## LITTLETON'S Collectors Guide to U.S. TYPE COINS



## Collector Clubs from Littleton Coin Company

Hold an early copper or silver coin in your hand and travel back to colonial times, when news was by word of mouth or a newspaper printed once a week. U.S. type coins bring history to life and tell the tale of America's past in a way that few collectibles can.


Inspecting the first U.S. coins

## Dear Collector,

Hold a Liberty Cap half cent in your hand and travel back to colonial times. A silver 3¢ piece recalls the Civil War, while the Peace dollar echoes the glitz and glamour of the Roaring Twenties.

Genuine U.S. coins not only blaze a path through America's history, but they tell the
 country's story in a way that few other artifacts can. Why? Since our nation's beginnings, George Washington, Thomas Edison, our grandparents, parents, and even you today, have used coins.

Although collecting by date and mint mark is the most popular way to build a collection, forming a type set is another favorite of collectors because it is more affordable. Building a U.S. type set became popular in the 1960s, and collecting this way lets you enjoy a wide range of coin designs that cut a broad path through American history.

## Have a plan for your collection

It's always good to have a plan and focus for what you want to collect. Although there are many ways, building a type collection is considered by many to be the most individualized. That's because there are no "strict" rules; the grade, composition, design and date collected are as individual as you are. Some build a U.S. silver dollar type set, others a gold type set, and still others a comprehensive set of every design for every series of U.S. coinage. The anticipation of waiting to fill the next space in your album becomes proud satisfaction as you locate your coins.

Whatever your level of interest or experience, I hope you'll find this collectors club booklet on U.S. Type Coins an interesting, useful, and educational guide to our nation's coinage.

Sincerely,


David M. Sundman
President

## INTRODUCTION TO Type Coin Collecting

A U.S. type coin set offers collectors an opportunity to show their individuality. Ultimately, this set should be fun and rewarding to build. But what exactly is a type set? This set should contain one coin of every major design and metallic composition within a series. It is arranged by denomination design, in order of issue. For instance, the Lincoln cent has four major design types: the Wheat Ears, Memorial, and Union Shield reverses, as well as the four 2009 anniversary designs. Plus, the series saw a significant metal change in 1943 to steel. Depending on the depth and variety a collector wants to include, each type set can vary quite a bit, so the 1909 V.D.B. could be included as well as the coins without the initials.

This booklet will give you helpful information every collector needs. But beyond a few basics, type coin collecting is almost limitless in its variety. As your knowledge increases, you'll find your own favorite coins and ways to build a collection as unique as your imagination!

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From the cobbled streets of old Boston and Philadelphia to the paved highways that crisscross our nation today, U.S. coins trace the footsteps of the men and women who came before us and helped to build America. Hold a U.S. type coin and look at the design and date, each reflecting its era of issue. The elegant Draped Bust coins recall the days of colonial America; the beautiful Standing Liberty and Liberty Walking designs speak of the glamour of the Roaring Twenties, while the Statehood quarters combine a blend of both modern and older design themes.

## Half Cents 1793-1857

The smallest denomination U.S. coin, yet nearly the size of a modern quarter. Made of pure copper, the half cent was useful for making change during its early years of issue. But as time passed and things grew more expensive, the half cent lost its usefulness, and was abandoned shortly before the Civil War. Today, all half cents are scarce. All types carry a bust of Liberty on the obverse and a wreath on the reverse.


Liberty Cap (Left Facing) 1793
Composition: copper Weight: 6.74 grams Diameter: approx. 22 mm

Mint: Philadelphia


Liberty Cap (Right Facing) 1794-1797
Composition: copper
Weight: 6.74 grams 1794
5.44 grams 1795-1797 (thin planchets) Diameter: approx. 23.5 mm Mint: Philadelphia


DRAPED BUST 1800-1808
Composition: copper Weight: 5.44 grams Diameter: 23.5 mm Mints: Philadelphia


Classic Head 1809-1836
Composition: copper Weight: 5.44 grams Diameter: 23.5 mm Mints: Philadelphia


Braided Hair
1840-1857
Composition: copper
Weight: 5.44 grams
Diameter: 23 mm
Mints: Philadelphia

## FOCUS ON LIBERTY



1775 Battle of Bunker Hill

1781 British surrender at Yorktown


1787 Constitutional Convention
1788 Constitution ratified


## LARGE CENTS 1793-1857

Along with the half cent, one of the first two coins struck by the United States, all the large cents were coined at the Philadelphia Mint. With twice the copper of the half cent, they were large and heavy - greater in size than today's quarter - so a pocketful was quite bulky. As the price of copper rose during the 1800s, the large cent became too expensive to produce and was replaced in 1857 by the small cent.


