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# THE FAIRMONT COLLECTION

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## *JBR Set*



August 23, 2022 • Costa Mesa, CA

*An ANA World's Fair of Money®  
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*Stack's*  *Bowers*  
GALLERIES

## Coins and Currency

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Date	Auction	Consignment Deadline
July 27, 2022	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> StacksBowers.com	visit StacksBowers.com
August 10, 2022	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> StacksBowers.com	July 18, 2022
August 22-26, 2022	Stack's Bowers Galleries – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency;</i> <i>Ancient Coins and World Coins</i> Global Showcase Auction • Costa Mesa, CA	visit StacksBowers.com
August 31, 2022	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>Around the Globe–World Banknotes</i> StacksBowers.com	visit StacksBowers.com
September 13-14, 2022	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> <i>Featuring a Colonial &amp; Early American Coins Session</i> StacksBowers.com	August 22, 2022
September 20-21, 2022	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>Tokens &amp; Medals</i> StacksBowers.com	August 1, 2022
September 27, 2022	Stack's Bowers Galleries – <i>World Paper Money</i> Official Auction of the Valkenburg Paper Money Show	July 5, 2022
October 3-6 & 7-11, 2022	Stack's Bowers and Ponterio – <i>Chinese &amp; Asian Coins &amp; Banknotes</i> Hong Kong	Hong Kong Offices: July 5, 2022 U.S. Offices: July 14, 2022
October 12, 2022	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> StacksBowers.com	September 19, 2022
October 19-21, 2022	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>Ancient and World Coins</i> StacksBowers.com	August 31, 2022
November 1-4 & 7-10, 2022	Stack's Bowers Galleries – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> Official Auction of the Whitman Coin & Collectibles Expo	Colonials & Numismatic Americana: August 11, 2022 U.S. Coins & Currency: September 1, 2022
November 16, 2022	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> StacksBowers.com	October 24, 2022
December 14, 2022	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> StacksBowers.com	November 14, 2022

**Front Cover** (top to bottom): Lot 3095: 1864-S Liberty Head Half Eagle. EF-45 (PCGS). CAC; Lot 3255: 1853/'2' Liberty Head Eagle. Breen-6905. MS-62 (PCGS). CAC; Lot 3433: 1866-S Liberty Head Double Eagle. No Motto. AU-58 (PCGS).

**Back Cover** (top to bottom, left to right): Lot 3093: 1863 Liberty Head Half Eagle. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC; Lot 3110: 1872-CC Liberty Head Half Eagle. Winter 1-B. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC; Lot 3206: 1909-O Indian Half Eagle. MS-62+ (PCGS). CAC; Lot 3280: 1863 Liberty Head Eagle. AU-50 (PCGS); Lot 3423: 1861-O Liberty Head Double Eagle. Winter-1. AU-55+ (PCGS). CAC; Lot 3481: 1885-CC Liberty Head Double Eagle. MS-62 (PCGS). CAC; Lot 3553: 1927-S Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle. MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.

# THE FAIRMONT COLLECTION

## *JBR Set*



August 23, 2022  
Noon PT

Griffin Studios

Stack's Bowers Galleries Headquarters  
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Costa Mesa, CA 92626

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**IMPORTANT: Please have your bank add the Invoice Number or Your Name on the wire information.**

# THE FAIRMONT COLLECTION

## *JBR Set*

August 23, 2022

### Lot Viewing

Lot Viewing will be conducted at the Costa Mesa, CA offices (*by appointment only*): July 28-29 & August 1, 2022  
1550 Scenic Avenue, Suite 150, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Lot Viewing will be conducted at the New York City offices (*by appointment only*): August 6-9, 2022  
470 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022

Lot Viewing will be conducted at Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel: August 15-19 2022 • 9:00 AM-5:00 PM CT  
5300 N. River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018 • Louvre Ballroom 3

*If you cannot view in person, we will have our professional numismatists on hand to answer questions via phone or email about specific lots. Please email [info@stacksbowers.com](mailto:info@stacksbowers.com) to make arrangements.*

### Auction Location

Griffin Studios, Stack's Bowers Galleries Headquarters  
1550 Scenic Avenue, Suite 150  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

*In person live bidding will be allowed in accordance with Covid-19 directives and local mandates at the time of the auction. Reservations required.*

### Auction Details

#### **Session 1\***

Numismatic Americana  
Monday, August 22  
9:00 AM PT  
Lots 1001-1152

#### **Session 2\***

Early American Coins  
Tuesday, August 23  
9:00 AM PT  
Lots 2001-2089

#### **Session 3**

The Fairmont Collection  
-JBR Set  
Tuesday, August 23  
Noon PT  
Lots 3001-3554

#### **Session 5\***

U.S. Coins Part 1  
*Small Cents to Half Dollars*  
Thursday, August 25  
8:00 AM PT  
Lots 4001-4343

#### **Session 6\***

The Virginian Collection  
*Classic Head Gold Coins*  
Thursday, August 25  
1:00 PM PT  
Lots 5001-5058

#### **Session 7\***

The Georgia Gold  
Rush Collection  
*Dahlonega Mint Coins*  
Thursday, August 25  
*immediately following the  
conclusion of Session 6*  
Lots 6001-6150

#### **Session 8\***

Rarities Night  
Thursday, August 25  
*immediately following the  
conclusion of Session 7*  
Lots 7001-7310

#### **Session 9\***

The Sydney F. Martin  
Collection Part 1  
*Colonial & Early  
American Coins*  
Saturday, August 27  
8:00 AM PT  
Lots 8001-8262

#### **Session 10\***

U.S. Coins Part 2  
*Silver Dollars to the End*  
Saturday, August 27  
2:00 PM PT  
Lots 9001-9557

#### **Session 11\***

U.S. Coins Part 1  
**Internet Only**  
Monday, August 29  
StacksBowers.com  
9:00 AM PT

#### **Session 12\***

U.S. Coins Part 2  
**Internet Only**  
Tuesday, August 30  
StacksBowers.com  
9:00 AM PT

#### **Session 13\***

U.S. Coins Part 3  
**Internet Only**  
Wednesday, August 31  
StacksBowers.com  
9:00 AM PT

#### **Session 15\***

United States Mint  
American Eagle  
At Dusk and At Dawn  
35th Anniversary  
Auction  
Thursday, September 1  
9:00 AM PT

*\*Please refer to our other Summer 2022  
Global Showcase Auction catalogs for further  
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### Lot Pickup

Lot Pickup will be conducted at Stack's Bowers Galleries Costa Mesa Headquarters (*by appointment only*).

*Dates, times and locations are subject to change.*

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*Photographed by: Karen Bridges, Gerry Bueno, Anthony Browning, Renee Ferguson, Christina Good, Jeremy Katz, Carol Nguyen, Charlie Pech, Kristy Still, Keven Tran, Kristen Vu and Nicholas Weyand. Some images courtesy of PCGS.*

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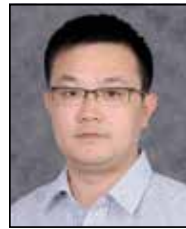
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Welcome to the

# Fairmont Collection - JBR Set

The Fairmont Collection has introduced to the market an extraordinary offering of United States gold coins, one that has captured the attention and imagination of many collectors and seasoned dealers, alike. Our recent presentations of \$5, \$10 and \$20 pieces have been nothing less than historic for the uniformly inviting original surface quality seen throughout the listings. Many dates, even scarce ones, have been offered in multiples, and more common coins have been in superb grade. There has never been a series of sales quite like this one.

The JBR Set is a selection of superior quality coins and rarities that were set aside years ago from the larger Fairmont Collection, and only recently presented to us.

This is a truly exceptional selection, laden with rarities and Condition Census pieces. It also includes an unusually high number of CAC-approved coins, appealing to a thriving community of quality-conscious collectors. There are many coins which will delight the specialist, and this sale will long remain in the minds of many U.S. gold enthusiasts.

Sincerely



Brian Kendrella  
President

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## Order of Sale

### Session 3

The Fairmont Collection – JBR Set

Tuesday, August 23 –Noon PT

Lots 3001-3554

Category	Lot Number
<b>United States Gold Coins</b> .....	<b>3001-3554</b>
Half Eagles .....	3001-3224
Eagles .....	3225-3391
Double Eagles .....	3392-3554

*\*Please refer to our other Summer 2022 Global Showcase Auction catalogs for further offerings of Numismatic Americana, U.S. Coins and Currency and Ancient and World Coins. Visit [StacksBowers.com](http://StacksBowers.com) to view our Internet Only sessions.*

# Thinking of Selling?

## Now is the Perfect Time to Consign to Stack's Bowers Galleries

Capitalize on the current dynamic market, the unmatched expertise of Stack's Bowers Galleries and our robust schedule of Showcase events and Collectors Choice Online auctions. Record prices are being realized at every turn. Whether you are thinking of selling your entire collection or just a few select pieces or duplicates, we will showcase your holdings to their finest advantage to the world's most active buyers. And, we can offer you instant cash in the form of a generous advance against the proceeds of your consignment.

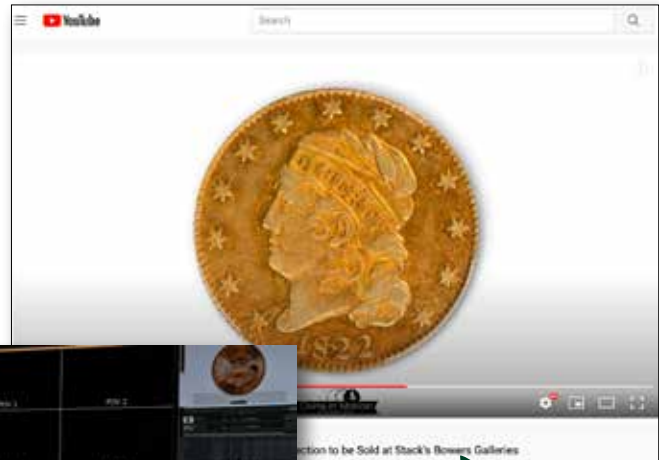
Stack's Bowers Galleries is the most technologically advanced auction house in the world. Our newly opened Griffin Studios is a custom-built, broadcast ready television, film and event facility based in our headquarter in Costa Mesa, California. Designed from the ground up to produce the ultimate live auction experience, our livestream presentations are enhanced by our patent pending Coins In Motion technology. These innovations, in combination with our award-winning, live online bidding application, create the best online bidding experience in the hobby .

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[Consign@StacksBowers.com](mailto:Consign@StacksBowers.com)



SESSION 3

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THE FAIRMONT COLLECTION

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*JBR Set*



TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2022, NOON PT  
LOTS 3001-3554

HALF EAGLES

CLASSIC HEAD HALF EAGLES



3001

**1834 Classic Head. HM-3. Rarity-2. Plain 4. AU-58 (PCGS).** A lustrous and frosty near-Mint example of this perennially popular first year Classic Head \$5 issue. Boldly defined overall with handsome color that features subtle olive undertones to dominant medium gold. An ideal candidate for inclusion in an About Uncirculated gold type set.

PCGS# 8171. NGC ID: 25RR.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3003

**1836 HM-1. Rarity-6. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Lovely greenish-gold surfaces retain nearly complete luster in a frosty texture. The strike is sharply executed with most design elements full in the absence of all but trivial rub. The surfaces are well composed for the grade, and the eye appeal is strong. As an issue the 1836 is the most plentiful Classic Head half eagle after only the first year 1834. The HM-1 die pairing is a rarity, however, and is the most challenging to collect for the date after only HM-9. Writing in the 2020 reference *United States Classic Gold Coins of 1834-1839*, Daryl J. Haynor estimates that only 20 examples of the 1836 HM-1 are extant in all grades. Nearly Uncirculated with premium quality surfaces, as assured by CAC approval, the current specimen from the Fairmont Collection's JBS Set is surely among the finest obtainable for advanced Classic Head half eagle variety enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8174. NGC ID: 25RY.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3002

**1835 HM-2. Rarity-3. MS-62 (PCGS).** Fully original surfaces exhibit a bold blend of deep gold and honey-apricot. The texture is lustrous and softly frosted, the strike well executed with all major features crisp. This second year issue was saved to a far lesser extent than the first year 1834, with the result that the 1835 is considerably scarcer in Mint State. The present example, well preserved and pleasingly smooth for the assigned grade, will be just right for in a better date gold type set or advanced collection of Classic Head \$5s.

PCGS# 8173. NGC ID: 25RV.

PCGS Population: 22; 21 finer (MS-65+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3004

**1837 HM-2. Rarity-3+. Block 8, Broken Arrow. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Handsome honey-apricot surfaces are near-fully lustrous with a pleasing frosty texture. Boldly to sharply defined overall with superior eye appeal for the assigned grade. After producing record numbers of Classic Head half eagles in 1834 and 1836, production of this denomination returned to more normal levels in 1837 with 207,121 pieces. The 1837 is one of the two scarcest Philadelphia Mint issues of this brief design type, and AU examples with the quality offered here are rare relative to demand.

PCGS# 8175. NGC ID: 25RZ.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3005

**1838 HM-1, Rarity-3, Center Dot, Broken Arrow, AU-58 (PCGS).** Frosty deep orange-gold surfaces are predominantly smooth and appealing at the near-Mint level of preservation. A boldly defined example with handsome originality. The 1838 rivals the 1837 as the

scarcest Philadelphia Mint issue in the Classic Head half eagles series. Only two die marriages are known, and they are of comparable rarity.

PCGS# 8176, NGC ID: 2554.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3006

**1838-C HM-1, Winter-1, Rarity-4+, EF Details—Wheel Mark (PCGS).** With dominant color in warm honey-olive and plenty of sharp striking detail, there is much to recommend this coin to the budget minded Southern gold collector. A touch of glossiness to the texture is noted, but a wheel mark in the center of the reverse is the only significant impairment. The popular 1838-C is the first Charlotte Mint half eagle and the only one of the Classic Head design

type. The mintage is just 17,179 pieces, and most have long since been lost to commercial use. Scarce to rare in all grades, the 1838-C has an extant population of fewer than 300 coins, perhaps fewer than 200. This more affordable EF is sure to see spirited bidding in today's highly competitive numismatic market.

PCGS# 8177, NGC ID: 2555.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3007

**1838-D HM-1, Winter 1-A, the only known dies, Rarity-3, AU Details—Wheel Mark (PCGS).** A sharply defined and aesthetically pleasing example of this historically significant Southern gold issue. Bathed in warm honey-orange color, both sides also display considerable softly frosted luster. Most handling marks are small and inconspicuous; the PCGS qualifier concerns a faint wheel mark in the center of the reverse that is not all that distracting to the eye. The

1838-D is the first Dahlonega Mint half eagle and the only one of the Classic Head design type, explaining the desirability of survivors at all levels of preservation. It is also a scarce issue with Daryl J. Haynor (2020) estimating that only 200 or so coins are extant.

PCGS# 8178, NGC ID: 2556.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

LIBERTY HEAD HALF EAGLES



3008

**1839-C Winter-1, the only known dies, Die State I. AU Details—Cleaned (PCGS).** A well struck, generally bold example with much to recommend it to the budget minded Southern gold specialist. Frosty honey-gold surfaces retain ample mint luster. Free of singularly mentionable marks apart from a shallow rum bruise at the lower obverse; faint hairlines and a touch of glossiness explain the PCGS qualifier. One of the scarcest Charlotte Mint half eagles, the 1839-C is also eagerly sought by specialists as the first Liberty Head issue from this Southern coinage facility and the only one to display the C mintmark on the obverse above the date. As well, Liberty's portrait has an appreciably different design on half eagles of this date than it has on coins dated 1840 and later.

PCGS# 8192. NGC ID: 2558.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3009

**1839 AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** A lovely orange-olive example with undeniable originality to lustrous, frosty surfaces. Well struck overall and quite smooth for having seen light commercial use. Christian Gobrecht's redesign of the half eagle in 1839 introduced one of the longest running series in United States coinage. His modified portrait of Liberty is smaller than that on previous half eagle types, with braided hair along the forehead and a bun at the back of the head. The reverse design is similar to the outgoing type, although Gobrecht reworked the eagle to give it a more robust appearance.

More readily obtainable in an absolute sense than either the 1839-C or 1839-D, the 1839 is the most realistic type candidate of this first-year trio. This Philadelphia Mint issue circulated extensively, however, and the vast majority of survivors are well worn, if not also impaired. With superior Choice AU quality, as verified by CAC, the coin offered here is sure to find many eager buyers.

PCGS# 8191. NGC ID: 2557.

PCGS Population: 21; 27 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 8; 6.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3010

**1839-D Winter 2-A. VF Details—Wheel Mark (PCGS).** Soft olive-honey color blankets surfaces that are impressively smooth overall for an early date Southern gold coin that saw considerable commercial use. All major design elements are bold, and there are few readily evident marks. Even the area of brightness centered on the eagle's right wing that explains the PCGS qualifier is not all that distracting in hand. The Dahlonega Mint half eagle series was only in its second year when the facility struck 18,939 examples in 1839. This is the first D-Mint issue of Christian Gobrecht's Liberty Head design, the 1838-D displaying William Kneass' Classic Head motif. The 1839-D is an important one-year type in the Dahlonega Mint half eagle series. Liberty's portrait is different than that used on succeeding issues with deep curvature to the neck truncation. Additionally, the 1839-D is the only Dahlonega Mint Liberty Head half eagle that displays the mintmark on the obverse above the date. Beginning in 1840 the mintmark can be found on the reverse between the eagle and the denomination FIVE D.

A median rarity in this Southern gold series, the 1839-D has an extant population of just a few hundred coins. Most survivors are in lower grades through EF, as here, although a total estimated population of 200 to 225 coins (per Doug Winter, 2008) confirms the scarcity of this issue at all levels of preservation. This VF example would serve with distinction in many collections.

PCGS# 8193. NGC ID: 2559.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3011

**1840 AU-58 (PCGS).** Frosty honey-orange surfaces with a well executed, overall bold strike. A touch of glossiness to the texture is noted for accuracy, but we see no marks worthy of individual attention. The 1840 is a popular early Liberty Head half eagle for better date type purposes. Even so, it is scarce in an absolute sense and its true rarity in the finer AU grades, like that of so many 1840s Philadelphia Mint half eagles, is overlooked by more casual collectors. High quality offerings such as this do not come along that often.

PCGS# 8194. NGC ID: 255A.

PCGS Population: 20; 16 finer (MS-65+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Premium Choice AU 1840-C Half Eagle

### An Underrated Rarity



3012

**1840-C Winter-2. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** A thoroughly appealing example with uncommon originality for a Choice AU Charlotte Mint \$5. Dominant deep honey color with a tinge of pale silver, both sides are enhanced by abundant, softly frosted luster. A touch of softness to the central high points is typical of the issue, and we note plenty of bolder detail toward the peripheries. The 1840-C is a rare and very underrated half eagle that is seldom seen in grades above EF. It is decidedly more rare in all grades than the 1839-C and the 1841-C to which it is typically compared. With a reported mintage of just 18,992 pieces, it is also more rare than any of the D-Mint half eagle

issues from 1839 to 1841. Doug Winter (2008) accounts for just four or five distinct and truly Mint State survivors, which places extreme collector pressure on attractive About Uncirculated coins. The latter are in short supply, especially with CAC approval, and advanced gold enthusiasts would do well to take full advantage of this important offering.

PCGS# 8196. NGC ID: 25SD.

PCGS Population: 12; 18 finer, nine of which are Mint State (MS-64+ finest).

CAC Population: 9 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3013

**1840-O Winter-2. Narrow Mill, Large O. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** This nicely impressed, minimally circulated example exhibits razor sharp definition throughout the design. Awash in deep honey-olive color, blushes of reddish-russet are seen in isolated peripheral areas. The surfaces are lustrous with strong eye appeal. First of the New Orleans Mint half eagles, the 1840-O is an unheralded rarity as well as being historically significant. It is easily as rare as its identically dated counterparts from the Charlotte and Dahlonega mints. Despite a relatively generous mintage of 40,120 coins, survivors are elusive

and typically found in VF to EF. Choice AU coins are rare while Mint State survivors are even more so. This piece is among the finer certified of only about 220 known, and it is worthy of serious pursuit by half eagle and New Orleans Mint specialists.

PCGS# 8200. NGC ID: 25SK.

PCGS Population: 14; 18 finer, nine of which are Mint State (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 4; 7. No Mint State examples have met with CAC approval.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3014

**1841-C Winter-1, the only known dies. EF Details—Wheel Mark (PCGS).** Predominantly original surfaces exhibit pleasing deep honey-orange color to most areas. Well struck overall, as befits the issue, isolated softness to the central high points is particularly acceptable at the EF grade level. An area of curious brightness over and before Liberty's portrait explains the PCGS qualifier. Similar in overall rarity to the 1840-C, the 1841-C is one of the most elusive Charlotte Mint half eagles. Doug Winter (2008) ranks it as tied for fourth rarest of the 24 issues in this mintmarked gold series. This more affordable example has much to recommend it to budget minded Southern gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8203. NGC ID: 25SP.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3015

**1841-D Winter 5-D. Die State I. Repunched Date, Small D. AU-53 (PCGS). CAC.** Lovely golden-olive surfaces with tinges of pale orange. Both the impressively smooth surfaces and appreciable frosty luster are superior attributes at the AU-53 grade level. Sharply to fully struck, as well, this is a premium quality example in all regards. Despite being one of the more frequently encountered D-Mint half eagles from the 1840s, the 1841-D is actually quite rare in an absolute sense, with most grading no finer the EF-40. Since it could be many years before a CAC-approved About Uncirculated example of comparable quality appears at auction, we cannot stress enough the importance of an aggressive bidding strategy for this lot.

PCGS# 8204. NGC ID: 25SR.

PCGS Population (both die marriages of the Small D variety): 8; 30 finer, 14 of which are Mint State (MS-65 finest).

CAC Population: 5 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3016

**1842-C Small Date. Winter-1, the only known dies. Die State I. EF Details—Mount Removed (PCGS).** Here is an exciting offering of a key date issue in the Charlotte Mint gold series. Far nicer than one might expect for the assigned grade, both sides are sharply defined overall with faint traces of original luster remaining on light honey-gold surfaces. A bit of a subdued appearance is noted, while a prominent disturbance to the upper right rim (relative to the obverse) is the best evidence for the PCGS qualifier. All in all, however, this coin presents exceptionally well in hand.

The Charlotte Mint produced two distinct varieties of half eagle in 1842. The Small Date, offered here, was almost certainly struck first since the date logotype is the same size as on Liberty Head half eagles of 1839 to 1841. This variety has a mintage of just 4,595 coins and is far rarer than its identically dated Large Date counterpart, produced to the extent of 23,589 coins. In fact, the 1842-C Small Date is the rarest Charlotte Mint half eagle and the second rarest issue from this coinage facility after the legendary 1849-C Open Wreath gold dollar. Fewer than 100 coins are extant, most of which grade no finer than Choice VF. In solid Extremely Fine the present example is above average, even despite the stated qualifier.

All known 1842-C Small Date half eagles were struck from a single die pairing, although there are two die states. Die State I is from perfect dies while on Die State II coins a prominent obverse rim cud is present at 12 o'clock. The former, represented here, is the rarer of the two die states and probably accounts for the 2,555 coins struck on March 22, 1842 (per Doug Winter, 2008).

PCGS# 8208. NGC ID: 25SV.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3017

**1842-C Large Date. Winter-1, the only known dies. Die State II. AU Details—Wheel Mark (PCGS).** Handsome, original color in honey-orange greets the viewer from both sides. A wheel mark in the center of the reverse and a short cut in the right obverse field are noted, but with all major design elements sharp this more affordable example is sure to be of interest to many bidders. Given that its identically dated Small Date counterpart is the rarest Charlotte Mint half eagle, the 1842-C Large Date is often overlooked by casual collectors. Astute Southern gold specialists, however, recognize the Large Date as the third rarest half eagle from the Charlotte Mint. About Uncirculated survivors of all stripes are elusive and eagerly sought in today's market.

PCGS# 8209. NGC ID: 25SW.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*





3018

**1842-D Winter 7-E, the only known dies. Small Date, Small Letters. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Blushes of reddish-rose enhance richly original deep olive-gold color. Boldly to sharply struck with appreciable frosty luster, an impressively smooth appearance in hand is also notable. The 1842-D Small Date, Small Letters is a conditionally challenging half eagle with most survivors well worn and grading no higher than EF-40. This premium Choice About Uncirculated example offers superior quality for the issue and plenty of eye appeal.

PCGS# 8210. NGC ID: 25SX.

PCGS Population: 20; 20 finer, 10 of which are Mint State (MS-62 finest).

CAC Population: 6; 6.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3019

**1843 AU-58. (PCGS). CAC.** Frosty surfaces are faintly semi-prooflike in the fields. Near-fully lustrous with razor sharp striking detail and displaying richly original golden-apricot color with a tinge of pale olive. Trailing only the 1847, the 1843 is the most frequently encountered half eagle from its decade. A mintage of 611,205 circulation strikes is a record for the Liberty Head series up to that point in time. While circulated survivors are plentiful in the context of the era, few approach the Mint State threshold. Here, then, is a significant bidding opportunity for the better date gold type collector or advanced Liberty Head half eagle enthusiast.

PCGS# 8213. NGC ID: 25T2.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3020

**1843-C Winter-1. Die State II. AU-53 (PCGS). CAC.** A thoroughly PQ example of this scarce and conditionally challenging early C-Mint \$5 issue. Deep honey-orange color blankets surfaces that retain plenty of frosty mint luster. This is well struck coin by the standards of the issuing mint, all but the central high points sharp in the presence of minimal wear. Pleasingly smooth for the grade and sure to sell for a strong bid. This issue has a mintage of 44,277 pieces and, like all Charlotte Mint gold coins, suffered a high rate of attrition through circulation. Most survivors grade VF or low end EF. Even in About Uncirculated the 1843-C is rare, while in Mint State Doug Winter accounts for only nine or 10 distinct examples in his 2008 reference on Charlotte Mint gold coinage. A highlight of this current offering from the Fairmont Collection, and just right for another advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8214. NGC ID: 25T3.

CAC Population: 11 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3021

**1843-D Winter 9-F. Small D. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Handsome honey-orange surfaces display a sharp strike in most areas as well as much of the original softly frosted luster. Like most Dahlonega — and Charlotte — gold issues, the vast majority of the 1843-D half eagle's mintage saw moderate to heavy use in commerce, and though the production run was relatively sizable at 98,452 coins, many surviving pieces are well worn in grades such as Fine and VF. At the EF level this issue begins its steady spiral upward in value, blossoming into sky-high prices in AU and Mint State. This attractive Choice About Uncirculated example with coveted CAC approval is among the finest obtainable by today's Southern gold enthusiasts, and is definitely worthy of serious consideration.

The 1843 Small D variety is much scarcer than its Medium D counterpart, from the same date and mint. To date, PCGS has graded 264 examples of the Medium D type, but only 50 Small D pieces.

PCGS# 98215.

PCGS Population: 10; 8 finer, just four of which are Mint State (MS-62 finest).

CAC Population: 2; 2.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3022

**1843-D Winter 10-G. Medium D. AU Details—Scratch (PCGS).** Pretty golden-olive color and abundant frosty mint luster provide superior quality for the assigned grade. This is a sharply struck coin in a Dahlonega Mint \$5, as well, and most of the wispy handling marks are singularly inconspicuous to the unaided eye. The PCGS qualifier concerns a trio of short scratches on Liberty's cheek that is not overly distracting. A relatively attractive About Uncirculated example that is definitely worthy of serious consideration.

PCGS# 8215. NGC ID: 25T4.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3024

**1843-O Large Letters. Winter-1, the only known dies. Late Die State. AU-50 (PCGS). CAC.** Medium golden-honey color greets the viewer from both sides of this lustrous, frosty AU example. Well struck overall, where allowed by die state, although the hair curls along Liberty's brow are a bit blunt. Smooth for the grade with a lovely appearance that is sure to please. Mintage for this variety of the 1843-O half eagle is believed to be 82,000 coins, versus just under 20,000 pieces for the scarcer Small Letters variety. The Large Letters type is most often found in grades of EF and lower, making the present offering of a problem free and attractive Choice AU a significant opportunity for Liberty Head gold specialists. Struck from a late reverse die state with extensive peripheral cracks and several design elements weakened due to excessive repolishing of the die, especially the letters IC in AMERICA and the feathers around the eagle's right talon.

PCGS# 8216. NGC ID: 25T6.

CAC Population: 13 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3023

**1843-O Small Letters. Winter-2. Die State I. AU-53 (PCGS).** This endearing olive-orange example is sharply struck in most areas with plenty of frosty luster remaining. The Small Letters is the first variety of half eagle struck in the New Orleans Mint during 1843. Its mintage is estimated at just 19,075 pieces, as opposed to 82,000 coins for the 1843-O Large Letters. Scarce to rare in all grades, the Small Letters commands the respect of Liberty Head and New Orleans Mint gold enthusiasts at all levels of preservation.

PCGS# 8217. NGC ID: 25T5.

PCGS Population: 5; 12 finer, just six of which are Mint State (MS-65 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3025

**1844 MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** A fully impressed, razor sharp example that also sports bright frosty luster. Pleasing honey-apricot color overall with impressively smooth surfaces for the assigned grade. One of the scarcer Philadelphia Mint half eagles from the 1840s, the 1844 is seen less often than the 1843 or 1847. As with all early date Liberty Head half eagles the 1844 is highly elusive in Mint State, and the present example is among the finer seen by both PCGS and CAC. A find for the better date type collector or advanced Liberty Head half eagle enthusiast.

PCGS# 8219. NGC ID: 25T7.

PCGS Population: 11; 24 finer (MS-65 finest).

CAC Population: 12 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3026

**1844-C Winter-1, the only known dies. Die State III. EF-45 (PCGS). CAC.** Warm honey-gold with a tinge of olive color, this is an uncommonly original coin in a Charlotte Mint \$5. Considerable luster remains to surfaces that also retain bold striking detail to most design elements. Rarer than even the mintage of 23,631 pieces might suggest, the 1844-C saw particularly heavy circulation due to a combination of factors. The first of these was a loss of confidence in the privately minted Bechtler coins among the contemporary public, and the second was a fire in the Charlotte Mint that forced a suspension in production in 1845 (there are no 1845-C half eagles). Finer than the typically encountered VF or low end EF survivor, the present premium CAC EF-45 example will have great appeal for advanced Southern gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8220. NGC ID: 25T8.

CAC Population: 16 in all grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3027

**1844-D Winter 11-G. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** This gorgeous example exhibits vivid golden-olive color and nearly full mint frost. The strike is razor sharp to full throughout, and impressively so for the issuing mint. Attractively original and quite smooth, even the most discerning Southern gold collectors will be impressed by this PQ example. Vying with the 1843-D and 1845-D as the most readily obtainable Dahlonega Mint half eagle from the 1840s, the 1844-D is still scarce in an absolute sense. When found with the exceptional surface preservation and eye appeal offered here, this issue is rare.

PCGS# 8221. NGC ID: 25T9.

PCGS Population: 23; 26 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 19 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3028

**1844-O Winter-3. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Pleasing honey-gold surfaces are highly lustrous for the grade with most design elements sharply to fully defined. Glints of pale olive are evident, further evidence of this coin's originality. The 1844-O is one of the more plentiful half eagles from the still early days at the New Orleans Mint, but premium Choice AU pieces like this are scarce relative to demand from Southern gold collectors.

PCGS# 8222. NGC ID: 25TA.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3029

**1845 MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** A sharply struck and richly original example with full mint frost throughout. Dominant medium gold color with blushes of reddish-rose here and there around the peripheries. The 1845 is one of the highest mintage half eagles from the 1840s with 417,099 circulation strikes produced. Worn survivors are plentiful by the standards of the early No Motto Liberty Head series, although in Mint State the 1845 is surprisingly rare. This is true of virtually all Philadelphia Mint half eagles from the 1840s, as these coins saw active commercial use in an era when there was essentially no numismatic interest in preserving circulation strikes. It is truly remarkable, therefore, that the present example not only survived in Mint State, but that it did so with such original, attractive surfaces.

PCGS# 8223. NGC ID: 25TB.

CAC Population: 18 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3030

**1845-D Winter 13-H. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Tinges of orange-apricot enliven otherwise dominant honey-gold color on both sides of this richly and attractively original example. Sharply struck and lustrous, freedom from singularly mentionable marks further enhances the appeal of this thoroughly PQ example. With a mintage of 90,629 pieces, the 1845-D is among the more available Dahlonga Mint half eagles, although the coin offered here is far finer than the typically encountered VF or EF, and even finer than most certified Choice AU examples that we have offered over the years. A find for discerning collectors of mintmarked gold type coins and specialists in Southern gold.

PCGS# 8224. NGC ID: 25TC.

CAC Population: 18 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3031

**1845-O Winter-1, the only known dies. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Vivid pinkish-apricot highlights blend with dominant honey-gold color, the surfaces attractively original in preservation. Both sides are sharply struck with plenty of softly frosted luster in evidence. The 1845-O is underrated, especially when compared to many of the more highly regarded Charlotte and Dahlonga mint issues of its era. Survivors from a mintage of 41,000 pieces are elusive in all grades and likely number no more than 200 coins. Most are circulated to one degree or another, and the typical market appearance is for a VF or EF example. Only a small number of Mint State coins are known and, not surprisingly, market appearances for these are few and far between. With premium Choice AU quality, as confirmed by CAC, the present example represents the finest realistically obtainable by most of today's advanced Southern gold collectors. It is a highlight of the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set and will be just right for another significant numismatic cabinet.

PCGS# 8225. NGC ID: 25TD.

PCGS Population: 17; 16 finer, 10 of which are Mint State (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 19 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3032

**1846 Large Date. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Frosty near-Mint surfaces are further enhanced by attractively original color in warm olive-orange. Sharply defined. With survivors of this 395,942-piece issue elusive and typically grading VF or EF, this scarce Choice AU is sure to appeal to advanced Liberty Head gold collectors. The Large Date is the more available of the two logotypes used to produce the 1846 half eagle.

PCGS# 8226. NGC ID: 25TF.

PCGS Population: 20; 32 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 9; 13.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3033

**1846 Small Date. AU-50 (PCGS). CAC.** This is the scarcer date logotype of the issue, represented here by a richly original AU example dressed in warm olive-orange color. Sharply struck with good luster quality for the assigned grade.

