

The SJ CSRA CC of Aiken, SC meets on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Aiken Public Library

Pres. J.J. Engel
V.P. Pat James
Sec. Jim Mullaney
Treas. Chuck Goergen
Sgt. in Arms: Jim Sproull



The Stephen James
CSRA Coin Club of Aiken
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Volume 18, No. 8

the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club, Founded in 2001
Monthly Newsletter

August, 2019

Our next meeting is Thurs. August 1 at the Aiken Public Library, starting time 6:45 PM

Stoppers, keeping you from completing Type Sets, try date sets instead

2019 Club Meeting Schedule

Jan. 3	Apr. 4	July 11	Oct. 3
Feb. 5	May 2	Aug. 1	Nov. 7
Mar. 7	June 6	Sept. 5	Dec. 5

Another Look at the Underrated Shield nickel series



1873 Shield Nickel with *close 3* and *open 3* in date
[Enlarge page to fill the monitor screen to view details.]

In 1873, the Shield nickel--as with most of the denominations coined that year--was struck with a close three and later with an open three in the date because the chief coiner at the time, A. Lowden Snowden informed Mint Director James Pollock that the *close three* resembled the number 8 too closely. With some denominations, it is the close three that is the scarcer of the two and with others it is the open 3. While the current 2020 *Red Book* lists the mintage for the 1873 open 3 Shield nickel as 4,113,950 compared with just 436,050 for the close three, renowned numismatic scholar, Q. David Bowers in his *Guide Book of Shield and Liberty Nickels* (2006) estimates that based on the evidence of the frequency of the appearances of the close 3 version, it represents the greater number of survivors despite the ten to one ratio favoring the open 3 in the date. When the author was endeavoring to complete the business strike portion of his Shield nickel set during this past decade, he found it much more difficult to find an attractive higher circulate grade to mint state 1873 *open three* Shield nickel at the shows he had attended whereas at the FUN show held in January, 2014, he found a closed three version within fifteen minutes after entering the bourse.



Detail, courtesy of PCGS' COINFACTS

Four US Date Sets that can be Completed

By Arno Safran



An 1879-P Morgan dollar graded MS-63 by NGC
[Magnify page to fill monitor screen to view details more clearly.]

The Morgan dollar coin-type is one of the most popular series with today's collectors. The coin was struck from 1878 thru 1904 consecutively and then one last time in 1921. The popular cartwheel was produced at five different mints, Philadelphia, New Orleans, San Francisco, Carson City (thru 1893) and Denver, (1921 only) Despite a fairly good number of scarce to key date issues, this series is affordable as a date set certified up to the MS-63 and MS-64 levels with the exception of only three dates, 1893, 1894 and 1895. These three are collectible up through AU 50 to 55 if one includes the 1893-P and 1895-O graded no higher than AU-50, with the 1894-O up to AU-55.

The 1879-P graded MS-63 shown above had a mintage of more than 14.8 million and represents one of the many affordable issues priced between \$60.00 thru the \$85.00 levels whereas the 1894-O shown below can be acquired closer to the \$200.00 echelon.



An 1894-O Morgan dollar graded AU-55 by PCGS
[Magnify page to fill monitor screen to view details more clearly.]

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Four US Date Sets that can be Completed

(Continued from page 1, column 2)



1913 Buffalo Nickel Types 1 & 2 graded MS-65 and 64 by PCGS
[Magnify page to 200% to view details more clearly.]

The Indian Head/ Buffalo nickel type is another US coin that has remained popular with collectors. Designed by James Earle Fraser, it has been dubbed, “the most American of US coins”. It was struck from 1913 thru 1938-D (only) with both the first and last date being transitional if one considers the outgoing 1913 Liberty nickel of spurious authenticity at the fore end and the 1938-P, D & S Jefferson nickel at the backend of the series. As with many first dates of a coin-type, revisions were made and from the get-go, there are two reverse varieties for the 1913, one with the Bison on a raised mound, Type 1 and the other with the bison on a straight line often referred to as an *exergue* whose use goes back to the coinage of ancient Greece.



An 1918 Buffalo nickel graded MS-64 by NGC
[Magnify page to 200% to view details more clearly.]