Flowing Hair
(Chain Reverse \& Wreath Reverse)

Weight: 13.48 grams
Diameter: approx. $26-28 \mathrm{~mm}$
Mints: Philadelphia

## FOCUS ON LIBERTY

1800 U.S. capital now in Washington, D.C.


1805 Lewis and Clark sight Pacific

## 1806 Zebulon Pike explores

Arkansas River, and later climbs the peak that comes to bear his name.

## Small Cents 1856-DATE

America's first small cent, the Flying Eagle, was introduced in 1856. It was nicknamed the "white cent" because of its $88 \%$ copper and $12 \%$ nickel composition. It was replaced just 3 years later by the Indian Head cent, which is considered by many to be the most beautiful copper coin. In 1909, the Lincoln cent became America's first circulating coin to portray a president. To mark the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, and the series' centennial, in 2009 four new reverse designs were introduced honoring Abraham Lincoln's life. Then, in 2010, the ongoing Shield reverse debuted.


Flying Eagle 1856-1858
Composition: copper-nickel
Weight: 4.67 grams
Diameter: 19 mm Mints: Philadelphia


Indian Head 1859-1909
Diameter: 19 mm Mints: Philadelphia, San Francisco Copper-Nickel
Date: 1859-1864
Weight: 4.67 grams

## Bronze

Date: 1864-1909
Weight: 3.11 grams

## 2009 Bicentennial Reverse Designs

Issued in 3 month intervals


Birthplace in Kentucky: released February 12, 2009 on Abraham Lincoln's birthday


Professional life: the lawyer and representative stands before the Illinois capitol


Formative years in Indiana: Abe takes a break from rail splitting to read and learn


Presidency in Washington: depicts the U.S. Capitol dome built during the Civil War.

Note: special collector versions of the 2009 cents were struck in the original Lincoln cent composition of 95\% copper, 5\% tin and zinc.


## LINCOLN 1909-Date

## Diameter: 19 mm

Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco Bronze
Date: 1909-1982
Weight: 3.11 grams Zinc-Coated Steel (Wartime Steel cent)
Date: 1943
Weight: 2.7 grams Copper-Plated Zinc
Date: 1982-Date
Weight: 2.5 grams


## Two-Cent Pieces 1864-1873



Two-Cent Piece
1864-1873
Composition: bronze
Weight: 6.22 grams
Diameter: 23 mm
Mints: Philadelphia

The 1864 Coin Act called for a $2 \$$ copper coin. This Civil War-era coin was America's first and only $2 \Phi$ piece. It was the first coin to carry the motto IN GOD WE TRUST. This "odd" denomination coin was 58 years in the making. First proposed in 1806, it was not actually needed until the coinage shortage of the Civil War pushed it into production.

## FOCUS ON LIBERTY

1860 South Carolina secedes from Union


1861 Fort Sumter fired upon, Lincoln declares war


1862 Gun with rotating barrel patented by Dr. Richard Jordan Gatling

1862 Fierce clash in Battle of Shiloh

## 1863

Gen. Robert E. Lee wins his greatest victory at Chancellorsville


1863
South splits when Grant wins Vicksburg


1863 Lincoln delivers Gettysburg address


1864 USS Sassacus battles Confederate ironclad CSS Albemarle

Over 600,000 Americans killed in Civil War

## Three-Cent Pieces 1851-1889



## Silver <br> Three-Cent Piece 1851-1873

Composition: 75\% silver 1851-1853 $90 \%$ silver 1854-1873
Weight: . 80 grams 1851-1853 .75 grams 1854-1873
Diameter: 14 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, New Orleans

The silver 3\& piece is the smallest of all U.S. silver coins. Because it was struck in silver, the public hoarded it along with other coins when the Civil War broke out. Since the $3 \$$ pieces were needed to ease the coin shortage caused by war, the U.S. Mint decided to strike them in copper-nickel.