PCGS# 88226. NGC ID: 25TE.

CAC Population: 12 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3034

**1846-D Winter 15-H. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Wonderfully original surfaces exhibit gorgeous honey-orange color overall. This is a sharply struck, near-fully lustrous example with a frosty texture and impressively smooth appearance in hand. The 1846-D has a mintage of 80,294 pieces, however all but a tiny fraction were lost to commerce over the following decades. The Normal D die pairings of the issue, of which there are two (per Doug Winter, 2013), are far rarer than their more highly publicized D/D counterparts. In fact, the 1846-D Normal D is one of the true unsung rarities in the Dahlonega Mint half eagle series, ranking fifth in high grade rarity (AU and Mint State). The astute Southern gold specialist would be hard pressed to find a nicer example than that offered here.

PCGS# 8228. NGC ID: 25TH.

PCGS Population: 18; 10 finer, just six of which are Mint State (MS-62 finest).

CAC Population: 6; 3.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3035

**1846-D/D Winter-16. AU-55 (PCGS).** Attractive, fully original surfaces display a blend of deep honey-olive and warm reddish-rose. Lustrous and well struck, most design elements are sharply rendered. The appearance is impressively smooth, although there is a tiny indentation in the lower reverse field close in to the base of Liberty's bust. The 1846-D issue includes a dramatic and popular variety, a widely repunched mintmark with bold remnants of the first D readily evident above and to the right of the primary mintmark. The top of the first mintmark is lost in the olive branch. The 1846-D/D is more available than its normal mintmark counterpart, although the typical example grades no finer than EF. This is a rare Choice AU survivor, with the first D sharp, that is sure to create excitement among advanced Southern gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8229. NGC ID: 25TH.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3036

**1846-O Winter-1. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Rich olive-gold and pale apricot colors blend with considerable frosty mint luster on both sides of this attractively original half eagle. It is boldly to sharply struck and remarkably well preserved for a survivor of this conditionally challenged issue. The 1846-O is one of the leading rarities among New Orleans Mint Liberty Head half eagles, with survivors even more elusive than those of the lower mintage 1845-O (58,000 vs. 41,000 pieces produced). Southern gold expert Doug Winter suggests that it is equal in rarity to the more famous Charlotte and Dahlonega issues from the same year, if not rarer — a familiar observation for many pre-Civil War era New Orleans Mint half eagles. Just about 150 examples are extant in all grades, the vast majority of which are at the VF and EF levels. This offering from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set is among our finest in recent years and is sure to garner significant attention at auction.

PCGS# 8230. NGC ID: 25TK.

PCGS Population: 13; 18 finer, just even of which are Mint State (MS-62 finest).

CAC Population: 12 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3037

**1847 MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Original honey-golden surfaces are enhanced by tinges of pale orange-apricot. Softly frosted in texture and fully lustrous. The 1847 is the most available half eagle from its decade in terms of total number of coins known, but it remains scarce to rare in all Mint State grades. This thoroughly PQ example is sure to sell for a nice premium.

PCGS# 8231. NGC ID: 25TL.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3038

**1847 Breen-6570. Repunched Date. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** A fully original example with bright golden-honey color and plenty of mint luster. According to Walter Breen (1988), this variety is sometimes referred to “7 over smaller 7,” although the author believes that the same date logotype was used, the initial date partially effaced. The present example shows bold remnants of the 7 underdigit at the top of the primary digit when examined with a loupe. Definitely an intriguing variety.

PCGS# 8231. NGC ID: 25TL.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3040

**1847-D Winter 19-I. AU-55 (PCGS).** A frosty medium gold example with blended olive highlights. This is a sharply struck and pleasingly smooth example in hand with no singularly mentionable marks. The 1847-D is among the more available Dahlonega Mint half eagles and would be just right for a mintmarked gold type set. We caution bidders, however, that most collectors are forced to settle for a VF or EF coin when it comes to this issue, for even AU survivors of marginal quality are elusive. At the Choice About Uncirculated level and with its originality and strong eye appeal, the present example is a condition rarity of considerable importance.

PCGS# 8234. NGC ID: 25TP.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3039

**1847-C Winter-1. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** A richly original, olive-orange example with plenty of frosty mint luster remaining to both sides. In the absence of all but light wear, this coin offers uncommonly bold detail for an issue that is usually seen with no more than an average strike. The 1847-C has the highest mintage (84,151 pieces) among Charlotte Mint half eagles, and it is the easiest issue in this mintmarked gold series to locate in lower grades through EF. High grade survivors, however, are rarer than those of the 1849-C, 1850-C, 1852-C, 1853-C, 1857-C and 1858-C. Expect fierce competition for this well produced and exceptionally well preserved Choice AU.

PCGS# 8233. NGC ID: 25TN.

PCGS Population: 20; 27 finer, 12 of which are Mint State (MS-65 finest).

CAC Population: 13 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3041

**1848 AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** A beautiful golden-honey example that features lively mint luster and sharp striking detail. The 1848 is one of the more frequently encountered half eagles from this decade, but examples that approach the Mint State threshold are scarce. The currently offered coin is among the finest Choice AU examples that we have ever offered, and it is worthy of serious bidder consideration, as such.

PCGS# 8236. NGC ID: 25TS.

CAC Population: 13; 7.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3042

**1848-C Winter-1, the only known dies. AU-55 (PCGS).** Attractive deep honey color is seen on both sides, accented by plenty of orange-apricot highlights. There is abundant frosty luster as well as sharp striking detail. A scarcer Charlotte Mint gold issue, the 1848-C half eagle is much more elusive than a mintage of 64,472 pieces might imply, especially in Choice About Uncirculated and Mint State grades, at which levels examples are rare.

PCGS# 8237. NGC ID: 25TT.

PCGS Population: 12; 17 finer, seven of which are Mint State (MS-64+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3043

**1848-D/D Winter 22-O. Die State I. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** A rare and exciting offering for the Southern gold variety enthusiast. First though, this is a wonderfully original 1848-D irrespective of die pairing with warm honey-apricot color to lustrous, frosty surfaces. Sharply defined overall with an impressively smooth appearance in hand. This is an underrated issue in the Dahlonega Mint half eagle series due to having a mintage of 47,465 pieces. It is actually one of the more challenging coins in this Southern gold series to locate in any grade. The present example in PCGS/CAC AU-55 is rare from a condition standpoint and will appeal to advanced collectors looking to improve upon the typically encountered VF or EF survivor.

In its early die state, as here, the Winter 22-O attribution is the rare D/Low D variety of the 1848-D. Doug Winter (2013) notes that "it sells for a very significant premium." One of the few examples with a clear undermintmark that we have ever offered, we anticipate strong bidder competition for this important find from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set.

PCGS# 8239. NGC ID: 25TU.

PCGS Population: 6; 7 finer, just three of which are Mint State (MS-62 finest).

CAC Population: 5 in all AU and Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3044

**1849 EF-45 (PCGS). CAC.** A fully original example with light, ancient surface build up around the peripheries. Otherwise honey-olive surfaces are free of troublesome marks with plenty of bold striking detail remaining.

PCGS# 8240. NGC ID: 25TV.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3045

**1849-C Winter-2. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Subtle pale silver tinting enhances otherwise dominant honey-olive color for this attractively original example. Lustrous for the grade with a predominantly frosty texture, and some appreciable semi-reflectivity in the fields. A bit soft in the centers, although the strike is appreciably sharper toward the borders. As one of the more frequently encountered issues in the Charlotte Mint half eagle series, the 1849-C is an ideal candidate for a mintmarked type set. However, the 1849-C is rarer than the 1852-C and 1858-C in high grades such as AU and Mint State. Examples in those grades with attractive surfaces, as here, are particularly elusive and eagerly sought.

Seldom encountered in numismatic circles, Doug Winter (2008) describes the 1849-C Winter-2 attribution as "many times rarer than Variety 1." The reverse die is perfect without the prominent crack before the letter U in UNITED that is almost always seen on Winter-1 examples.

PCGS# 8241. NGC ID: 25TW.

PCGS Population: 28; 28 finer, 17 of which are Mint State (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 18 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3046

**1849-D Winter 25-S. AU-53 (PCGS). CAC.** A warm and inviting example dressed in even golden-olive. With a bold to sharp strike, abundant frosty luster and pleasingly smooth appearance, there is much to recommend this handsome piece to discerning Southern gold collectors. The mintage of half eagles at the Dahlonega Mint came in at 39,036 pieces in 1849, of which perhaps a few hundred exist today. Most, of course, are in lower grades than this AU-53 example. Of further desirability due to rare and coveted CAC approval.

PCGS# 8242. NGC ID: 25TX.

CAC Population: 7 in all AU grades.

*Form the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3047

**1850 AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Glints of peripheral orange-apricot enhance otherwise deep honey-olive color on both sides of this richly original example. Boldly struck with nearly full mint frost remaining. One of many underrated issues in the early Liberty Head half eagle series, the 1850 is just as scarce in today's market as many of the more highly regarded Charlotte and Dahlonega issues from the 1840s and 1850s. With Uncirculated survivors from a mintage of 64,491 coins rarely encountered, this handsome and premium quality AU-58 represents a significant find for astute gold collectors.

PCGS# 8243. NGC ID: 25TY.

PCGS Population: 14; 11 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 7; 2.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3048

**1850-C Winter-1. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Of the utmost significance to quality conscious Southern gold enthusiasts, this coin is one of the four highest graded 1850-C \$5s to have met with strict CAC approval. It is a wonderfully original example bathed in a bold blend of deep honey-olive and lighter golden-apricot colors. Frosty to semi-reflective in finish, with only trivial rub noted. Charlotte Mint half eagle production remained relatively high going into the 1850s; the first issue of that decade had a mintage of 63,951 pieces. The 1850-C is one of the more available dates in this Southern gold series, and examples in VF and EF are ideal for inclusion in a mintmarked gold type set. With no contemporary numismatic interest in these coins, however, the rigors of commerce claimed most with the result that survivors at or near the Mint State threshold are rare. This piece is among the finest known to PCGS, is one of the finest Choice AU coins extant, is tied for highest graded example approved by CAC, and would do justice to an advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8244. NGC ID: 25TZ.

PCGS Population: 16; 14 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 4; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Choice 1850-D Half Eagle



3049

**1850-D Winter 28-U. AU-58 (PCGS).** Frosty medium gold surfaces are uncommonly smooth for a lightly circulated Dahlonega Mint half eagle. The central high points are a bit soft, but otherwise we note bold to sharp striking detail to design elements. The D mintmark is faint, typical of this reverse die, but not enough to classify this piece as a Weak D. Elusive in all grades due to extensive circulation, the 1850-D half eagle is typically represented by well worn, and often impaired survivors.

In Choice About Uncirculated preservation this is one of the finest PCGS-certified examples from a mintage of 43,984 pieces. Just right for an advanced Southern gold cabinet, in which it will surely rank among the leading highlights.

PCGS# 8245. NGC ID: 25U3.

PCGS Population: 10; 6 finer (MS-61 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



## Condition Rarity 1851 Half Eagle



3050

**1851 MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** Here is an attractive and seldom offered Choice Uncirculated example of this underappreciated No Motto Liberty Head half eagle. Frosty golden-rose surfaces are boldly to sharply struck in most areas with a very smooth appearance. At first glance, the 1851 half eagle should be common given its substantial mintage of 377,505 pieces. As a workhorse denomination, the coins entered commerce, escaping numismatic notice at a time when collectors were not interested in circulation strikes. Most surviving examples are

in the higher circulated grade levels, and only seldom in Mint State. Half eagle enthusiasts would do well to take notice, as this is a vastly underrated and often overlooked issue, especially in the finer Uncirculated grades, as here. A hidden treasure in superior preservation.

PCGS# 8246. NGC ID: 25U5.

PCGS Population: 12; 5 finer (MS-65 finest).

CAC Population: 5; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3051

**1851-C Winter-1. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Lovely olive-gold color with intermingled honey-apricot that is a bit more pronounced on the reverse. Both sides are uncommonly well defined for the issue with most major design elements sharp, and few less than bold. Lustrous for the grade with modest semi-reflective qualities to an otherwise frosty mint finish. Despite a mintage of 49,176 coins struck, the 1851-C is a median rarity in this series alongside the 1855-C and 1859-C. About Uncirculated and Mint State examples are particularly elusive, especially with the quality and eye appeal offered here.

PCGS# 8247. NGC ID: 25U6.

PCGS Population: 8; 12 finer, just seven of which are Mint State (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 3; 5.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3052

**1851-D Winter 31-W. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** An exciting example of the issue, this is an original, CAC-approved Choice AU coin with even honey-olive color and appreciable luster on both sides. The strike is quite soft along Liberty's brow and at the bottom of the eagle, yet bold for most other focal features. Although a mintage of 62,710 pieces is generous for the issuing mint, the 1851-D is scarce and underrated in today's market. According to Southern gold expert Doug Winter (2013), this is the fifth rarest of 26 issues in the Dahlonega Mint five-dollar series. Far superior to the typically encountered survivor, the present example is highly recommended for inclusion in an advanced cabinet.

PCGS# 8248. NGC ID: 25U7.

PCGS Population: 24; 14 finer, just six of which are Mint State (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 18 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3053

**1851-O Winter-1. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Lovely honey-orange surfaces are richly original and retain plenty of soft, frosty mint luster. Well struck by 1850s New Orleans Mint standards with an exceptionally smooth appearance for having seen light commercial use. The 1851-O has a mintage identical to the 1845-O (41,000 pieces), and both are of equal scarcity in today's market. As with most New Orleans Mint half eagles from the 1840s and 1850s, grades of VF and EF are typical. The present example, rare at the near-Mint level, is even more desirable due to coveted CAC approval. It is a highly desirable alternative for the advanced collector who is unable to procure one of the few Mint State survivors.

PCGS# 8249. NGC ID: 25U9.

PCGS Population: 10; 8 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 2; 3.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3054

**1852 MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** Frosty pinkish-honey surfaces are sharply struck and exceptionally smooth for the assigned grade. Despite its status as one of the more available 1850s half eagles in Mint State, the 1852 is rare at this level of preservation when viewed in the wider context of U.S. numismatics.

PCGS# 8250. NGC ID: 25UA.

CAC Population: 9; 8.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Rarely Offered Mint State 1852-C Half Eagle



3055

**1852-C Winter-1. MS-61 (PCGS).** A significant bidding opportunity for advanced Southern gold collectors. This solidly graded Uncirculated 1852-C \$5 offers richly original color in a blend of honey-gold and reddish-orange. Lustrous and frosty with only wispy signs of handling that include no singularly mentionable marks. Winter-1 is the more frequently encountered of the two die pairings known for the issue, although we stress that the 1852-C is as conditionally challenged as one would expect for any pre-Civil War Southern gold issue.

Mint State examples, as here, are decidedly rare with Doug Winter (2008) accounting for only 15 to 20 different coins at this level. This important release from the extensive Fairmont Collection holdings is surely among the finest survivors from a mintage of 72,574 pieces.

PCGS# 8251. NGC ID: 25UB.

PCGS Population: 12; 15 finer (MS-64 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3056

**1852-D Winter 32-V. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Enticing reddish-rose highlights enliven a base of warmer olive-honey color. This is an attractively original example, one that is also lustrous, frosty, and well struck apart from typical softness at the borders and central high points. With the second highest mintage (91,584 pieces) among half eagles from this coinage facility, the 1852-D is one of the more frequently encountered Dahlonega Mint fives. Few survivors grade finer than EF, however, and with only a handful of Mint State coins extant this a significant offering of a lovely, CAC-approved Choice AU example.

PCGS# 8252. NGC ID: 25UC.

PCGS Population: 21; 28 finer, just nine of which are Mint State (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 9; 3.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3058

**1853-C Winter-2. Late Die State. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** This lustrous and frosty Choice AU example is enhanced by richly original color in warm honey-olive. Mentionable softness is confined to the hair curls along Liberty's brow, the balance of the features boldly to sharply rendered. A heavily circulated issue, the 1853-C half eagle is much scarcer than a mintage of 65,571 pieces might imply. With the typical survivor well worn and often impaired, this original Choice AU example represents an important bidding opportunity for the collector assembling an advanced Southern gold collection.

Of the three die pairings known for this issue, Winter-1 accounts for the majority of coins in numismatics hands. Winter-2 is described by the author as "very rare." The late die state was discovered in a September 2008 Heritage auction and features a prominent retained cud break at the lower reverse border that engages the letters E and D in the denomination. This presence of this feature adds to the desirability of the Fairmont Collection specimen offered here.

PCGS# 8254. NGC ID: 25UE.

PCGS Population: 24; 30 finer, 17 of which are Mint State (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 11 in all AU grades, the finest of which are certified AU-55.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3057

**1853 MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** Vivid reddish-rose iridescence enlivens otherwise deep honey-gold color. Both sides are fully frosted with a sharply executed strike. Although plentiful in worn condition, the 1853 is similar to other Philadelphia Mint half eagles of the era in that it develops into a significant condition rarity in Mint State. This solidly graded and visually appealing Mint State example would be just right for a high grade date set or advanced type collection.

PCGS# 8253. NGC ID: 25UD.

CAC Population: 12 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3059

**1853-D Winter-34. Large D. MS-60 (PCGS). CAC.** Here is a rare and highly desirable Mint State Dahlonega half eagle. Attractively original surfaces exhibit vivid reddish-rose highlights to dominant golden-olive color. The strike is superior for the issue with notably sharp detail both in the centers and the borders. Lustrous and remarkably smooth for the assigned grade, this lovely coin is sure to sell for a strong premium. With its mintage of 89,678 pieces, it is not surprising that the 1853-D is the most common half eagle from this coinage facility. Examples in VF and EF are obtainable with ease and, although scarce, enough AUs survive that there are usually numerous auction appearances in any given year. Mint State coins are another matter, however, for the 1853-D is a noteworthy condition rarity at this level. The offered coin would serve as a highlight in an advanced Liberty Head half eagle collection, Southern gold cabinet, or mintmarked type set.

PCGS# 8255. NGC ID: 25UF.

PCGS Population: 5; 27 finer (MS-64+ finest).

CAC Population: 7 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3060

**1854 MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** Uncirculated preservation is notable for this otherwise readily obtainable 1850s half eagle issue. Blended rose-gold color and satin to softly frosted luster are seen on nearly Choice surfaces that display a bold to sharp strike. The 1854 is a surprise rarity in Mint State despite its status as a Philadelphia Mint issue with a relatively generous mintage of 160,675 pieces. Survivors are seldom offered with the quality and eye appeal of this present example. Sure to catch the attention of astute gold collectors.

PCGS# 8256. NGC ID: 25UG.

PCGS Population: 17 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3062

**1854-D Winter 36-AA. Large D. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Subtle orange-apricot color blends with deeper honey-gold on both sides of this handsome and fully original example. The strike is superior for a mid-1850s Dahlonega Mint five with the borders and high points displaying minimal softness, with most features boldly impressed and crisp. Softly frosted luster is very much in evidence on surfaces that are free of troublesome marks. The 1854-D is one of the more readily obtainable Dahlonega Mint half eagles, but all issues from this coinage facility are scarce in an absolute sense, and most are rare in grades above EF, as here.

PCGS# 8258. NGC ID: 25UK.

CAC Population: 11; 4.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3061

**1854-C Winter-1. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** A handsome and inviting piece with subtle silvery highlights to dominant deep honey-rose color. Softness of strike in the centers is characteristic of the issue, the remaining areas generally sharp in the absence of significant wear. Pleasingly smooth in hand, as well, with considerable frosty luster remaining. An underrated issue, the 1854-C is one of the scarcer Charlotte Mint half eagles from the 1850s. Most of our offerings for this date in recent years have been for Winter-2 Weak C examples, attributable by a faint mintmark that was lightly entered into the reverse die. The present example, however, is from the more desirable Winter-1 die pairing with the C mintmark crisp and fully rendered. It is an attractively original Choice About Uncirculated coin that offers superior quality and eye appeal for an issue that is typically offered no finer than EF.

PCGS# 8257. NGC ID: 25UH.

PCGS Population: 14; 18 finer, just nine of which are Mint State (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 3; 2. The two finer examples are in Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3063

**1854-D Winter 37-DD. Weak D. AU-55 (PCGS).** An intriguing and rare Weak D example of the 1854-D half eagle. The obverse is Winter 37 with the digit 1 in the date well below the truncation. The reverse die is unattributable, however, because the D is so faint as to be indistinguishable. That being said, this coin is certainly an 1854-D as the pattern of strike is unlike that seen in the typical 1854 Philadelphia Mint half eagle and is in keeping with that seen on mid-1850s Dahlonega Mint fives. It is a bit soft overall, more so at the borders than elsewhere, but even so all major design elements are bold, and there is considerable sharpness to Liberty's portrait and throughout the eagle's plumage. Attractively original in honey-gold and reddish-rose colors with appreciable frosty luster remaining.

PCGS# 98258. NGC ID: 25UL.

PCGS Population: 3; 4 finer (all AU-58).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3064

**1854-O Winter-1. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** A beautiful olive-orange example with smartly impressed design elements and nearly full, frosty mint luster. From a mintage of 46,000 pieces, survivors of which likely number no more than 300 coins at all levels of preservation. Even so, this figure is sufficient to rank the 1854-O among the more readily obtainable pre-Civil War era New Orleans Mint half eagles. With the premium quality, extraordinary eye appeal and CAC approval offered here, however, examples are rare.

PCGS# 8259. NGC ID: 25UM.

CAC Population: 19 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3065

**1855-C Winter-1, the only known dies. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** This charming honey-orange and reddish-gold example offers undeniable originality and exceptional eye appeal for a lightly circulated C-Mint half eagle. Softly frosted surfaces are lustrous for the grade with sharp striking detail to virtually all features. The 1855-C is a median rarity in the Charlotte Mint five-dollar gold series in terms of total number of coins believed extant. Well worn and/or impaired coins are the norm among survivors from a mintage of 39,789 pieces. This aesthetically appealing, problem free Choice AU represents an important bidding opportunity for advanced Southern gold collectors.

PCGS# 8262. NGC ID: 25UR.

PCGS Population: 16; 16 finer, just six of which are Mint State (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 7; 3.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3066

**1855-D Winter 38-CC. Medium D. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Abundant frosty luster remains on handsome, original honey-orange surfaces. Reversing the pattern of strike seen in the typical 1853-D and 1854-D half eagle, this piece is softly defined through the centers, yet considerably sharper toward the borders. Impressively smooth with superior eye appeal. By the time the 1855-D was produced half eagles had long been a workhorse among the gold denominations, none more so than those struck at the Southern mints. These tended to enter circulation and remain there for years. The 22,432 Dahlonega Mint half eagles produced in 1855 are no exception to this; only around 150 to 200 examples are thought to exist in all grades, almost none of which are Mint State. With the vast majority of surviving coins at the AU-50 level and below, Choice examples are eagerly pursued by dedicated specialists, especially those few that have met with CAC approval. Truly this is an exceptional specimen of a challenging issue, made even more so by the fact that the Medium D is by far the scarcer of the two varieties known.

PCGS# 98263. NGC ID: 25US.

PCGS Population (Medium D attribution only): 6; 5 finer, just one of which is Mint State (MS-62).

CAC Population: 2; 2. There are no Mint State coins verified by CAC.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3067

**1855-S AU-55 (PCGS).** Glints of pinkish-rose iridescence enliven otherwise deep honey-gold surfaces on both sides of this richly original example. Frosty to modestly semi-reflective luster is nearly full, and the strike is sharply executed throughout. Given the incredible rarity of the 1854-S, this is the first collectible half eagle from the San Francisco Mint. The 1855-S can be challenging to locate, especially in grades above VF and without significant impairments. This premium quality AU-55 is among the finer certified and is sure to find its way into another advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8265. NGC ID: 25UU.

PCGS Population: 22; 24 finer, just two of which are Mint State (MS-62 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3068

**1856 MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** Appealing frosty surfaces display vivid, original color in deep honey-apricot. Sharply to fully struck and quite close to a Choice Mint State rating. An otherwise plentiful issue by 1850s Liberty Head half eagle standards, the 1856 is elusive at the present level of preservation, and this coin represents an important bidding opportunity for the specialist.

PCGS# 8266. NGC ID: 25UV.

PCGS Population: 19; 15 finer (MS-65+ finest).

CAC Population: 5; 6.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Significant Mint State 1856-C Half Eagle CAC Population: Just 3 in All Mint State Grades



3069

**1856-C Winter-1, the only known dies. MS-60 (PCGS). CAC.** Full, soft mint frost blends with rich honey-orange and olive-gold colors on this lovely 1856-C half eagle. Both the technical quality and eye appeal are superior for the assigned grade. The strike is sharp, with uncommon fullness of detail that even extends to the eagle's head and neck. It is as close to complete as one could realistically hope to obtain for the issue. Impressively smooth overall, this coin would not disappoint in an MS-61 or even an MS-62 holder. The strongest bids are encouraged for this premium quality offering.

An underrated issue among Southern gold coins, the 1856-C vies with the 1839-C and 1860-C as the ninth rarest Charlotte

Mint half eagle. Examples are rarer than a mintage of 28,457 pieces might imply, with no more than 250 to 300 survivors in all grades. According to Doug Winter in the 2008 edition to the book *Gold Coins of the Charlotte Mint: 1838-1861*, Mint State survivors number only about six or seven individual coins. While a few more Uncirculated examples have surfaced since then, including the Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here, this issue remains a formidable condition rarity at this level.

PCGS# 8267. NGC ID: 25UW.

PCGS Population: 4; 7 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 2; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## The Only Mint State 1856-D Half Eagle Approved by CAC



3070

**1856-D Winter 39-FF. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** The significance of this offering for advanced Southern gold enthusiasts with an eye for quality and originality cannot be overstated. A fully Mint State coin with frosty luster and handsome honey-apricot color, the eye appeal is extraordinary for both the issue and the assigned grade. Softness to the central high points is characteristic of the issue, the detail sharp to full toward the borders.

The elusive 1856-D half eagle was produced to the extent of just 19,786 pieces, and survivors are scarce in lower grades and rare above the Choice EF level. This issue is a noteworthy rarity in

Mint State with only 25 to 30 distinct coins extant at that level. Most are not choice, as evidenced by the fact that the offered coin from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set is the sole Uncirculated 1856-D \$5 to have met with strict CAC approval. The strongest bids are encouraged for those desiring to take home this prized condition rarity. A record price is likely to be set.

PCGS# 8268. NGC ID: 25UX.

PCGS Population: 12; 20 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: just 1 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Low Mintage 1856-O Half Eagle Tied for Finest Certified with CAC Approval



3071

**1856-O Winter-1, the only known dies. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** This is a sharply defined, lustrous near-Mint 1856-O half eagle with much of the original frosty finish remaining. Some modest semi-reflective qualities can be seen in the fields and are very attractive. Sharply struck in most areas with wonderfully original color in deep honey-gold and olive.

With just 10,000 pieces produced, the 1856-O is tied with the 1892-O as having the lowest mintage in the New Orleans Mint

half eagle series. This issue is similar in rarity to the 1855-O with an extant population of only 90 to 110 coins (per Doug Winter, 2020). Far superior to the typically offered VF or EF survivor, the present example would serve as a highlight in an advanced Southern gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8269. NGC ID: 25UY.

PCGS Population: 9; 3 finer (MS-61 finest).

CAC Population: 3; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



## Exceptional Mint State 1856-S Half Eagle



3072

**1856-S MS-61 (PCGS).** Beautiful golden-rose surfaces with full luster in a soft satin to frosty texture. Striking detail is razor sharp in virtually all areas, and the in hand appearance is uncommonly smooth for both the issue and the assigned grade. A solid Condition Census offering from the earliest days of San Francisco Mint coinage.

Due to distrust of paper money, gold coins were the workhorse medium of exchange in the Old West during the immediate pre-Civil War era, as well as during the following decades through the closing of the frontier in 1890. The entirety of the 105,100 mintage of 1856-S half eagles immediately entered circulation with little notice and went to work helping to make a dent in

the enormous demand for lower denomination gold coins. And stay there they did — the half eagle denomination had long been popular in commerce throughout the United States and especially so in California. In all degrees of preservation, the issue is notably scarce: *PCGS CoinFacts* estimates that 225 examples exist in all grades. Of those, the typically offered grades are VF to low end AU. For the Western Americana specialist, here is an extraordinary opportunity to add a remarkable Mint State survivor of a historic and underappreciated issue.

PCGS# 8270. NGC ID: 25UZ.

PCGS Population: 5; 6 finer (MS-64 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3073

**1857 MS-62+ (PCGS).** CAC. Fully struck with thick satin to frosty luster, and rich original honey-orange color that enhances this coin's considerable appeal. While not a great rarity in an absolute sense — the mintage is 98,188 pieces — the 1857 is one in a long line of No Motto Liberty Head half eagles from the Philadelphia Mint that are underrated rarities in Mint State. A find for advanced gold

enthusiasts, especially as one of only a handful of Mint State examples to have met with CAC approval.

PCGS# 8271. NGC ID: 25V2.

PCGS Population: 1; 20 finer (MS-64+ finest).

CAC Population: 10 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Handsome Mint State 1857-C Half Eagle Formidable Condition Rarity



3074

**1857-C Winter-1, the only known dies. MS-61 (PCGS).** This wonderfully original, exceptionally well preserved example is awash in warm olive-orange color. The luster is full and frosty in texture with subtle semi-reflectivity evident in the fields. Striking detail is sharp to complete over virtually all design features. Minimally marked for the grade, and just right for another world class Liberty Head or Southern gold cabinet.

The 1857-C is widely regarded as one of the more readily obtainable Charlotte Mint half eagles, a mintage of 31,360 pieces

helping considerably in this regard. Like all issues from this coinage facility, however, well worn coins in VF and EF are the norm. Even About Uncirculated survivors are scarce, especially with original, premium quality surfaces. A Mint State coin with these characteristics, as here, is a formidable condition rarity that is usually offered only once in a very long while. Outstanding!

PCGS# 8272. NGC ID: 25V3.

PCGS Population: 11; 9 finer (MS-63 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Lovely Near-Mint 1857-D \$5 Gold



3075

**1857-D Winter 41-HH. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** This attractive example displays richly original color in a blend of medium olive and dominant honey-orange. Lustrous for the grade with a softly frosted texture, the surfaces are remarkably well composed for a lightly circulated Dahlonega Mint \$5. Well struck overall with just a touch of characteristic softness to the central high points.

The 1857-D has a mintage of 17,046 pieces, survivors of which are among the scarcest late date Dahlonega Mint half eagles.

At the uppermost reaches of Choice AU preservation and undeniably original, the present example is rare from a condition standpoint. It would be a great choice for an advanced Southern gold cabinet or Liberty Head five-dollar set.

PCGS# 8273. NGC ID: 25V4.

PCGS Population: 17; 12 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 7; 2.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Desirable Choice AU 1857-O Half Eagle



3076

**1857-O Winter-1, the only known dies. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Pretty deep honey-orange and olive surfaces are richly original in preservation. Nearly full mint luster remains, and the texture soft, is frosty and undisturbed by troublesome marks. Crisp striking detail enhances the desirability of this thoroughly PQ 1857-O half eagle.

This issue is the last in the trio of rare New Orleans Mint fives that commenced with the 1855-O. Although not quite as rare as either the 1855-O or 1856-O, the 1857-O is more challenging to

locate in high grades (AU and Mint State). Astute Liberty Head or Southern gold enthusiasts would be hard pressed to find a nicer Choice About Uncirculated survivor than the Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here.

PCGS# 8274. NGC ID: 25V5.

PCGS Population: 7; 5 finer, just three of which are Mint State (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 2; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3077

**1857-S Large S. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Originally preserved in deep honey and more vivid reddish-rose, this smooth and attractive example has the appearance of Mint State quality. Lustrous with a delightful softly frosted texture and a razor sharp strike. This issue saw extensive commercial use during the California Gold Rush era, and most of the 87,000 pieces produced have long since been lost. Among the few survivors, low grades through VF are the norm. In fact, this issue would be almost unobtainable in AU and Mint State were it not for the fact that a handful of higher grade pieces were discovered as part of the S.S. *Central America* treasure. Despite this find, the 1857-S remains an important rarity in the highest grades. The example offered here possesses superior quality and eye appeal (it is most definitely not a shipwreck find) that are sure to tempt discerning gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8275. NGC ID: 25V6.

CAC Population: 13 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3079

**1858-C Winter-1. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Here is a handsome 1858-C half eagle, and also a noteworthy condition rarity. Displaying richly original deep orange-honey color, the surfaces are uncommonly smooth for the grade with no marks of consequence. Thick, attractive mint frost is virtually full, as is the strike apart from a touch of softness to the high points of the eagle. With a production figure of 38,856, the 1858-C half eagle is one of the more readily available half eagles from the Charlotte Mint. As a mainstay gold denomination and the largest produced at this North Carolina facility, virtually the entire issue experienced much use in circulation. Most are in lower to middle level circulated condition and are often scraped, heavily abraded, or otherwise damaged. Only a small number of premium AU examples are known, and even fewer have been approved by CAC, as here. For the advanced specialist in Southern gold, the chance to acquire such an example is quite rare indeed.

PCGS# 8277. NGC ID: 25V8.

PCGS Population: 23; 19 finer (MS-62+ finest).

CAC Population: 5; 3.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3078

**1858 AU-55 (PCGS).** Original honey-orange surfaces are lustrous with most design elements boldly rendered. One of only 15,136 Philadelphia Mint half eagles of the date produced. The mintage for eagles of this date was just 2,521 pieces, as Philadelphia's coinage presses were kept busy in this year churning out 211,714 double eagles. The 1858 inaugurates a run of low mintage fives from the parent mint that continues through 1860, and market appearances are usually few and far between. Prior to 2020, we last offered a circulation strike 1858 half eagle in 2013, while the intervening seven years saw several examples of the 1858-C, 1858-D and 1858-S pass through our sales. Clearly this is an underrated issue relative to the more highly regarded mintmarked issues of its era, the Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here representing a significant bidding opportunity for the astute gold collector.

PCGS# 8276. NGC ID: 25V7.