During its twenty-six year run, the Buffalo nickel--as it is more frequently called--was struck at all three mints but in disproportionate numbers as the Denver and San Francisco Mints' issues were coined in far lower figures compared with the Philadelphia Mint, especially during the teen years and the so-called “Roaring Twenties”. Despite this reality, if one wishes to assemble an attractive date set of Buffalo nickels certified from AU-58 thru MS-65 it is possible to do so by choosing Philadelphia Mint issues with the exception of the 1931 and 1938 issues since none were made there in those years. The three toughest P Mint dates are the 1918, with a mintage of just over 32 million, the 1921, with only 10.6 million and the 1924 with 24.6 million. No nickels were made in 1922, 1932 or 1933, the last two during the depths of the great depression. From 1934 on, the branch mints increased their output considerably to be priced closer to those survivors coined in Philadelphia.



A 1921 Buffalo nickel graded MS-63 by NGC but looks like an MS-64
[Magnify page to 200% to view details more clearly.]

When it comes to “strike”, the Philadelphia Mint usually produced the best quality especially during the teens and 1920s.

An Early US type Date Set that can be completed The Capped Bust *half-disme* series



The 1829, 1830 and 1831 Capped Bust half-dimes
[Magnify page to 200% to view details more clearly.]

Many of our early US silver type coins (1794-1836) were issued in low numbers and circulated heavily, so finding affordable specimens often compel collectors to seek specimens in the lower circulated grades from AG-3 to VF-20. However, this is not the case when it comes to the Capped Bust *half-disme* series, for unlike the three higher silver denominations which featured this same type, every date in the short run group that was struck from 1829 thru 1837 inclusive is affordable through XF-45 and even AU-55. Pictured above are the first three dates, all graded by NGC, the 1829, AU-58, the '30 and '31, both AU-55. All the half-dimes of the period were struck with reported mintages of over one million each. If the reader enlarges the page, to 200%, the details of these lovely examples become clearer. While they appear similar to the dimes, quarters and halves of that same era, they far more affordable.



The 1832, NGC-58, 1833, ICG-45 and the 1834, ICG-61
Capped Bust Half-dimes
[Magnify page to 200% to view details more clearly.]

In 1829, the year the mint resumed the coinage of the half-disme after a hiatus of 24 years, the Philadelphia Mint began producing all its coins with an attachment to the striking press called the close collar. The new device enabled each denomination to retain its own designated diameter. As with the dime and half-dollar, the Capped Bust half *disme* retained the motto **E PLURIBUS UNUM** on the reverse above the eagle similar to both the dime and the lettered-edge Capped Bust half-dollar while it was removed from the reduced size Capped Bust quarters coined from 1831 thru 1838.



The 1835 PCGS-45, The 1836, PCGS-53 & 1837 PCGS-55
[Magnify page to 200% to view details more clearly.]

The last three of the nine dates to complete the type set were also obtained more recently and while the 1835 is the most common date mint-wise with over 2.7 million struck, it was a bit harder to locate but still reasonably priced for the grade. There are a number of varieties showing large and small numerals on the date or on the denomination on the reverse, some with large 5cs, others with small 5c but all nine dates in the Capped Bust half-dime series are collectible for those who desire to do so.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

Examples from a completed Barber Quarter Date Set



An 1894-S Barber quarter graded MS-63 by PCGS
[Magnify all the coins on this page to 200% to view details more clearly.]

The Barber quarter was struck from 1892 thru 1916, a total of twenty-five years. Collectors wishing to assemble a complete set (regardless of the grade) are hampered by three key dates; the 1896-S, the 1901-S and the 1913-S. All three are referred to as “stoppers” and command huge prices across the entire grading spectrum.

But, suppose you had the financial wherewithal to acquire a certified date set of Barber quarters ranging in grades from AU-58 thru MS-64, you could avoid having to deal with not only the three key dates mentioned above---with the 1901-S in mint-state costing more than all of the 25 coins required to complete a date set--but also six other tough dates such as the 1897-S, 1901-O, 1905-O, 1908-S, 1909-O and 1914-S that are currently listed well over \$1,000 each in MS-63.