Nickel
Three-Cent Piece 1865-1889
Composition: copper-nickel Weight: 1.94 grams Diameter: 17.9 mm Mints: Philadelphia

The $3 ¢$ nickel, so called because of its copper-nickel composition, was well received by the public. This coin helped the nation retire the unpopular $3 \$$ paper notes issued during the Civil War. Once the majority of notes had been exchanged for $3 \$$ coins, and production of $5 \$$ nickels and cents increased, the banks needed fewer $3 \Phi$ pieces.


## NICKELS 1866-DATE

Beginning in 1866, a $5 \$$ coin of non-precious metal was created. The Shield nickel was the nation's first copper-nickel $5 ¢$ coin; prior to this, the first U.S. 5\$ coin, the half dime, was silver. In 1883, the Liberty Head or "V" nickel began, followed by the extremely popular Buffalo nickel of the early 20th century, and then by the long-running and current Jefferson nickel.


## FOCUS ON LIBERTY

First woman's vote cast 1870 (Wyoming)


1898 Spanish-American War begins when the USS Maine is destroyed by explosion


## JEFFERSON

1938-DATE
Composition: copper-nickel 35\% silver 1942-1945
Weight: 5 grams
Diameter: 21.2 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco


Keelboat
Reverse
2004


Ocean in View Reverse 2005


Peace Medal Reverse 2004


American Bison Reverse
2005


Monticello Reverse 2006-Date


1895 Bicycle sales and women's hemlines rise


1904
Ice cream cone introduced at St. Louis World's Fair

1906 San Francisco devastated by earthquake

1910 U.S. population reaches 92 million; less than half have completed high school

## FOCUS ON LIBERTY

1912 Arizona and New Mexico become 47th and 48th states

## Half Dimes 1794-1873

Minted in fine silver, the famous half dime was the nation's first $5 \$$ coin. It was smaller and weighed less than a nickel. Several design types were issued long before the U.S. nickel denomination began. From 1866-1873, both the half dime and nickel were struck. The half dime played an integral role in the early life of America, and is of great historic and numismatic importance.


Flowing Hair
1794-1795
Composition: $89 \%$ silver
Weight: 1.35 grams
Diameter: 16.5 mm
Mints: Philadelphia


## DRAPED BUST

1796-1805
Composition: $89 \%$ silver
Weight: 1.35 grams
Diameter: 16.5 mm
Mints: Philadelphia


Capped Bust
1829-1837
Composition: $89 \%$ silver
Weight: 1.35 grams
Diameter: 15.5 mm
Mints: Philadelphia


Liberty Seated
1837-1873
Composition: $90 \%$ silver
Weight: 1.34 grams 1837-1853
1.24 grams 1853-1873

Diameter: 15.5 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, New Orleans, San Francisco

## DIMES 1796-DATE

The 10\$ coin, or dime, follows closely the designs of the half dime through the Liberty Seated type. All circulating dimes were minted in fine silver until 1964. Early dimes in higher grades are scarce and expensive, since this denomination was used extensively compared to quarters and halves. But many early issues are still available in circulated condition at a more reasonable cost.


DRAPED BUST
1796-1807
Composition: $89 \%$ silver
Weight: 2.7 grams
Diameter: 19 mm
Mints: Philadelphia


CAPPED BUST
1809-1837
Composition: $89 \%$ silver
Weight: 2.7 grams
Diameter: 18.8 mm
Mints: Philadelphia


Liberty SEATED
1837-1891
Composition: $90 \%$ silver
Weight: 2.67 grams 1837-1853
2.49 grams 1853-1873
2.50 grams 1873-1891

Diameter: 17.9 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, New Orleans, San Francisco, Carson City

## BARBER 1892-1916

Composition: $90 \%$ silver Weight: 2.5 grams

## Diameter: 17.9 mm



Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, New Orleans, San Francisco

## MERCURY

1916-1945
Composition: $90 \%$ silver
Weight: 2.5 grams
Diameter: 17.9 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

## Roosevelt

 1946-DATEDiameter: 17.9 mm
Mints: Philadelphia,
Denver,


West Point
90\% Silver
Date: 1946-1964
Weight: 2.5 grams
Clad
Date: 1965-Date
Weight: 2.27 grams


## Twenty-Cent Pieces 1875-1878

The shortest-lived coin denomination in U.S. history! The twenty-cent piece, minted in 90\% fine silver, was struck for circulation only in 1875 and 1876. A few hundred Proofs were coined in 1877-1878. Soon after the coin's appearance, people complained that it was too close in design and size to the quarter - causing problems in making change. Fewer than 1.4 million were minted, so the twenty-cent piece is a scarce and treasured item today!