PCGS Population: 11; 18 finer, 13 of which are Mint State (MS-64+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3080

**1858-D Winter 43-HH. AU-58 (PCGS).** Appealing honey-orange surfaces are attractively original with nearly full frosty mint luster. Central striking detail is exceptionally sharp for the issue, the balance of the surfaces also well struck. A few wispy handling marks in and around the central obverse likely explain the lack of CAC approval, but this is a strictly original near-Mint Dahlonega half eagle, and a significant rarity, as such. It is a far superior survivor from a mintage of just 15,362 pieces, the vast majority of which grade VF or EF, and many of which are also significantly impaired. Sure to see spirited bidding among astute Southern gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8278. NGC ID: 25V9.

PCGS Population: 25; 17 finer, 15 of which are Mint State (MS-64 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Condition Rarity 1858-S Half Eagle



**3081**

**1858-S AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** With nearly full mint frost and impressively smooth surfaces, it is difficult for us to imagine a more attractive and desirable example of this conditionally challenged early San Francisco Mint issue at the assigned grade level. The color is attractively original in honey-apricot, and the strike is razor sharp to full throughout the design.

The 1858-S tells a familiar story for an 1850s San Francisco Mint half eagle. Few examples were produced — in this case just

18,600 pieces — the vast majority of which were consumed by commercial use long ago. Even an original and problem free EF would be a significant find in today's market. Close to Mint State preservation, the premium quality Fairmont-JBR specimen is a significant condition rarity fit for the finest collection.

PCGS# 8279. NGC ID: 25VA.

PCGS Population: 5; 11 finer, just one of which is Mint State (MS-61).

CAC Population: 2; 3 (all AU-58).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



**3082**

**1859 AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Blended deep honey and orange-gold colors provide attractive originality for both sides. Well struck for the issue with plenty of softly frosted luster remaining. The 1859 is a grossly underrated No Motto Liberty Head half eagle in all grades, especially in AU and Mint State preservation. The mintage of 16,734 pieces is similar to that of many of the more highly regarded mintmarked half eagles of the era, but the 1859 is actually more

elusive in today's market. Clearly, this attractive and rare Choice AU survivor represents a significant find for astute gold collectors.

PCGS# 8280. NGC ID: 25VB.

PCGS Population: 7; 25 finer, just four of which are Mint State (MS-64+ finest).

CAC Population: 14 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Uncommonly Sharp 1859-C Half Eagle



3083

**1859-C Winter-1, the only known dies. Die State I. AU-58 (PCGS).** A handsome and originally preserved half eagle with subtle pinkish-rose highlights on dominant deep honey-olive color. As a Die State I example, the strike is superior for the issue with a nearly full obverse and only minimal evidence of rust interfering with the detail on the reverse. On the other hand, portions of the eagle are soft, and expectably so for an 1859-C \$5. Writing in the 2008 edition of his reference on Charlotte Mint gold coinage, Doug Winter suggests that the reverse die for this issue may have received only one (as opposed to two) impressions from the hub, leaving the detail incomplete. At the

threshold of Uncirculated preservation both sides retain much of the mint luster, which is typically granular in texture. There are no marks of consequence, and the in hand appearance is impressively smooth. From a mintage of 31,847 half eagles produced in Charlotte in 1859, most survivors grade no finer than EF-45, confirming the desirability of this bold Choice AU example.

PCGS# 8281. NGC ID: 25VC.

PCGS Population: 11; 10 finer (MS-66 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3084

**1859-D Winter 44-HH. Medium D. AU-55+ (PCGS). CAC.** Tinges of pale pink blend with dominant honey-gold color on both sides of this wonderfully original example. Frosty luster is superior in quality for the assigned grade, as are surfaces that are exceptionally smooth and blemish free. Sharply struck, as well, and sure to sell for a strong premium to a discerning Southern gold specialist. Mintage figures of gold coins at the Dahlonega Mint steadily declined toward the end of the 1850s. By 1859, only 10,366 half eagles were struck, the second lowest figure for the denomination at the Georgia facility. The 1859-D half eagles entered general commerce where they saw

the normal rigors of circulation. As with most Southern gold coins, the vast quantity of the roughly 200 known specimens are in VF or EF condition, with AU coins of even marginal quality quite scarce. At the Choice About Uncirculated level, and with coveted CAC approval, the offered coin from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set is a noteworthy condition rarity worthy of the strongest bids.

PCGS# 8282. NGC ID: 25VD.

PCGS Population: 1; 29 finer, 14 of which are Mint State (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 15 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Condition Census 1859-S Half Eagle



3085

**1859-S AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Fully original, both sides exhibit warm honey-orange color. The luster is richly frosted and sufficiently full for the assigned grade, and the strike is sharp apart from some characteristic (for the type) softness to the central high points. There are no singularly distracting marks, and certainly none that would concern even the most discerning of gold enthusiasts.

When it comes to extant examples rarity is the order of the day for this early San Francisco Mint gold issue. The mintage is just 13,220 pieces, virtually all of which rapidly entered commercial channels in the gold- and silver-intensive economy of the American West. Fewer than 100 examples survived the rigors

of circulation (per *PCGS CoinFacts*), the vast majority of which are well worn, if not also impaired. Mint State survivors are exceedingly rare, not surprisingly since there was absolutely no contemporary numismatic interest in mintmarked coinage, and especially not on the West Coast. Even the National Numismatic Collection in the Smithsonian Institution has just an AU-50 for this conditionally challenged issue. Clearly this premium Choice AU with CAC approval ranks among the finest obtainable for the elusive and challenging 1859-S half eagle.

PCGS# 8283. NGC ID: 25VE.

PCGS Population: 6; 8 finer, just four of which are Mint State (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 4 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3086

**1860 AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Semi-reflectivity in the fields enlivens otherwise frosty surfaces on this delightful half eagle. Handsome pinkish-honey color, a sharp strike and freedom from significant marks enhance the technical quality. The 1860 is the last in a short run of low mintage Philadelphia Mint half eagles that commenced with the 1858. Uncirculated survivors from a mintage of 19,763

pieces are few and far between, making this CAC-verified Choice AU a significant offering that is worthy of serious bidder consideration.

PCGS# 8284. NGC ID: 25VF.

PCGS Population: 8; 8 finer (MS-66 finest).

CAC Population: 5; 3.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Impressive 1860-C Liberty Head \$5 Rare CAC Approval



3087

**1860-C Winter-1. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** This issue is always found with more or less indistinct details on the eagle, not from a lack of striking pressure, but rather from use of a faulty reverse die that caused the same problem in 1859. On the offered coin, however, the overall strike is quite well executed with the obverse fully defined in most areas and the eagle displaying uncommon sharpness throughout its plumage. Pretty deep honey-apricot and olive colors support thick mint luster in a frosty, slightly granular texture. With the third lowest mintage

among Charlotte half eagles (14,813 pieces), the 1860-C has always been a favorite of Southern gold collectors. Few will have the opportunity to obtain an example as nice as this, for the issue is a noteworthy condition rarity in grades that approach Mint State, especially with CAC approval.

PCGS# 8285. NGC ID: 25VG.

PCGS Population: 17; 12 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 3; 2.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



## Noteworthy Mint State 1860-D \$5 Gold



3088

**1860-D Winter 46-GG. Medium D. MS-61 (PCGS).** A thoroughly appealing example that ranks among the finest 1860-D half eagles extant. Vivid medium gold color with tinges of pale olive and pinkish-rose provide strong eye appeal. Frosty to modestly semi-reflective luster is full in the absence of wear, and both sides are impressively smooth for an issue that Doug Winter (2013) describes as often having a “choppy appearance” due to numerous heavy abrasions. Ranking 15th out of 26 Dahlonega Mint half eagles in overall rarity, the 1860-D is

typically offered no finer than Choice EF. About Uncirculated coins are very scarce, and enjoy heightened demand among specialists given the rarity of this issue in Mint State. For the advanced collector, of course, only an Uncirculated example will do, and this offering from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set would be just right.

PCGS# 8286. NGC ID: 25VH.

PCGS Population: 13; 17 finer (MS-64 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3089

**1861 MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** A perennially popular type issue from the No Motto portion of the Liberty Head half eagle series, the 1861 is represented here by a premium Choice Uncirculated example. Vivid rose-honey surfaces are fully lustrous with a generally smooth, frosty texture. Sharply struck with plenty of eye appeal.

The establishment of the Confederate States of America in Montgomery, Alabama on February 4, 1861, followed by the bombardment of Fort Sumter during the second week of April, resulted in a sharp increase in gold coinage at the Philadelphia Mint

to help fund the Northern war effort. Half eagle production alone that year amounted to 688,084 circulation strikes. Such prodigious output was short lived, however, for a string of early Union defeats on the battlefield resulted in uncertainty over the outcome of the conflict and the suspension of gold specie payments by Northern banks in December. Today the 1861 is popular as a type issue, as above, but in Mint State it is surprisingly scarce relative to the mintage.

PCGS# 8288. NGC ID: 25VK.

PCGS Population: 11; 14.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Important 1861-C Half Eagle



3090

**1861-C Winter-1, the only known dies. Die State II. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Offered is a phenomenal near-Mint survivor of a rare and historic Southern gold issue. Boldly to sharply struck throughout the design, the more protected elements of Liberty's portrait and the eagle offer impressively full detail. Handsome reddish-gold and deep olive colors are undeniably original and blend with nearly complete luster in a frosty, minimally granular texture. Marks are inconsequential on surfaces that are remarkably smooth.

The Charlotte Mint half eagle series passed into history in 1861 with a mintage of just 6,879 pieces. Of this total, 887 pieces are believed to have been struck in May of that year under

the authority of the Confederate States of America. A middle die state example, the present coin was likely struck while the facility remained under Federal control, although there is no way of knowing for sure. The 1861-C is the eighth rarest of 24 dates in the Charlotte Mint half eagle series, there being only 200 or so coins extant in all grades. This premium Choice About Uncirculated example is far finer than most and has much to offer advanced Southern gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8289. NGC ID: 25VL.

PCGS Population: 12; 5 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 6; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Significant 1862 Half Eagle Rarity



**3091**

**1862 AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** An outstanding rarity that is sure to excite advanced collectors specializing in Liberty Head gold coinage. This is a beautiful Choice AU half eagle with vivid rose-honey color on predominantly lustrous surfaces. The texture is soft and frosty, and the strike is sharp throughout. It is difficult for us to imagine a more appealing Choice About Uncirculated survivor of this key date half eagle.

The suspension of gold specie payments by Eastern banks in December 1861 resulted in an immediate reduction in half eagle output at the Philadelphia Mint. Whereas the facility delivered

a record (for the era) total of 688,084 circulation strikes in 1861, the mintage for the 1862 is just 4,430 pieces. The 1862 is a highly elusive issue with *PCGS CoinFacts* estimating that fewer than 100 coins are extant in all grades. Particularly rare in Mint State, the significance of this superior quality and highly attractive AU-55 with CAC approval cannot be overstated.

PCGS# 8292. NGC ID: 25VP.

PCGS Population: 13; 13 finer, just six of which are Mint State (MS-62 finest).

CAC Population: 4; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Attractively Original 1862-S Half Eagle



3092

**1862-S AU-53 (PCGS).** This lovely example displays a bold blend of deep honey-gold and more vivid pinkish-orange colors. Striking detail remains overall sharp for the assigned grade, and there is abundant luster. Technically solid and aesthetically pleasing.

The 1862-S has a higher mintage than its identically dated Philadelphia Mint counterpart, 9,500 vs. 4,430 circulation strikes. The reason for this discrepancy is that, while gold coins were withdrawn from commerce in the East and Midwest in late 1861/early 1862, they continued to see active circulation on the

West Coast throughout the Civil War and Reconstruction eras. And circulate this issue did, for most 1862-S half eagles have long since been lost with the bulk of the 100 or so coins believed extant well worn and/or impaired. Mint State survivors can be counted on one hand and the present About Uncirculated example, itself rare from a condition standpoint, represents the finest realistically obtainable for this key date half eagle.

PCGS# 8293. NGC ID: 25VR.

PCGS Population: 4; 6 finer, just two of which are Mint State (MS-62 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Very Rare 1863 Liberty Half Eagle



3093

**1863 AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** This lovely near-Mint 1863 half eagle is a highly significant offering from the JBR Set. It is a fully original, expertly preserved coin exhibiting rich honey-olive and orange-gold colors. The strike is sharp and both sides retain nearly complete frosty to modestly semi-reflective luster.

With Northern banks suspending gold specie payments at the end of 1861, and such coins simultaneously disappearing from circulation in the East and Midwest, little bullion reached the Philadelphia Mint for coinage during the remaining years of the 1860s and throughout much of the 1870s. In 1863, the

Philadelphia Mint produced only 2,442 circulation strike half eagles, the lowest mintage of the Civil War era after that of 1,270 pieces in 1865. Perhaps not surprisingly, the 1863 is seldom offered in any grade. The present example, among the finest seen by PCGS and verified by CAC, is sure to catch the interest of astute gold collectors who recognize the significant bidding opportunity that this lot represents.

PCGS# 8294. NGC ID: 25VS.

PCGS Population: 11; 7 finer, just four of which are Mint State (MS-65+ finest).

CAC Population: 2; 3.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Premium AU 1864 Half Eagle Rarity



3094

**1864 AU-53 (PCGS). CAC.** One of several key date Liberty Head half eagles from the Civil War era, the offering of any circulation strike 1864 represents a significant bidding opportunity for gold specialists. The lovely About Uncirculated surfaces of the present Fairmont-JBR specimen feature golden-honey color with a tinge of reddish-rose. Much of the original finish remains, and the devices are sharply defined throughout from a well executed strike.

As the slightly higher mintage might suggest, the 1864 is not quite as rare as the 1863. Yet with a mere 4,170 circulation strikes produced, the absolute rarity of this issue is beyond doubt. All Philadelphia Mint half eagles of the 1862 to 1865 era are low mintage rarities, as there was little bullion available for

coinage once Eastern banks suspended gold specie payments in late 1861. What's more, many of the Philadelphia Mint gold coins that were struck during that era were subsequently melted, leaving few survivors for today's collectors. The extant population for the 1864 half eagle is estimated at just 60 to 75 coins (per *PCGS CoinFacts*). Only two Mint State grading events are listed at PCGS. Astute bidders take note — it may be years before a finer circulation strike 1864 half eagle becomes available for acquisition.

PCGS# 8296. NGC ID: 25VU.

PCGS Population: 6; 13 finer, just two of which are Mint State (both MS-61).

CAC Population: 2; 6, none of which are certified finer than AU-58.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Landmark 1864-S Half Eagle Rarity



3095

**1864-S EF-45 (PCGS). CAC.** Here is a noteworthy rarity from the early San Francisco Mint. Featuring a bold blend of deep honey-orange color and subtle frosty luster, the surfaces are attractively original in preservation. There are no troublesome marks, and the strike is pleasingly bold even with characteristic softness to the top of Liberty's portrait and the bottom of the eagle. Virtually unimprovable in an EF survivor of the issue, and sure to sell for a strong premium to an advanced Liberty Head or Civil War enthusiast.

The year 1864 is a magic one within many U.S. coinage series. Not only is it the final full year of conflict in the Civil War, but it also saw the creation of many low mintage issues that now rank among the key dates for their types. The 1864-S half eagle is no exception; the mintage was a paltry 3,888 pieces and survivors number only 30 to 35 coins after the rigors of commercial use

took their customary toll. The finest — and only — Mint State survivor is the extraordinary Harry W. Bass, Jr. specimen, now certified MS-65+ by PCGS. The survival of that example is one of the great anomalies of American numismatics. Ranking behind it as CC#2 for the issue is the Fairmont-Hendricks specimen, the only AU-58 certified by PCGS and approved by CAC, which realized \$264,000 in our Spring 2022 Auction. Given how few examples CAC has approved throughout the numismatic grading scale, the JBR specimen offered here is nearly as significant, and is also destined for inclusion in another advanced collection.

PCGS# 8297. NGC ID: 25VV.

PCGS Population: 2; 7 finer, including a single MS-65+.

CAC Population: 9 in all grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Remarkably Choice About Uncirculated 1865-S Half Eagle Among the Finest Approved by CAC



3096

**1865-S AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** A newcomer to the Condition Census for this challenging Civil War era issue, this premium Choice AU 1865-S will impress even the most seasoned Liberty Head gold enthusiasts. It is a wonderfully original coin with deep honey-gold color on both sides, nearly complete mint luster, and striking detail that is sharp in all but a few isolated areas. There are no significant marks to limit either the technical quality or eye appeal.

As with all San Francisco Mint half eagles from the Civil War and Reconstruction eras, the 1865-S is scarce to rare in all grades. Most of the 27,612 coins struck were lost to heavy commercial

use. Fewer than 100 are known, and most are well worn and/or impaired. This remarkably well preserved and visually appealing Choice AU would be difficult to improve upon. Indeed, it is one of the highest graded examples of the issue to meet with approval from CAC. The other is the Fairmont-Hendricks specimen in PCGS/CAC AU-58 that realized \$28,800 in our Spring 2022 Auction.

PCGS# 8299. NGC ID: 25VX.

PCGS Population: 6; 5 finer, just two of which are Mint State (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 1; 1 (AU-58).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Lovely AU 1866-S No Motto \$5



3097

**1866-S No Motto. No Motto. AU-50 (PCGS).** From an important transitional year in the Liberty Head half eagle series comes this attractive 1866-S No Motto example. The eye appeal is exceptional with deep, rich honey-rose color blending with softly frosted mint luster. The strike is sharp at virtually all design features. Uncommonly smooth for the issue, we note only wispy handling marks that are minimally distracting in hand.

The San Francisco Mint struck only 9,000 No Motto Liberty Head half eagles in 1866 before dies for the new Motto design arrived from the mint in Philadelphia. With S-Mint gold coinage of the era seeing heavy commercial use, the typical survivor is well worn and often impaired. Survivors of this issue are few

and far between regardless of preservation, as most examples failed to survive exportation and eventual melting. Particularly elusive in the finest circulated grades such as Choice EF and AU, the 1866-S No Motto was unknown in Mint State until PCGS certified an example in MS-61 ahead of its sale in our March 2017 Baltimore Auction. The coin offered here from the JBR Set also ranks among our most significant offerings of all time for this rare and conditionally challenged issue. Sure to see spirited bidding.

PCGS# 8300. NGC ID: 25VY.

PCGS Population: 3; 12 finer, just one of which is Mint State (MS-61).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



## Rarely Offered Near-Mint 1866 Half Eagle Popular First Year With Motto Issue



**3098**

**1866 AU-58 (PCGS).** An exciting offering for the specialist, this coin represents one of only a half dozen AU-58 grading events for the issue at PCGS. Vivid reddish-rose iridescence enhances deep honey-olive color, the combination of the two providing an attractive and undeniably original appearance. The luster is frosty and virtually full, and the strike is boldly to sharply executed.

The Philadelphia Mint's first Liberty Head half eagle with Motto, the 1866 is a leading rarity in its series. The mintage is just 6,700 circulation strikes, the lowest production figure of any of

the three half eagles of the date. Indeed, the 1866 is rare and elusive in all grades with fewer than 100 examples extant per *PCGS CoinFacts*. Just a handful of Mint State pieces survive, and market offerings are usually separated by many years, if not decades. Premium Choice AU coins such as this as just as rare, this offering from the JBR Set representing a significant opportunity that deserves undivided bidder attention.

PCGS# 8311. NGC ID: 25VZ.

PCGS Population: 6; 6 finer (MS-62+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Finest Known 1866-S Motto Half Eagle The Only CAC-Approved Mint State Coin



3099

**1866-S Motto. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Offered is a high Condition Census example of this extraordinary rarity among 1860s half eagles, only the third Mint State 1866-S Motto confirmed in the modern numismatic market. It is a beautiful coin with quality and eye appeal that are both superior for the assigned grade. Lustrous and frosty, both sides display attractively original, rich honey-orange and rose-gold colors. The strike is virtually full, and there are remarkably few marks, certainly none that are worthy of attention.

Just 34,920 coins were struck of this historic Liberty Head half eagle, the first from the West Coast facility with the motto IN GOD WE TRUST on a scroll in the upper reverse field. Thanks to the rigors of commerce, only a tiny number survive today, with *PCGS CoinFacts* accounting for fewer than 100 in all grades. Prior to publication of the 2008 edition of the Garrett-Guth encyclopedia on U.S. gold coinage, this issue was unknown in Mint State. Around that time NGC certified an example as MS-

61, sold as lot 3272 in Heritage's May 2008 Long Beach Signature Auction. That coin appears to have since been crossed to PCGS MS-61, although to date it has not been approved by CAC.

The Fairmont-Hendricks specimen that realized \$38,400 in our Spring 2022 Auction was the second 1866-S Motto to have been certified as Mint State. It is graded MS-60, again without CAC approval. Its counterpart from the JBR Set, offered here, is the latest newcomer to the Condition Census for the issue, where it is ranked as CC#1 as the only Mint State example to have received CAC approval. A rare and significant bidding opportunity for half eagle collectors, this coin belongs in another world class cabinet of Liberty Head coinage.

PCGS# 8312. NGC ID: 25W2.

PCGS Population: 2; 0 finer.

CAC Population: just 1 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Top CAC Pop 1867 Half Eagle



### 3100

**1867 AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** The offered 1867 half eagle is an absolute and condition rarity from the early Motto Liberty Head half eagle series. Sharply defined with handsome deep honey-rose color, both sides also show abundant frosty to semi-reflective luster. Produced in nearly identical numbers (6,870 vs. 6,700 circulation strikes), the 1867 is equally as elusive as the 1866. Fewer than 100 survivors are known, most of which are in grades such as Fine or VF. Even the specimen in the Smithsonian Institution's National Numismatic Collection has

been graded EF-45 by gold experts Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth (2008). With only a handful of Uncirculated coins certified, this solidly graded and visually appealing near-Mint example would serve as a highlight in any advanced gold cabinet. No Mint State examples have been approved by CAC.

PCGS# 8313. NGC ID: 25W3.

PCGS Population: 4; 9 finer, seven of which are Mint State (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 2; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Premium Choice AU 1867-S Half Eagle



3101

**1867-S AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Vivid reddish-gold overtones enliven a base of deep honey color. This is a beautiful, fully original 1860s San Francisco Mint half eagle, one that is enhanced by virtually full, lively frosty luster. Well struck with most features sharp.

The 1867-S half eagle tells a familiar story for an early date gold issue from the San Francisco Mint: few coins were struck (in this case, just 29,000 pieces), virtually all of which succumbed to heavy commercial use. In a comment that could be applied to so many early S-Mint gold coins, Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth (2008) describe the 1867-S half eagle as “one of the most underrated [issues] in the entire Liberty Head series.” A quick perusal of our auction archives will confirm three things concerning this issue:

- This is only our fourth offering for the 1867-S half eagle in eight years.

- Our offerings for this issue have been few over the last 20 years.
- The vast majority of survivors grade VF or EF, often with significant impairments.

Indeed, of the 100 or so coins extant, few are About Uncirculated. Premium quality Choice AU examples such as this are particularly rare, and they are also significant given that the 1867-S half eagle is represented by only a single Mint State coin at PCGS. (NGC also reports a lone grading event in MS-61, which is likely an earlier submission of that same coin.) Tied for CC#4, the beautiful Fairmont-JBR coin offered here is making its first appearance in the modern numismatic market. It is a significant condition rarity that would serve as a highlight in even the finest gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8314. NGC ID: 25W4.

PCGS Population: 2; 5 finer, just one of which is Mint State (MS-61).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3102

**1868 AU-58 (PCGS).** This is a delightful example of a highly elusive Philadelphia Mint half eagle. Both sides display deep honey and rose-gold colors. The luster is virtually complete, and the otherwise frosty texture yields to decided semi-reflectivity in the fields. Boldly struck and nicely preserved in all regards, this 1868 half eagle holds great appeal for advanced collectors of Liberty Head gold coinage.

The 1868 is part of a run of rare low mintage circulation strike Liberty Head half eagles from the Philadelphia Mint that began in 1862 during the darkest days of the Civil War. With the outcome of that conflict uncertain by the end of 1861, Eastern banks suspended gold specie payments in December. This resulted in the withdrawal of gold coins from circulation in the North and Midwest (although such pieces continued to see commercial use on the West Coast) and smaller Philadelphia half eagle mintages. The Philadelphia

Mint struck just 5,700 circulation strike half eagles in 1868. Most of these coins were exported, although some likely saw circulation on the West Coast, thereby explaining the small number of mostly VF and EF survivors. Even more elusive are AU and Mint State coins, many of which were likely repatriated from foreign bank hoards beginning in the mid 20th century. The number of 1868 half eagles involved in these repatriations has been small, however, and PCGS *CoinFacts* accounts for fewer than 100 coins extant in all grades. This aesthetically pleasing Choice AU example is among the finest available, and is sure to see spirited bidding.

PCGS# 8315. NGC ID: 25W5.

PCGS Population: 11; 2 finer (MS-62 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Condition Census 1868-S Half Eagle



3103

**1868-S AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Vivid orange-gold and deep honey surfaces are near-fully lustrous and softly frosted. A touch of softness to the high points is easily forgiven, the strike bold to sharp in virtually all areas. Half eagle production at the San Francisco Mint ratcheted up slightly in 1868 to 52,000 pieces, the highest mintage for the denomination at the West Coast facility since the 1857-S. Unlike at the Philadelphia Mint where little bullion was available after the suspension of gold specie payments in December 1861, production of gold coins at San Francisco remained tied to commercial needs throughout the Civil War and early Reconstruction eras. It was these commercial needs that caused the demise of most 1868-S half

eagles. Although a slightly higher mintage means that this issue is more obtainable in circulated grades than the 1866-S (No Motto and Motto) and 1867-S, the 1868-S is still scarce even at the Fine and VF levels. Extremely Fine and low end About Uncirculated coins are rare, while at and near the Mint State this issue is a major condition rarity. The Fairmont-JBR offering is a Condition Census coin that is destined for another advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8316. NGC ID: 25W6.

PCGS Population: 8; 4 finer (MS-62 finest).

CAC Population: 3; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Premium Near-Mint 1869 \$5 Gold Tied for Finest Certified at PCGS



3104

**1869 AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** With nearly full striking detail and faint traces of semi-prooflike reflectivity in the fields, this 1869 half eagle is an exceptionally well preserved example of an issue that is elusive even in lower grades. Vivid deep honey-orange color blankets both sides and enhances already strong eye appeal. With only 1,760 pieces produced, the 1869 has one of the lowest circulation strike mintages in the entire Liberty Head half eagle series. This issue is similar in absolute rarity to the 1866, 1867 and 1868, there being fewer than 100 coins extant. The 1869 is rarer in Mint State, however, with only

three Uncirculated coins certified (all at NGC, the finest of which are graded MS-64 ★ and MS-64 PL). One of numerous significant bidding opportunities for advanced half eagle collectors from this special Fairmont-JBR offering.

PCGS# 8317. NGC ID: 25W7.

PCGS Population: 6; 0 finer at this service.

CAC Population: 2; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Premium Near-Mint 1869-S \$5 Rarity



**3105**

**1869-S AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** A lustrous and vivid Choice AU 1869-S half eagle, an issue that is elusive even in lower circulated grades. The present example saw very little commercial use, in fact, and retains not only much of the softly frosted mint finish, but also generally sharp striking detail that comes up short at only a few isolated high points. Smooth and inviting. This is a scarce issue that becomes rare in grades above EF. Extensive commercial use claimed most of the 31,000 half eagles struck in the San Francisco Mint during 1869, and most of the survivors

are well worn if not also impaired. Mint State examples are all but unknown; this significant Choice AU — rare in its right — represents the finest in quality realistically obtainable for most collectors.

PCGS# 8318. NGC ID: 25W8.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (MS-62+ finest).

CAC Population: 2; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



**3106**

**1870 AU-55+ (PCGS). CAC.** Vivid pinkish-rose iridescence blends with dominant honey-gold color on both sides of this richly original example. Boldly if not sharply struck in all areas with ample semi-prooflike finish. Produced during an era when gold coins did not actively circulate in the Eastern and Midwestern United States, the Philadelphia Mint's circulation strike half eagle issue of 1870 posted a mintage of just 4,000 coins. As an upper end Choice AU with CAC

approval, the Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here is scarce in an absolute sense and rare from a condition standpoint.

PCGS# 8319. NGC ID: 25W9.

PCGS Population: 2; 9 finer, just three of which are Mint State (all MS-61).

CAC Population: 3; 2. The former total includes coins certified both AU-55 and AU-55+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Exciting Choice AU 1870-S Half Eagle Unknown in Mint State



3107

**1870-S AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Among the leading highlights of the JBR Set half eagles, this is a significant Choice AU survivor of an issue that is unknown in any Uncirculated grade. Frosty to modestly semi-reflective luster is very much in evidence, and the surfaces display universally sharp to full striking detail and just trivial rub. Pretty orange-honey color blankets both sides and provides strong eye appeal.

Here we go again — a mintage of just 17,000 pieces, combined with heavy commercial use beginning in Reconstruction era

California, created an absolute and condition rarity in the 1870-S half eagle. Fewer than 100 coins are extant (per *PCGS CoinFacts*), and most are not choice. This remarkable AU-55 is among the finest certified at PCGS and one of the nicest examples of the issue that we have offered in more than a decade. A significant bidding opportunity worthy of undivided attention.

PCGS# 8321. NGC ID: 25WB.

PCGS Population: 15; 4 finer (all AU-58). There are also no Mint State examples listed at NGC.

CAC Population: 2; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Elusive Choice AU 1871 Half Eagle



3108

**1871 AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Deep, rich, rose-honey color blankets both sides of this original example. Plenty of frosty to modestly semi-reflective luster remains, the striking detail is universally crisp, and there is no significant wear. The 1871 issue continues a trend of low mintage circulation strike half eagles from the Philadelphia Mint that began early in the Civil War; in this particular case only 3,200 coins were struck. With fewer than 100 examples known, the 1871 is similar in overall

rarity to the other early Motto issues of the late 1860s and early 1870s. This very well preserved specimen is vastly superior to the typically encountered example, usually seen in VF or EF. Among CAC-verified coins, none are graded finer than AU-58.

PCGS# 8322. NGC ID: 25WC.

PCGS Population: 9; 7 finer (MS-61 finest).

CAC Population: 5; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3109

**1871-S AU-55 (PCGS).** Handsome golden-honey surfaces offer impressive originality and a smooth appearance in a lightly circulated early 1870s San Francisco Mint half eagle. It is boldly defined in most areas with appreciable luster on both sides. Survivors of the 1871-S mintage rarely come this nice, and the present bidding opportunity is unlikely to be repeated anytime soon. Only 25,000 examples were struck, and as with virtually every San Francisco Mint gold issue of the era, most saw heavy commercial duty and VF and Choice VF are

the grades most often seen. Any finer and condition rarity combines with absolute scarcity for the 1871-S half eagle. If you have an interest in the present piece you should bid liberally, as it will most assuredly be some time before a comparable specimen comes up for public auction.

PCGS# 8324. NGC ID: 25WE.

PCGS Population: 8; 11 finer, just three of which are Mint State (MS-63+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

**Exciting 1872-CC Half Eagle  
Condition Census PCGS/CAC AU-58  
Unknown in Mint State**



3110

**1872-CC Winter 1-B. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Offered is one of the very finest 1872-CC half eagles available to today's advanced gold collectors and Carson City Mint enthusiasts. It is a wonderfully original coin dressed in vivid pinkish-orange and warmer honey-gold colors. Abundant mint frost remains to surfaces that are exceptionally smooth and problem free. This is not a well struck issue, and while we note characteristic softness through the centers, there is also considerable sharpness of detail toward the borders. Both the quality and eye appeal are exceptional.

The 1872-CC (16,980 coins struck) is much rarer than the 1871-CC in all grades and is tied with the 1873-CC as the second

rarest Carson City Mint half eagle in high grades after the 1878-CC. Unlike the 1870-CC, 1871-CC and 1873-CC, the 1872-CC is unknown in Mint State. At the top of the Condition Census for this very challenging issue, therefore, are four certified AU-58s that have met with strict CAC approval. The offered coin from the JBR Set is the newcomer to this highly select group of condition rarities — a finest known fit for inclusion in the finest numismatic cabinet.

PCGS# 8326. NGC ID: 25WG.

PCGS Population: 4; 0 finer. There are also no Mint State examples listed at NGC.

CAC Population: 4; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



## Exciting Near-Mint 1872-S Half Eagle

### CAC Pop 1/0



3111

**1872-S AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Here is the highest graded 1872-S half eagle to have met with strict approval from CAC. This coin escaped both heavy circulation and melting, a rarity for an early 1870s half eagle from the San Francisco Mint. It has come down to the present day with full softly frosted luster. Deep, vivid rose-orange and honey colors add appeal, as do surfaces that are pleasingly smooth for the assigned grade.

Though 36,400 examples of this issue were produced, even marginal AU coins are difficult to come by, while near-Mint

survivors are so rare that this is our first offering for such that we can recall. Much of the mintage obviously saw heavy commercial use, which claimed most San Francisco Mint half eagles produced during the Reconstruction era. A rare opportunity for the alert half eagle collector, this coin would serve as highlight in the finest cabinet.

PCGS# 8327. NGC ID: 25WH.

PCGS Population: 1; 4 finer (MS-61 finest).

CAC Population: 1; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3112

**1873 Close 3. MS-60 (PCGS).** Thick, rich, frosty mint luster blends with original honey-rose color on both sides of this lovely Mint State half eagle. Boldly struck and remarkably attractive for the assigned grade. The 1873 is an outlier in the circulation strike Philadelphia Mint half eagle series of 1862 to 1877 in that it has a relatively high mintage of 224,985 coins. This figure includes examples of both the Close and Open 3 date styles, the former a bit more challenging to locate in today's market. In truth, however, both varieties of the 1873 are scarce in an absolute sense and quite rare in Mint State, especially above MS-62. This lovely example from the JBR Set represents a significant find and an important bidding opportunity for astute gold collectors.

PCGS# 8329. NGC ID: 25WJ.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3113

**1873 Open 3. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** A delightful example with plenty of semi-prooflike reflectivity to otherwise frosty surfaces. Attractively original in warm rose-honey color, this is an outstanding near-Mint type candidate from a challenging era in the Liberty Head half eagle series.