During this era, -the Philadelphia Mint usually produced the largest yearly mintages along with the sharpest strikes than either the New Orleans and San Francisco Mints. That said, there are some dates from the branch mints that are affordable within the grade levels proposed and the 1894-S shown above is one of them.. It had a mintage of 2.6 million, just a tad lower than the 1894-O with 2.8 million and the more common 1894-P with 3.4 million produced. The price for the 1894-S is only slightly higher but affordable in MS-63. Upon enlarging the page, notice the strong strike and the position of the mint-mark S on the reverse. In both 1893-S and '94-S years, the S mint mark was placed either between the R & D under the eagle’s tail feathers or to the left edge above the **D** in **DOLLAR** as shown in the example directly above. The coin appears well struck with nice surfaces.



An 1896 Barber Quarter graded MS-64 by PCGS
A Beautifully toned coin with a nice strike

In 1896, more than 3.8 million quarters were struck at the Philadelphia Mint compared with 1.4 million for the 1896-O but only 188,039 for the 1896-S, the third scarcest key date of the aforementioned trio of “stoppers”. By going for a date set, the author was able to acquire the magnificently toned PCGS-64 specimen of the 1896-P shown just above for a tiny fraction of what a 1896-S would cost in just Fine-12.



A 1902 Barber quarter with mauve toning graded MMS-62 by PCGS

This lovely example of the 1902 Barber quarter was found by the author off a dealer’s web-site who regularly set up at the GNA and BRNA shows In 1902, the Philadelphia Mint struck 12,196,967

quarters, well above the 4.7 million at New Orleans and just 1.5 million at San Francisco and is the least expensive across the grading spectrum.



A 1903 Barber quarter graded MS-64 CAC by NGC

Here is another example of a beautifully toned Barber quarter, this one struck in 1903 at the Philadelphia Mint. The mintage was 9.7 million compared with 2.4 million for the 1903-O and slightly over 1 million for the 1903-S.



A 1904 Barber quarter graded MS-64 CAC by NGC

When the author spotted this lovely 1904 Barber quarter on internet, he asked the dealer to send the coin “on approval” and upon arrival, it looked as nice as the pic. The Philadelphia Mint struck 9,518,143 quarters and the New Orleans Mint, just 2,456,000. None were produced at San Francisco.



A 1905-S Barber quarter graded MS-64+ by PCGS

In the case with the 1905-S quarter shown directly above, the author admittedly broke from procedure paying double in order to acquire this beautifully toned specimen for the lower mintage date of 1.8 million as it was too attractive to pass-up. In that year, the Philadelphia Mint again struck the most with 4.9 million while the just 1.2 million were coined at New Orleans.



A 1914-P Barber quarter graded MS-63 by PCGS
6 million were struck. Most Barbars in this collection appear white.

The 1914-P with 6 million struck is another common date and appears similar to most of the white uncs in the set. It all comes down to which would you rather have, a 1901-S barely making Fine-12 that sold for \$14,950 or a virtual BU 25 dates set valued at \$11,900.



A 1901-S Barber 25c graded F-12 by NGC



WE NEED YOU!

The Stephen James CSRA Coin Club is hosting a coin show on Saturday, September 7, 2019. Club members are asked to volunteer their time and talents to make this show successful, and to reinforce the reputation of our Club as being very helpful and accommodating to the Coin Dealers who grace us with their presence!

We need to pull together - everyone has an ability or skill to contribute - hanging signs, setting up tables and chairs, manning the reception table, or cleaning up the gym after the show.

Here is a partial list where help from Club Members is needed:

- Setting up tables and chairs on Friday, . 9/6
- Helping the Dealers pack in at the start of the show
- Helping the Dealers pack out at the start of the show
- Man the Registration Table
- Sell Raffle Tickets
- Pick Up trash / discarded items throughout the show
- Ensure the restrooms remain clean
- Mop up any spills which occur
- Assist the Patrons as needed
- Help care for the Church facilities
- Take down and put away tables and chairs after the show, Saturday 9/7 **(Critical item)**
- Clean the Gym **(Critical item)**
- Hand out lunch orders
- Monitor the refreshment table to ensure it is clean, tidy, and supplies are adequate

As you can see, help is truly needed! So don't just think about it, please simply say

YES! I will help!

A sign-up sheet is available at Club meetings or contact [Pat James](#) at 803-979-3150 or via the Show's

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And remember to proudly wear your Stephen James CSRA Coin Club Shirt!