Twenty-Cent Piece 1875-1878
Composition: $90 \%$ silver Weight: 5 grams
Diameter: 22 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Carson City, San Francisco


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## QUARTERS 1796-DATE

Because of the practice of cutting up the Mexican 8 Reales coin into eight parts, thus the "Pieces of Eight" name, the U.S. quarter, as $1 / 4$ of a dollar, became known as "two bits." As a silver coin of substantial size until 1964, the quarter has always been popular - both in circulation and among collectors. A variety of quarter designs has been minted since 1796, and many collectors try to assemble at least one coin of each type, shown here.


## QUARTERS continued...

On December 1, 1997, the 50 State Quarters Program was born. This program honored every state in the Union with a different commemorative quarter showing Washington on the obverse and a design unique to the issuing state on the reverse. The quarters were issued from 1999-2008 at the rate of about one every 10 weeks, in the order that each state joined the Union or ratified the Constitution. Then, in 2009, six designs were issued under a new one-yearonly program honoring the District of Columbia and five U.S. Territories.


## WASHINGTON

1932-1998
Diameter: 24.3 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco 90\% Silver
Date: 1932-1964
Weight: 6.25 grams
Clad
Date: 1965-1998
Weight: 5.67 grams



STATEHOOD, D.C. \& U.S. Territories 1999-2009
Composition: clad Weight: 5.67 grams Diameter: 24.3 mm

Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco


National Park 2010-2021
Composition: clad Weight: 5.67 grams Diameter: 24.3 mm Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco


## American Life



1931 World's then tallest building, the Empire State, constructed


1934 Dust bowl throughout the Midwest

1937 Joe Louis takes heavyweight boxing crown

Release Dates for The Statehood, D.C. \& U.S. Territories Quarter Programs


1999


Pennsylvania .......... 1787
New Jersey ............ 1787
Georgia .................. 1788
Connecticut............ 1788
2000
Massachusetts ...... 1788 Maryland................ 1788 South Carolina........ 1788 New Hampshire ...... 1788
Virginia .................. 1788

## 2001

New York................ 1788
North Carolina........ 1789
Rhode Island .......... 1790
Vermont ................ 1791
Kentucky ..................... 1792

## 2002

Tennessee .............. 1796
Ohio ....................... 1803

Louisiana .............. 1812
Indiana .................. 1816
Mississippi ........... 1817
2003
Illinois ..................... 1818
Alabama .............. 1819
Maine .............. 1820
Missouri ............ 1821
Arkansas ............. 1836

2004
Michigan ................ 1837
Florida.................... 1845
Texas .................... 1845
Iowa ...................... 1846

Wisconsin ................. 1848
2005
California................ 1850
Minnesota .............. 1858
Oregon .................. 1859
Kansas ...................... 1861
West Virginia .......... 1863

## 2006

Nevada .................. 1864
Nebraska................ 1867
Colorado ................ 1876
North Dakota.......... 1889
South Dakota.......... 1889

2007
Montana ................. 1889
Washington ............ 1889
Idaho...................... 1890
Wyoming................ 1890
Utah ...................... 1896
2008
Oklahoma .............. 1907
New Mexico .......... 1912
Arizona .................. 1912
Alaska .................... 1959
Hawaii.................... 1959
2009
District of Columbia
............................ 1800
uerto Rico ............ 1898
Guam .................... 1898 American Samoa.... 1900 The U.S. Virgin
Islands .... 1917
The Northern
Mariana Islands ...... 1947

## QUARTERS continued...

Following the immense popularity of the Statehood, D.C. and U.S. Territories quarters, the America's National Park quarter series debuted in 2010. Scheduled to end in 2021, this coin series honors a national park or historic site in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the $5 \mathrm{U} . \mathrm{S}$. Territories. Five new designs are issued per year, in the order the parks and sites were established as federally protected areas.