PCGS# 8328. NGC ID: 25WK.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Condition Census 1873-CC Half Eagle Tied for Finest Approved by CAC



3114

**1873-CC Winter-2. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** From one of the most popular, and certainly most romanticized mints in U.S. coinage history comes this exceptional 1873-CC half eagle. A fully original coin, generally honey-olive surfaces reveal a tinge of pale pinkish-apricot overall. Abundant frosty luster remains, the strike uncommonly sharp throughout with no areas of mentionable softness.

The Nevada coinage facility delivered only 7,416 half eagles in 1873, the coins seeing immediate and extensive use in local commerce. Such was the fate of most Carson City Mint gold issues, many of which eventually went to the melting pot after years of circulation. Among the early date half eagles, fortunate is the coin that was retrieved from commercial channels in later years, although for the 1873-CC few coins were so lucky. In his cataloging for our August 2012 sale of the fabulous Battle

Born Collection, Carson City Mint expert Rusty Goe estimated that just 85 to 95 coins are extant in all grades, a range that he tightened up a bit to 75 to 85 coins in his excellent reference *The Confident Carson City Coin Collector* (2020). Q. David Bowers takes a more conservative view and allows for just 45 to 65 survivors. The present example is a particularly significant representative, offering absolute as well as condition rarity. It is one of the two finest certified 1873-CC half eagles to have received approval from CAC, the other the identically graded Fairmont Collection-Hendricks Set specimen that realized \$66,000 in our Spring 2022 Auction. Sure to draw considerable interest and realize an equally strong price.

PCGS# 8331. NGC ID: 25WL.

PCGS Population: 6; 2 finer, both Mint State (MS-62 finest).

CAC Population: 2; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Exceptional 1874-CC Half Eagle



3115

**1874-CC Winter 2-D. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Plenty of bold to sharp striking detail remains to tempt the advanced CC-Mint gold collector, the surfaces also with outstanding original color in dominant olive-orange. Glints of reddish-rose iridescence further enhance the appearance as the coin rotates under a light. Frosty in texture with an impressively smooth appearance overall.

With a total of 21,198 pieces struck, Carson City produced more half eagles in 1874 than at either Philadelphia (with only 3,488 coins) or at San Francisco (with 16,000 coins). Carson City's output was almost exclusively used locally where the denomination served yeoman's duty in daily commercial activity, rather than in international trade like many of the coins produced at Philadelphia and even San Francisco. Despite this,

there is a very high attrition rate among Carson City half eagles, with at most around 1% remaining. The 1874-CC half eagle is the most accessible of the denomination from this decade with as many as 200 to 250 extant specimens (per Rusty Goe, 2020). As with most issues from this storied Nevada facility, by far the vast majority of these coins are in the VF or EF grade levels. The coin offered here retains an uncommon amount of sharp detail for this highly desirable issue which, when combined with richly original surfaces, confirms it as one of the finest obtainable in today's highly competitive numismatic market.

PCGS# 8334. NGC ID: 25WE.

PCGS Population: 9; 5 finer (MS-63+ finest).

CAC Population: 5; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Important Choice AU 1874-S Half Eagle Unknown in Mint State



3116

**1874-S AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** An exceptionally well defined, vivid honey-rose example of a gold issue that is seldom offered in any grade. Most design elements are sharply rendered, in fact, and ample luster remains. The S mintmark is a tad faint, but not so much as to have warranted a Weak S designation from PCGS. (It is readily appreciable even to the unaided eye.) Highly elusive in numismatic circles, the 1874-S half eagle has a mintage of 16,000 coins, most of which were worn out and eventually lost

in circulation on the West Coast. When we further consider that this is one of a select group of U.S. Mint issues that are currently unknown in Mint State, the PCGS-certified and CAC-verified Choice AU from the JBR Set is a highly significant offering.

PCGS# 8335. NGC ID: 25WR.

PCGS Population: 2; 0 finer. There are also no Mint State examples reported by NGC.

CAC Population: 2; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3117

**1874-S AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** A remarkably second Choice AU offering for a conditionally challenging S-Mint half eagle issue that is unknown in any Mint State grade. Abundant frosty to semi-reflective luster shines forth as handsome deep honey-rose surfaces dip into a light. The mintmark is sharper even than that seen on the JBR specimen offered above, and it is as close to full as one is likely to find in an 1874-S \$5. Well struck otherwise with most features bold,

the surfaces are attractively original and nicely composed — ideal for inclusion in an advanced collection of Liberty Head gold.

PCGS# 8335. NGC ID: 25WR.

PCGS Population: 12; 2 finer (both AU-58). There are also no Mint State examples known to NGC.

CAC Population: 3; 2 (both AU-58).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Noteworthy AU 1875-CC Half Eagle



3118

**1875-CC Winter 1-B. AU-50 (PCGS).** Delicate pale silver highlights enliven otherwise honey-gold surfaces on both sides of this wonderfully original example. Pleasingly smooth with appreciable frosty luster in evidence, a touch of high point wear hardly interferes with a generally sharp strike.

The wealth of the Comstock Lode began to flow to the Mint in earnest in 1875. Not only was silver being extracted in huge quantities, a sizable amount of gold was also coming out of the famous Consolidated Virginia Mine; fully half of the government's \$1.5 million purchase of bullion in mid-1875 was gold. Coining was focused on the double eagle in 1875 rather than the two smaller denominations, as well as large quantities of trade dollars. Care in striking appears to have not been much of a concern for half eagles, resulting in what Doug Winter calls "...one of the worst struck Carson City half eagles." Soft indistinct strikes are the norm in this year, making choice examples especially desirable. Two different obverse and two different reverse dies paired in three different die marriages have been identified. Coiner William Hy Doane delivered 8,145 half eagles in the first half of the year before he turned over the reins to Levi Dague in August. The final batch of 3,683 coins was delivered

in December. Even with this almost desultory production run, Carson City still led production in half eagles for the year. These few coins entered circulation and served the monetary needs of the local economy for years.

In a series well known for condition rarities, the 1875-CC stands out as one of the most challenging. Mint State examples are extraordinarily elusive for this issue. Estimates vary as to the total number of extant specimens at the circulated level, from as few as 90 to as many as 150. All the experts agree that there are only two confirmed Mint State examples known. For collectors that find the Mint State coins out of reach either due to cost or unavailability — which are obviously most numismatists in today's market — the next best thing are the handful of premium quality About Uncirculated survivors. These are rare in their own right, and market offerings are nearly as few as they are for the Uncirculated pieces. Interested parties are urged to pursue this offering with vigor for, once this coin sells, it may be years, if not decades before a similar opportunity presents itself.

PCGS# 8337. NGC ID: 25WU.

PCGS Population: 7; 13 finer, just one of which is Mint State (MS-61).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Finest Certified 1875-S \$5 Approved by CAC



**3119**

**1875-S AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Remarkably well preserved for an issue that is challenging to find even in problem free EF preservation. This is a fully Choice AU, in fact nearly Uncirculated example with abundant frosty luster on original deep honey-rose surfaces. Striking detail remains razor sharp to full, and the surfaces are very nice for the assigned grade.

Our offerings for this issue have been few and far between over the years, and with good reason. The 1875-S is a heavily

circulated half eagle issue with a mintage of just 9,000 coins. The Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here combines absolute and condition rarity, and would make a fitting addition to any advanced collection of Liberty Head gold coinage. Finest graded verified by CAC!

PCGS# 8338. NGC ID: 25WV.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer, just one of which is Mint State (MS-64).

CAC Population: 1; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Choice AU 1876 Half Eagle

### Classic Low Mintage Rarity



3120

**1876 AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** The 1876 is a highly elusive Philadelphia Mint Liberty Head half eagle, offered here in a particularly desirable state of preservation. Rich pinkish-honey color is enhanced with just a hint of pale silver and appreciable reflective luster in the fields on both sides. A touch of softness to the central high points is common for half eagles of this era, and otherwise the striking detail is razor sharp. This is a thoroughly appealing, barely circulated Liberty Head gold coin from a scarce, key date issue.

Struck during the year of the United States Centennial, the 1876 is extremely popular with both Liberty Head half eagle specialists and more generalized collectors. It is also difficult

to obtain in any grade. Just 1,432 circulation strikes were produced, as gold coins were still not exchangeable at par with paper currency at the time and were not actively circulating in the East and Midwest. This circumstance had prevailed since late 1861, and it would not change until late 1878, when parity was once again achieved. Survivors are seldom offered in today's market, especially with the quality and eye appeal of this Choice AU example. Tied for highest graded with CAC approval with just two other AU-58s.

PCGS# 8339. NGC ID: 25WW.

PCGS Population: 4; 10 finer (MS-65 finest).

CAC Population: 3; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Low Mintage 1876-CC Half Eagle



3121

**1876-CC Winter-1, the only known dies. EF-45 (PCGS). CAC.** Lovely and original honey-rose surfaces are carefully preserved and retain appreciable frosty luster. Both sides are impressively smooth and undisturbed by even a single noteworthy blemish. Softness of strike at the central high points is common for Carson City Mint fives from this era, although in the absence of significant wear the balance of this coin offers bold to sharp definition.

Just 6,887 half eagles were produced at the Carson City Mint in 1876, the lowest output for the denomination at this frontier coinage facility. Widespread use in local commerce claimed most examples, and survivors are scarce to rare in all grades. Estimates for the number of coins extant have varied somewhat in recent decades, with Doug Winter providing a figure of 80

to 90 coins in all grades in the 2001 edition of *Gold Coins of the Carson City Mint*. Taking a slightly more liberal approach, and based on more modern census data, Rusty Goe provides an estimate of 120 to 140 coins in Volume 2 of his outstanding 2020 reference *The Confident Carson City Collector*. Both estimates confirm that the 1876-CC is a prime rarity at all levels of preservation and is challenging to locate even in circulated grades. With the vast majority of survivors well worn and in the VF range, even solidly graded, aesthetically pleasing EFs such as this are elusive.

PCGS# 8340. NGC ID: 25WX.

PCGS Population: 18; 27 finer, just two of which are Mint State (MS-66 finest).

CAC Population: 4; 4.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



## Seldom Offered Choice AU 1877 Half Eagle



3122

**1877 AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Here is a significant 1877 half eagle, an issue that is highly elusive at all levels of preservation. Much of the semi-prooflike finish remains in the fields of this minimally circulated survivor, and the design elements are frosty and considerably lustrous. Bathed in vivid honey-rose color, this impressive Choice AU would serve with distinction in any advanced gold cabinet.

The production of minor gold coins in the 1870s was often desultory at best. Such is the case in 1877 when only 1,132 half eagles were struck at Philadelphia, the second lowest production run for the denomination. At the time, the few numismatists of

the era who were interested in gold coins preferred Proofs over pieces struck for general circulation. Entering commerce with very little notice, most 1877 half eagles were used until melted. Fewer than 100 remain in all degrees of preservation, almost all of which are circulated, even if only lightly so. This nearly Mint State example will be tremendously appealing for advanced collectors of 19th century gold.

PCGS# 8342. NGC ID: 25WZ.

PCGS Population: 10; 13, just five of which are Mint State (MS-62 finest).

CAC Population: 3; 2 (both AU-58).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3123

**1877-CC Winter 1-B. VF-35 (PCGS).** Attractive honey-rose surfaces are well defined for the grade with all major features bold. An uncommonly smooth appearance is noted in the absence of the usually seen circulation marks. The Carson City Mint produced barely more half eagles in 1877 than it had the year before. Production was delayed until April when the Mint's personnel resumed coining, beginning with double eagles. The half eagle's time came in August when the entire mintage of 8,680 pieces was executed in a single run; all were better produced than most earlier CC-Mint issues.

While not one of the rarest of the Carson City Mint half eagles in an absolute sense, the vast majority of survivors for the 1877-CC are found in VF and lower grades. Mint State coins are extraordinarily rare and seldom appear for sale, leaving market pressure to focus on the few Choice Very Fine, Extremely Fine and About Uncirculated specimens available. Above average among the 130 to 165 coins believed extant (per Rusty Goe, 2020), the addition of this pleasing Choice VF example would be a noteworthy occasion for any advanced Western gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8343. NGC ID: 25X2.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3124

**1877-S AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Rich honey-gold color with a tinge of pale olive reflects the originality of this handsome piece. Nearly full, the luster offers attractive satin to softly frosted texture and the strike is pleasingly sharp. The 1877-S is the final low mintage San Francisco Mint issue in the Liberty Head five-dollar series, with a production of just 26,700 pieces. With most examples lost to circulation and the typical survivor well worn or impaired, this appealing and problem-free Choice AU ranks among the finer certified and would serve with distinction in an advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8344. NGC ID: 25X3.

PCGS Population: 10; 10 finer, just four of which are Mint State (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 2; 2.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3125

**1878 MS-62+ (PCGS). CAC.** A frosty to modestly semi-prooflike beauty further adorned with vivid honey-orange color. Sharply struck and attractively original, this nearly Choice example would make a lovely addition to any Mint State gold set. Circulation strike half eagle production in the Philadelphia Mint soared to 131,720 pieces in 1878 in anticipation of the return of parity between gold and paper currency set by the federal government for January 1, 1879. Thanks to its relatively generous mintage, this issue is among the most obtainable from its era in lower Mint State grades. With CAC approval, however, such examples are rare, especially relative to current market demand for premium quality classic U.S. Mint coinage.

PCGS# 8345. NGC ID: 25X4.

CAC Population: 11; 11. The former total includes coins certified both MS-62 and MS-62+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Premium EF 1878-CC \$5 Gold



3126

**1878-CC Winter 1-A, the only known dies. EF-40 (PCGS). CAC.** An engaging piece with subtle pinkish-rose highlights on dominant deep honey-orange color. The surfaces are remarkably smooth for a CC-Mint gold coin that saw considerable commercial use, and there are really no marks or other blemishes worthy of concern. Well defined overall with considerable sharpness to the more protected design elements.

The mintage for the 1878-CC half eagle is just 9,045 pieces, a modest figure for the era, although typical of many 1870s Carson City Mint gold issues. CC-Mint expert Rusty Goe (2020) provides an estimate of just 75 to 85 coins extant in all grades,

only 32 to 40 of which are at the EF and AU levels. Although NGC lists both an MS-63 and an MS-63 PL for this issue, Goe asserts that these are data entry errors on the part of the firm as “no such coin (or coins) exists to match any entry NGC has recorded in its census for a Mint State 1878-CC half eagle.” The issue is unknown in Mint State, as such, confirming the significance of this rare CAC-approved Extremely Fine example for advanced bidders.

PCGS# 8346. NGC ID: 25X5.

PCGS Population: 9; 29 finer (AU-58+ finest at this service).

CAC Population: 16 in all grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3127

**1878-S MS-63 (PCGS).** A frosty and smartly impressed MS-63 example that offers vivid color in bold honey-rose. Half eagle production at the San Francisco Mint increased markedly in 1878 with a mintage of 144,700 pieces. This was achieved in anticipation of the government-mandated return to parity between gold coinage and paper currency set for January 1, 1879. Unfortunately for today's collectors, this increase in mintage did not result in a generous supply of Mint State survivors. Most examples saw extensive commercial use, and even coins at the MS-60 to MS-61 level are elusive. This is one of the finest 1878-S fives that we have had the privilege of bringing to auction in recent years, and it is sure to fetch a strong price.

PCGS# 8347. NGC ID: 25X6.

PCGS Population: 14; 5 finer (MS-65 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3128

**1879 MS-63+ (PCGS).** Vivid deep honey-rose surfaces support a sharp to full strike with soft, frosty mint luster throughout. Half eagle production at the Philadelphia Mint continued to step up in 1879, the facility striking 301,920 coins for commercial use. The market achieved parity between gold coins and paper money in December of the preceding year, allowing the latter to return to active commercial use in the eastern and midwestern parts of the United States. The 1879 is much more plentiful in Mint State than most of the early dated Philadelphia Mint half eagles going back to 1862, but it is also scarcer than most later date issues in this series. Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth (2008) use the word "uncommon" to describe this issue in Mint State, which is particularly apt above the basal MS-63 level.

PCGS# 8348. NGC ID: 25X7.

PCGS Population: 4; 26 finer (MS-66 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Remarkable Near-Mint 1879-CC Half Eagle Significant Condition Rarity



3129

**1879-CC Winter 1-A. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** An exceptionally well preserved, nearly Mint State example that ranks among the finest survivors of this scarce and conditionally challenging issue. The strike is razor sharp in virtually all areas; only the eagle's neck feathers exhibit mentionable softness. Attractive mint luster flows over both sides, and the surfaces display rich honey-orange color that testifies to the coin's originality. Smooth and inviting for the assigned grade, this premium quality coin is sure to attract strong bids.

Due to outlandish railroad tariffs, by the late 1870s it was more profitable for Nevada miners to send their bullion for coinage to the San Francisco Mint as opposed to the nearby Carson City facility. Carson City Mint expert Rusty Goe (August 2012) states that, "By 1879, Nevada's miners were already sending about 100 times as much of their gold to the San Francisco Mint than they

were depositing in Carson City, and about 13 times as much silver." It is little wonder, therefore, that the Nevada branch mint produced so few gold coins of any denomination in 1879. The 1879-CC half eagle has a mintage of just 17,281 pieces, and it is scarce in an absolute sense. Rusty Goe provides an updated (2020) estimate of only 235 to 270 survivors in all grades, just eight or nine of which are Uncirculated. The Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here is a newcomer to the market, and it is just shy of Condition Census for this challenging issue. It is a significant rarity that would serve as a highlight in an advanced numismatic cabinet.

PCGS# 8349. NGC ID: 25X8.

PCGS Population: 13; 8 finer (MS-62 finest).

CAC Population: 7; 5.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3130

**1879-S AU-58 (PCGS).** Keeping pace with the main coinage facility in Philadelphia, the San Francisco Mint also continued to increase half eagle production through 1879 with a delivery of 426,200 coins for the year. Although fairly plentiful in circulated grades, most AU examples offer neither the originality nor the visual appeal of the Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here.

PCGS# 8350. NGC ID: 25X9.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3131

**1880 MS-63+ (PCGS).** CAC. This gorgeous example is bathed in warm rose-gold color and full, frosty mint luster.

PCGS# 8351. NGC ID: 25XA.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Landmark Mint State 1880-CC Half Eagle The Only CAC-Approved Example



3132

**1880-CC Winter 2-C. MS-61 (PCGS).** CAC. This thoroughly PQ example is fully lustrous with a lovely frosty texture. Razor sharp striking detail and undeniably original honey-gold and light orange colors provide further appeal.

The mintage for this issue is 51,107 pieces, a generous total for a pre-1890 Carson City Mint half eagle, and the 1880-CC is one of the more readily obtainable issues in this mintmarked gold series. On the other hand, the typical survivor is well worn, usually in VF or EF grades, and even in properly graded AU-50 the 1880-CC can be difficult to locate. Carson City Mint expert

Rusty Goe (2020) accounts for just 14 to 16 Mint State survivors. The Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here is a newcomer to the Condition Census for this issue, and as the sole CAC-approved example its significance for advanced gold enthusiasts can hardly be overstated. We expect this landmark rarity to sell for an exceptionally strong premium - plan your bidding strategy accordingly.

PCGS# 8352. NGC ID: 25XB.

PCGS Population: 5; 7 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 1 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3133

**1880-S MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** Exceptionally smooth and well preserved surfaces set this coin apart from the vast majority of 1880-S half eagles extant. Both sides are temptingly close to near-Gem Mint State quality, in fact, and they are further enhanced by a lovely blend of frosty luster and vivid golden-rose color. The 1880-S is the first San Francisco Mint half eagle issue with a mintage of more than 1 million coins (1,348,900 pieces, to be exact), and it is popular for type

purposes in circulated and lower Mint State grades. At the present level this issue emerges as a surprise condition rarity and given that, say, a Morgan dollar with a similar certified population would command a much higher price in today's market, this beautiful MS-63 offers outstanding value for the astute bidder.

PCGS# 8353. NGC ID: 25XC.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3134

**1881/0 FS-301. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Frosty rose-honey surfaces with full mint luster throughout. A small percentage of the 5,708,760 half eagles struck in the Philadelphia Mint during 1881 are overdates, most survivors of which are in circulated grades such as EF or AU. With Mint State coins rare from a condition standpoint, the present

offering with CAC approval is sure to see spirited bidding among astute gold and variety collectors.

PCGS# 8355. NGC ID: 25XD.

CAC Population: 21 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3135

**1881 MS-64+ (PCGS).** Fully lustrous with delightful color in vivid rose-apricot. With 5,708,802 pieces produced, the 1881 boasts the highest mintage in the circulation strike Liberty Head half eagle series of 1839 to 1907. Many examples escaped melting in the United States during the late 1930s through earlier use in export trade, repatriations from foreign bank hoards beginning in the mid 20th century providing thousands of coins for today's Mint State gold type

collectors. However, most of these pieces are burdened by significant marks and other signs of poor handling, limiting them to grades of MS-63 and lower. This above average example from the Fairmont-JBR Set is sure to catch the eye of astute gold collectors.

PCGS# 8354. NGC ID: 25XD.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Key Date 1881-CC Half Eagle



3136

**1881-CC Winter 1-A, the only known dies. AU-55 (PCGS).** This gorgeous deep orange-honey example exhibits subtle pinkish-rose highlights under a light. Nearly full striking detail and abundant frosty luster confirm a very short time in commerce for this carefully preserved Choice AU 1881-CC.

Among the rarest of the Carson City Mint half eagles and the rarest of those from the 1880s, only 13,886 coins were struck for the 1881-CC as compared to the more than 5.7 million struck at Philadelphia that year. A single pair of dies was employed for the entire run, managing to turn out 5,640 half eagles before the facility was shut down on April 1. When the doors reopened in November, mint personnel coined an additional 8,246 examples

of the denomination before the end of the year. The survival rate is a bit better than in previous years, but not by much. Scarcely more than a hundred or so are thought to remain (Rusty Goe, 2020, states 115 to 150 pieces), almost all of which are in lower degrees of preservation, generally clustered in and around the VF and EF mark. Even the scarce AU survivors are generally known for less than stellar luster and surfaces. Examples with remarkable eye appeal, such as is offered here, are very challenging to locate and are seldom available. An opportunity such as this should not be missed.

PCGS# 8356. NGC ID: 25XE.

PCGS Population: 16; 19 finer, six of which are Mint State (MS-65 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3137

**1881-S MS-64 (PCGS).** With wonderfully original color in rose-gold and abundant mint luster, this Choice Mint State half eagle would make an impressive addition to a high quality type or date set.

PCGS# 8357. NGC ID: 25XE.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3138

**1882 MS-63+ (PCGS).** An absolutely gorgeous example with vivid pinkish and rose-gold colors across satiny surfaces. Exceptional eye appeal for the assigned grade and sure to sell for a nice premium.

PCGS# 8358. NGC ID: 25XG.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Attractive Mint State 1882-CC Half Eagle



3139

**1882-CC Winter 1-A, the only known dies. MS-62 (PCGS).** Drenched in richly original honey-rose color, this attractive Mint State coin exhibits lustrous surfaces with ample mint frost. The strike is bold and accurate with only the barest hints of softness at isolated high points. Premium Uncirculated quality for the most discerning of numismatists.

Unlike the previous year, 1882 proved to be quite productive at Carson City. A modest increase in bullion coming out of the Comstock combined with an uninterrupted year of operation allowed the mint to increase its output significantly. Striking quality improved, as well; the 82,817 half eagles of that year were struck from a single pair of dies, a different story from just

a decade earlier. Thanks in part to the more generous mintage figures, around 750 examples are believed to exist today (Rusty Goe, 2020, says 715 to 775 in all grades). The 1882-CC half eagle is an issue that is actually moderately available at the AU level as compared to many earlier years. Mint State examples remain elusive, yet not prohibitively so, making this a broadly popular issue. With undeniable originality to PQ surfaces, however, this is an outstanding example that will draw the attention of gold type collectors, Carson City specialists, and aficionados of Western gold.

PCGS# 8359. NGC ID: 25XH.

PCGS Population: 11; with a single MS-62+ finer.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3140

**1882-S MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Delightful rose-gold patina blankets both sides of this frosty, lustrous and smartly impressed near-Gem. With identical mintages of 969,000 coins each, the 1882-S is similar in both absolute and high grade rarity to the 1881-S. Both issues are among the more popular in the 1880s Liberty Head half eagle series for Mint State type purposes, although we stress that with superior quality (as confirmed by coveted CAC approval), examples such as the Fairmont-JBR specimen are scarce.

PCGS# 8360. NGC ID: 25XJ.

PCGS Population: 40; 23 finer (MS-66 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3141

**1883 MS-62 (PCGS).** A wonderfully original example that blends warm honey-rose color with full, billowy mint luster. Sharply struck.

PCGS# 8361. NGC ID: 25XK.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Underrated 1883-CC Half Eagle Rarity



3142

**1883-CC Winter 1-A, the only known dies. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Seldom have we offered 1883-CC half eagles of comparable quality, originality and eye appeal to the present Fairmont-JBR specimen. Bathed in softly frosted luster, both sides are enhanced by beautiful color in vivid deep rose and honey-orange. All design elements are boldly to sharply rendered, and the surfaces are exceptionally smooth for both the issue and the assigned grade.

Despite the recognized low mintage of 12,598 pieces, the 1883-CC half eagle is one of the more underrated rarities from the

Nevada branch mint. Attractive problem free survivors are elusive at all levels of preservation, representing a tiny fraction of the 100 to 130 coins that Rusty Goe (2020) believes are extant. The author's estimate at the EF and AU levels is no more than 95 coins. The offering of this premium, near-Mint example in this sale is a significant bidding opportunity that should not be missed.

PCGS# 8362. NGC ID: 25XL

PCGS Population: 22; 8 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 10; 6.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3143

**1883-S MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** This beautiful Choice Uncirculated example exhibits a remarkably smooth appearance to frosty rose-orange surfaces. It is fully struck, as well, and sure to please even the most discerning numismatist. From a mintage for the issue of 83,200 pieces, most of which saw some use in commerce. Indeed, the present specimen is among the finest certified approved by CAC. A tremendous amount of coin for the grade, this Fairmont-JBR specimen represents a grand opportunity for a savvy gold enthusiast.

PCGS# 8363. NGC ID: 25XM.

CAC Population: 11; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3144

**1884 AU-58 (PCGS).** Handsome deep honey and orange-gold colors provide undeniable originality to near-fully lustrous surfaces.

PCGS# 8364. NGC ID: 25XN.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



## Lovely Near Mint 1884-CC Half Eagle



3145

**1884-CC Winter-1, the only known dies. AU-58 (PCGS).** This vivid, undeniably original example exhibits lovely color in a blend of deep honey and brighter rose-orange. The strike is boldly to sharply executed throughout, and ample luster remains confirming the impressive Choice AU grade from PCGS.

The 1884-CC is the final Carson City Mint half eagle struck prior to 1890, and it is scarce, with only 16,402 pieces produced.

Survivors number only 145 to 190 coins in all grades (per Rusty Goe, 2020). With only a handful of Mint State pieces extant, this premium near-Mint offering from the JBR Set is sure to appeal to advanced bidders.

PCGS# 8365. NGC ID: 25XP.

PCGS Population: 19; 3 finer (MS-62 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3146

**1884-S MS-63+ (PCGS).** Boldly impressed with razor sharp detail to most features, this gorgeous example also offers full mint frost and vivid honey-rose color. An under-appreciated issue, the 1884-S half eagle is a moderately scarce coin at most grade levels, but is especially so in Mint State. The majority of Uncirculated survivors are found at the lowest levels, the Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here

conditionally scarce in PCGS MS-63+. A superb Choice example that will have no trouble finding a new home in a connoisseur's cabinet.

PCGS# 8366. NGC ID: 25XR.

PCGS Population: 10; 16 finer (MS-65 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3147

**1885 MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** A sharp and inviting example with vivid rose-gold color to full, satin to softly frosted luster.

PCGS# 8367. NGC ID: 25XS.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3149

**1886 MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** A lustrous, undeniably original example fully deserving of coveted CAC approval at the assigned grade level.

PCGS# 8369. NGC ID: 25XU.

CAC Population: 35 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3148

**1885-S MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** A glorious upper end near-Gem with vivid deep honey-orange color to both sides. Satin to softly frosted in texture with full mint luster, razor sharp striking detail and expertly preserved surfaces provide further appeal for the discerning gold enthusiast. An underrated condition rarity, the 1885-S is highly elusive in Gem Mint State despite being one of the more plentiful 1880s half eagles in terms of total number of coins extant. The Fairmont-JBR specimen, just shy of this level of preservation, offers outstanding value for the astute gold collector.

PCGS# 8368. NGC ID: 25XT.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3150

**1886-S MS-65 (PCGS). CAC.** Here is an exceptionally well preserved survivor of this high mintage (3,268,000 pieces) issue. It is an impressive condition rarity that would do justice to the finest Liberty Head half eagle collection. Lustrous surfaces are thickly frosted with full, beautiful deep rose-gold color. Sharply struck, expertly preserved, and worthy of the strongest bids. Low CAC pop!

PCGS# 8370. NGC ID: 25XV.

PCGS Population: 34; 2 finer (both MS-66).

CAC Population: 2; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Surprise Condition Rarity 1887-S Half Eagle



3151

**1887-S MS-65 (PCGS).** Pretty rose-orange color dominates this half eagle, accented by a subtle trace of patina at the upper left reverse border. Boldly lustrous with a uniformly satiny texture across all elements. The surfaces remain incredibly untroubled beneath magnification, confirming the accuracy of the Gem Mint State rating from PCGS. Beautiful to examine in-hand. Survivors from a mintage of 1,912,000 pieces are available in

grades through MS-63, but any finer and the 1887-S becomes a noteworthy condition rarity. This Condition Census offering from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set is sure to be of broad appeal to gold enthusiasts and Registry Set players.

PCGS# 8371. NGC ID: 25XW.

PCGS Population: 6; 3 finer (MS-66 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3152

**1888 MS-63+ (PCGS).** CAC. Tinges of reddish-rose blend with dominant honey-gold color on both sides of this richly original example. Perhaps not surprisingly after the facility produced no circulation strikes the preceding year, the Philadelphia Mint struck only 18,201 half eagles in this format in 1888. This is a scarce to rare issue at all levels of preservation, so much so that if more collectors were assembling date and mint sets of this series the present example would almost certainly command a considerable higher price. As it is, its offering in this sale is sure to result in a strong price for the issue, as opportunities such as this often come along only once in a long while.

PCGS# 8372. NGC ID: 25XX.

PCGS Population: 6; 6 finer (MS-65 finest).

CAC Population: 6; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3153

**1889 AU-58+ (PCGS).** CAC. Pretty deep honey-rose color blankets both sides of this sharply struck, highly lustrous near-Mint example. Although there may be a temptation to regard the circulation strike 1889 half eagle as just a "type" coin, nothing could be further from the truth. Federal records confirm that only 7,520 examples were produced in this format, and survivors are rare in both worn condition and Mint State. This lovely Fairmont-JBR specimen is sure to appeal to astute gold collectors.

PCGS# 8374. NGC ID: 25XZ.

CAC Population: 15 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3154

**1890 MS-62 (PCGS).** Modestly semi-prooflike, this generally frosty example displays full, warm honey-orange color. The 1890 hails from a brief time near the end of the 19th century that saw limited circulation strike half eagle production. The Philadelphia Mint struck no half eagles for circulation in 1887 and only small numbers in 1888, 1889 and 1890; San Francisco produced none in 1889. A key issue among late date Liberty Head half eagles, the circulation strike 1890 was produced to the extent of just 4,240 pieces. Elusive

in all grades, most survivors are AU. This is one of the few Mint State coins certified, and also one of the few that we have ever offered. A highlight of the impressive gold pieces in this offering from the Fairmont Collection, and just right for an important cabinet.

PCGS# 8375. NGC ID: 25Y2.

PCGS Population: 13; 5 finer (MS-66 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Exceptional Choice Uncirculated 1890-CC Half Eagle



3155

**1890-CC Winter 1-A, the only known dies. MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** Offered is a formidable condition rarity from this otherwise more obtainable Carson City Mint half eagle issue. Frosty golden-rose surfaces are remarkably smooth and well preserved, the quality very close to Gem. The central high points are soft, but otherwise we note razor sharp detail imparted by a generally well executed strike.

The 1890-CC is the first Carson City Mint half eagle produced since 1884 and, while it is rightly regarded as a common

issue in this mintmarked gold series, Mint State survivors are challenging, and premium quality survivors such as the present example are rare, especially when scaled against the strong demand that Carson City Mint coinage enjoys. A significant find for the specialist, and a coin that is sure to see spirited competition between bidders.

PCGS# 8376. NGC ID: 25Y3.

PCGS Population: 35; 5 finer (MS-66 finest).

CAC Population: 8; 2.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3156

**1891 MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Luxurious frosty luster blends with vivid rose-gold color on both sides of this outstanding near-Gem Mint State \$5 gold coin. Far fewer circulation strike 1891 half eagles were struck in the Philadelphia Mint — 61,360 pieces — than in Carson City, the only other coinage facility to produce this denomination that year. The 1891 is anything but plentiful in Mint State and has a far lower certified population than the 1891-CC. With no Gems graded by PCGS, this premium quality MS-64+ example

from the Fairmont-JBR Set would be impossible to improve upon when seeking an example of this scarce and underrated Philadelphia Mint issue.

PCGS# 8377. NGC ID: 25Y4.

PCGS Population: 4; 0 finer at this service.

CAC Population: 8; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Perennially Popular 1891-CC Half Eagle



3157

**1891-CC Winter 1-A. MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** A beautiful example of both the type and the issue, the desirable CC mintmark enhances this coin's already considerable appeal. Frosty rose-orange surfaces are originally and carefully preserved, fully worthy of the Choice Mint State rating from PCGS. Sharply struck with eye appeal to spare.

Due to financial setbacks, the demand for gold specie from European countries increased markedly in 1891. The Carson City Mint stepped up gold coin production in 1891 to help meet this heightened demand. The facility's output of half eagles reached its peak in 1891 at 208,000 pieces, and for the second year in a row coinage of this denomination at the Carson City

Mint outstripped that at the Philadelphia Mint. Many of these coins were exported, as intended. Repatriations from European vaults in recent decades have provided a windfall of Mint State examples for today's mintmarked type collectors and Carson City Mint enthusiasts. There are quite a few Choice Uncirculated coins in MS-63 and MS-64 extant, but with its premium quality and undeniable originality, the Fairmont-JBR specimen is a significant condition rarity. It will be just right for another world class numismatic cabinet.