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Examining Varieties, Errors and Numismatic Subtleties

1864 Small & Large Motto US Two-Cent Coins

© Stephen Kuhl, July 28, 2019



1864 US Two-Cent Small Motto, BN, PCGS MS66BN
Courtesy of PCGS CoinFacts



1864 US Two-Cent Large Motto, BN, PCGS MS67BN
Courtesy of PCGS CoinFacts

Author's Note: This article continues a planned periodic series that seeks to examine and understand the subtle differences that make some varieties of coins more collectible and valuable than other versions.

An area of numismatics I have always been interested in are the “odd” denomination coins used in the past but not seen today. Coins like the half-cent, the three cent coins (both the silver and nickel varieties), the 20-cent coin, and of course the two-cent piece.

In April of 1864 the US Congress passed legislation which changed the weight and composition of the one-cent coin, This Act, signed by President Lincoln, also allowed for the introduction of a new denomination – the two cents piece.

According to well-known numismatic author Richard Giedroyc writing in PCGS CoinFacts¹, the first official consideration for a two-cent piece occurred in 1806, but was quickly discarded when it was shown that common bronze clothing buttons of the day could be used to easily counterfeit the proposed two-cent coin. Mr. Giedroyc went on to say that another attempt was made in 1836, which resulted in pattern coins being minted, but again because of counterfeiting concerns the attempt was ended.

Finally, in 1863 Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase championed the idea through Congress and legislation was passed on April 22, 1864. Designed by James B. Longacre, this 23 mm diameter bronze coin is of the same metallic composition as the cent (95% copper, 5% tin and zinc) and was minted for circulation for only a short time – the nine years from 1864 to 1872 (a proof-only coin was minted in 1873, but it was not intended for circulation). This coin was the first US coin

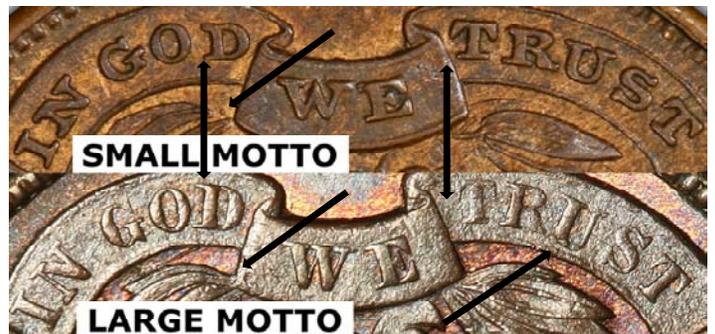
issued with the motto “*In God We Trust*”, and this motto is the source of an interesting variety of the coin.

Of particular interest to collectors is the 1864 “small motto” variety of this coin. According to *A Guide Book of United States Coins, 2020* (aka “The Redbook”) 19,822,500 two-cent coins were minted in 1864. A small subset of these coins (no numerical estimate is provided, although it is commonly

believed there are several thousand) were of the small motto variety, reflecting the design of the pattern coins produced in 1863. The design was changed to use larger letters in the motto shortly after production began, and the vast majority of the 1864 coins are of the large motto variety. The large letters remained in use for the rest of this series.

It is noted that after a mintage of 13,640,000 coins in 1865, production of this coin dropped drastically due to the coin not being popular with the public. 1866 through 1868 saw approximately 3 million minted each year; 1869’s mintage was 1,546,500; 1870 was half that, at 861,250; 1871 was 721,250; and finally in 1872 only 65,000 coins were produced.

There are several key diagnostics which can be used to identify the small motto variety, however, the motto is an area of high wear on this coin, which can make it difficult to evaluate for these diagnostics. Fortunately there are five options, and since for mid-grade and above condition some or all of the motto is legible, one of the four should be successful!



Comparison of 1864 US Two-Cent Small and Large Mottos
Coin Images courtesy of PCGS CoinFacts

Shown here are images of the small and large motto varieties. While it may look obvious to the Reader that the large motto contains larger / taller letters, this is not necessarily the case when one is viewing an actual coin, unless there are coins with both mottos available for comparison. Especially since the size if the ribbon was increased relative to the size of the letters.

Lacking comparison coins, the following diagnostics will aid in identification of motto type.

