

[illegible]

## By Archangel Coins



# INTRODUCTION

This publication is designed to be a simple guide for US coins from the late 19th century to today, for those who inherited coins or have a beginning interest in coin collecting. We hope the following information will assist you in determining if you have better dates or rare coins. It's important to note that dates not mentioned in the booklet can still hold a high value, depending upon the condition.

For further information on rarity and grading, we suggest looking at The Official Red Book, "A Guide to United States Coins," and referring to [www.pcgs.com/photograde](http://www.pcgs.com/photograde).

Please note that coins that were cleaned, scratched, or damaged will be worth less than ones that are problem free. Always feel free to reach out to Archangel Coins if you have any questions.

**Please DO NOT Clean Coins For Any Reason**

## MINT MARK GUIDE

**P** (or no mint mark) : Philadelphia

**D**: Denver

**O**: New Orleans

**S**: San Francisco

**CC**: Carson City

**W**: West Point

# FLYING EAGLE & INDIAN HEAD CENTS

1856 - 1909

## Flying Eagle Cent



1856 - 1858

Weight: 4.67 grams

Diameter: 19mm

*Better Date: 1856*

## Indian Head Cent

Copper Nickel: 1859 - 1864

Weight: 4.67 grams

Bronze: 1864 - 1909

Weight: 4.67 grams

Diameter: 19mm



Mint Mark

*Better Dates:*

1861  
1864 with L  
1866  
1867  
1868

1869  
1869/69  
1870  
1871  
1876

1877  
1878  
1908 S  
1909 S



Good



Very Fine



Uncirculated



# LINCOLN WHEAT CENTS

1909 - 1958

Weight: 3.11 grams

Diameter: 19mm



Mint Mark

1909 with V.D.B.



Better Dates:

1909 S	1912 S	1924 D
1909 S VDB	1914 D	1931 S
1910 S	1914 S	1943 Copper
1911 S	1922 No D	1955 Double Die



1943 Steel Cents are very common. They weigh 2.7 grams and will stick to a magnet. Counterfeits where the date has been altered to another year exist.

**1955 Doubled Die Error**



Good



Very Fine



Uncirculated

# SHIELD & LIBERTY "V" NICKELS

1866 - 1913

**Shield Nickels**

1866-1883

Weight: 5 grams Diameter: 21.2mm

Better Dates:

1871	1880
1879	1881



**Liberty Head "V" Nickels**

1883-1913 Weight: 5 grams Diameter: 21.2mm



No Cents Reverse



With Cents Reverse



Mint Mark

Better Dates:

1883 With Cents	1885	1888
1884	1886	1912 S

\*The 1913 V Nickel is extremely rare, only 5 examples are known to exist. The coin has a notorious history of being heavily counterfeited. For an example to be proven as genuine, it needs to be certified by one of the grading services.



Good



Very Fine



Uncirculated



# BUFFALO NICKELS

1913 - 1938

Weight: 5 grams  
Diameter: 21.2mm



Type 1 Reverse



Type 2 Reverse

Mint Mark

**Better Dates:**

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	

Coins with partial dates compared to strong full dates can have significant price differences. Beware of counterfeits of the two varieties below.



1936 D 3 1/2 Leg



1937 D 3 Leg



Good



Very Fine



Uncirculated

# JEFFERSON NICKELS

1938 - Present

Weight: 5 grams  
Diameter: 21.2mm



Mint Mark  
War Nickels

Mint Mark  
1938 - 1966



**Better Dates:**

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 (known as War Nickels) are composed of 35% Silver

# BARBER DIMES

1892 - 1916

Weight: 2.5 grams Diameter: 17.9mm Composition: 90% Silver 10% Copper

**Better Dates:**

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 is extremely rare, only 24 were struck. Be wary of counterfeits.



Mint Mark



Good



Very Fine



Uncirculated



# MERCURY DIMES

1916 - 1945

Weight: 2.5 grams Diameter: 17.9mm Composition: 90% Silver 10% Copper



Mint Mark

## 1942/41 Overdate

This overdate is known on both Philadelphia & Denver coins, with the former being more dramatic, pictured to the right.



## Better Dates:

1916 D

1921

1921 D



Good



Very Fine



Uncirculated

# ROOSEVELT DIMES

1946 - 1964

Weight: 2.5 grams Diameter: 17.9mm Composition: 90% Silver 10% Copper

There aren't any particularly better dates, but all Roosevelt dimes from 1946-64 have silver value. Condition isn't generally important since the value is based on the price of silver.



Mint Mark

\*Dimes made after 1964 are not silver and are usually only worth face value

# BARBER QUARTERS

1892 - 1916

Weight: 6.25 grams Diameter: 24.3mm Composition: 90% Silver 10% Copper

## Better Dates:

1892 S	1901 S	1909 O
1896 O	1904 O	1911 D
1896 S	1905	1913 S
1897 S	1905 O	1914 S
1901 O	1905 S	



Mint Mark

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



Good



Very Fine



Uncirculated

# STANDING LIBERTY QUARTERS

1916 - 1930

Weight: 6.25 grams Diameter: 24.3mm Composition: 90% Silver 10% Copper



Type 1 No Stars



Type 2 With Stars



1918/7 S



Mint Mark

## Better Dates:

1916	1917 D Type 1 & 2	1923 S
1917 Type 1 & 2	1917 S Type 1 & 2	1927 S



Good



Very Fine



Uncirculated



# WASHINGTON QUARTERS

1932 - 1964

Weight: 6.25 grams Diameter: 24.3mm Composition: 90% Silver 10% Copper

## Better Dates:

1932 D

1932 S

All other dates from 1932-1964 are common in circulated grades, with their value based on the price of silver