PCGS# 8378. NGC ID: 25Y5.

CAC Population: 26; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Stunning Gem Uncirculated 1892 \$5 Gold



3158

**1892 MS-66 (PCGS).** It is difficult for us to imagine a more attractive example of either the type or issue than this lovely upper end Gem. Both sides are vivid rose-gold, and the surfaces display intense mint luster. Sharply struck and bordering on pristine, this example will please even the most discerning numismatist. The circulation strike 1892 half eagle has a mintage of 753,480 pieces, the typical survivor of which grades

no finer than MS-62. Given that this issue is relatively scarce even in Choice Mint State, this is a significant half eagle in PCGS MS-66. Outstanding!

PCGS# 8379. NGC ID: 25Y6.

PCGS Population: 22; 3 finer (MS-67 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Condition Census 1892-CC Half Eagle



3159

**1892-CC Winter 1-A, the only known dies. Die State III. MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** An impressive Choice example that has few rivals among extant 1892-CC half eagles. Bathed in a blend of vivid honey-rose color and appealing mint luster, the surfaces are very smooth and visually appealing. A bold to sharp strike adds to this coin's desirability.

The penultimate Carson City Mint half eagle, the 1892-CC is one of the more readily obtainable issues in this popular

mintmarked gold series. It is much scarcer than the 1891-CC, however, especially in Mint State. This attractive PCGS/CAC MS-63 ranks solidly in the Condition Census and is sure to appeal to advanced Carson City Mint enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8380. NGC ID: 25Y7.

PCGS Population: 19; 4 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 9; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3160

**1892-O Winter 1, the only known dies. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** A lovely honey-gold and rose-orange example of this elusive late date entry in the New Orleans Mint half eagle series. Plenty of luster remains, the design elements boldly rendered and the surfaces pleasingly smooth for the assigned grade. The 1892-O inaugurates a curious and brief additional subseries of half eagles struck in the Louisiana coinage facility after the Civil War. Only four issues comprise this group: the 1892-O, 1893-O and 1894-O of the Liberty Head design type and the highly regarded 1909-O in the Indian series. While not as well known as the standalone 1909-O Indian, the trio of Liberty Head issues are far scarcer in today's market,

especially the 1892-O. This issue, in fact, vies with the 1856-O as the lowest mintage New Orleans Mint half eagle, with just 10,000 of each produced. Doug Winter (*Gold Coins of the New Orleans Mint: 1839-1909*, 2020 edition) allows for just 100-125+ survivors in all grades, as opposed to 1,250-1,750+ coins extant for the 1909-O. Clearly our offering of the Fairmont-JBR specimen represents an important bidding opportunity for the astute collector of Liberty Head gold coinage.

PCGS# 8381. NGC ID: 25Y8.

CAC Population: 13 in all grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3161

**1892-S MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** Attractive semi-prooflike fields support frosty, smartly impressed devices. Drenched in deep honey-orange, a bold to sharp strike enhances this coin's considerable appeal. The 1892-S is the first San Francisco Mint half eagle produced since 1888, the export trade claiming many of the 298,400 coins struck. Repatriations account for most of the Mint State coins in today's market, but they are few in an absolute sense, and very few when

viewed in the wider context of the late date Liberty Head half eagle series. Combining absolute and condition scarcity, this PQ PCGS/CAC MS-63+ is sure to appeal to advanced gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8382. NGC ID: 25Y9.

PCGS Population: 7; 4 finer (MS-64+ finest).

CAC Population: 6; 6. The former total includes coins certified both MS-63 and MS-63+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3162

**1893 MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Bordering on full Gem Uncirculated quality, this premium Choice 1893 \$5 is a delight to behold. It offers original rose-honey color, full mint luster and sharp striking

detail — each of which holds equal appeal for the discerning gold enthusiast.

PCGS# 8383. NGC ID: 25YA.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Historic Final Year 1893-CC Half Eagle



**3163**

**1893-CC Winter 1-A. MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** The final Carson City Mint half eagle mintage is represented here by a noteworthy condition rarity. Lustrous satin to softly frosted surfaces are enhanced by attractively original color in warm rose-gold. Fully struck and expertly preserved.

The Carson City Mint half eagle series passed into history in 1893 with a mintage of 60,000 coins. Due to extensive circulation and mass melting, no more than 1,000 coins are thought to survive for today's collectors. This is the scarcest of the 1890s CC-Mint

fives in AU and Mint State grades, and only about 165 to 200 Uncirculated coins are known (these estimates per Rusty Goe, 2020). The present example is among the more desirable of these survivors, ranking among the finer seen by PCGS and verified by CAC.

PCGS# 8384. NGC ID: 25YB.

PCGS Population: 22; 11 finer (MS-64+ finest).

CAC Population: 8; 3.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



**3164**

**1893-O Winter 1. MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** A delightful half eagle with frosty golden-honey surfaces on both sides. Well struck and generally sharp, the luster is full with a softly frosted texture. Despite its status as the second most plentiful New Orleans Mint half eagle, the 1893-O is scarce in an absolute sense with a mintage of 110,000 coins. With survivors seldom encountered in grades below AU-50, it is likely that the issue did not circulate to any great extent but, rather, was exported in quantity. Indeed, repatriations from foreign bank hoards undoubtedly account for the majority of Mint State survivors, most of which grade no finer than MS-62. The 1893-O is rare at and above Choice Mint State, ensuring this example will serve with pride in another advanced Liberty Head half eagle collection.

PCGS# 8385. NGC ID: 25YC.

PCGS Population: 28; 9 finer (MS-64+ finest).

CAC Population: 9; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



**3165**

**1893-S MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** This is a lovely, fully original Choice Uncirculated example with a sharp strike and vivid honey-apricot color. Uncommonly well preserved for a survivor of this otherwise relatively obtainable 1890s half eagle issue from the San Francisco Mint, and worthy of a strong premium, as such.

PCGS# 8386. NGC ID: 25YD.

CAC Population: 20; 25. The former total includes coins certified both MS-63 and MS-63+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*





3166

**1894 MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** Exquisite rose-gold surfaces are sharply struck with a full endowment of frosty mint luster. Outstanding quality and eye appeal at the assigned grade level.

PCGS# 8387. NGC ID: 25YE.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3168

**1894-S AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Lovely deep honey-rose surfaces are sharply struck, lustrous, and exceptionally smooth overall for the assigned grade. Playful reflective tendencies in the fields add further visual appeal. The 1894-S inaugurates a run of condition rarity San Francisco Mint half eagles that continues through 1897. This first year issue had a mintage of just 55,900 coins and most survivors are well worn, confirming that gold coinage continued to see active circulation on the West Coast through the 1890s. Very few must have seen service in export trade as near- and fully Mint State examples are seldom offered in today's market. A bidding opportunity worthy of undivided attention.

PCGS# 8389. NGC ID: 25YG.

PCGS Population: 22; 40 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 8; 7.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3167

**1894-O Winter-1. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Otherwise frosty surfaces reveal delightful semi-reflective qualities in the fields when viewed with direct lighting. Sharply struck in most areas with fully original color in warm orange-honey. The 1894-O (just 16,600 pieces produced) is the penultimate New Orleans Mint half eagle and the last of the Liberty Head design type. The issue is much rarer in Mint State than generally recognized; the vast majority of the 400-600+ survivors that Doug Winter (2020) accounts for are in About Uncirculated grades. Among certified examples, none graded higher than MS-62 have been verified by CAC.

PCGS# 8388. NGC ID: 25YE.

PCGS Population: 35; 25 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 14 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3169

**1895 MS-64+ (PCGS).** A beautiful coin drenched in vivid deep rose-gold color and billowy mint luster. Conditionally scarce premium Choice Mint State quality for this otherwise readily obtainable 1890s Liberty Head five-dollar issue, this superior 1895 is equally well suited for inclusion in a high grade type or date set.

PCGS# 8390. NGC ID: 25YH.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3170

**1896 MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Exceptional near-Gem Mint State quality to represent this underrated condition rarity among 1890s half eagles. Sharply struck with bountiful mint luster, both sides exhibit vivid pinkish-apricot color that provides strong eye appeal. Despite a limited mintage of 58,960 circulation strikes, there are enough circulated and lower end Mint State coins extant for the 1896 half eagle to satisfy less discerning collectors. Advanced numismatists, however, will have to compete vigorously for the honor of securing a coin that grades MS-64 or finer. Definitely an underrated issue at the higher Mint State levels, this is one of our finest offerings for the issue in recent decades.

PCGS# 8392. NGC ID: 25YK.

PCGS Population: 7; 9 finer (MS-66 finest).

CAC Population: 17; 3. The former total includes coins certified both MS-64 and MS-64+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3173

**1897-S AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Considerable prooflike reflectivity remains in the fields of this sharply defined, richly original, deep honey-olive example. The 1897-S numbers among the more elusive San Francisco Mint half eagles from the later Liberty Head series, and offerings of premium Choice AU survivors are few and far between. This is a significant lot for advanced gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8395. NGC ID: 25YN.

PCGS Population: 8 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3171

**1896-S MS-62+ (PCGS).** Pretty honey-rose color blends with frosty mint luster, both sides also offering sharp striking detail throughout the design. Similar in overall and high grade rarity to the 1895-S, the 1896-S is also a low mintage issue (155,400 pieces produced) that is typically offered in EF and AU grades. Significant as a Mint State survivor, and a nearly Choice one at that, the Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here will certainly elicit strong bids from advanced collectors of Liberty Head gold.

PCGS# 8393. NGC ID: 25YL.

PCGS Population: 2; 20 finer (MS-67 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3174

**1898 MS-63+ (PCGS).** Attractive golden-rose surfaces with a fully executed strike and bountiful mint luster.

PCGS# 8396. NGC ID: 25YP.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3175

**1898-S MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey-rose surfaces reveal decided semi-prooflike qualities in the fields.

PCGS# 8397. NGC ID: 25YR.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3172

**1897 MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** Fully original in rose-gold color, the surfaces are satiny in finish and support smartly impressed design elements.

PCGS# 8394. NGC ID: 25YM.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3176

**1899 JD-1, the only known dies. Rarity-5-. Proof-55 (PCGS).** This lovely piece retains nearly full cameo Proof finish, the fields highly reflective and supporting softly frosted design elements. Razor sharp in strike with only wispy handling marks to explain the assigned grade. Only 99 Proof half eagles were struck in 1899, of which just 50 to 65 pieces are estimated to survive in all grades (per John W. Dannreuther, 2018). While it has long been assumed that undistributed examples were melted in the Mint, the presence of this (and other) lightly impaired specimens from the extensive Fairmont holdings suggest that the Mint disposed of many unsold late date Proof Liberty Head gold coins by releasing them into commercial channels. Finds such as the Fairmont Collection are significant not only for the coins that they provide for collectors, but also because of the advances in numismatic scholarship that they often facilitate.

PCGS# 8494. NGC ID: 28D5.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3179

**1900 JD-1, the only known dies. Rarity-4. Proof-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Handsome golden-orange surfaces offer plenty of mirrored reflectivity in the fields. Sharply to fully defined throughout. Proof half eagle production jumped dramatically in 1900; the mintage of 230 pieces is the highest for any issue in the Liberty Head series. We suspect that the anticipation of increased collector sales associated with the turn of the century prompted Mint employees to strike more Proof half eagles than usual. If this is true, the anticipated demand failed to materialize for, today, the 1900 is only marginally more available than most other late date Proof half eagles of this type. With only 120 to 150 coins believed extant (per John W. Dannreuther, 2018), some of the mintage may have been destroyed through melting without ever leaving the Mint. On the other hand, this is a particularly interesting coin in that it shows signs of light handling. Obviously the Mint disposed of some (all?) unsold Proof Liberty Head half eagles of the 1890s and early 20th century by releasing them into commercial channels.

PCGS# 8495. NGC ID: 28D6.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3177

**1899 MS-65+ (PCGS).** Billowy rose-gold luster flows over both sides in the absence of even the most trivial detractors. This sparkling Gem is readily among the finest examples currently offered for the issue, and would do equally well in a high quality gold type or date set.

PCGS# 8398. NGC ID: 25YS.

PCGS Population: 24; 55 finer (MS-67+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3180

**1900 MS-65+ (PCGS).** Gorgeous rose-gold surfaces also possess full mint luster in a satin to softly frosted texture. Smartly impressed from the dies, the strike is razor sharp throughout the design. The 1900 has a generous mintage among Liberty Head five-dollar gold issues with 1,405,500 circulation strikes produced. Large numbers of these coins were exported, allowing them to escape the wholesale melting of U.S. gold coins on government order in 1937. Repatriations in recent decades have swelled the Mint State population to more than 10,000 coins, although upper end Gems such as this remain scarce from a condition standpoint.

PCGS# 8400. NGC ID: 25YU.

PCGS Population: 9; 23 finer (MS-67 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3178

**1899-S MS-62+ (PCGS). CAC.** Lustrous with a satin to softly frosted texture, this gorgeous near-Choice example also offers sharp striking detail and original honey-rose color.

PCGS# 8399. NGC ID: 25YT.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3181

**1900-S MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** A truly superior example of this popular turn-of-the-century issue. Vivid golden-apricot color blends with full mint luster over uncommonly smooth surfaces. Sharply struck, as well, and sure to please.

PCGS# 8401. NGC ID: 25YV.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3184

**1901-S MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** This beautiful upper end near-Gem exhibits full satin luster enhanced by rich golden-rose color. The strike is sharp and the surfaces are exceptionally well preserved in all regards. With a mintage of 3.6 million pieces and a good rate of survival, the 1901-S is the most plentiful Motto Liberty half eagle in today's market in most grades. High grade gold type collectors would be hard pressed to find a nicer example at the Choice Mint State level than the Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here.

PCGS# 8404. NGC ID: 25YX.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3182

**1901 MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Originally preserved and lustrous, this smartly impressed example has much to offer the discerning gold collector.

PCGS# 8402. NGC ID: 25YW.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3185

**1902 MS-65+ (PCGS). CAC.** Fully struck with vivid golden-apricot color and billowy mint luster. Both sides are exceptional in their preservation with surfaces that approach perfection for this issue. The 1902 half eagle boasts a low mintage of just 172,400 pieces, representing a steep drop from the 615,900 pieces struck in Philadelphia the year before and the 226,870 that would be struck the following year. Perhaps just 3,000 1902 half eagles remain in all grades, with the vast majority of examples in circulated grades. While it is somewhat available in lower Mint State grades, it becomes considerably scarce in Gem with only about 35 examples known. The present MS-65+ is one of the most desirable survivors and is sure to attract significant interest.

PCGS# 8405. NGC ID: 25YY.

PCGS Population: 9; 15 finer (MS-67+ finest).

CAC Population: 4; 4. The former total includes coins certified both MS-65 and MS-65+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3183

**1901/0-S FS-301. MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** Bold, vivid apricot-gold color adorns both sides of this frosty and smartly impressed near-Gem. A popular overdate in the Liberty Head gold series, the 1901/0-S half eagle reveals traces of an underlying 0 at the upper right corner of the final digit 1 in the date. Perhaps only 1,500 examples remain across all grades and only 400 in Mint State, few of the latter as nice as the Fairmont-JBR specimen in PCGS/CAC MS-64 offered here.

PCGS# 8403. NGC ID: 25YX.

CAC Population: 26; 15.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3186

**1902-S MS-65+ (PCGS). CAC.** An enticing rose-orange example with sharp striking detail, outstanding luster quality and impressively smooth surfaces. The 1902-S five-dollar gold is scarce to rare in grades above the basal MS-65 level, and this piece is particularly nice to warrant premium bids.

PCGS# 8406. NGC ID: 25YZ.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3189

**1904 MS-65+ (PCGS). CAC.** A bright wheat-gold example with razor sharp design elements and outstanding mint luster. Despite a not overly generous mintage of 392,000 circulation strikes, the 1904 is a plentiful issue by Motto Liberty Head half eagle standards. Several thousand Mint State coins have survived but, as with virtually all classic U.S. Mint gold issues, the 1904 is a formidable condition rarity in the finest grades. The offered coin in premium Gem MS-65+ will please even the most discerning gold enthusiast.

PCGS# 8409. NGC ID: 25ZA.

PCGS Population: 7; 25 finer (MS-67+ finest).

CAC Population: 12; 16. The former total includes coins certified both MS-65 and MS-65+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3187

**1903 MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** Frosty golden-apricot surfaces offer superior quality and eye appeal at the assigned grade level.

PCGS# 8407. NGC ID: 25Z2.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3190

**1904-S MS-62+ (PCGS). CAC.** Here's a conditionally challenging late date Liberty Head five-dollar issue that we seldom offer in Mint State. Softly frosted in finish with full mint bloom, otherwise deep golden-orange surfaces are further adorned with iridescent reddish-rose toning. A find for the astute collector who takes note of the limited Mint State populations for this issue at both PCGS and CAC.

PCGS# 8410. NGC ID: 25Z5.

PCGS Population: 3; 34 finer (MS-67 finest).

CAC Population: 15 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3188

**1903-S MS-65+ (PCGS). CAC.** A sensational golden-apricot-gold Gem, this 1903-S is far finer than usual for the date. It exhibits frosty luster with bold design definition on both sides. Collectors seeking a single high quality example to represent this series typically gravitate to late date issues like the 1903-S for, generally speaking, they include most of the best produced and most carefully preserved Liberty Head \$5s. The currently offered piece is just such a coin. The softness of gold as a coinage metal and the manner in which these issues were handled means that most Mint State survivors of even overall plentiful issues are usually confined to lower grades through MS-64 due to abrasions. The present example is an exception and is sure to sell for a premium bid.

PCGS# 8408. NGC ID: 25Z3.

PCGS Population: 20; 36 finer (MS-67 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3191

**1905 JD-1, the only known dies. Rarity-5. Proof-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Vivid golden-yellow surfaces retain virtually all of the highly reflective finish from the dies. With nearly full striking detail, as well, it is obvious that only minimal handling separates this coin from a grade at or above the Proof-60 level. A scarce to rare issue in all grades, the Proof 1905 half eagle was produced to the extent of just 108 pieces. John W. Dannreuther (2018) estimates that survivors number just 60 to 75 coins. The vast majority, including the Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here, display the all-brilliant finish that characterizes the United States Mint's Proof Liberty Head gold coinage of the 1902 to 1907 era.

PCGS# 8500. NGC ID: 28DB.

From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.



3192

**1905 MS-65+ (PCGS). CAC.** Beautiful golden-apricot surfaces are further enhanced by lively mint frost. Sharply to fully struck with exceptionally well preserved surfaces. As a 20th century issue from the Philadelphia Mint, the 1905, at first glance, might appear to be among the more plentiful issues in the Motto portion of the Liberty Head half eagle series. This is far from the truth, however, with Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth (*Encyclopedia of U.S. Gold Coins: 1795-1933, 2nd Edition*) observing:

*"The 1905 half eagle is scarcer in Mint State condition than most would believe. It is similar in rarity to the 1902 and 1903 issues."*

It is certainly not a coincidence that all three of these issues have relatively low mintages by late date Liberty Head half eagle standards, the 1905 with only 302,200 circulation strikes produced. The Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here is one of the finest to appear in a Stack's Bowers Galleries auction in recent years. It will certainly elicit strong bids from astute gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8411. NGC ID: 25Z6.

PCGS Population: 7; 24 finer (MS-68 finest).

CAC Population: 15; 18. The former total includes coins certified both MS-65 and MS-65+.

From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.



3193

**1905-SMS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** With Uncirculated survivors of this issue seldom offered any finer than MS-62, this CAC-approved example from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set represents outstanding value for the astute gold collector. It is a fully lustrous rose-gold beauty with sharp striking detail overall.

PCGS# 8412. NGC ID: 25Z7.

From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.



3194

**1906 JD-1, the only known dies. Rarity-5. Proof-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Light handling separates this highly reflective, fully struck specimen from a higher grade. Handsome medium gold patina throughout with plenty of eye appeal. At just 85 pieces produced, the 1906 has the lowest mintage among 20th century Proof Liberty Head half eagles. It is the rarest issue in this group, John W. Dannreuther (2018) estimating that only 50 to 65 coins are extant in all grades.

PCGS# 8501. NGC ID: 28DC.

From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.



3195

**1906 MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** Smartly impressed with full mint frost, this premium Choice Mint State \$5 Liberty Head coin also offers attractively original color in warm golden-apricot.

PCGS# 8413. NGC ID: 25Z9.

From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.



3196

**1906-D MS-65+ (PCGS).** Soft satin luster in warm golden-orange flows over serene surfaces. Boldly to sharply struck with superior technical quality and outstanding eye appeal for a late date Liberty Head half eagle irrespective of issue. The first Denver Mint half eagle, and one of only two of the Liberty Head design type, the 1906-D is scarcer than the 1907-D in all grades. This conditionally rare MS-65+ is a strong candidate for a high grade date collection or an advanced mintmarked gold type set.

PCGS# 8414. NGC ID: 25ZA.

PCGS Population: 10; 9 finer (MS-67 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3199

**1907-D MS-65+ (PCGS).** Frosty and impressively smooth in hand, pretty rose-gold surfaces are also fully struck over all design elements. The second of only two Denver Mint issues in the Liberty Head half eagle series, the 1907-D is more plentiful than the 1906-D and is always in demand for mintmarked gold type purposes.

PCGS# 8417. NGC ID: 25ZD.

PCGS Population: 11; 24 finer (MS-67 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3197

**1906-S MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** Frosty rose-gold surfaces with intermingled light orange-apricot highlights further enhancing the eye appeal. A scarce Choice Mint State example to represent this conditionally challenging issue among 20th century Liberty Head half eagles.

PCGS# 8415. NGC ID: 25ZB.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3200

**1908 Liberty Head. MS-65+ (PCGS).** Drenched in vivid rose-orange color, this beautiful upper end Gem is enhanced by full mint luster in a smooth satin texture. The 1908 is readily obtainable at lower levels, but is scarce in the finest Mint State grades, as here. The expertly preserved surfaces and strong eye appeal of the offered coin are sure to appeal to discerning gold enthusiasts, especially final year type collectors.

PCGS# 8418. NGC ID: 25ZE.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3198

**1907 MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** From the penultimate year of the long-running Liberty Head half eagle series comes this Choice Philadelphia Mint example ideally suited for inclusion in a Mint State type set. Frosty and original with delicate pinkish-russet highlights to dominant golden-orange color.

PCGS# 8416. NGC ID: 25ZC.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

INDIAN HEAD HALF EAGLES



3201

**1908 Indian. MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** The splendid sunset-gold surfaces of this Gem are fully lustrous and softly frosted. The strike is sharp throughout and both sides are uncommonly well preserved for this type. The Philadelphia Mint produced 577,845 half eagles for circulation in 1908, the first year of sculptor Bela Lyon Pratt's new Indian design, along with 167 Sand Blast Proofs for sale to collectors. As interesting as the coin may have been to certain inner circles at the Mint, the motif was roundly detested at the time. As a result, very few contemporary collectors saved such pieces. It was not until generations later that they became popular, by which time the vast majority of high grade pieces had long since disappeared. This scarce PCGS/CAC MS-64+ would nicely represent the type or date in an advanced cabinet.

PCGS# 8510. NGC ID: 28DE.

From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.



3202

**1908-D MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** A vivid and fully original example dressed in blended honey-gold and pinkish-rose colors. The premier Denver Mint issue in the Indian half eagle series, the 1908-D is obtainable enough in lower Mint State grades through MS-63. This is thanks to a number of small hoards that have entered the numismatic market over the last several decades. In MS-64 this issue remains scarce, however, while in Gem Uncirculated it is nothing short of rare. With CAC approval at the assigned grade, the Fairmont-JBR specimen represents the finest realistically obtainable for this historic issue as far as most gold collectors are concerned.

PCGS# 8511. NGC ID: 28DE.

From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.

Popular Low Mintage 1908-S Indian \$5 Gold



3203

**1908-S MS-64 (PCGS).** This is a lovely and conditionally scarce near-Gem example of one of the lowest mintage circulation strike Indian half eagles. It is expertly produced, as typical for the issue, with both sides exhibiting razor sharp striking detail and bountiful frosty luster. Vivid pinkish-apricot patina enhances both sides. With its pleasing original appearance and superior surface preservation, this coin will be just right for an advanced collection of 20th century U.S. Mint gold coinage.

Bela Lyon Pratt's incuse design made its debut in the quarter eagle and half eagle series in 1908. The San Francisco Mint, which would strike only half eagles of this design, struck 82,000 examples during the first year of this series, the lowest mintage among Indian half eagles after only the 1909-O and 1911-D. As a

first year issue a fair number of 1908-S half eagles were set aside, and there are some extraordinary Mint State examples known. Many of the Gems and Superb Gems that have been certified by PCGS and NGC in recent decades were once part of a hoard assembled by Chicago beer magnate and numismatist Virgil Brand. In an absolute sense, however, Uncirculated survivors are scarce, and the low mintage of this issue has long made it a favorite. The present MS-64 from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set is a newcomer to the numismatic community and is sure to be of keen interest to specialists in the challenging Indian half eagle series.

PCGS# 8512. NGC ID: 28DG.

From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.





3204

**1909 MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** Smartly impressed and frosty in texture, this lovely Choice example also delivers vivid color in lovely pinkish-honey. The 1909 is common enough to be considered a type coin in the Indian half eagle series, although astute bidders will recognize that it is much scarcer than its identically dated Denver Mint counterpart.

PCGS# 8513. NGC ID: 28DH.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3205

**1909-D MS-64 (PCGS).** Lustrous golden-rose surfaces are sharply struck with a full quota of soft mint luster. The 1909-D half eagle is a favorite for type collectors due to its availability. Almost three and a half million coins were struck at the Denver Mint that year, surpassing the second highest mintage in the Indian series by a factor of three. The rate of survival was above average, as well, and today the 1909-D is far and away the most readily obtainable Indian half eagle in Mint State. With undeniable originality and an impressive provenance, the Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here is among the most desirable examples currently available in the market.

PCGS# 8514. NGC ID: 28DJ.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Highly Elusive Mint State 1909-O Half Eagle



3206

**1909-O MS-62+ (PCGS). CAC.** A technically and aesthetically superior example of this well known rarity among Indian half eagles. Quite nice for the assigned grade, with sharp definition and considerable remaining luster. The O mintmark is fully outlined and well rounded. The texture is softly frosted, and we note only tiny, singularly inconspicuous marks precluding a higher grade. Warm honey-olive in hue and very attractive.

From a mintage of 34,200 pieces struck during the final year of operations at the New Orleans Mint, this issue has always

been considered a key date to the series. Its status as the only Indian half eagle struck at this branch mint has put perennially strong demand on survivors at all levels of preservation. Usually seen in circulated grades, this is among the most challenging issues of the type to locate in Mint State. Expect strong bidder competition for the present offering.

PCGS# 8515. NGC ID: 25ZK.

PCGS Population: 1; 21 finer (MS-66 finest).

CAC Population: 8; 6. The former total includes coins certified both MS-62 and MS-62+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Condition Rarity 1909-S Half Eagle



3207

**1909-S MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** Here is an impressive and seldom offered Choice Mint State quality example of this particularly challenging Indian half eagle. Both sides are sharply struck and bathed in vivid honey-apricot color. The luster is full with a softly frosted finish. The S mintmark is fully formed and readily appreciable. A highlight of the 20th century half eagle offerings in our present sale of the Fairmont Collection, this lovely example is sure to see spirited bidding among advanced gold enthusiasts.

The 1909-S is a leading rarity in the Indian half eagle series of 1908 to 1929, ranked third in absolute Mint State rarity in the 2008 revision to David W. Akers' reference *A Handbook of 20th Century United States Gold Coins: 1907-1933*. The typical Uncirculated survivor from the mintage of 297,200 pieces is in the MS-60 to MS-63 range, and even MS-64s are very scarce and can be difficult to obtain. Gems are exceedingly rare with most such pieces tightly held in advanced cabinets.

In their era, Indian quarter eagles and half eagles were without honor. Following the launch of Augustus Saint-Gaudens' beautiful MCMVII \$20, praise was unstinting for this

magnificent work of art. Then in 1908, without advance notice, the new quarter eagle and half eagle appeared, the work of artist Bela Lyon Pratt. The designs were incuse — that is recessed below the field of the coin, the latter being the highest point. The Indian Head motif and the eagle are in relief, but lowered. Great criticism was heaped upon the motif, some saying that the recessed areas could attract germs. Various writers, including well known dealer Henry Chapman, penned derogatory comments which were published in *The Numismatist*. The general result was that very few numismatists — probably not more than two or three — actually sought Indian quarter eagles and half eagles by mintmark varieties during the time they were issued. Accordingly, when these did become popular in the 1930s, and even more so beginning in the 1950s, high grade examples of certain issues ranged from scarce to extremely rare, as here. Their survival was a mere matter of chance.

PCGS# 8516. NGC ID: 25ZL.

PCGS Population: 38; 27 finer (MS-67 finest).

CAC Population: 5; 10.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3208

**1910 MS-64 (PCGS).** Bountiful mint luster blends with vivid deep golden-orange color on both sides of this impressive near-Gem. An ideal high grade example to represent the conditionally challenged Indian half eagle series of 1908 to 1929.

PCGS# 8517. NGC ID: 28DK.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Premium Choice Uncirculated 1910-D \$5 Indian



3209

**1910-D MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** Gorgeous honey-gold color blends with vivid medium rose overtones on both sides of this wonderfully original example. All major design elements are sharp, the D mintmark a bit blunt, yet fully raised and well rounded. Similar in high grade rarity to the equally underrated 1908-D, the 1910-D is a half eagle issue for which Choice and

Gem coins are in the minority among survivors. At the MS-64 level it is particularly rare relative to demand from advanced collectors of 20th century U.S. Mint gold coinage.

PCGS# 8518. NGC ID: 28DL.

CAC Population: 14; 2.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Choice Mint State 1910-S Half Eagle



3210

**1910-S MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** Seldom offered Choice Uncirculated quality for this conditionally challenging San Francisco Mint issue. Fully lustrous with a softly frosted texture, both sides display richly original color in warm honey-rose. Uncommonly smooth in hand for the assigned grade, an impressively sharp strike overall add to this coin's appeal.

A rare coin in all Mint State grades, the 1910-S ranks sixth of 24 Indian half eagle issues in terms of total number of Uncirculated

coins believed extant. Examples above the MS-62 level, as here, are particularly elusive and eagerly sought by advanced gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8519. NGC ID: 28DM.

PCGS Population: 31; 32 finer (MS-66 finest).

CAC Population: 6; 9.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3211

**1911 MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** Lovely honey-rose color with a tinge of olive, both sides also sport full, soft mint luster. A premium offering for the Mint State type collector or discerning 20th century gold enthusiast.

PCGS# 8520. NGC ID: 28DP.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Spectacular Mint State 1911-D Indian Half Eagle Rarity



3212

**1911-D MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** This example offers seldom seen quality for a low mintage, key date entry in the challenging Indian half eagle series of 1908 to 1929. Vivid rose-gold surfaces exhibit full mint luster in a softly frosted texture. Well struck and virtually full with a crisp D mintmark.

At the time the 72,500 half eagles of this date were struck at the Denver Mint, numismatists were still beginning to appreciate mint marks. Many collectors, especially those who preferred more traditional avenues for collecting, opted for Proof examples of a particular year. The 1911-D coins were largely ignored when they entered commerce, and unlike many of the other larger denomination gold coins at the time, this issue did not have extended sojourns in overseas banks. Rather, based on the number of circulated examples that survive, a significant portion saw active commercial use, and were further reduced

in quantity by the large scale Treasury melts of the late 1930s. Second only to the 1909-O in terms of rarity and popularity, the 1911-D has long since gained appreciation as the key date Indian half eagle that it is. While moderately available at the higher circulated grades, in Mint State the issue becomes a remarkable condition rarity. Most surviving Uncirculated specimens are at the very lowest end of the scale and seldom found Choice. Gem examples are prohibitively rare, leaving premium Choice Mint State pieces in very high demand by advanced 20th century gold specialists. Expect spirited bidding when this coin crosses the block and a strong bidding strategy is recommended.

PCGS# 8521. NGC ID: 28DR.

PCGS Population: 1; 22 finer (MS-65 finest).

CAC Population: 7; 8. The former total includes coins certified both MS-63 and MS-63+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3213

**1911-S MS-63 (PCGS).** Gorgeous honey-rose surfaces are fully lustrous with a bold to sharp strike throughout the design. Scarcer in Mint State than a mintage of 1,416,000 pieces might imply, the 1911-S is rare and seldom offered above the MS-63 grade, making this premium quality example from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set an attractive prospect for the quality conscious gold collector.

PCGS# 8522. NGC ID: 25ZM.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3214

**1912 MS-64 (PCGS).** Blended pale honey and brighter golden-rose colors deliver strong eye appeal. The technical quality is no less impressive, with surfaces that are sharply struck, highly lustrous and very well preserved for the type. Seldom offered in higher grades, near-Gem 1912 half eagles are particularly popular with gold type collectors and specialists in the Indian series.

PCGS# 8523. NGC ID: 28DS.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Exceptional Choice Uncirculated 1912-S Half Eagle



3215

**1912-S MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** This is a boldly colored example displaying reddish-honey surfaces. It is also sharply struck in most areas with pleasing satin luster. The S mintmark is typically soft, yet near-fully outlined and readily identifiable. A condition rarity at this grade level, and one of the more difficult issues to find at all from this popular 20th century gold series. The 1912 San Francisco Mint coins were not scarce when struck — the mintage of the 1912-S half eagle has a relatively generous mintage of 392,000 coins — but after the mid 1930s most of these were melted down. Perhaps a few thousand or so exist

today, virtually all of them circulated to some degree, and only a small percentage are still in Mint State, most of course at the lower range. For the date and mint specialist of this series, this condition rarity Choice example would make a welcome addition and greatly enhance any advanced collection.

PCGS# 8524. NGC ID: 25ZN.