- 1) On the small motto the first “T” in the word “Trust” is very close to the crease in the ribbon; there is approximately 1 mm of space between the crease and the “T” in the large motto.
- 2) Also in viewing the word “Trust”, on the small motto the entire word is uniformly spaced above the bottom of the ribbon; on the large motto variety “Trust” is not uniformly spaced, to the point where the bottom of the “U” is almost touching the ribbon.
- 3) The letters “O” and “D” in the word “God” on the small motto are widely-spaced, whereas on the large motto the base of the “D” almost touches the “O”.
- 4) The letter “O” in the word “God” on the small motto is very clearly round (circular), but in the large motto the “O” is an oval.
- 5) The last diagnostic does not relate to the lettering, but rather to the base of the leaf: On the small motto the leaf stem is visible; on the large motto the ribbon size increased and it covers the base of the leaf, so the stem is not visible.

Close examination shows other minor design differences between the two varieties, such as the orientation of the “G” in “God” and the sharpness of the serifs, but the five items mentioned above are they key diagnostics, which is especially important if the coin being examined is worn.

As is typical, the rarity of the variety drives the value of the coin. Shown here is a comparison of price estimates of the

1864 SMALL MOTTO TWO-CENT PRICE ESTIMATE COMPARISON																					
Color	Service /Grade	G	VG	F	VF	XF	50	53	55	58	60	61	62	63	64	65	66				
BROWN	NGC	240	305	435	625	785	1080	1100	1180	1250	1450	1500	1580	1830	2100	2800	6250				
	PCGS	225	300	425	650	800	1100	1125	1150	1250	1300	1325	1350	1550	1800	2750	6000				
RED-BROWN	NGC													1680	1900	2325	2700	4650	7275		
	PCGS													1425	1475	1600	2000	2250	3500	8000	
RED	NGC																	3750	5625	22000	82500
	PCGS																	3250	5850	17500	

varieties from NGC and PCGS. As can be seen, prices increase as the grade improves, and as the coin’s coloration changed from brown to red-brown to red.

In review the data presented here, notice that:

- Even at a G-4 condition this variety is valued at more than \$200 by both grading services.
- Scarcity increases as the coin transitions from brown to red-brown to red, and is very scarce in the higher red mint state
- Neither grading service listed values for small motto coins above the grade of MS-66.
- PCGS says a Poor-1 brown small motto coin is worth an estimated \$60. However, at this condition the author suspects the motto would be completely illegible, making identification / diagnosis difficult if not impossible.
- The PCGS price estimates are typically (but not always) lower than the NGC estimates.

In contrast, the 1864 large motto variety is substantially less

1864 LARGE MOTTO TWO-CENT PRICE ESTIMATE COMPARISON																		
Color	Service /Grade	G	VG	F	VF	XF	50	53	55	58	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67
BROWN	NGC	16	20	24	33	51	81	84	88	110	120	120	165	195	305	500	1200	7750
	PCGS	19	23	26	35	55	80	90	95	105	120	122	140	185	240	400	1150	9000
RED-BROWN	NGC										120	135	190	240	385	700	1600	8250
	PCGS										135	145	160	235	300	525	1400	8500
RED	NGC											195	290	420	715	1380	4150	24500
	PCGS										125	135	225	375	550	1150	2250	25000

expensive / valuable:

Given that the small motto coin gets expensive as the grade increases, it is imperative for prospective buyers to know they are truly getting the grade they are paying for. To aid in this, an excellent resource is PCGS’ Photograde™ Online website, where one can research coins and see examples of the varying grades. Shown here, courtesy of PCGS Photograde™ Online, is a snapshot of the 1864 two-cent coin in grades MS-60 through MS-67.



Another good reference for grading coins is Beth Deisher’s book *Making The Grade*. In addition to showing the high design points and areas susceptible to wear, the book shows this coin in 24 stages of wear, from Fair-2 to MS-66 Red. The third edition of this book is currently available, whereas the author has the 2008 edition of this book.