## Half Dollars 1794-Date

Though the half dollar is almost forgotten today, it was once the major silver coin of circulation. At one time, a half dollar was often more than a person made in a day's labor. To have one, or perhaps two, was a significant stash of money. Because the half dollar is used less and less today, it will only grow in popularity with collectors.


## Half DOllars continued...

## American Life

By 1895, over 300 automobiles
have been sold in the U.S.

1903 First Model A sells for $\$ 850$


1908 Henry Ford builds the Model T


1927 Charles Lindbergh crosses the Atlantic


1937 Germany's passenger airship Hindenburg ignited as it attempted to dock in Lakehurst, NJ

During World War II, more and more women began working outside the home.


Liberty Seated
1839-1891
Composition: $90 \%$ silver
Weight: 13.36 grams 1839-1853 12.44 grams 1853-1873 12.50 grams 1873-1891

Diameter: 30.6 mm
Mints: Philadelphia,
New Orleans, San Francisco, Carson City


BARBER
1892-1915
Composition: $90 \%$ silver
Weight: 12.50 grams
Diameter: 30.6 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver,
New Orleans,
San Francisco


LIBERTY WALKING 1916-1947
Composition: $90 \%$ silver
Weight: 12.50 grams
Diameter: 30.6 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco


Franklin
1948-1963
Composition: $90 \%$ silver Weight: 12.50 grams Diameter: 30.6 mm

Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco



KENNEDY
1964-DATE
Diameter: 30.6 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco 90\% Silver
Date: 1964
Weight: 12.50 grams 40\% silver
Date: 1965-1970
Weight: 11.50 grams

## Clad

Date: 1971-Date Weight: 11.34 grams


## DOLLARS 1794-DATE

Early silver dollars represent the remarkable era in America's history when the colonies united to form what would become one of the greatest nations on earth. Since precious silver ore was scarce in that era, the dollars of that period have very low mintages. Silver dollars were not minted between 1804 and 1836, so those that still circulated were scarce and hoarded. In addition to the early dollars pictured, a number of so-called "Gobrecht" dollars were issued from 1836-1839, and served as patterns for the Liberty Seated dollar.


## Large-Size Dollars 1873-1978

The large-size U.S. dollar coins of 1873-1978 are among the most recognized of the entire series. These include Trade, Morgan and Peace silver dollars, as well as clad Eisenhower dollars. Peace dollars were the last dollar series struck for circulation in $90 \%$ silver. America's last traditional-sized dollar was the Eisenhower. This popular coin was minted in both clad and in $40 \%$ silver from 1971-1976. The silver issues were struck at the San Francisco Mint through 1976; then, the composition switched to clad for the remainder of the series.


Trade 1873-1885
Composition: $90 \%$ silver Weight: 27.22 grams Diameter: 38.1 mm Mints: Philadelphia, Carson City, San Francisco


MORGAN 1878-1921
Composition: $90 \%$ silver Weight: 26.73 grams Diameter: 38.1 mm Mints: Philadelphia, New Orleans, Carson City, Denver, San Francisco


Peace
1921-1935
Composition: $90 \%$ silver
Weight: 26.73 grams Diameter: 38.1 mm

Mints: Philadelphia,
Denver,
San Francisco

FOCUS ON LIBERTY


1965 American soldiers see combat in Vietnam


1969 Eagle lands on the moon

1986 The Iran-Contra Affair
1972 Nixon becomes first president to visit Red China

1974 Following the Watergate scandal, Nixon resigns

1989 The Berlin Wall comes down
1991 Gulf War ends

## DOLLARS continued...

## EISENHOWER

1971-1978
Diameter: 38.1 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco 40\% Silver
Date: 1971-1976
Weight: 24.59 grams
Clad
Date: 1971-1978
Weight: 22.68 grams


Eagle Reverse


Bicentennial Reverse 1776-1976

## Small-Size Dollars 1979-Date

In 1979, America's small-size Susan B. Anthony debuted. Depicting the tireless crusader for women's rights, this new dollar was $30 \%$ smaller than earlier dollar coins. Issued for just three years, then once again in 1999, this design gave way to the more modern Sacagawea "golden" dollar in 2000. Since then, all traditional U.S. dollar coins have been issued in this distinctive copper-manganese alloy. Beginning in 2007, coins debuted honoring former U.S. presidents in order of service. Sacagawea dollars shifted in 2009 to the Native American dollar series. Each coin features a one-year-only design honoring contributions to life in the U.S.