PCGS Population: 25; 21 finer (MS-65 finest).

CAC Population: 4; 3.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3216

**1913 MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** A sharply struck, wholly lustrous near-Gem with handsome deep golden-honey color on both sides. Just right for inclusion in a high grade type set or another advanced Indian eagle set.

PCGS# 8525. NGC ID: 28DT.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Condition Rarity 1913-S Half Eagle



3217

**1913-S MS-63+ (PCGS).** This is a beautiful example of a challenging issue, both sides bathed in frosty honey-orange luster. The strike is uncommonly sharp for the issue, and the surface quality is superior with an overall smooth, fully Choice appearance. A bit blunt in the center, the S mintmark is raised, fully outlined and readily appreciable even without the aid of a loupe.

One of the scarcest Indian half eagles, the 1913-S is more challenging to locate than the 1911-S and 1916-S, among other issues in this series. Gems are all but unknown, and even in MS-63+ and MS-64 the 1913-S is rare and eagerly sought by today's discerning 20th century gold collectors. A highly significant offering that is sure to see spirited bidding at auction.

PCGS# 8526. NGC ID: 25ZP.

PCGS Population: 5; 18 finer (MS-66 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3218

**1914 MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** Lovely honey-apricot surfaces with subtle deep olive undertones. Smooth, attractive and not all that far removed from a higher Choice Mint State grade.

PCGS# 8527. NGC ID: 28DU.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3219

**1914-D MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** Soft satin luster mingles with vivid deep rose-gold color to provide outstanding eye appeal. The technical quality of this piece is no less impressive, both sides boldly struck and so well preserved as to be not all that far from a higher Choice Mint State rating. A premium example that will please even the most discerning collector. A median rarity in the Indian half eagle series, the 1914-D is actually one of the more frequently encountered mintmarked issues of this type. The mintage is a respectable, if not overly generous 247,000 pieces, and enough have survived that locating a lower grade Uncirculated coin in the MS-60 to MS-62 range should prove a relatively easy task. Any finer and the 1914-D develops into a notable condition rarity, especially with CAC approval, as here.

PCGS# 8528. NGC ID: 28DV.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Noteworthy 1914-S Indian \$5



3220

**1914-S MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** Superior striking quality and surface preservation highlight this significant rarity among Indian half eagles. The devices are uniformly bold with most features sharp. This includes the S mintmark, which is fully outlined, if lacking in some of the finer detail. Minimally granular, the satin to softly frosted luster is suitably vibrant and a distinct cut above the norm for a Mint State 1914-S half eagle. The vivid pinkish-honey color adds appeal. Advanced 20th century gold collectors would be wise to pursue this coin with vigor.

The 1914-S is one of the leading condition rarities in the Indian half eagle series of 1908 to 1929. Thanks to a sizable hoard that

entered the numismatic market before 1988, low end Mint State coins are obtainable with patience, although they are still scarce by the standards of the type. Beginning at the MS-63 level, however, the 1914-S emerges as a rare to very rare issue. Indeed, in the finest Mint State grades this issue is tied with the 1912-S as the most challenging Indian half eagle to collect. Definitely an important offering and we expect this impressive piece to perform exceptionally well at auction.

PCGS# 8529. NGC ID: 28DW.

PCGS Population: 56; 11 finer (MS-65+ finest).

CAC Population: 16; 4.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3221

**1915 MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** Delightful frosty surfaces are sharply struck with a full endowment of warm rose-honey color. Struck during the first full year of World War I, 1915 saw the conflict in Europe escalate and the United States edge closer to involvement with the sinking of the *Lusitania*. In that year 588,000 half eagles were struck at the Philadelphia Mint and overall the 1915 is one

of the more available issues in lower grades. However, examples that approach the Gem Mint State level are scarce from a market availability standpoint.

PCGS# 8530. NGC ID: 28DX.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Seldom Offered Choice Uncirculated 1915-S Half Eagle



3222

**1915-S MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** This coin is in the distinct minority among extant 1915-S Indian half eagles. First, the luster is full and frosty while most Mint State survivors exhibit a more subdued granular finish. Additionally, the color is more vivid than expected, a beautiful honey-orange shade. Finally, the coin is fully Choice Mint State, head and shoulders above the average survivor. The only “typical” feature is the strike, overall sharp with an S mintmark that is fully outlined, but with some softness within the lowest feathers in the Native American’s headdress. As pretty as any 1915-S Indian half eagle that we have ever handled, this impressive condition rarity belongs in the finest collection of 20th century gold.

The penultimate San Francisco Mint half eagle, the 1915-S is one of the leading rarities of this challenging design type. Only 164,000 pieces were produced, and the 1915-S is scarce even in circulated grades. The typical Mint State survivor is a heavily abraded coin grading MS-60, MS-61 or MS-62, and even such pieces are very scarce. This issue is rare in Choice Mint State, as here, and all but unknown as a Gem. The opportunity to acquire a premium quality, aesthetically pleasing 1915-S Indian \$5 in Choice Mint State usually comes along only once in a long while, and stiff competition is expected.

PCGS# 8531. NGC ID: 25ZR.

PCGS Population: 49; 13 finer (MS-64+ finest).

CAC Population: 12; 4.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*





3223

**1916-S MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** A delightful pinkish-honey example with lovely mint luster and a generally sharp strike. The S mintmark, while devoid of finer detail, is fully outlined and distinct from the surrounding field area. Although several small hoards of Uncirculated coins entered the numismatic market from overseas beginning in the early to mid 1980s, the 1916-S remains elusive in grades above MS-63. The typical hoard coin, while invariably well struck, is heavily abraded with inferior luster quality. Additionally,

not enough Mint State examples have been located to place the 1916-S among the more plentiful Indian half eagles. Accordingly this is one of the scarcer issues of its type in Mint State. With the technical quality and eye appeal offered here the 1916-S is rarer yet, a fact that is sure to result in strong competition for this lot.

PCGS# 8532. NGC ID: 28DY.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Legendary 1929 Indian Half Eagle



3224

**1929 MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** Here is an outstanding Choice Mint State quality example of this legendary key date Indian half eagle. Both sides are lustrous and display lovely vivid colors of pale pink and honey-apricot. The strike is generally bold, the surfaces smooth, and the eye appeal is strong. This beautiful coin will be just right for an advanced collection of 20th century U.S. Mint gold.

This final year Indian half eagle issue is an excellent case study in how using mintage figures of gold coins from the 1920s and 1930s as a predictor of rarity is difficult. In 1916, production of the half eagle was suspended after only 240,000 coins were struck at the San Francisco Mint, and coinage of the denomination would not resume until 1929 and only at the Philadelphia Mint. While 662,000 half eagles were struck in 1929, the nation was on the brink of the Great Depression. With gold not needed in circulation under such circumstances, very few 1929 half eagles were distributed. Virtually the entire mintage languished in Treasury Department coffers until the great coinage melts of 1937, when they went straight into the Mint's crucibles to become

ingots. These melts also destroyed many of the examples that had been released into circulation, as most had been returned to the Treasury after the Gold Surrender Order in 1933. With so few examples used in everyday commerce, circulated examples are significantly rarer than their elusive Mint State counterparts, which are usually at the lower end of the grading scale due to marks acquired while being jostled about in heavy bags.

The 1929 half eagle has long been recognized as the prime rarity in the circulation strike Indian half eagle series. David W. Akers noted nearly 40 years ago that, "If anything exists that is better than MS-65 I have not seen or heard of it." Today, this remains true; not a single specimen has surpassed the Gem Mint State level. The present example is superior to most and, with abundant eye appeal, it is sure to please even the most discerning numismatist.

PCGS# 8533. NGC ID: 28E2.

CAC Population: 26; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## EAGLES

## LIBERTY HEAD EAGLES

## Handsome AU 1838 Liberty Head Eagle

### Rare First Year Issue



3225

**1838 AU-53 (PCGS).** Offered is a rare and highly desirable coin, one of the finest certified Liberty Head eagles of the brief and challenging Type of 1838 design. Handsome deep honey-olive color blankets wonderfully original surfaces. Faint traces of a prooflike finish remain in the fields, the texture otherwise frosty with suitable overall luster for the assigned grade. The stars around the obverse periphery are soft and lack full radial lines, typical of an early date Liberty Head eagles. Otherwise we note sharp detail at the AU-53 level.

The longest-running \$10 gold eagle series produced in the United States Mint, the Liberty Head eagle was struck without interruption from 1838 through early 1907. It is the first eagle produced since 1804, as President Thomas Jefferson halted production of this denomination and the silver dollar that year as rising bullion prices made the coins highly susceptible to exportation and melting. From 1805 through 1837, the largest gold denomination that the United States Mint produced was the \$5 half eagle. By 1838, however, two laws had been passed that made it possible for the Mint to resume eagle coinage. The first was the Act of June 28, 1834, which reduced the weight of standard U.S. gold coins and, in so doing, placed the nation's monetary system on a gold standard. The second was the Act of January 18, 1837, a general overhaul of the nation's coinage laws that, among other things, standardized the fineness of gold and silver coins at 900 thousandths.

When eagle production finally resumed in 1838, the Mint settled upon the Liberty Head design of Christian Gobrecht, featuring a portrait of Liberty facing left, her hair tied in a bun at the back of her head and wearing a coronet inscribed LIBERTY. Thirteen stars encircle the border, and the date is below the portrait. The initial portrait utilized in 1838 and early 1839 had deeper curvature to the truncation of the bust with Liberty's hair pulled back over her ear. The design was modified slightly in 1839 to create the Liberty Head motif that would remain in use through 1907.

The basic reverse design also remained unchanged from 1838 to 1907, featuring an eagle with outstretched wings and a shield on its breast. The eagle clutches a group of three arrows in its left talon and an olive branch in its right talon. The legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is around the border and the denomination TEN D. is below the eagle. The reverse was modified in 1866, however, with the addition of the motto IN GOD WE TRUST on a scroll above the eagle. To distinguish them from their No Motto predecessors, the Motto eagles of 1866 to 1907 are known as the Type II Liberty Head design.

As above, the first iteration of Christian Gobrecht's new Liberty Head eagle bore a distinctive obverse featuring a sweep of hair completely covering Liberty's ear and a peculiarly deep curve to the bust's truncation. Benjamin West's painting *Omnia Vincit Amor* ("Love Conquers All") served as Gobrecht's model, even down to the beaded cord and coronet style. The first eagles using this design were struck at the end of 1838, with 7,200 pieces intended for circulation on top of four "specimen" coins presented to Secretary of the Treasury Levi Woodbury. In 1839, the same obverse design was employed for the first 2,801 eagles struck bearing that date before the design was modified. As the first Liberty Head eagle, and one of just two of the Type of 1838, Large Letters design, the 1838 is eagerly sought by both advanced gold type collectors and series specialists. This is by far the rarer of the two issues of the Type of 1838 design, and of the 7,500 pieces struck, *PCGS CoinFacts* accounts for just 80 to 100 survivors in all grades. Mint State coins are of the utmost rarity and, indeed, this issue largely passed into circulation with little attention from contemporary Americans. Nearly as rare are original, problem free About Uncirculated coins such as this, an impressive example that would serve as a focal point in a specialized gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8575. NGC ID: 262D.

PCGS Population: 4; 23 finer, just four of which are Mint State (MS-63 finest).

From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.

## Choice AU 1839/8 Eagle

### Brief and Challenging Type of 1838



3226

**1839/8 Type of 1838, Large Letters, AU-55 (PCGS).** This lovely example exhibits subtle rose-apricot highlights on dominant honey-olive color. Traces of prooflike reflectivity are seen in the protected areas around the design elements, which display appreciable luster in a softly frosted texture. Sharply defined throughout the focal points, with fully original surfaces.

The 1839 Type of 1838 eagle is a very scarce coin in all grades, with perhaps just under 250 examples known, by far the vast majority

of which are well circulated. While just a hair more available than the first year of issue, there is quite a bit of competition between type collectors and classic period gold specialists when an example appears at sale, regardless of condition. As an upper end AU-55 with superior quality and eye appeal, this specimen will attract significant attention from numismatists of all stripes.

PCGS# 8576. NGC ID: 262E.

PCGS Population: 10; 24 finer, 15 of which are Mint State (MS-66 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Exceptional MS-60 1840 \$10 Gold Eagle



3227

**1840 MS-60 (PCGS).** It is difficult for us to imagine a more attractive, more obviously original 1840s eagle at the MS-60 level than this Fairmont Collection coin. It is a lustrous and frosty coin with razor sharp to full striking detail throughout the design. Modestly semi-prooflike in isolated field areas, as well. Only the strongest bids will be competitive when bidding opens for this thoroughly appealing example.

From a mintage of 47,338 coins, the 1840 eagle is a challenging condition rarity at the AU level and above. Produced at the height of the “Hard Times” period of economic uncertainty,

these coins saw heavy use in circulation as few people were financially able to save examples. David Akers noted that he had not personally seen an Uncirculated 1840 eagle. In more modern times Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth (2008) expanded on this theme when they wrote, “The 1840 eagle is an underrated date that is almost impossible to find in Mint State.” For the serious student of Gobrecht’s Liberty Head eagles, opportunities such as this are clearly few and very far between.

PCGS# 8581. NGC ID: 262G.

PCGS Population: 2; 5 finer (MS-62 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3228

**1841 AU-55 (PCGS).** A lovely example with richly original surfaces dressed in deep olive and medium gold. Exceptionally attractive for the assigned grade, with sharp striking detail and abundant luster remaining on both sides. Although not as elusive as the 1838, 1839 and 1840, the 1841 (63,131 pieces produced) is still a scarce issue by early Liberty Head eagle standards. This is an exceptional quality

coin for the date, and it is sure to attract a very strong bids from sharp-eyed gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8582. NGC ID: 262H.

PCGS Population: 17; 19 finer, just eight of which are Mint State (MS-63 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Historic Key Date 1841-O Eagle Unknown in Mint State



3229

**1841-O Winter-1, the only known dies. EF-45 (PCGS).** Offered is a superior example of an extremely challenging New Orleans Mint gold issue. Well struck for an 1841-O eagle, both sides offer generally bold definition that comes up short in only a few isolated areas. The surfaces are soft and satiny, revealing glints of original luster. Richly original honey-olive color adorns both sides and delivers outstanding eye appeal.

With only 2,500 pieces produced, the 1841-O has the lowest mintage of any Liberty Head eagle dated 1838 to 1858. Fewer than 100 survivors are accounted for, making this the second rarest No Motto type from the New Orleans Mint after the

1859-O, and the third rarest when we include Motto issues (which brings the 1883-O into play). No Mint State coins have been graded by the major certification services. With AU examples highly elusive, the 1841-O trades places with the 1859-O to become the prime condition rarity among New Orleans Mint tens of the No Motto type. The Fairmont pedigree adds further appeal. This exciting Choice EF example will surely attract advanced gold specialists.

PCGS# 8583. NGC ID: 262J.

PCGS Population: 14; 18 finer (AU-58 finest). There are also no Mint State examples listed at NGC.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3230

**1842 Small Date, Plain 4. AU-53 (PCGS).** This is a significant and thoroughly desirable example of a scarce early date Liberty Head eagle. Both sides exhibit lovely, original honey-orange color. The strike is overall sharp, coming up just a bit short over a few of the stars around the obverse border. Lustrous, frosty and exceptionally appealing at the assigned grade level, this delightful piece will attract bids from advanced collectors of Liberty Head gold coinage. The Small Date is by far the rarer of the two date logotypes that comprise the Philadelphia Mint's production of ten-dollar gold eagles in 1842. It was the first variety of the issue produced, and is distinguished from its Large Date counterpart not only by the size of the digits in the logotype, but also by having a Plain 4 as opposed to a Crosslet 4. The mintage of the 1842 Small Date is just 18,623 pieces, as opposed to 62,884 coins for the 1842 Large Date, and Small Date survivors are at least twice as rare.

PCGS# 8585. NGC ID: 262L.

PCGS Population: 7; 20 finer, just six of which are Mint State (MS-63 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3231

**1842 Large Date, Crosslet 4. AU-53 (PCGS).** Appealing honey-orange surfaces are lustrous for the grade with sharp striking detail to all devices save for the obverse stars. This is the more frequently encountered date logotype of the 1842 eagle; the Large Date was produced to the extent of 62,884 pieces while the Small Date has a mintage of just 18,623 coins. All early date Liberty Head eagles are underrated issues, however, especially with the undeniable originality and superior quality offered here.

PCGS# 8584. NGC ID: 262M.

PCGS Population: 11; 27 finer, just eight of which are Mint State (MS-65 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3232

**1842-O Winter-2. AU-50 (PCGS). CAC.** Here is an exceptional About Uncirculated representative of this often overlooked issue from the early New Orleans Mint. Boldly colored and original, both sides are awash in rich olive and honey-gold. Much of the original mint finish remains, in keeping with the assigned grade, and we note a softly frosted texture overall. Boldly defined overall, the discerning collector would be difficult to improve upon this 1842-O eagle.

This issue is only the second in the New Orleans Mint ten-dollar gold eagle series. While it is more readily obtainable than the 1841-O in an absolute sense, the 1842-O is scarce and underrated in AU and Mint State. In fact, the 1842-O is the ninth rarest of the 21 New Orleans Mint eagles of the No Motto type in high grades (per Doug Winter, *Gold Coins of the New Orleans Mint: 1839-1909*, 2020 edition). The offered coin is far finer than the typically encountered VF or EF survivor, and is surpassed by very few Uncirculated coins that have been certified by PCGS and NGC. It would serve as a highlight in any advanced collection.

PCGS# 8587. NGC ID: 262N.

PCGS Population: 22; 42 finer, just six of which are Mint State.

CAC Population: 1; 10.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3233

**1843 AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** This is one of the most appealing 1843 eagles that we have ever offered. It is a solid Choice AU survivor with a tinge of reddish-rose to handsome deep honey-orange color. Flashes of prooflike reflectivity outline many of the design elements, the texture otherwise frosty. Sharply struck with no sizable or otherwise singularly mentionable marks. Although a seemingly available issue by 1840s Liberty Head eagle standards, the mintage of 75,462 pieces largely entered commercial channels and stayed there until the individual coins were heavily worn or lost. Only a few survivors can claim Choice AU or Mint State status today, and this newcomer to the census is one of these select rarities. A delight for the specialist.

PCGS# 8588. NGC ID: 262P.

PCGS Population: 7; 6 finer, just two of which are Mint State (MS-61 finest).

CAC Population: 2; 1 (AU-58).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Superior Near-Mint State 1843-O \$10 Gold



3234

**1843-O Winter-2. AU-58 (PCGS).** Among the finest 1843-O eagles that we can ever recall handling, this lovely Choice About Uncirculated example from the Fairmont Collection is destined for an advanced gold cabinet. A vivid example, both sides are drenched in deep olive and warmer reddish-orange colors. The luster is satiny to softly frosted and the fields are faintly semi-reflective. Sharply struck, and impressively so for an early New Orleans Mint issue. The lack of all but a few singularly noticeable marks further enhances this coin's appeal.

After only the 1847-O, the 1843-O is the most available New Orleans Mint ten from the 1840s. Like many of the early eagle

issues, however, very few examples were saved at the time, this despite the fairly significant mintage of 175,162 pieces. A small group of 1843-O eagles were found in a Louisiana plantation in 1974, but all are impaired. Very few examples have surfaced through repatriations from foreign bank hoards, with the result that this issue is a significant rarity in the finer circulated and all Mint State grades. For both the issue and the assigned grade, the offered coin would be very difficult to improve upon.

PCGS# 8589. NGC ID: 262R.

PCGS Population: 17; 8 finer (MS-63 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3235

**1844-O Winter-1. Misplaced Date, Repunched Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Richly original color in deep honey-orange is seen on both sides of this premium example. Crisply impressed with razor sharp striking detail throughout, and displaying nearly full luster in a frosty to modestly semi-prooflike texture. Quite well preserved with abundant eye appeal, even the most discerning Southern gold enthusiast will be impressed by this noteworthy Choice AU coin. Despite its status as one of the more readily obtainable New Orleans Mint issues from the early Liberty Head eagle series, the 1844-O is scarce in AU and very rare in Mint State. Uncirculated survivors can be counted on two to three hands, confirming the significance of this CAC-approved AU-55 for advanced collectors specializing in New Orleans Mint coinage or Liberty Head eagles.

PCGS# 8591. NGC ID: 262T.

PCGS Population: 16; 22 finer, seven of which are Mint State (MS-62 finest).

CAC Population: 5; 9.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3236

**1845 AU-53 (PCGS).** Deep olive undertones backlight warm honey-orange color on both sides of this wonderfully original example. There are no significant marks, and the surfaces are remarkably smooth at the assigned grade level. Boldly defined overall with plenty of soft mint luster remaining. The Philadelphia Mint produced just 26,153 circulation strike eagles in 1845, survivors of which are equally as scarce as those of the 1846 and 1849-O issues. With most survivors grading no finer than Choice EF, the present example represents a significant bidding opportunity for the advanced collector of Liberty Head gold coinage.

PCGS# 8592. NGC ID: 262U.

PCGS Population: 6; 11 finer, just one of which is Mint State (MS-62).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3237

**1845-O Winter-1. Repunched Date. AU-53 (PCGS).** This lovely eagle is drenched in bold honey-gold color. Boldly to sharply struck with ample luster in a softly frosted texture. The 1845-O is one of the scarcer New Orleans Mint eagles from the 1840s, although a small hoard that surfaced during the early 1990s has made the issue somewhat available in the EF-45 to AU-53 grade range. Any finer and the 1845-O is rare, and even premium AU-53s such as the present Fairmont Collection specimen are very scarce. This issue is also popular with specialists due to the existence of several Repunched and Misplaced Date varieties, as here.

PCGS# 88593.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3238

**1845-O Winter-3. Repunched Date, Large/Small Date. AU-50 (PCGS).** This lovely eagle is drenched in a bold blend of honey-olive and deep orange colors. Boldly to sharply struck with plenty of luster in a softly frosted texture. The 1845-O is one of the scarcer New Orleans Mint eagles from the 1840s, although a small hoard that surfaced during the early 1990s has made the issue somewhat available in the EF-45 to AU-53 grade range. Obviously from a different source, the Fairmont-JBR specimen offers superior quality and undeniable originality for the discerning gold enthusiast. This issue is also popular with specialists due to the existence of several Repunched and Misplaced Date varieties, as here.

PCGS# 8593. NGC ID: 262V.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3239

**1846 AU-50 (PCGS).** A lovely olive-orange piece with plenty of frosty luster remaining to both sides. Sharply struck and pleasingly smooth. David W. Akers' description of the 1846 in his analysis of auction records for ten-dollar eagles sums up the significance of this issue:

*Like the 1845, the 1846 is a grossly underrated date in this most underrated U.S. coin series. It is not easy to locate an 1846 Eagle in any condition and almost all of the relatively few known specimens are only VF or EF.*

*No uncirculated specimen has ever been auctioned and I have never seen one in that grade. In fact, I have seen only one that I graded AU. In my opinion, few other U.S. coins are as underrated and unappreciated for their true rarity as this one and most of those are also Liberty Head Eagles.*

Although a few Mint State examples have surfaced since Akers penned those words in 1980 (along with six About Uncirculated coins from the treasure of the *S.S. Republic*), his comments about the underrated nature and overall rarity of this issue remain true. This premium AU from the Fairmont Collection's *JBR Set*, a newcomer to the census, would make an impressive addition to any cabinet.

PCGS# 8594. NGC ID: 262W.

PCGS Population: 11; 27 finer, just four of which are Mint State (MS-62+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3240

**1846/5'-O Winter-4. AU-53 (PCGS).** This About Uncirculated eagle retains traces of semi-prooflike reflectivity in the fields, the texture otherwise softly frosted and appreciably lustrous. Well struck in most areas and awash in pretty color in bold orange-honey. The 1846-O has a mintage of just 81,780 pieces, far fewer than the 571,500 pieces reported for the 1847-O. While the latter is the most plentiful No Motto eagle from the New Orleans Mint, the former is among the rarest. This is particularly true in the finest circulated and Mint State grades, with Southern gold expert Doug Winter commenting in his 2006 New Orleans Mint reference: "[The 1846-O] is especially hard to find in higher grades and coins with good eye appeal are nearly unheard of." This is just such a coin, and it is sure to appeal to astute bidders. We anticipate strong competition when it crosses the auction block.

Winter-4 is a rare die marriage of the 1846-O eagle. Once regarded as an overdate, the bottom of the digit 6 exhibits a large dot within its loop, the result of a damaged date punch. The present example was struck from a reverse die with a prominent crack through the mintmark that also engages the branch stem and the letters TE in TEN. A second crack goes through the letter I in AMERICA before extending into the lowest arrow head and the eagle's left talon. The presence of these cracks point to the early withdrawal of this die, which probably explains the rarity of the Winter-4 attribution among extant 1846-O \$10s.

PCGS# 8596. NGC ID: 262X.

PCGS Population: 8; 20 finer, just four of which are Mint State (MS-61 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*





3241

**1847 MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** A truly exceptional example from the early No Motto Liberty Head eagle series, this attractive coin displays vivid honey-orange and pinkish-rose colors. The finish is bright and frosty and the fields are modestly semi-reflective. Sharply struck with a remarkably smooth appearance for the assigned grade, this premium quality coin would make an outstanding addition to an advanced gold type or date set. With the highest mintage of its type (862,258 circulation strikes), the 1847 is easily the most available No Motto Liberty Head eagle in terms of total number of coins

extant. A quick study of the *PCGS Population Report* shows a great concentration of coins in the EF-40 to AU-50 range, however, and in Mint State it is a formidable condition rarity. One of the finest, most attractive examples that we have ever handled, and we recommend the strongest bids for this beautiful coin.

PCGS# 8597. NGC ID: 262Z.

CAC Population: 12 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3242

**1847-O Winter-2. Repunched Date. AU-58 (PCGS).** A lovely early O-Mint eagle that combines originality and condition rarity. Handsome honey-olive color blankets both sides and mingles with full satin to softly frosted luster. Well struck by the standards of the New Orleans Mint, the central high points are a bit soft, but all other features are sharp. Modest semi-reflectivity in the fields enhances already strong eye appeal. Produced to the extent of 571,500 pieces, the 1847-O is by far the highest mintage eagle from the New Orleans Mint. It is the most common No Motto Liberty Head ten from this coinage facility with survivors available in circulated grades through

the lower reaches of AU. In Choice AU and Mint State, however, this issue develops into a significant condition rarity, as do most early eagles of this design type. Not many more than 20 Uncirculated coins are believed extant. The Fairmont Collection pedigree adds appeal for this minimally circulated survivor, as does repunching to the base of the digit 1 in the date. This coin is sure to find its way into an advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8598. NGC ID: 2632.

PCGS Population: 17; 22 finer (MS-64 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3243

**1848 MS-60 (PCGS).** Delightful honey-orange surfaces present a bold strike and soft, pleasingly smooth frosty luster. When David Akers wrote his important studies on federal gold coins, published in 1980, he noted five appearances of coins called "Uncirculated," some of which could have been the same piece. He also wrote about the date, "Most known specimens are only VF or EF and strictly uncirculated examples are extremely rare." This summed the situation up perfectly, as a scanning of auction appearances confirms. What may be most remarkable about the 1848 in this grade is the list of collections that had far inferior examples, or none at all. The lead among these is the Eliasberg Collection, which contained only an "EF-40." The Garrett family, Virgil Brand, and the Norweb family also failed to acquire

anything noteworthy for this date, illustrative of just how difficult it is to find. Harry W. Bass, Jr., the most aggressive student and collector of federal gold of our time, did find a lovely example graded MS-63 by PCGS from our (Stack's) sale of the exceptional James A. Stack Collection in 1994. The fabulous Bass coin has been resubmitted to PCGS in more recent times, but remains in a PCGS MS-63 holder, perhaps slightly skewing the population data for the issue. Among the finest extant, the Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here certainly stands tall among 1848 eagles available for today's gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8599. NGC ID: 2633.

PCGS Population: 3; 16 finer (MS-64 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Impressive Near-Mint 1848 \$10 Gold Eagle



3244

**1848-O Winter-1. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Original orange-honey surfaces are enhanced by soft, frosty mint luster. The strike is a bit light overall, typical of the issue, yet acceptable enough for an 1840s gold coin from the New Orleans Mint. Near-fully Mint State and originally preserved, it is easy to see why this premium coin is among the finest 1848-O eagles extant.

The New Orleans Mint opened for business in 1838 and over the next decade became vital to the United States coin supply, producing a variety of silver and gold denominations, although not necessarily all denominations in every year. In 1848 the New Orleans Mint struck only half dimes, half dollars, and \$10 gold eagles. Production was fairly moderate for the half dimes and strong for half dollars, but the gold eagle mintage was quite small, only 35,850 pieces. Southern gold coins of the Antebellum era tended to enter circulation and remain there until the Civil War drove them into hoards to await better days.

The 1848-O eagle usually has a weak obverse strike often with poor definition on the high points of Liberty's hair and a peculiar slightly sunken in look that sometimes lends itself to a less than average eye appeal. There are three varieties known. Winter-1, as represented here, is identified by the noticeable punchmark on the third and fourth horizontal lines at the top of the shield and a grouping of die file marks above the eagle's right shoulder.

The 1848-O is most available in circulated grades, primarily in EF or AU, and has even been seen in grades as low as Fine, a genuinely scarce if underwhelming grade for gold. The Fairmont-JBR coin represents condition rarity at the PCGS-certified, CAC-approved Choice AU level. It is a significant piece that will soon be a centerpiece in another fine cabinet.

PCGS# 8600. NGC ID: 2634.

PCGS Population: 10; 14 finer (MS-66 finest).

CAC Population: 6; 7.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3245

**1849 MS-61 (PCGS).** Sharply struck over most focal features, this lustrous and frosty example is enhanced by attractive color in original orange-honey. This is one of the finest we have seen for the issue in a long time, a condition rarity Mint State survivor fit for an advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8601. NGC ID: 2635.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3246

**1849 Breen-6887. Repunched Date. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** A late die state example of this intriguing variety, repunching is evident only at the upper left and within the top loop of the digit 9 in the date. Conditionally scarce for the issue, this CAC-approved, near-Mint example exhibits handsome honey-orange color that brightens considerably under a light. Frosty to modestly semi-reflective with a sharp strike to the focal design elements.

PCGS# 8601. NGC ID: 2635.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3247

**1849-O Winter-1. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** A delightful example that exhibits original honey-gold color with soft orange-apricot highlights evident under a light. Plenty of lively mint luster remains. The strike is a bit soft around the obverse periphery, yet considerably bolder elsewhere.

From a mintage of only 23,900 pieces, and as with virtually every other gold coin struck in New Orleans, wear and tear in commerce was the norm and not the exception. A significant condition rarity in AU and finer grades, any high quality 1849-O eagle such as this deserves serious bidder consideration. Extraordinary!

PCGS# 8602. NGC ID: 2636.

PCGS Population: 7; 7 finer, just three of which are Mint State (MS-61 finest).

CAC Population: 4 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3248

**1850 Large Date. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** A lustrous deep orange-gold example that is sharply struck over most design elements. The Philadelphia Mint struck 291,451 ten-dollar gold pieces in 1850 utilizing both Small Date and Large Date logotypes in the die preparation process. The Large Date is the more available variety, although the issue as a whole is conditionally challenging and exceedingly rare in Mint State. Of the three 1850 Large Date eagles in the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution, the highest graded is an AU-58. This is one of the nicest pieces that we have ever handled, and its offering in this sale represents an important opportunity for advanced gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8603. NGC ID: 2637.

PCGS Population: 10; 19 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 8; 4.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3249

**1850 Small Date. AU-55 (PCGS).** This pretty example displays medium rose highlights on dominant deep honey-orange color. Well defined overall with plenty of original frosty luster in evidence. The Small Date is by far the scarcer logotype of the 1850 eagle (combined mintage: 291,451 circulation strikes), although this fact is not widely recognized. Very well preserved and attractive in all regards, our offering of this Choice AU is a significant bidding opportunity for the astute gold enthusiast. The date logotype used for this variety was intended for large cents and half eagles.

PCGS# 8604. NGC ID: 2638.

PCGS Population: 9; 15 finer, just six of which are Mint State (MS-63 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3250

**1850-O Winter-2. EF-45 (PCGS). CAC.** With wonderfully original surfaces and strong eye appeal, it is little wonder that this premium quality Choice EF secured CAC approval. Displaying pretty honey-olive color, there is plenty of frosty luster remaining to appeal to bidders. This is a poorly struck issue, and the present example is noticeably soft on the obverse, although the reverse is appreciably bolder. Well preserved for the grade with no singularly mentionable marks. One of the scarcer pre-Civil War era New Orleans Mint eagles, the 1850-O has a mintage of 57,500 pieces. Commercial use and eventual melting claimed the vast majority of coins, and among survivors grades of VF and EF are typical, often with problems, and seldom choice. Given the scarcity of AU examples and the extreme rarity of Mint State pieces, premium EF-45s such as this are in high demand among astute Liberty Head eagle and New Orleans Mint enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8605. NGC ID: 2639.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3251

**1851 MS-60 (PCGS).** Rich, deep, honey-rose color with warm orange-gold highlights also very much in evidence. Both sides are sharply struck in general with appealing mint luster throughout. An underrated issue, as are many pre-Civil War era Liberty Head eagles, the 1851 is remarkably rare in Mint State for a Philadelphia Mint issue

with a mintage of 176,328 pieces. This Fairmont Collection example is a particularly noteworthy find for the astute gold enthusiast.

PCGS# 8606. NGC ID: 263A.

PCGS Population: 4; 19 finer (MS-64 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Important Mint State 1851-O Eagle



3252

**1851-O Winter-1. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Offered is a significant Mint State rarity from among the Fairmont Collection's New Orleans Mint eagles. This beautiful 1851-O exhibits frosty olive-gold surfaces with overlying orange-apricot highlights evident. The strike is impressively sharp for an O-Mint ten from the early 1850s, softness minor and largely confined to some of the obverse stars.

Ranking behind the 1847-O, the 1851-O is the second most common New Orleans Mint eagle of the No Motto type. Circulated examples trade with enough frequency that locating

one should prove fairly easy under normal market conditions. The same cannot be said for Mint State survivors, however, for at this level the 1851-O develops into a significant condition rarity. We have handled very few such coins over the years, ever fewer that we can recall matching or surpassing the offered Fairmont-JBR specimen in terms of originality, quality or eye appeal. Worthy of the strongest bids.