Mint Mark

\*Quarters after 1964 have no silver and are generally worth face value



Good



Very Fine



Uncirculated

# BARBER HALF DOLLARS

1892 - 1916

Weight: 12.5 grams Diameter: 30.6mm Composition: 90% Silver 10% Copper

## Better Dates:

1892 O

1896 O

1904 S

1892 S

1896 S

1913

1893 S

1897 O

1914

1895 O

1897 S

1915



Mint Mark



Good



Very Fine



Uncirculated

# WALKING LIBERTY HALF DOLLARS

1916 - 1947

Weight: 12.5 grams Diameter: 30.6mm Composition: 90% Silver 10% Copper

## Better Dates:

1916

1921

1916 D

1921 D

1938 D

1916 S

1921 S



Mint Mark



Good



Very Fine



Uncirculated

# FRANKLIN HALF DOLLARS

1948 - 1963

Weight: 12.5 grams Diameter: 30.6mm Composition: 90% Silver 10% Copper



Mint Mark

There are no significantly better dates in circulated grades. Their value is primarily based on the price of silver

# KENNEDY HALF DOLLARS

1964 - Present

The 1964 Kennedy is **90% Silver** (only year of this composition)

Kennedy Halves from 1965-1970 are **40% silver**

Ones from 1971 and later are not silver and are generally only worth face value, including the 1976 Bicentennial





# MORGAN SILVER DOLLARS

1878 - 1921

Weight: 26.7 grams Diameter: 38.1mm Composition: 90% Silver 10% Copper



Carson City  
Mint Mark



*Better Dates:*

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 Morgans are heavily counterfeited, particularly 1893-1895. One common way is by removing the mint mark, so make sure there's no unusual color, scratches, or marks in the mint mark area.*

*1895 Morgans are Proof only, so examples MUST be authenticated by a grading service.*



Good



Very Fine



Uncirculated

# PEACE SILVER DOLLARS

1921 - 1935

Weight: 26.7 grams Diameter: 38.1mm Composition: 90% Silver 10% Copper

*Better Dates:*

1921

1928

1934 S



Mint Mark



Good



Very Fine



Uncirculated

## OTHER DOLLAR COINS



**Eisenhower Dollar**

1971 - 1978



**Susan B Anthony Dollar**

1979 - 1999



**Sakagawea Dollar**

2000 - Present



**Presidential Dollar**

2007 - 2016

*These coins are only worth their face value. The only exception is 40% silver Eisenhower dollars that were sold for a premium in blue envelopes, brown boxes and special proof/mint sets. They are recognizable by the lack of copper on the coin's edge.*



# FINAL THOUGHTS TO COINSIDER

There's a great deal of information out there, especially on the internet, about coins. To summarize, the coin market is like the car market. Many factors like date, condition and demand contribute to how much something is worth. When determining value, keep in mind that "asking prices" aren't the same as "sold prices."

If you have coins for sale, we would advise getting a second opinion or seeking help at a reputable coin shop (not a pawn shop or jewelry store). If you are interested in buying, try to avoid sources that are untrustworthy or have huge markups.

The local coin club and coin shows can also serve as great places to learn more about coins. Information about the Las Vegas Numismatic Society can be found at [lasvegascoinclub.com](http://lasvegascoinclub.com).

# GLOSSARY

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

**Certified Coin:** A coin that has been graded/authenticated by a grading service (PCGS, NGC or ANACS)

**Clad:** A coin that contains no precious metals or is only plated with a precious metal

**Error:** Defective coin made at the mint

**Fineness:** The percentage of precious metal in a coin

**Junk Silver:** Common date silver coins only worth their metal

**Melt Value:** The value of the metals the coin is made of

**Mil:** Term that describes the thickness of a plating

**Mint Mark:** Small letter or two that shows where the coin was made (see page 1 for mint mark guide)

**Numismatist:** Term for a professional in coin collecting

**Obverse:** The front of a coin (aka heads)

**Proof:** A coin struck from specially polished dies (certified proofs are graded as "PF/PR" instead of "MS")

**Raw Coin:** A coin that has not been certified by a grading service (PCGS, NGC or ANACS)

**Reverse:** The back of a coin (aka tails)

**Spot Price:** The daily price of a precious metal (most coin dealers use [kitco.com](http://kitco.com))

**We hope you found this booklet helpful.  
Please contact us if you need further assistance.**

## GRADING

*Coins are graded on a scale from 1-70*

**PO** Poor: 1

**FR** Fair: 2

**AG** About Good: 3

**G** Good: 4 - 6

**VG** Very Good: 8 - 10

**F** Fine: 12 - 15

**VF** Very Fine: 20 - 35

**XF** Extra Fine: 40 - 45

**AU** About Uncirculated: 50 - 58

**MS** Mint State: 60 - 70

## COIN GRADING SERVICES

**PCGS:** [PCGS.com](http://PCGS.com) (located in California)

**NGC:** [NGCcoin.com](http://NGCcoin.com) (located in Florida)

**ANACS:** [anacs.com](http://anacs.com) (located in Colorado)

*We would recommend PCGS & NGC*

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE:

10X Jeweler's Loupe, Digital Scale, Rare Earth Magnet



# *Archangel Coins*



**VOTED "BEST OF LAS VEGAS"**  
**BY REVIEW JOURNAL READERS**

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**Archangel Coins** is a family owned and operated business with over 75 years of combined experience. You'll find owner Christopher Shands and his uncle Joe Cavallaro, president of the Las Vegas Numismatic Society and recipient of the ANA President 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 vintage photography, Civil War artifacts, Native American items, and other historical memorabilia. The shop is located in the Charleston Heights Shopping Center, near Arizona Charlie's casino. They are very happy to share any information for free.