Finally, while the “run of the mill” large motto 1864 two-cent coin is inexpensive, there are several error varieties of this coin which are valuable and worth pursuing. Referring to Bill Fivaz and J. T. Stanton’s *Cherry pickers’ Guide to Rare Die Varieties*

of *United States Coins*, Volume 5 (2009) there are four varieties of the 1864 large motto identified below [the Fivaz-Stanton reference number is in brackets]:

- 1864 Large Motto, Doubled Die Obverse [FS-02-1864-1101 (001)]
- Two varieties of 1864 Large Motto re-punched dates [FS-02-1864-1301 (001.5) and FS-02-1864-1302 (001.7)]
- 1864 Large Motto, Reverse field clashed die – clashed with the obverse die of an Indian Head Cent. This is very rare! [FS-02-1864-1901 (001.8)]

In addition to *The Cherry pickers' Guide*, two other references are useful for reviewing an expanded selection of varieties of this coin:

- Kevin Flynn's book: *Getting your two cents worth: A complete reference to two cent doubled dies, repunched dates, clashed dies, and overdates*. Authors Note: The author found several used copies of this book available for sale on Amazon.com
- Frank Leone's book: *Longacre's Two-Cent Piece 1864 Attribution Guide*. Authors Note: This book may be out of print and only available in the used market. The author was unable to find a copy for sale in the internet.

So there you go – historical background, technical numismatic information, market research, and additional resources – these are the differences for the 1864 US two-cent coin!

¹ <https://www.pcgs.com/coinfacts/category/two-cent-1864-1873/670>

STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB
Regular Meeting July 11, 2019,
Aiken County Library

President J.J. Engel called the regular meeting of the club to order at 6:50 p.m.

Jim Sproull reported that there were 20 members present, and no guests. Rich Baker won the members' door prize, a 2019 Silver Eagle Jim also announced information concerning several upcoming coin shows in the vicinity.

A motion was made by Jim Sproull, seconded by Sharon Smoot, and passed to dispense with the reading of the June 2019 meeting minutes. A copy will be on file with the other club records, and a copy will appear in the club newsletter.

Treasurer Chuck Goergen stated that the Club's bank balance was \$3,761.10.

Arno Safran reminded the members of the meeting of the Augusta Coin Club at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at the Sunrise Grill, West Town Market Square on Washington Road in Martinez, Georgia. The program will be on strategies for coin investors, by Steve Damron. Pat James, Coordinator for the 2019 Coin Show, reported that to date, eighteen dealers had

reserved 34 tables for the September Coin Show. Pat reported that only 3 previous years had we sold more tables.

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There also will be five "consolation" drawings
 where the prize is an American Silver Eagle!

Contact any SCNA Board Member to obtain your tickets
 (See The Scanner or SC-NA.org for contact information)



The Program: Arno Safran presented a Power-Point program on *Collecting Interesting U.S. Coins Ending in Decades of Nine*. This was an interesting approach that covered a sampling of specific U.S. Coin types and denominations at 10-year intervals from the earliest days of the U.S. Mint up until recent years, (1799-1999).

Show & Tell Session: There were six Show and Tell presenters.

Howard Hillman brought in a two-tailed half-dollar. He was curious as to how it may have been fabricated.

Jerry Lipsky brought in an 1832 capped bust quarter in XF condition that he had purchased from a shop in Augusta.

Jimmy Widener brought in a Silver Eagle from the U.S. Mint.

Jim Sproull brought in a 1995 Lincoln penny double-die, along with information from the Cherry-Pickers guide on spotting this coin variety. Jim also shared a 1980-P nickel that had been minted on a penny planchet.

Kelsey Forde brought in a 1985 series one-dollar bill that had an odd printing error on the reverse, where a strip ~1/4 inch wide across the bottom of the note showed a mirror image of the front of a one-dollar note. There was much speculation but little consensus on how the error may have occurred during production. Jim Sproull won \$19 in the 50-50 drawing. Following the monthly auction, President Engel adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Mullaney, Secretary

Mint Marks on Coins

Often U.S. proof and uncirculated coins will have a letter (mint mark) on the coin indicating which United States government mint produced it. Sometimes governments will make proof coins at a different mint than the regular (circulation strike) coins. The US government has minted coins at these mints in the past:

- C - Charlotte NC mint (1838 – 1861; gold coins)
- CC - Carson City (1870 – 1885; 1889 – 1893; old silver coins)
- D - Dahlonega GA (1838 – 1861; gold coins)
- D - Denver
- O - New Orleans
- P – Philadelphia*
- S - San Francisco
- W - West Point

**Coins with no mint mark usually indicate it was made at the Philadelphia mint.*



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Check back regularly as additional videos will continue to be added.

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