Dollars 1979 - 1999



Sacagawea/ Native American Golden Dollars 2000– Present

Presidential Dollars 2007 - 2016



These coins are only worth their face value. The only exception being Eisenhower dollars that were sold in blue envelopes, brown boxes, or special proof/ mint sets. These were sold to collectors for a premium over their face value. They are easily recognizable by the lack of a copper streak on the coins' edge.

Final Thoughts to Consider:

There is a great deal of information out there; particularly on the internet. When investigating the value of an item please keep in mind that “asking prices” are not the same as “sold prices”. Coins are like cars, date and condition are determining factors in value and it is important to avoid comparing apples and oranges.

If you have coins for sale, we would advise that you seek help at a coin store (not a pawn shop or jewelry store), you do not allow the coins to be removed from your sight, and always consider getting a second opinion.

TV shows and newspaper ads selling coins generally are not good deals. These types of ads usually sell low value items at huge markups or even copies of coins that are basically worthless.

The local coin club and coin shows can also serve as great places to learn more about coins. Information for the Las Vegas Coin Club can be found at lasvegascoinclub.com.

We hope that you have found this publication helpful and please remember to contact us if we can assist you further.

Tools of the Trade

- 1) 10X jeweler's loupe**
- 2) A Digital scale**
- 3) A rare earth magnet**

Helpful terms:

Business Strike: A coin struck from regular, non-polished dies

Certified Coin: A Coin that has been graded/authenticated by
PCGS, NGC, or ANACS

Clad: An item that contains no precious metal or is lightly
plated with a precious metal

Error: A defective coin made at the mint

Fineness: The percentage of precious metal in a coin

Junk Silver: Common date silver coins worth only their metal

Mil: A term that describes the thickness of a plating (usually
sold by TV marketing companies as tributes)

Mintmark: A small letter or two that tells where it was made

Obverse: The front of the coin (usually the side with the date)

Proof: A coin struck from specially polished dies

Raw: A coin not graded/ authenticated by PCGS, NGC, ANACS

Reverse: The back of a coin

Spot price: The daily price of a precious metal (most coin
dealers use Kitco.com)

Unique: An item that there is only 1 of

Grading Services:

ANACS - anacs.com (located in Colorado)

NGC - NGCcoin.com (located in Florida)

PCGS - PCGS.com (located in California)

We would recommend NGC & PCGS

Please see their respective websites for more information.

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Archangel Coins is a family owned and operated business with combined experience of over 75 years, where you will find owner Christopher Shands and his uncle Joe Cavallaro the President of the Las Vegas Numismatic Society and recipient of the ANA Presidential Award. They carry a large selection of US, foreign and ancient coins along with gold and silver bullion. They also have a fine selection of antiques, specializing in Civil War artifacts, Native American items, historical memorabilia, vintage photography and other items. Archangel Coins exhibits at all local coin shows. The store is located at 594 S. Decatur Blvd, in the Charleston Heights shopping center, next to Arizona Charlie's Hotel and Casino. They are very happy to share their knowledge with the public and never charge for information.