Susan B. Anthony 1979-1981, 1999
Composition: clad Weight: 8.1 grams Diameter: 26.5 mm Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco


SACAGAWEA 2000-2008
Composition: copper-manganese
Weight: 8.1 grams
Diameter: 26.5 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver,
San Francisco


Native American 2009-DATE

Composition: copper-manganese
Weight: 8.1 grams
Diameter: 26.5 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver,
San Francisco



Agriculture Reverse Woman Tending Garden 2009


Government Reverse Hiawatha Belt
2010


Diplomacy Reverse Peace Pipe
2011


Presidential and Native American dollars feature edge lettering. The original 2007-2008 issues featured the date, mint mark, and mottoes E PLURIBUS UNUM and IN GOD WE TRUST. On Presidential dollars released from 2009 on, the motto IN GOD WE TRUST moved to the obverse. Native American dollars have the same inscriptions as later Presidential coins.

Presidential 2007-DATE
Composition: copper-manganese Weight: 8.1 grams
Diameter: 26.5 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver,
San Francisco


Andrew Johnson
2011

## GOLD DOLLARS 1849-1889

From 1795 to 1933, the U.S. produced \$2.50, \$5, \$10, and later, beginning in 1850, $\$ 20$ gold coins. Because early gold pieces minted between 1795 and 1834 contain some of the rarest dates, many collectors choose to start their collections with Classic Head gold pieces. With the discovery of gold in California, new denominations were added to the U.S. gold coin roster. Minted in one of the world's most precious metals, these historic coins were designed by some of the finest artists of the day.

The discovery of gold in California in 1848 gave birth to the gold dollar. Minted from 1849-89, this denomination had three distinct designs: the Type I Liberty Head, the Type II Indian (Small Head) and the Type III Indian (Large Head).


Liberty Head \$1 Gold 1849-1854
Composition: $90 \%$ gold
Weight: 1.672 grams
Diameter: 13 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega, New Orleans, San Francisco


Indian HEAd \$1 Gold 1854-1889
Composition: $90 \%$ gold
Weight: 1.672 grams
Diameter: 15 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega, New Orleans, San Francisco
Small Head type shown above

## American Life



1859 Large silver deposit discovered at Virginia City, Nevada, called the Comstock Lode


1897 Gold lures miners to Klondike goldfields in Alaska and Canada

## QUARTER EAGLES 1796-1929

The first U.S. quarter eagles were struck in 1796. Until the advent of the gold dollar, they were the smallest denomination gold coin. It was not until 1908 that the motto IN GOD WE TRUST was added.

```
CApped Bust
$2.50 GOLD
(Left and Right Facing)
1796-1808
```

Composition: $91.67 \%$ gold
Weight: 4.37 grams
Diameter: approx. 20 mm

Capped Head \$2.50 GOLD
1821-1834
Composition: $91.67 \%$ gold
Weight: 4.37 grams
Diameter: approx. 18.5 mm


Classic Head \$2.50 Gold 1834-1839
Composition: $89.92 \%$ gold, $90 \%$ gold (1837-1839)
Weight: 4.18 grams
Diameter: 18.2 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega, New Orleans


Coronet \$2.50 Gold
1840-1907
Composition: $90 \%$ gold
Weight: 4.18 grams
Diameter: 18 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega, New Orleans, San Francisco


Indian Head \$2.50 Gold
1908-1929
Composition: $90 \%$ gold
Weight: 4.18 grams
Diameter: 18 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver

## \$3 Gold Pieces 1854-1889

The short-lived $\$ 3$ gold piece was another denomination created due to the influx of gold from California. Supposedly, this coin was created to make it easy to buy a sheet of stamps. Today, all $\$ 3$ gold coins are scarce.


Indian Head \$3 Gold
1854-1889
Composition: $90 \%$ gold
Weight: 5.015 grams
Diameter: 20.5 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Dahlonega, New Orleans, San Francisco

## Half EAGLES 1795-1929

First released in 1795, the U.S. gold half eagles have nine design types, of which 4 major ones are shown below. In 1866, the Coronet style was changed to include the motto IN GOD WE TRUST.