PCGS# 8607. NGC ID: 263B.

PCGS Population: 13; 4 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 9 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3253

**1852 MS-62 (PCGS).** Superior surfaces are enhanced by blended frosty luster and vivid honey-rose color. This is a generally boldly struck, impressively smooth example that ranks among the finest 1852 eagles available to today's gold enthusiasts.

In 1852, the Philadelphia Mint received enough gold from the California gold fields to coin 263,106 eagles. The coins entered commerce where they saw use until the Civil War disrupted monetary circulation nationwide. With the price of gold dropping in relation to silver because of the huge quantities of the yellow metal coming out California, silver was driven out of circulation by speculators seeking to make a small profit. In so doing, many gold coins took up the slack and saw heavy use. Larger denomination gold coins were also preferred for international trade particularly in Europe, and large quantities of eagles and double eagles made their way across the Atlantic. The outward flow was exacerbated in the 1860s when foreign merchants would only take gold and silver in trade. These coins would spend the next several decades overseas, mostly in sacks, moving from one bank to another, and quite often suffering abrasions and scrapes along the way. Many more were lost

to the Treasury meltings of the 1930s, leaving only a comparative few for numismatists to contemplate.

If looking at mintage figures alone, the 1852 eagle in theory should be relatively available, even in Mint State. Indeed, in circulated grades, the issue can be found with some degree of ease, though only a few dozen are known at the Choice AU level. In Uncirculated the date becomes one of the most demanding No Motto Liberty Head eagles to locate.

To date, the *PCGS Population Report* for the 1852 eagle shows a total of 546 events in all grades, of those only 29 were Mint State, and with the lion's share receiving an MS-61 grade. Above that is a tiny cluster of specimens in MS-62/MS-62+ at both services, then nothing until you reach the very lonely top with the solitary marvel of the Pogue specimen in PCGS MS-66. Tied for CC#3 for the issue, the Fairmont Collection specimen offered here represents the pinnacle of quality and eye appeal obtainable for most of today's gold collectors.

PCGS# 8608. NGC ID: 263C.

PCGS Population: 6; 4 finer (MS-66+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Uncommonly High Grade 1852-O \$10



3254

**1852-O Winter-2. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** This lovely example retains much frosty luster, and the fields are appreciably semi-reflective. Bathed in warm honey-olive color, razor sharp striking detail to the focal features provides further appeal.

One of the most elusive No Motto Liberty Head eagles from the New Orleans Mint, the 1852-O has an extant population of fewer than 200 coins from a mintage of 18,000 pieces. It is the sixth rarest O-Mint issue of its type, a ranking it shares with the 1849-O. Mint State survivors are rare enough to be counted on

one hand, their paucity placing extreme collector pressure on premium quality Choice AU examples such as this offering from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set. It is a coin that will serve with distinction in a specialized collection of Liberty Head eagles or Southern gold.

PCGS# 8609. NGC ID: 263D.

PCGS Population: 21; 7 finer, just one of which is Mint State (MS-60).

CAC Population: 5; 1 (AU-58).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Probable Finest Known 1853/'2' Eagle



3255

**1853/'2' Breen-6905. MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** A landmark condition rarity for this interesting Liberty Head eagle variety. Handsome honey-rose surfaces are attractively original with full mint luster. Boldly to sharply struck throughout, the surfaces are pleasingly smooth for the assigned grade. A highlight of the extensive Liberty Head eagle offerings from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set, and a coin that would serve as a focal point in even the finest gold cabinet.

This variety was discovered in a 1960 auction sale. The supposed "overdate" feature is faint and can be difficult to discern by the untrained numismatist, although for those who know where to look it is sharp and clearly visible in the lower loop of the 3 on the present example. Although modern numismatic scholarship

suggests that this variety is not an overdate, it remains popular with gold variety collectors. The 1853/'2' is scarce in an absolute sense and very rare in Mint State. Indeed, this outstanding Mint State example — a newcomer to the Condition Census — is tied for finest certified by PCGS and the highest graded example to meet with CAC approval. It is the finest 1853/'2' eagle of which your cataloger (JLA) is aware, and is destined to set a record price for the variety in this, its first offering in the numismatic market.

PCGS# 8611. NGC ID: C82G.

PCGS Population: 2; 0 finer.

CAC Population: 1; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Virtually Unimprovable 1853 \$10 Eagle



3256

**1853 MS-63 (PCGS).** With original rose-gold surfaces that are expertly preserved and attractively original, it should come as no surprise that this is one of the finest 1853 Liberty Head eagles seen by PCGS. Sharply struck with full satiny mint luster.

The 1853 has a respectable mintage for the type of 201,253 circulation strikes, and it is generally obtainable in circulated

condition. Mint State coins are scarce in an absolute sense, while at the Choice level of preservation this premium quality Fairmont Collection offering is an extraordinary condition rarity. Fit for inclusion in even the finest gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8610. NGC ID: 263E.

PCGS Population: 5; 4 finer (MS-64+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3257

**1853-O Winter-1. AU-55 (PCGS).** Vivid honey-orange surfaces are considerably lustrous with a uniform frosty texture. Both sides are boldly to sharply struck throughout with an impressively smooth appearance for the issue as well as the assigned grade. With a mintage of 51,000 coins, the 1853-O is the third most plentiful New Orleans Mint eagle behind the 1847-O and 1851-O. However, the vast majority of survivors are concentrated at the VF and EF grade levels, often with surface problems. This issue is a major rarity in

Mint State, and even Choice AU survivors are very scarce and seldom encountered. With undeniable originality and superior eye appeal, this PCGS AU-55 from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set is among the finest 1853-O eagles that we have handled in recent memory and is sure to appeal to advanced Southern gold collectors.

PCGS# 8612. NGC ID: 263F.

PCGS Population: 21; 31 finer, just seven of which are Mint State (MS-62 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Very Rare Mint State 1854 Eagle



3258

**1854 MS-62+ (PCGS). CAC.** Both sides of this delightful 1854 Liberty Head eagle display a lovely blend of soft frosty luster and vivid golden-rose color. Boldly defined overall and very attractive at the assigned grade level.

Even at an early date the 1854 eagle was regarded as scarce. An example is provided by lot 1265 in the Dr. James R. Chilton Collection sold by Bangs, Merwin, & Company in March of 1865: "1854 Good and scarce. Dickeson, page 172." The Dickeson reference is to the *American Numismatic Manual*, the most impressive work on American rare coins produced up to that point in time. In the years to follow, 1854 eagles appeared at auction now and then, never with frequency, as large denomination circulation strikes were not particularly popular with early numismatists. Among those that were offered, nearly all were in lower circulated grades, generally what we would classify as VF or EF by today's standards. Exceptions are few

and far between, one being lot 126 in the J.C. Morgenthau & Company sale of June 1940, simply described as "1854 Uncirculated."

Fast forward to August 1980 when David W. Akers described lot 953 in Paramount's session of Auction '80, a coin listed as MS-63, with the comment, still appropriate today: "...the 1854 is actually extremely rare in this grade. Only 54,250 were minted, we doubt if more than six to eight Mint State examples exist."

This is certainly one of the very few Uncirculated survivors that we have ever had the privilege to present at auction, and it is a coin that is sure to see spirited bidding among astute collectors.

PCGS# 8613. NGC ID: 263G.

PCGS Population: 1; 4 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 8 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



## Exceedingly Rare Mint State 1854-O Large Date \$10



3259

**1854-O Large Date. Winter-4. MS-60 (PCGS).** A handsome example featuring warm, even olive-orange color. Lustrous and softly frosted, both sides are impressively smooth for the assigned grade with outstanding originality. Well struck for the issue, as well, we note bold to sharp detail to most design elements.

This popular variety features a date logotype that was intended for production of silver dollar dies. It is so large that Doug Winter (2020) opines that the 1854-O Large Date eagle "should rightfully be called a Huge Date." While marginally more available than its identically dated Small Date counterpart, the Large Date is still conditionally challenging with upper end Choice AU and Mint

State survivors of the utmost rarity in numismatic circles. This extraordinary offering from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set is sure to see spirited bidding among discerning gold enthusiasts.

The most intriguing of the four die marriages reported for the 1854-O Large Date eagle, Winter-4 is a possible Misplaced Date. Close inspection with a loupe reveals what might be traces of an errant 85 within the lower edge of the neck truncation, above the right and left edges of the primary digits, respectively.

PCGS# 98614. NGC ID: 263J.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (MS-63 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3260

**1854-O Small Date. Winter-1, the only known dies. AU-58 (PCGS).** Deep, rich, vivid color in honey-orange blankets both sides and delivers exceptional eye appeal. The technical quality is also superior, with nearly full mint luster and only small, wispy handling marks. Well struck for an O-Mint gold coin from the early 1850s, the focal features in and around the centers are generally sharp. The 1854-O eagle was produced to the extent of just 52,000 pieces, survivors displaying either a Small Date or Large Date logotype. The former is scarce in AU and rare in Mint State, this being one of the nicest examples that we can ever recall offering.

PCGS# 8614. NGC ID: 263H.

PCGS Population: 10; with a single MS-60 finer.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3261

**1854-S AU-58 (PCGS).** An impressive near-Mint example with overall deep honey-gold color and subtle pale rose tinting. It is sharply defined across all elements with full, softly frosted to semi-reflective luster. 1854 represents the first year of eagle production at the San Francisco Mint, where a sizable quantity of 123,826 coins was struck. It would not be until 1879 that a U.S. Mint would once again strike a larger quantity of eagles, and, as a result, the 1854-S issue remains relatively available overall in today's market. However, Uncirculated example are incredibly rare, as the vast majority of this mintage was subject to extensive circulation through the American West. A more realistic goal for many collectors, therefore would be to focus on the Choice AU grade level. Such pieces are scarce in their own right, however, and few can match the originality and quality of the offered coin from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set.

PCGS# 8615. NGC ID: 263K.

PCGS Population: 26; 11 finer (MS-62+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3262

**1855 MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Sharply defined in most areas, this Liberty Head eagle displays full satin to softly frosted luster and gorgeous, original color in golden-orange. Very smooth for the assigned grade, and sure to appeal to astute gold collectors. With a mintage of 121,701 circulation strikes, the 1855 is a plentiful 1850s eagle in worn condition. Mint State survivors remain rare, however,

and few possess the technical quality and eye appeal of this premium example from the Fairmont-JBR Set.

PCGS# 8616. NGC ID: 263L.

PCGS Population: 18; 13 finer (MS-64+ finest).

CAC Population: 7 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Elusive 1855-O \$10 Gold



3263

**1855-O Winter-1, the only known dies. AU-55 (PCGS).** Beautiful honey-gold in color, with delicate champagne-apricot overtones also very much in evidence. Soft, frosty mint luster remains virtually intact over surfaces that are free of all but trivial signs of handling. Well struck with most features sharply to fully rendered.

One of the leading rarities among New Orleans Mint eagles, the 1855-O has a low mintage of just 18,000 coins struck. Survivors are similar in rarity to those of the 1856-O and 1857-O issues and typically grade no finer than EF. Recent shipwreck finds have

not significantly increased the supply of high grade examples, only seven or eight 1855-O eagles were included among the treasure of the *S.S. Republic*. The offered coin from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set is most definitely not a shipwreck find, boasting as it does unquestionable originality. With Mint State coins all but unknown, this impressive AU-55 would serve as a highlight in an advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8617. NGC ID: 263M.

PCGS Population: 5; 5 finer, just two of which are Mint State (both MS-61).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3264

**1856 MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Handsome rose-apricot surfaces are softly frosted and exhibit sharp striking detail to the central design elements. Undeniably original and sure to sell for a strong premium. Although the 1856 is one of the more obtainable Liberty Head eagles from the 1850s, it remains scarce in an absolute sense with Mint State coins rare. A bidding opportunity not to be missed.

PCGS# 8619. NGC ID: 263P.

PCGS Population: 5; 17 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 6 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Premium Choice AU 1856-O Eagle



3265

**1856-O Winter-1. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Superior quality for both the issue and the assigned grade, this is a wonderfully original 1850s eagle with dominant colors of deep honey-orange and olive-gold. Lustrous with minimal signs of handling, generally sharp to full striking detail is also a strong suit.

While the San Francisco Mint understandably claimed much of the gold mined in California during the mid to late 1850s, considerable quantities of bullion continued to be shipped to the East Coast, although little gold found its way to the New Orleans Mint during the latter half of that decade. With the

mints focused on double eagle production, the Louisiana facility produced only 14,500 eagles in 1856. The low mintage and extensive commercial use explain the scarcity of this issue. Even survivors in VF and EF are elusive, while in AU the 1856-O is rare. The Winter-1 attribution adds further desirability to the Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here, since Doug Winter (2020) notes, "This variety is rare."

PCGS# 8620. NGC ID: 263R.

PCGS Population: 14; 15 finer, just one of which is Mint State (MS-60).

CAC Population: 12 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3266

**1856-S AU-58 (PCGS).** Exceptionally lustrous for the grade with overall sharp striking detail. Vivid deep honey-rose color enhances the appeal of this premium quality Choice AU eagle. A scarce to rare issue in all grades, most of the 68,000 eagles struck in the San Francisco Mint during 1856 have long since been lost to commercial use. Far finer than the typically offered survivor, which is well worn if

not also impaired, this fully original and problem free near-Mint coin is sure to see spirited bidding at auction.

PCGS# 8621. NGC ID: 263S.

PCGS Population: 25; 12 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 10; 5.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Exceedingly Rare Mint State 1857 \$10 Gold



3267

**1857 MS-60 (PCGS), CAC.** A landmark condition rarity among circulation strike 1850s Liberty Head eagles. Fully original in preservation, both sides exhibit blended honey-gold and rose-apricot colors. Drenched in frosty mint luster, the surfaces are remarkably smooth for both the issue and the assigned grade. Sharp striking detail to the central design elements enhances the appeal of this phenomenal 1857 eagle.

Ten-dollar gold eagle production at the Philadelphia Mint dipped to 16,606 circulation strikes in 1857, the lowest total from this facility recorded since 1844. This issue has a higher

rate of survival than many Liberty Head eagles from the 1840s, however, and the persistent collector should be able to ferret out a suitable VF or EF. Anything finer is scarce, if not rare, and in CAC-approved PCGS MS-60 this exquisite example from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set is one of the very finest obtainable for an issue that is highly elusive at all Mint State levels.

PCGS# 8622. NGC ID: 263T.

PCGS Population: 3; 4 finer (MS-62 finest).

CAC Population: 2 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Key Date 1857-O Liberty Head Eagle Rarity



3268

**1857-O Winter-1, the only known dies. AU-55 (PCGS).** Wonderfully original honey-gold surfaces display a tinge of pale olive. Nearly complete frosty luster is noted, and the fields have subtle semi-reflective qualities in the protected areas around some of the design elements. The strike is well executed for the issue with most design elements smartly impressed and sharply to fully rendered. Outstanding Choice About Uncirculated quality from a mintage of just 5,500 pieces.

The 1857-O is regarded as the third rarest New Orleans Mint eagle of the No Motto design type after the 1859-O and 1841-O.

Mint State coins may be unknown; the James A. Stack specimen that was auctioned as Uncirculated in 1994 has since been certified AU-58 by NGC, and subsequently crossed to PCGS AU-58. A couple of other premium Choice AUs are known, including this newcomer to the Condition Census from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set. This coin is sure to elicit strong bids from advanced collectors specializing in either Southern gold coinage or the Liberty Head eagle series.

PCGS# 8623. NGC ID: 263U.

PCGS Population: 6; 7 finer (all AU-58). There are also no Mint State examples listed at NGC.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3269

**1857-S AU-55 (PCGS).** This richly original pinkish-honey example is boldly to sharply defined throughout with glints of frosty mint luster shining forth nicely under a light. From a mintage of 26,000 pieces, survivors of which are scarce in an absolute sense and rare any finer than offered here. Premium quality for both the issue and

the assigned grade, and sure to see spirited bidding among advanced collectors of Liberty Head or San Francisco Mint gold coinage.

PCGS# 8624. NGC ID: 263V.

PCGS Population: 15; 15 finer, just eight of which are Mint State (MS-64+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Sharp and Lustrous Mint State 1858-O \$10 Extraordinary Condition Rarity



3270

**1858-O Winter-1, the only known dies. MS-60 (PCGS). CAC.**  
This is a beautiful Liberty Head eagle exhibiting vivid honey-orange color. Otherwise satiny, the surfaces reveal hints of semi-prooflike reflectivity in the fields under a light. Central striking detail is razor sharp, a few of the peripheral devices a tad soft, yet not uncommonly so for a New Orleans Mint eagle from the 1850s. Nearly smooth enough to support a higher Mint State rating, this gorgeous coin will have tremendous appeal for both Liberty Head eagle specialists and New Orleans Mint enthusiasts.

The 1858-O was produced to the extent of just 20,000 pieces, although it is widely regarded as the third most common New Orleans Mint eagle from the 1850s. Our use of the word “common” deserves qualification here, for all O-Mint tens from this decade are scarce to rare in an absolute sense. The typical

survivor of this well circulated issue is in lower grades through EF, with an occasional AU-50 or AU-53. Unlike for most New Orleans Mint eagles of its era, there are several Mint State coins known for the 1858-O. Virtually all of these coins were part of a significant hoard of 19th century U.S. Mint gold coins discovered in 1985 during an excavation project in Jackson, Tennessee. The provenance of the present example, however, confirms that it is not from the Jackson find, and also that it is a newcomer to the Condition Census for the issue. It ranks as one of the finest 1858-O eagles available to today’s discerning gold collectors, and is worthy of the strongest bids.

PCGS# 8626. NGC ID: 263X.

PCGS Population: 4; 8 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 4 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Superior Quality 1858-S \$10 Eagle Tied for Finest Certified with CAC Approval



**3271**

**1858-S AU-53 (PCGS). CAC.** A predominantly deep honey-gold example with pretty orange and rose highlights. Lustrous AU quality with bold to sharp definition to most design elements.

Retaining its rarity while many contemporary San Francisco Mint gold issues have been widely represented in recent treasure ship finds and/or repatriations from foreign bank hoards, the 1858-S eagle represents a significant find at any grade level. The mintage is 11,800 pieces, most of which succumbed to the heavy

commercial use that claimed most early date gold and silver San Francisco Mint coins. With no Mint State survivors, premium quality About Uncirculated examples like this CAC-approved Fairmont offering represent the very finest in quality obtainable for this challenging Western gold issue.

PCGS# 8627. NGC ID: 263Y.

PCGS Population: 5; 10 finer (AU-58 finest). There are also no Mint State examples listed at NGC.

CAC Population: 3 in all Mint State grades (AU-53 finest certified).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



**3272**

**1859 AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** An originally preserved, thoroughly appealing piece displaying a blend of deep honey-gold and more vivid orange-rose colors. Generally sharp striking detail to near-fully lustrous, satin to softly frosted surfaces. Although not a major rarity in circulated grades, the 1859 is always in demand among gold enthusiasts due to a limited mintage of 16,013 circulation strikes. With precious few Mint State survivors, this premium Choice AU is solidly in the Condition Census for the issue.

PCGS# 8628. NGC ID: 263Z.

PCGS Population: 11; 7 finer (MS-62 finest).

CAC Population: 3; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



**3273**

**1860 AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Here is an impressive example of this underrated No Motto Liberty Head ten-dollar issue. Lustrous surfaces are generally frosty in texture, albeit with appreciable semi-reflectivity evident in the fields. Further adorned with vivid honey-olive and pale apricot colors, bold to sharp striking detail is also of note. Similar in rarity to the 1859, and popular with collectors due to an equally limited mintage, the 1860 was produced to the extent of just 15,055 pieces. Lower grade circulated survivors are obtained with only a modicum of persistence, thus obscuring the conditionally challenging nature of this issue. At the near the Mint State level, the 1860 is a significant rarity, and this is one of the finest survivors that we have ever had the privilege of bringing to auction. Sure to sell for a very strong premium.

PCGS Population: 11; 16 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 1; 3.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Original Near-Mint 1860-O Eagle



3274

**1860-O Winter-2. AU-58 (PCGS).** Ample evidence of a frosty mint finish remains, both sides also exhibiting razor sharp to full striking detail to virtually all design elements. Handsome deep honey-gold and lighter pinkish-rose colors with superior preservation and eye appeal for this challenging issue.

The mintage of 11,100 pieces for the 1860-O eagle was released during the tumultuous months that led up to the Civil War. Each coin represented considerable buying power so not many were saved, and most of those known today exhibit moderate to considerable wear. It is estimated that no more than 10 exist that

are truly Mint State, the finest of which are certified MS-63. For collectors with more realistic goals, there are also not that many examples extant in the upper ranges of AU, so this example from the remarkable Fairmont holdings is certain to attract considerable attention from knowledgeable numismatists. This New Orleans Mint issue is roughly on par with the rarity of the 1846-O and 1850-O eagles.

PCGS# 98631. NGC ID: 2645.

PCGS Population: 9; 8 finer (MS-63 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3275

**1860-S VF-25 (PCGS).** A noteworthy example of an early date San Francisco Mint gold issue that is elusive at all levels of preservation. The detail is suitably bold for the assigned grade, all major features are fully outlined and appreciable. Warm honey-orange color speaks to the coin's originality, while pretty champagne-pink iridescence adds further visual appeal. The surfaces retain appreciable remnants of frosty mint luster — surprisingly so at the VF-25 — and they are free of sizable or otherwise singularly distracting marks. Wispy hairlines are noted.

With contemporary demand on the West Coast remaining strong for double eagles throughout the 1850s and 1860s, it is little wonder

that the San Francisco Mint produced just 5,000 eagles in 1860. This is a highly elusive issue, with *PCGS CoinFacts* providing an estimate of just 30 to 45 survivors in all grades. Lower circulated grades encompass most of the examples extant, although market appearances for VF and EF examples are nearly as rare as they are for higher grade pieces. This important opportunity from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set deserves serious bidder consideration.

PCGS# 8632. NGC ID: 2646.

PCGS Population: 1; 28 finer, just one of which is Mint State (MS-60).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*





3276

**1861 MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Extremely beautiful surfaces exhibit original honey-apricot color to lovely, frosty mint luster. Sharply to fully struck throughout with uncommonly well preserved surfaces. During this first year of armed conflict between the states the Philadelphia Mint churned out an unusually large number of 113,164 circulation strike eagles. These were meant to help fund the Union war effort, and were generally distributed into commerce before the suspension of gold specific payments in December 1861 resulted in the withdrawal of such coins from circulation in the East and Midwest. Ten-dollar gold coinage at the Philadelphia Mint would fall

off accordingly the following year, and remain limited throughout much of the Civil War and Reconstruction eras. Today the 1861 is regarded as one of the most common Liberty Head eagles of the No Motto design type, although it remains scarce to rare in all Mint State grades. This premium quality, CAC-approved example is decidedly in the latter category, and it represents an important find for the astute gold enthusiast.

PCGS# 8633. NGC ID: 2647.

CAC Population: 11 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Incredible Near-Mint 1861-S Eagle Among the Finest Known



3277

**1861-S AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** An attractive and well preserved piece exhibiting considerable mint luster throughout the fields on both sides. Overall toned in a pleasing pinkish-rose iridescence, underlying golden-honey color further confirms the originality. Evidence of gentle circulation is apparent across the high points, though the surfaces are spared from any troubling abrasions.

The 1861-S is one in a long line up of San Francisco Mint eagles from the 1850s and 1860s that suffered a high rate of attrition through commercial use. While the mintage of 15,500 pieces represents a substantial increase over the output of just 5,000 coins for the 1860-S, the 1861-S is nearly as challenging to locate in today's market. Indeed, the 1861-S is far rarer than the 1860-

Despite the fact that the latter issue has a similar mintage of 11,100 pieces. Just about 80 examples remain of the 1861-S eagle and, when offered at all, this issue is apt to be in EF grade or lower. The present example ranks among the finest pieces known, and just one Mint State coin is listed at NGC— the sole Uncirculated survivor of this issue. The importance of this exceptionally well preserved, CAC-approved Choice AU can hardly be overstated.

PCGS# 8634. NGC ID: 2648.

PCGS Population: 9; with a single AU-58+ finer at this service.

CAC Population: 4; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Significant Near-Mint 1862 Eagle Rare Civil War Date



3278

**1862 AU-58 (PCGS).** Offered is a Condition Census example of this extremely popular, yet highly elusive Civil War era gold eagle. Sharply struck with frosty mint luster, both sides are enhanced by original color in warm honey-orange. Nearly Mint State, and premium quality at the assigned grade level, there is much to recommend this exceptional coin to advanced numismatists.

As Union hopes for a quick victory in the Civil War were dashed with their defeat at the First Battle of Bull Run (a.k.a. First Manassas) in July 1861, Eastern banks suspended first gold and then silver specie payments. By early 1862 gold coins had effectively disappeared from circulation in the Eastern

and Midwestern states, the yearly output of circulation strikes from the Philadelphia Mint also dropping off markedly as little bullion reached the facility for coinage. The 1862 has a modest mintage of 10,960 pieces, many examples of which were exported and eventually melted. When we further consider that most of the few survivors are well worn, the significance of the present offering should be obvious even to the casual observer. A coin that is sure to see spirited bidding at auction that results in a strong realized price.

PCGS# 8635. NGC ID: 2649.

PCGS Population: 8; 6, four of which are Mint State (MS-61 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Choice AU 1862-S Liberty Head \$10



3279

**1862-S AU-55 (PCGS).** Here is a significant survivor from a rare issue that is typically offered well worn, if not also impaired. It is remarkably sharp in detail with blended orange-apricot highlights to dominant golden-honey color. The surfaces are near-fully lustrous in a frosty texture.

A low mintage issue that suffered heavily in circulation, the 1862-S eagle has an extant population of no more than 80 coins from a mintage of 12,500 pieces. Struck during an era when gold (and silver) coinage saw extensive commercial use on the West Coast, virtually no examples were purposely set aside at

the time. Rather, the vast majority circulated until worn out or, in most cases, destroyed through melting. The typical survivor grades EF-45 or lower, and only a single Mint State coin is known, the PCGS MS-61 PCGS Hall-Simpson coin. At AU-55, the offered coin is solidly in the Condition Census. It represents the finest in quality realistically obtainable for most advanced gold enthusiasts, and will be a prize for advanced Liberty Head specialists and Set Registry participants.

PCGS# 8636. NGC ID: 264A.

PCGS Population: 9; 7 finer, just one of which is Mint State (MS-61).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Exceptional 1863 \$10 Gold Condition Rarity



3280

**1863 AU-50 (PCGS).** Here is a highly significant example of this leading rarity in the No Motto Liberty Head eagle series. Uniformly well defined throughout with only minimal handling across the high points and considerable luster in the protected areas. The color is richly original warm honey-orange. This is certainly one of the most impressive examples of the issue that we have ever offered — conditionally rare in PCGS AU-50 and of the utmost desirability due to the unquestionable originality of the surfaces.

Yearly production of circulation strike eagles at the Philadelphia Mint fell off markedly after late December 1861, when Northern banks stopped paying out gold coins at par in exchange for paper currency. While the 1862 was produced in far fewer numbers than the 1861, the effects of this suspension in specie payments

on eagle production really came to the fore in 1863, when just 1,248 were struck, one of the lowest mintages for a circulation strike No Motto Liberty Head eagle. A celebrated rarity that is always in demand among advanced gold enthusiasts, the extant population for the 1863 is thought to be fewer than 50 coins across the grading spectrum. (*PCGS CoinFacts* accounts for just 30 to 45 survivors.) Mint State examples are so rare that most numismatists will never see one, let alone have the chance to make a purchase. Sharp and inviting at the lustrous AU level, the present offering represents a significant bidding opportunity not to be missed.

PCGS# 8637. NGC ID: 264B.

PCGS Population: 7; 9 finer, with a single coin in Mint State (MS-63).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Extraordinary AU 1864 Liberty Head Ten CAC Pop 1/1



3281

**1864 AU-53 (PCGS). CAC.** An attractive and highly significant Liberty Head gold rarity from the Civil War era. Abundant frosty luster remains on surfaces that display attractive, original deep honey-orange color. Minimally circulated with overall sharp detail and only the most trivial handling marks.

Abraham Lincoln had won re-election in 1864 as the Civil War dragged on, now with Ulysses S. Grant at the head of the Union Army. The war continued to have an effect on coin production and just 3,530 circulation strike eagles were struck in 1864 at Philadelphia. The coins saw widespread export, and when found at all in today's market are usually in VF or EF condition. *PCGS CoinFacts* suggests that only 40 to 60 examples remain in all grades. The issue is a prime condition rarity at any AU level and even fewer are known in Mint State — likely fewer than a half

dozen unique specimens, including a pair recovered from the *S.S. Republic* shipwreck. The present example from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set certainly ranks among the finest known survivors and sits near the apex of the Condition Census. Just two Mint State coins have been certified by PCGS through MS-61, and this is one of the two highest graded pieces verified by CAC (both are AUs). As nice as the famous Harry W. Bass, Jr. specimen sold in our (Bowers and Merena's) October 1999 sale that was graded AU-55 by PCGS, only the strongest bids will be competitive for this once-in-a-lifetime offering.

PCGS# 8639. NGC ID: 264D.

PCGS Population: 4; 9 finer, just two of which are Mint State (MS-61 finest).

CAC Population: 1; 1 (AU-55).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## One of the Finest PCGS-Certified 1865-S Normal Date Eagles



3282

**1865-S AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Another outstanding offering from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set, this 1865-S Liberty Head eagle offers undeniably originality, premium quality surfaces and awesome rarity. Awash in vivid honey-orange color, warm reddish-rose highlights are also present to enhance the eye appeal. Softness to the high points of the eagle and several of the stars on the obverse is noted, although hardly unusual for an S-Mint eagle from the 1860s. Otherwise we note bold to sharp detail in the absence of all but trivial rub. Frosty and near-fully lustrous, only the strongest bids will be competitive for this incredible example.

The 1865-S tells a familiar story for a San Francisco Mint eagle from the Civil War era. The mintage was small, in this case 16,700 pieces, and commercial demand for gold and silver coins on the West Coast was such that virtually all examples succumbed to the rigors of circulation. Attrition was exacerbated by the lack

of contemporary numismatic demand for mintmarked coinage, especially in California.

There are two major varieties for this issue: the Normal Date, offered here, and the 865/Inverted 186, offered below. The former is rarer in today's market with *PCGS CoinFacts* providing an estimate of just 25 to 35 survivors throughout the grading scale. The offered coin from the Fairmont Collection is among the finest listed in the *PCGS Population Report* for the Normal Date variety, and with CAC approval confirming its quality and originality, it is one of the very finest 1865-S eagles obtainable by gold enthusiasts. A high Condition Census specimen worthy of the strongest bids.

PCGS# 8642. NGC ID: 264G.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (AU-58).

CAC Population: 1; 2 (both AU-58).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Exciting 1865-S Eagle Dramatic 865/Inverted 186 Variety



3283

**1865-S 865/Inverted 186. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** This example of a popular and dramatic repunched date variety delivers exceptional quality and originality for an 1860s San Francisco Mint gold coin. Warm honey-orange color blankets surfaces that also exhibit subtle pinkish-rose highlights. Lustrous for the grade with ample evidence of a softly frosted finish. The strike is bold to sharp throughout, and the underdigits are readily evident when the date area is examined with a loupe.

The 865/Inverted 186 eagle was created when the engraver inadvertently punched the logotype with the first three digits in the date into die upside down. The error was recognized

and corrected with a second entry of the digits in the proper orientation, but ample evidence of the initial blunder remained. This is actually the more often seen variety of the 1865-S eagle, but its popularity ensures that numismatic demand far outstrips supply. The 865/Inverted 186 is actually rare in its own right with *PCGS CoinFacts* estimating that only 40 to 60 coins are extant in all grades. The offered coin is one of the finest that we can ever recall handling, and it is sure to see spirited bidding at auction.

PCGS# 8643. NGC ID: 264G.

PCGS Population: 4; with a single MS-64 finer.

CAC Population: 4; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Eagerly Sought 1866-S No Motto \$10 Gold



3284

**1866-S No Motto. AU-53 (PCGS).** Offered is an extraordinary quality example of this challenging San Francisco Mint Liberty Head eagle. Lightly toned in iridescent reddish-rose, both sides exhibit dominant color in warm honey-gold that confirm the coin's originality. Softly frosted luster remains to a great extent, and the striking detail is sharp to full in virtually all areas. Choice for the grade and not all that far from CAC approval.

The final No Motto Liberty Head eagle and the only one bearing this date, the 1866-S has a paltry mintage of 8,500 pieces. With

the vast majority of coins lost to commercial use, no more than 40 or 55 examples are believed extant in all grades (per *PCGS CoinFacts*). The present example qualifies as Condition Census and is ideally suited for an advanced collection of Liberty Head eagles or San Francisco Mint gold coinage.

PCGS# 8644. NGC ID: 264H.

PCGS Population: 5; 5 finer (AU-58 finest at this service).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



## Noteworthy 1866 Liberty Head \$10



3285

**1866 Repunched Date. AU-58 (PCGS).** A significant Liberty Head gold rarity offering tremendous eye appeal and superior preservation. Handsome golden-honey color dominates, with tinges of more vivid champagne-pink iridescence intermingled throughout. Flashes of original mint luster are apparent across both sides. The devices remain sharply defined, even at the high points. The date shows dramatic repunching, as seen on all examples of this issue, with the errant digits clearly impressed just to the right of the prominent ones. Beautiful to examine and certainly choice for the assigned grade.

The 1866 issue is the first Philadelphia Mint Liberty Head eagle to feature the Motto design type; the addition of IN GOD WE

TRUST to the reverse design stemmed from the religious revival that swept through the Union during the Civil War. With just 3,750 coins struck, the 1866 Motto \$10 was an absolute rarity upon its inception, and heavy export and melting has taken a heavy toll on this population. The presently offered coin is among the finest of just 75 to 100 survivors (per *PCGS CoinFacts*), and it is solidly in the Condition Census for the issue. For the advanced Liberty Head eagle specialists, this offering represents an important opportunity.