Capped Bust $\$ 5$ Gold Capped Bust $\$ 5$ Gold
(Right Facing)
1795-1807
(LEFT FACING)
1807-1812
Composition: $91.67 \%$ gold
Weight: 8.75 grams
Diameter: approx. 25 mm
Mints: Philadelphia


Capped Head \$5 Gold
1813-1834
Composition: $91.67 \%$ gold
Weight: 8.75 grams
Diameter: approx. 25 mm 1813-1829
23.8 mm 1829-1834

Mints: Philadelphia


Classic Head \$5 GOLD
1834-1838
Composition: $89.92 \%$ gold 1834-1837
90\% gold 1837-1838
Weight: 8.36 grams
Diameter: 22.5 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega


CORONET \$5 GOLD
1839-1908
Composition: $90 \%$ gold
Weight: 8.359 grams
Diameter: $22.5 \mathrm{~mm} 1839-1840$
$21.6 \mathrm{~mm} 1840-1908$
Mints: Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega, Carson City, Denver, New Orleans, San Francisco


Indian Head \$5 Gold
1908-1929
Composition: $90 \%$ gold
Weight: 8.359 grams
Diameter: 21.6 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, New Orleans, San Francisco

## EAGLES 1795-1933

The U.S. gold eagles were first issued in 1795, but from 1805 to 1837, this denomination wasn't issued, due to the scarcity of its precious metal. In 1866, the Coronet style was changed to include the motto.


CAPPED Bust $\$ 10$ Gold 1795-1804
Composition: $91.67 \%$ gold Weight: 17.5 grams
Diameter: approx. 33 mm
Mints: Philadelphia


Coronet \$10 Gold
1838-1907
Composition: $90 \%$ gold
Weight: 16.718 grams
Diameter: 27 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Carson City, Denver, New Orleans, San Francisco


Indian Head \$10 Gold
1907-1933
Composition: $90 \%$ gold
Weight: 16.718 grams
Diameter: 27 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

## DOUBLE EAGLES 1850-1933

With the influx of gold from California, the $\$ 20$ double eagle became the largest regularly issued U.S. coin denomination.


CORONET \$20 GOLD
1850-1907
Composition: $90 \%$ gold
Weight: 33.436 grams
Diameter: 34 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Carson City, Denver, New Orleans, San Francisco


SAINT-GAUDENS $\$ 20$ GOLD 1907-1933
Composition: $90 \%$ gold
Weight: 33.436 grams
Diameter: 34 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

## U.S. COMMEMORATIVES

Official U.S. commemorative coins are authorized by the Act of Congress to honor important persons, locations and events in U.S. history. Commemoratives have been struck in both silver and gold, and more recently, clad. They are minted only in very small numbers compared to regular coinage. After 1954, no U.S. commemoratives were produced until 1982, when the George Washington half dollar was issued to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Washington's birth. Official U.S. issues should not be confused with so-called "commemoratives" produced by private organizations, which are medals, not coins. Shown below are a few of these historic designs.



ROANOKE ISLAND, NORTH CAROLINA Half Dollar
1937


CARVER-WASHINGTON Half Dollar
1951-1954


GEORGE WASHINGTON 250TH ANNIVERSARY Half Dollar
1982


West Point Bicentennial Silver Dollar
2002


SESQUICENTENNIAL OF
American Independence
\$2.50 Gold Quarter Eagle 1926

## New Commemoratives



LEwIS AND Clark
BICENTENNIAL
Silver Dollar
2004


Founding Father

Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Silver Dollars
2006


JAMESTOWN
400TH ANNIVERSARY Silver Dollar
2007


Abraham Lincoln BICENTENNIAL Silver Dollar 2009


San Francisco
Old Mint Centennial Gold \$5
2006

## UNITED STATES BULLION

From ancient times into the later years of the 20th century, coins have been representative of their precious metal content. Beginning with U.S. gold coins in 1933, this tradition ended. Later, in 1965, with the advent of clad coins, $90 \%$ silver coins disappeared, too. It was not until 1974 that it became legal to own gold again, which helped shape collecting today.

Nowadays, no country issues gold and silver coins for circulation, but many of the world's leading nations, including the United States, issue bullion coins. In the fall of 1986, the United States Mint released the first gold American Eagles, followed by silver American Eagles in December. Just over a decade later in 1997, the U.S. Mint released the first platinum Eagles. And in 2006, the first $99.99 \%$ pure gold coins to be struck by the U.S. Mint were released. These $\$ 50$ gold Buffalo coins displayed a design reminiscent of James Earle Fraser's beloved Buffalo nickel. In 2010, the U.S. Mint also began issuing large, 3 -inch diameter collector versions of the National Park quarters, struck in 5 ounces of $99.9 \%$ pure silver.


Silver American Eagle 1986-DATE
Composition: $99.93 \%$ silver Weight: 31.101 grams Diameter: 40.6 mm

Mints: Philadelphia, San Francisco, West Point

Gold American Eagle
1986-DATE
Composition: $91.67 \%$ gold
Mints: Philadelphia, West Point

| Tenth-Ounce Gold \$5 | Weight: 3.393 grams | Diameter: 16.5 mm |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Quarter-Ounce Gold \$10 | Weight: 8.483 grams | Diameter: 22 mm |
| Half-Ounce Gold \$25 | Weight: 16.966 grams | Diameter: 27 mm |
| One-Ounce Gold \$50 | Weight: 33.931 grams | Diameter: 32.7 mm |



Platinum American Eagle 1997-DATE
Composition: $99.95 \%$ platinum
Mints: Philadelphia, West Point

| Tenth-Ounce Platinum \$10 | Weight: 0.10005 oz . | Diameter: 16.5 mm |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Quarter-Ounce Platinum $\$ \mathbf{2 5}$ | Weight: 0.2501 oz | Diameter: 22 mm |
| Half-Ounce Platinum $\$ 50$ | Weight: 0.5003 oz. | Diameter: 27 mm |
| One-Ounce Platinum $\$ 100$ | Weight: 1.0005 oz | Diameter: 32.7 mm |

## U.S. BULLION continued...



Silver America's National Park
2010-DATE
Composition: 99.9\% silver
Weight: 5 ounces
Diameter: 3 inches
Mints: Philadelphia


Gold American Buffalo
2006-DATE
Composition: $99.99 \%$ (24K) gold
Mints: West Point
Tenth-Ounce Gold \$5 Weight: 3.110 grams Quarter-Ounce Gold $\$ 10$ Weight: 7.775 grams Half-Ounce Gold \$25 Weight: 15.552 grams One Ounce Gold \$50 Weight: 31.103 grams

Diameter: 16.5 mm Diameter: 22 mm Diameter: 27 mm Diameter: 32.7 mm


Gold First Spouse
2007-DATE
Composition: $99.99 \%$ (24K) gold
Weight: $1 / 2$ ounce
Diameter: 26.5 mm
Mints: West Point
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## CARING FOR YOUR COINS

Proper handling and storage of coins is not difficult, and will maintain the natural condition and value of collectible coins. Appropriate care also helps preserve your coins for the benefit of future collectors.

Handling: Coins should be held by their edges between thumb and forefinger (see picture). This will protect coin surfaces and designs from fingerprints and the natural oils in fingers or palms that can be corrosive over time. In fact, many experienced collectors prefer
 to use soft cotton gloves when handling their high-quality Uncirculated or Proof coins. A wide variety of coin holders and albums is available from Littleton for easy viewing and examination of both sides of a coin without actual handling.

Cleaning: Improper cleaning, more than anything else, has harmed valuable coins. High-quality Uncirculated and Proof coins should never be cleaned, as improper cleaning can cause permanent loss of original mint finish and color (and permanent loss of value). Experts can easily detect an improperly cleaned coin. Most experienced collectors and dealers agree that coins should only be cleaned by experts.

Storage: High humidity, air pollution, salt air, and temperature extremes can sometimes affect the surfaces of coins. It is best to store coins in protective holders or albums, and to keep them in an area of relatively uniform temperature. As your collection becomes more valuable, you may choose to store some or all of your coins in a safedeposit box. If you choose to keep your collection in your home, we recommend that you check with your insurance company to ensure that your collection is covered for its full replacement cost.

Please note: The clear coin wrappers used by Littleton are sealed to provide protection of coins during delivery, and easy identification and examination without removal. You can store your coins in the clear wrappers, or you can remove them for placement in albums, holders, or other storage containers. When returning coins, we prefer that you keep them in the original wrappers.

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