PCGS# 8649. NGC ID: 264J.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (MS-61 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Exceptional 1866-S Motto Eagle Tied for Finest Graded



3286

**1866-S Motto. AU-58 (PCGS).** Offered is probably the finest surviving 1866-S Motto eagle, an early San Francisco Mint gold issue that is unknown in Mint State. Beautiful honey-rose color blankets surfaces that retain nearly full mint frost. Smooth and attractive for the assigned grade, with bold to sharp striking detail. In your cataloger's (JLA's) opinion this piece is worthy of the strongest premium.

Despite having a significantly higher mintage of 11,500 pieces, the 1866-S Motto is rarer than its identically dated Philadelphia Mint counterpart (just 3,750 coins struck). This is due to a much higher rate of attrition through circulation for the San Francisco

Mint issue, as the continued suspension of specie payments in the East and Midwest kept Philadelphia Mint gold coins out of domestic circulation. There are no Mint State examples known; the present Choice AU is the finest certified to have met with CAC approval, and one of fewer than 100 coins believed extant in all grades. Another important bidding opportunity for advanced Liberty Head eagle specialists from the Fairmont Collection's outstanding JBR Set.

PCGS# 8650. NGC ID: 264K.

PCGS Population: 3; 0 finer. The corresponding NGC Census is also 3/0.

CAC Population: 1; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3287

**1867 AU Details—Harshly Cleaned (PCGS).** Survivors of the circulation strike mintage of just 3,090 are thought to number only 75 to 100 coins (per *PCGS CoinFacts*). The rest succumbed to melting, most after export. It could be many years before another AU 1867

eagle appears on the open market, confirming the significance of this more affordable example from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set.

PCGS# 8651. NGC ID: 264L.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## High Condition Census 1867-S Eagle



3288

**1867-S AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** An incredible rarity that belongs in an advanced Liberty Head eagle set. Near-fully lustrous with a lively frosty texture, both sides are enhanced by vivid, deep rose-honey color. The in hand appearance is remarkably smooth for the grade, and it is not a stretch for us to state that there is not even a single noteworthy blemish. A few of the obverse stars are soft, but otherwise the strike is sharp to full throughout.

This is one of just 9,000 examples struck. Typical survivors encountered today grade VF or occasionally EF, but above that

the availability becomes nearly non-existent. Indeed, the 1867-S is one of several dates in the Liberty Head eagle series that is unknown in Mint State. At the upper reaches of Choice AU and premium quality for the grade (as CAC approval makes clear), it is difficult for us to imagine a finer example of this rare and conditionally challenged issue.

PCGS# 8652. NGC ID: 264M.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (both AU-58). There are also no Mint State coins listed at NGC.

CAC Population: 6 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3289

**1868 AU-58 (PCGS).** This impressive condition rarity is one of the finest circulation strike 1868 eagles available to advanced gold enthusiasts. The surfaces are fully original and exhibit warm orange-olive color. Noticeably semi-prooflike, although the design elements are frosty. They are also sharply rendered and crisp, and the surfaces have only wispy handling marks that in no way distract. The 1868 was produced at a time when gold coins were not in active circulation in the East and Midwest. As a result, the Philadelphia Mint's output of eagles that year amounted to just 10,630 circulation strikes, actually a generous total for an 1860s Liberty Head eagle as most of the surrounding issues were produced in far fewer numbers. For example, the mintage for the 1867 is just 3,090 circulation strikes,

while that for the 1869 is only 1,830. The fact that the 1868 is the most frequently encountered 1860s eagle after only the 1861 should not conceal the rarity of this issue in an absolute sense. Mint State survivors are particularly elusive, as the little contemporary numismatic interest was focused on yearly Proof production, itself limited with survivors exceedingly rare in today's market. One of the few near-Mint 1868 eagles that we can recall offering, this example represents a rare bidding opportunity.

PCGS# 8653. NGC ID: 264N.

PCGS Population: 13; 10 finer (MS-62 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Choice AU 1868-S Eagle Among the Finest Known



3290

**1868-S AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Handsome deep golden-honey color with intermingled iridescent rose highlights very much in evidence. Predominantly lustrous with a frosty texture, this expertly preserved Choice AU is sure to appeal to astute gold collectors.

Suffering a high rate of attrition through commercial use, this 13,500-piece issue is a true condition rarity among Motto Liberty Head eagles. Even the National Numismatic Collection

specimen in the Smithsonian Institution grades only VF-30 (per Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth, 2008). As one of the finest certified and finest known examples, the coin offered here comes highly recommended for an advanced collection of classic U.S. Mint gold coinage. The 1868-S is unknown in Mint State.

PCGS# 8654. NGC ID: 264P.

PCGS Population: 6; 7 finer (all AU-58). There are also no Mint State coins listed at NGC.

CAC Population: 4; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Low Mintage 1869 \$10 Rarity



3291

**1869 AU-53 (PCGS). CAC.** Offered is an important condition rarity from one of the lowest mintage circulation strike eagles of the 1860s. Uncommonly high grade for an 1869 ten, both sides reveal ample semi-prooflike finish in the fields. The devices are boldly to sharply rendered throughout with original rose-honey color enhancing strong eye appeal.

The Philadelphia Mint struck just 1,830 circulation strike eagles in 1869 and survivors number fewer than 100 (if not 75) coins in all grades. Even lower grade examples through VF are seldom

encountered in today's market. EF and AU coins are rarer still, while Mint State pieces are so elusive that only a handful of collectors can own an example at that level at any given point in time. This thoroughly PQ About Uncirculated offering from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set would serve with distinction in the finest cabinet.

PCGS# 8655. NGC ID: 264R.

PCGS Population: 5; 11 finer, just two of which are Mint State (MS-61 finest).

CAC Population: 2; 2 (AU-55 finest certified).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3292

**1869-S AU-50 (PCGS). CAC.** This lovely piece is lustrous for the grade with modest semi-reflectivity in the fields. Vividly colored with pinkish-rose highlights to dominant honey-orange, this is an undeniably original coin. Sharply struck at most design elements, an impressively smooth appearance rounds out an outstanding list of physical attributes for this rarity. The 1869-S continues the trend for Liberty Head eagle coinage from the San Francisco Mint that began with the facility's opening in 1854 — a limited number of coins were produced (6,430 pieces) with most succumbing to the rigors of

commercial use. *PCGS CoinFacts* accounts for just 60 to 75 survivors, the vast majority of which are well worn in grades such as VF and EF, often with impairments. We cannot recall handling more than one or two finer specimens than this Fairmont-JBR coin, and it is sure to sell for a very strong premium to a discerning numismatist.

PCGS# 8656. NGC ID: 264S.

PCGS Population: 10; 22 finer, just three of which are Mint State (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 10 in all AU grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Beautiful 1870 Eagle Rarity



3293

**1870 AU-55 (PCGS).** Beautiful honey-gold and orange-apricot blanket this key date eagle and confirm its originality. Both sides retain ample evidence of a prooflike finish, the fields notably reflective despite light rub and wispy handling marks that define the Choice AU grade from PCGS. Sharply struck with virtually complete detail remaining throughout the design.

As with virtually all Philadelphia Mint eagles from the 1860s and 1870s, the 1870 is a low mintage, circulation strike issue with just 3,990 coins produced in this format. Gold had still not returned to commercial use in the East and Midwest, explaining

the limited production for this denomination at the nation's main coinage facility throughout much of the Reconstruction era. Survivors of the 1870 issue are very scarce in lower grades and rare to non-existent in AU and Mint State. In fact there is only one Mint State example certified (NGC MS-60), reinforcing the significance of the present offering for advanced collectors of Liberty Head gold coinage.

PCGS# 8657. NGC ID: 264T.

PCGS Population: 12; 10 finer (AU-58 finest at this service).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## One of the Finest Known 1870-S Eagles



3294

**1870-S AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Captivating rose-honey surfaces are undeniably original and thoroughly PQ for both the issue and the assigned grade. They are near-fully lustrous with a lovely, frosty texture that display only a few trivial marks. Boldly to sharply struck overall with plenty of eye appeal.

The 1870-S is one of many unsung rarities in the Liberty Head eagle series, with just 8,000 pieces produced. As with all San Francisco Mint eagles of the Civil War and Reconstruction eras, the 1870-S circulated extensively and suffered a correspondingly high rate of attrition. Of the 80 to 100 survivors accounted for

at *PCGS CoinFacts*, most grade no finer than VF. The Eliasberg-Bass specimen is unique in Mint State (PCGS MS-61); it has not been approved by CAC as if this writing. The Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here is the highest graded examples stickered by CAC. It is a high Condition Census example that represents a significant find for the advanced gold enthusiast.

PCGS# 8659. NGC ID: 264V.

PCGS Population: 3; with a single MS-61 finer.

CAC Population: 1; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Superior 1871 Liberty Head Eagle



3295

**1871 AU-55 (PCGS).** A beautiful and significant example of this challenging Liberty Head eagle. Light rose color mingles with dominant honey-gold. The fields are flooded with intense frosty luster and the strike is exceptional with virtually all features retaining full definition.

With a mintage of only 1,790 pieces, the 1871 eagle is one of a series of low production runs from the early and mid-1870s. Not long ago, it was considered unknown above the EF level, and David Akers did not know of any Uncirculated examples

when writing in 1988. Today, most surviving specimens are still found below the EF level and only two MS-60 grading events are listed by the major certification services. Advanced collectors of Liberty Head gold should be prepared for determined competition for this underappreciated rarity, as only three coins have been graded finer by PCGS.

PCGS# 8660. NGC ID: 264W.

PCGS Population: 11; 3 finer, just one of which is Mint State (MS-60).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Among the Finest CAC-Approved 1871-S Eagles



3296

**1871-S AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** One of numerous offerings from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set that very likely represents a once-in-a-lifetime bidding opportunity for the advanced Liberty Head eagle collector. This extraordinary 1871-S is intensely lustrous with subtle semi-reflective qualities to an otherwise frosty finish. Beautiful honey-rose color is seen throughout with a bold to sharp strike and outstanding eye appeal.

Relatively generous by the standards of the era, a mintage of 16,500 coins belies the true rarity of the 1871-S. Attrition through circulation was high and, like many San Francisco Mint eagles from the Civil War and Reconstruction eras, the 1871-S

is unknown in Mint State. Of the 100 or so coins believed extant (per *PCGS CoinFacts*), well worn or impaired examples are the norm. As one of very few AU-55s certified, and one of only two to have met with strict CAC approval, the offered coin from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set is tied for CC#2 for the issue. It is an extremely important offering sure to appeal to astute bidders.

PCGS# 8662. NGC ID: 264Y.

PCGS Population: 6; 3 finer (AU-58 finest). There are also no Mint State examples listed at NGC.

CAC Population: 2; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Very Scarce 1872 \$10 Gold



3297

**1872 AU-50 (PCGS). CAC.** This delightful 1872 eagle exhibits warm, original honey-rose color with much of the original finish intact. The texture is predominantly frosty, although there are modest semi-prooflike tendencies in the fields. The definition is sharp throughout and not far from what one might expect to see in a Choice AU coin. The 1872 is a key date issue with a circulation strike mintage of only 1,620 coins. *PCGS CoinFacts* accounts for only 40 to 60 survivors throughout the grading scale. Unlike many similarly elusive eagles from its era there are actually a few Mint State coins known for the 1872. Only marginally less rare are premium AU survivors; most

extant examples are in lower grades through EF. The National Numismatic Collection in the Smithsonian Institution does not include a circulation strike 1872 eagle — further testament to the rarity of this issue — and CAC has not approved any of the certified Mint State coins as of this writing. This significant coin will be just right for a highly regarded collection of Liberty Head gold.

PCGS# 8663. NGC ID: 264Z.

PCGS Population: 8; 17 finer, just four of which are Mint State (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 5 in all Mint State grades. The CAC Population in Mint State is 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



## Scarce 1872-CC \$10 Eagle



3298

**1872-CC Winter 1-B. Die State II. EF-40 (PCGS).** A lovely pinkish-honey example with undeniable originality to the surfaces. Traces of frosty luster remain in the protected areas around the design elements, emphasizing the gentle, even wear throughout. The coin is pleasingly smooth in hand, especially for the assigned grade, and sure to please the discerning numismatist.

The 1872-CC eagle had a low mintage that is historically listed as 4,600 pieces, though another 900 examples were coined earlier in the year, explaining Rusty Goe's (2020) mintage figure of 5,500 coins. Like other early date Carson City Mint eagles,

this issue was neither heavily exported nor saw circulation in the East or Midwest. Rather, commercial use was confined to the American West, the only part of the country where gold coins remained in circulation for most of the 1870s. Only a single Mint State example has been certified (NGC MS-62), and the vast majority of the coins extant are in lower grades through VF. This lovely Extremely Fine survivor is a significant representative of this issue and it delivers eye appeal superior to what is typically found at this grade level.

PCGS# 8664. NGC ID: 2652.

PCGS Population: 11; 35 finer (AU-58 finest at this service).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## High Condition Census 1872-S \$10 Liberty Head



3299

**1872-S AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** A sharply struck and lustrous near-Mint example with a delightful softly frosted texture to the finish. Vivid rose-orange and deep honey colors provide further eye appeal and confirm this coin's originality.

Despite being one of the more common Liberty Head eagles from the 1870s, the 1872-S is scarce in an absolute sense and rare in grades above EF. With so few Mint State coins certified (just two,

in fact: PCGS MS-61 and NGC MS-61) this attractively original, CAC-approved Choice AU represents the finest in quality for the issue that most collectors can realistically hope to acquire.

PCGS# 8665. NGC ID: 2653.

PCGS Population: 9; with a single MS-61 finer.

CAC Population: 2; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Very Low Mintage 1873 Eagle Only 800 Reported Struck



3300

**1873 EF-45 (PCGS).** Close 3 date logotype, as are all known 1873 Liberty Head eagles. This is a quite sharp, lightly circulated example of a key date issue that is highly elusive even in lower grades. Most design elements retain sharp striking detail, in fact, and the surfaces exhibit original honey-rose color that enhances the visual appeal. Ample remnants of a semi-prooflike finish in the fields contrasts with frosty texture elsewhere. This coin offers superior quality and eye appeal that will tempt the advanced gold enthusiast. The 1873 is the first circulation strike eagle of the Liberty Head design with a mintage of fewer than 1,000 coins.

Only 800 pieces were produced which, when combined with a virtual lack of contemporary numismatic interest in circulation strike gold coinage, resulted in one of the rarest dates in a series replete with key issues. *PCGS CoinFacts* accounts for only 30 to 35 survivors in all grades and auction appearances are few and far between in most years. Only one Mint State coin has been certified (PCGS MS-60).

PCGS# 8666. NGC ID: 2654.

PCGS Population: 4; 15 finer, just one of which is Mint State (MS-60).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3301

**1873-S AU-53 (PCGS).** This notable condition rarity delivers originality, eye appeal and premium quality — attributes that should prove irresistible to advanced Liberty Head eagle collectors. Nearly complete satin to softly frosted luster mingles with delightful honey-apricot and pinkish-rose. Striking detail is razor sharp to full, and the surfaces are remarkably smooth without so much as a single trivial distraction. Premium quality in all regards, and worthy of the strongest bids. The 1873-S is among the more underrated Liberty Head eagles from this decade, rarer in all grades than a mintage of 12,000 pieces might imply. *PCGS CoinFacts* as well as Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth (2008) rank the 1873-S alongside the equally underrated 1871-S, with PCGS providing an estimate of just 80 to 100 survivors for each issue. Typically offered in VF or lower grades, even EF examples are elusive. Although PCGS and NGC list a combined four grading events in Mint State (NGC MS-60, PCGS MS-61, PCGS MS-61 and PCGS MS-62), only two unequivocally Mint State 1873-S eagles are known. These are the Bass specimen in PCGS MS-61 and a coin discovered in Europe and subsequently sold as PCGS MS-62 in

our May 2015 Rarities Sale.

Many examples of this issue saw extensive commercial use in the Western part of the United States. As confirmed by the discovery of the aforementioned PCGS MS-62 example in Europe, at least some portion (in fact, probably the majority) of the mintage for the 1873-S was used in the export trade. Regardless of whether they were used domestically or found their way to foreign shores, however, the eventual fate of most 1873-S eagles was the same: loss through commerce or melting. There was essentially no numismatic interest in these coins at the time of issue, and none seem to have been purposefully saved otherwise. The odds were stacked heavily against the survival of truly high quality coins such as this Fairmont Collection example. Interested parties are urged to bid aggressively when this important rarity crosses the auction block.

PCGS# 8668. NGC ID: 2656.

PCGS Population: 13; 9 finer, just three of which are Mint State (MS-62 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3302

**1874 MS-62 (PCGS).** The surfaces are lustrous and frosty with vivid orange-rose color and a sharp strike. The 1874 is the first circulation strike eagle since 1861 to have a mintage in excess of 50,000 pieces. The Philadelphia Mint's relatively generous delivery of 53,160 eagles this year was achieved as part of the federal government's attempt to replace worn gold coins in expectation of gold and paper money achieving parity in the market (which did not happen until December 1878). While the 1874 is one of the more available eagles from the

1870s, Mint State survivors are rare. With nearly Choice quality, this Fairmont Collection offering is an important bidding opportunity for the advanced collector specializing in this challenging classic gold series.

PCGS# 8669. NGC ID: 2657.

PCGS Population: 23; 10 finer (MS-65+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Significant CAC-Approved 1874-CC Eagle



3303

**1874-CC Winter 1-A, the only known dies. EF-45 (PCGS). CAC.** This handsome piece exhibits rich honey-orange color with delicate toning in pale pinkish-red. The appearance is remarkably smooth for a lightly circulated CC-Mint eagle of this date and, indeed, there are not even trivial distractions to report. Sharply defined apart from a touch of softness to the hair curls over Liberty's brow and the uppermost arrow feather on the reverse. Really a lovely coin, and a significant rarity as an 1874-CC eagle with CAC approval.

All gold coins struck at the Carson City Mint saw extensive use, especially those from the early and mid-1870s. Production for the eagle reached 16,767 pieces at this facility in 1874, and

estimates for surviving examples range anywhere from 150 to 400 pieces. Rusty Goe provides the most up-to-date and (in our opinion) accurate estimate of 275 to 300 coins extant in his book *The Confident Carson City Coin Collector* (2020). More than half of the examples grade VF or lower, however, and with only two Mint State survivors accounted for, this scarce Choice EF coin represents the finest realistically obtainable for many discerning collectors. An opportunity not to be missed.

PCGS# 8670. NGC ID: 2658.

PCGS Population: 40; 41 finer, just one of which is Mint State (MS-63).

CAC Population: 9; 7 (AU-55 finest certified).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3304

**1874-S EF-45 (PCGS).** Pretty rose-honey color blends with appreciable mint luster on both sides of this attractively original Choice EF. Boldly to sharply defined, including a fully outlined, if a bit blunt S mintmark. Scarce in an absolute sense, the 1874-S is a leading rarity among Liberty Head eagles in Mint State. Just 10,000 pieces were produced at a time when gold coins enjoyed strong commercial demand on the West Coast and, indeed, the rigors of

circulation claimed the vast majority of examples. Even circulated coins in VF and EF are scarce. With Mint State pieces all but unknown, the handful of rare, premium quality circulated survivors represent the finest realistically obtainable grades for this elusive and challenging issue. Sure to see spirited competition at auction.

PCGS# 8671. NGC ID: 2659.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Low Mintage 1875-CC Ten-Dollar Gold



3305

**1875-CC Winter 1-A, the only known dies. EF-45 (PCGS). CAC.** Captivating honey-gold surfaces with light toning in pretty pinkish-rose. Lustrous for the grade and exceptionally smooth overall, with bold detail to all but a few central high points.

After a record (for that era) mintage of 16,767 pieces in 1874, the Carson City Mint delivered just 7,715 eagles in 1875, a number more in keeping with annual output from this branch mint throughout the 1870s. With domestic circulation in the western United States claiming most examples, the 1875-CC is now

scarce to rare in all grades. Rusty Goe (2020) accounts for just 100 to 135 survivors, in fact, only one or two of which are Mint State. With examples at that level understandably out of reach for most collectors, this CAC-approved Choice EF — rare in its own right — is a highly significant find that will certainly appeal to advanced Liberty Head gold collectors and Carson City Mint specialists.

PCGS# 8673. NGC ID: 265B.

PCGS Population: 21; 26 finer, just one of which is Mint State (MS-62).

CAC Population: 1; 5 (AU-55 finest certified).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## CAC-Approved EF 1876-CC \$10 Unknown in Mint State



3306

**1876-CC Winter 1-A, the only known dies. EF-40 (PCGS). CAC.** A significant offering for the advanced collector specializing in Carson City Mint gold. Impressively sharp for an 1876-CC ten, we note only minor softness to the hair curls over Liberty's brow and the lower portion of the eagle, much of which is due to grade-defining wear. The surfaces are attractively original with faint pinkish-rose overtones to dominant deep honey-gold. Traces of luster remain in the protected areas and testify to the overall superior preservation.

All three coinage facilities that produced eagles in 1876 turned out very small quantities of this denomination. The Specie Payment Resumption Act of January 14, 1875, ensured a focus on subsidiary silver coin production the following year in anticipation of the impending return of such pieces to widespread domestic circulation. Double eagle coinage was

also a priority for the United States Mint in 1876, as the nation struggled to increase its gold reserves in competition with Germany and other European nations that had adopted the gold standard early in the 1870s. All of this activity came at the expense of the lower gold denominations as converting a given amount of bullion to double eagles was most efficient. Indeed, the mintage for the 1876-CC ten amounted to just 4,696 pieces, only 130 to 160 examples of which have survived in all grades (per Rusty Goe, 2020). With premium quality, CAC-approved EFs and AUs particularly elusive in today's market and Mint State coins unknown, the present offering is sure to be of keen interest to advanced collectors.

PCGS# 8675. NGC ID: 265D.

CAC Population: 2; 11 (AU-58 finest certified).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Landmark Choice AU 1876-S Eagle



3307

**1876-S AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Ranking high in the Condition Census for this extremely challenging issue, this is one of the finest 1876-S eagles that we have ever offered. It is a beautiful, undeniably original coin dressed in deep, rich, honey-gold and reddish-rose colors. Universally sharp in strike with nearly complete mint luster remaining on both sides.

With only 5,000 coins struck, the 1876-S eagle has the second lowest mintage of the San Francisco Mint Liberty Head eagles. Unknown in Mint State, this issue is scarce to rare in all circulated grades with an extant population of just 80 to 100 coins (per *PCGS CoinFacts*). Most survivors are in VF and

EF grades, typical of the era, and many examples throughout the numismatic grading scale are impaired for one reason or another. Finding a problem free, fully original Choice AU such as this could very well be a once-in-a-lifetime event for the advanced gold enthusiast. An aggressive bidding strategy is in order here.

PCGS# 8676. NGC ID: 265E.

PCGS Population: 9; with a single AU-55+ finer at this service. There are also no Mint State coins listed at NGC.

CAC Population: 2; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Noteworthy Choice EF 1877-CC \$10 Gold Eagle



3308

**1877-CC Winter 1-A. EF-45 (PCGS).** This lustrous and generally bold Choice EF 1877-CC eagle represents one of the most important bidding opportunities in our current offering of the Fairmont Collection. An originally and nicely preserved coin, delicate silver and pale pink overtones enliven a base of light honey-gold color. There are no troublesome handling marks, and appreciable frosty luster remains.

Ten-dollar gold eagle production remained low at the Carson City Mint in 1877 as the facility concentrated on subsidiary silver coinage as well as trade dollars and, to a lesser extent, double eagles. One of just 3,332 examples struck that year, this 1877-CC is a very attractive survivor of one of the rarest

of the Carson City Mint eagles of 1870 to 1893. Fewer than 100 examples are believed extant, perhaps only 70 to 80 coins (the estimate advanced by Rusty Goe, 2020), and apart from an example described as “BU, prooflike” in Paramount’s Rare Coin and Stamp List No. 8 of 1974 (apparently not certified in the modern coin market), this issue is unknown in Mint State. This delightful Choice EF is nicer than many certified About Uncirculated coins that your cataloger (JLA) has handled over the years, and it is sure to find its way into an important Liberty Head eagle or Carson City Mint gold collection.

PCGS# 8678. NGC ID: 265G.

PCGS Population: 16; 19 finer (AU-58 finest). There are also no Mint State coins listed at NGC.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Original Choice AU 1877-S Eagle Unknown in Mint State at PCGS



3309

**1877-S AU-58 (PCGS).** Continuing with the awesome quality and undeniable originality that defines the Liberty Head eagle offerings from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set, this lovely near-Mint example exhibits vivid warm honey-rose color. Sharply struck and lustrous, an otherwise softly frosted texture yields to modest semi-reflectivity in the fields.

The 1877-S is a low mintage (17,000 pieces) eagle that circulated extensively in an era when gold coins enjoyed strong commercial

demand on the West Coast. Problem free survivors such as this are always in demand irrespective of numeric grade, although with Mint State coins all but unknown Choice AUs such as this are particularly attractive to advanced gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8679. NGC ID: 265H.

PCGS Population: 8; 0 finer at this service.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3310

**1878 MS-62 (PCGS).** Vivid rose-gold color blends with softly frosted luster on both sides of this gorgeous Mint State eagle. Sharply struck and visually appealing. Beginning with this issue ten-dollar gold coin production at the Philadelphia Mint increased to levels not seen since before the Civil War. While the 1878 is readily obtainable by the

standards of its era, it is scarce when compared to many later-date issues of the type.

PCGS# 8680. NGC ID: 265J.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



## Rarely Offered 1878-CC Eagle



3311

**1878-CC Winter 1-A, the only known dies. EF-45 (PCGS).** Here is an attractive and scarce Choice EF example of a CC-Mint gold issue that is highly elusive in all grades. Vivid pinkish-rose patina adorns a base of warmer honey-gold color, the surfaces revealing considerable mint luster under a light. Softness of strike to isolated high points is typical of the issue, although plenty of bold detail remains to confirm a relatively short stint in active circulation. With few sizable or otherwise individually distracting marks, this is an impressive coin that is sure to catch the eye of advanced collectors of Carson City Mint gold.

Although by early 1878 the Carson City Mint had played its part in the stockpiling of subsidiary silver coinage as mandated by the 1875 Specie Payment Resumption Act, eagle production

remained low. Little of the gold bullion mined in the nearby Comstock Lode was deposited for coinage and, in any event, the newly introduced Morgan silver dollar was the focus for the coiners in Carson City. Only 3,244 pieces were struck for the 1878-CC eagle, Q. David Bowers' 2012 estimate of 60 to 90 coins extant squaring quite nicely with the 60 to 75 pieces put forth by *PCGS CoinFacts*. Rusty Goe (2020) suggests 75 to 85 survivors. The best the market can usually muster for an 1878-CC eagle is a VF or low end EF, making the offered EF-45 coin particularly desirable. Mint State survivors are unknown apart from a solitary MS-61 on the NGC Census.

PCGS# 8681. NGC ID: 265K.

PCGS Population: 17; 28 finer (AU-58 finest at this service).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3312

**1878-S AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** This is a lovely Choice AU to represent a relatively obtainable 1870s San Francisco Mint ten-dollar gold issue. Vivid orange-honey surfaces are near-fully lustrous with a frosty to modestly semi-reflective finish. The strike is sharp, the eye appeal is strong, and there are only wispy handling marks that hardly distract. Like the Philadelphia Mint, the facility in San Francisco stepped up eagle production in 1878 in anticipation of the government mandate that gold and paper currency would once again be exchangeable at par as of January 1, 1879. The mintage for the 1878-S amounted to 26,100 pieces, small in an absolute sense, but sufficiently large to help rank this issue as the second most plentiful S-Mint eagle from the 1870s.

PCGS# 8682. NGC ID: 265L.

PCGS Population: 14; 15 finer, just four of which are Mint State (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 11 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3313

**1879 MS-63 (PCGS).** A beautiful golden-apricot example with a razor sharp strike and full mint luster. Circulation strike eagle production at the Philadelphia Mint continued to rise through 1879, the year seeing a mintage of 384,740 pieces. This is not a plentiful issue, however, for the vast majority succumbed to the rigors of commerce. One of the nicest Choice Mint State examples we have offered in recent years, this attractively original coin would make a fitting addition to an advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8683. NGC ID: 265M.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Fabled Key Date 1879-O Eagle From a Mintage of Only 1,500 Coins



3314

**1879-O Winter-1, the only known dies. AU-50 (PCGS).** A richly original example of this key date in the New Orleans Mint ten-dollar gold eagle series. Deep honey-gold on both sides, with vivid reddish-rose highlights that appear to drift toward the borders. There are also faint remnants of a semi-prooflike finish, with the protected areas around the design elements particularly reflective. Boldly defined overall with a predominantly frosty texture that enhances already strong eye appeal.

The New Orleans Mint ceased coinage operations on behalf of the federal government in 1861, after Louisiana seceded from the Union. Although limited coinage operations continued at first on behalf of the State of Louisiana and, eventually, the Confederate States of America, the supply of gold and silver bullion was soon exhausted. The specie-starved South did not have the means to support a large coinage. Confederate control of the New Orleans Mint proved short lived, for it returned to federal control after Union forces under Commodore David Farragut seized the city on April 29, 1862. Coinage operations did not resume on behalf of the federal government until 1879,

however, the driving force being the introduction of the Morgan silver dollar the previous year and the need to produce large numbers of those coins pursuant to the terms of the Bland-Allison Act. Indeed, the New Orleans Mint's Morgan dollar production in 1879 amounted to 2,887,000 pieces. Token mintages of eagles and double eagles were also achieved in New Orleans in 1879, both of which are now regarded as among the rarest issues for their respective types.

The coin offered here is a survivor from a mintage of just 1,500 pieces and one of fewer than 100 1879-O eagles believed extant. According to Douglas Winter (2020), this is the second rarest New Orleans Mint eagle of the Motto design type, trailing only the 1883-O. The offering of any 1879-O ten is an important opportunity for advanced collectors, and the present aesthetically pleasing AU-50 will attract strong competition when it crosses the auction block.

PCGS# 8685. NGC ID: 265P.

PCGS Population: 6; 21 finer, just two of which are Mint State (MS-61 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3315

**1879-S MS-62+ (PCGS). CAC.** Original golden-rose surfaces are lustrous and sharply struck throughout. The 1879-S is easily the most readily obtainable San Francisco Mint eagle from the 1870s, although it is a moderately scarce issue when compared to many later dates in the Liberty Head series. The typical survivor is circulated, and Mint State pieces such as this are in the minority among survivors. This is one of the finest examples known to PCGS, a significant offering from

the Fairmont Collection that is seemingly earmarked for inclusion in another advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8686. NGC ID: 265R.

PCGS Population: 1; 7 finer (MS-65 finest).

CAC Population: 13 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Remarkably Well Preserved 1880-CC Eagle



3316

**1880-CC Winter 1-B. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Rarely do survivors of this issue possess the combination of originality, strong eye appeal and nearly Mint State quality that define the Fairmont-JBR specimen. Highly lustrous with pretty honey-orange color, faint pinkish-rose highlights add further appeal. Sharply struck throughout and a delight to behold.

The waning fortunes of the Carson City Mint continued into 1880 and the facility did not commence coinage operations until May. However, enough gold bullion was available to allow for a mintage of 11,190 eagles by year's end. This is the highest yearly

output for this denomination in Carson City since 1874, and the 1880-CC ranks as one of the more frequently encountered CC-Mint eagles. However, the 1880-CC is only readily obtainable in lower grades through AU-50. Problem-free Choice AUs verified by CAC, as here, are very scarce, while in Mint State this issue remains a formidable condition rarity.

PCGS# 8688. NGC ID: 265T.

PCGS Population: 24; 5 finer (MS-61 finest).

CAC Population: 12; 3.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Handsome Mint State 1880-O Ten-Dollar Rarity



3317

**1880-O Winter 1-A. MS-60 (PCGS).** This is a rare and highly significant Mint State survivor of an issue that is scarce even in circulated grades. Both sides exhibit original honey-orange color with subtle pinkish-rose highlights. The surfaces are lustrous with a soft frosty texture and faint reflectivity in the fields. Sharply struck with an exceptionally smooth appearance for the assigned grade.

Despite once again coming under federal control through Union occupation in 1862, the New Orleans Mint did not return to coin production until 1879. In that year, the facility delivered a sizable number of Morgan silver dollars, along with smaller quantities of eagles and double eagles. Eagle production

continued sporadically through 1906, the years 1879 to 1883 each having low mintages that have contributed to the scarcity (if not rarity) of all of these issues. In the case of the 1880-O, only 9,200 coins were struck. We believe that only a few hundred 1880-O eagles have survived, mostly in VF and EF grades, with the occasional AU coming to market. Overlooked by contemporary numismatists, the coins saw considerable commercial use and precious few Mint State survivors are known.

PCGS# 8689. NGC ID: 265U.

PCGS Population: 4; 8 finer (MS-64 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3318

**1880-S MS-63+ (PCGS).** Significant Choice Mint State quality for this otherwise relatively obtainable San Francisco Mint issue. Bathed in a blend of vivid rose-gold color and billowy mint frost, both sides are exceptionally smooth for an issue that is seldom offered any finer than MS-62. Sharply struck and sure to sell for a strong premium.

PCGS# 8690. NGC ID: 265V.

PCGS Population: 4; 14 finer (MS-64+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3319

**1881 MS-63+ (PCGS).** With full mint luster, a razor sharp strike and Choice Mint State preservation, this beautiful example will please even the most discerning gold enthusiasts. With a mintage of 3,877,220 circulation strikes, the 1881 was produced in greater numbers than any other Liberty Head eagle. Thousands of examples were exported and subsequently repatriated from European bank hoards, accounting for the majority of Mint State coins in today's market. The typical Mint State 1881 eagle is heavily abraded from overseas transport, however, and even coins in MS-63 can be challenging to locate. This superior MS-63+ would do justice to an advanced cabinet.

PCGS# 8691. NGC ID: 265W.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Mint State 1881-CC \$10 Gold CAC Approved



3320

**1881-CC Winter 1-A, the only known dies. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** A newcomer to the Mint State census for the issue, this is one of the finest 1881-CC eagles known. It is a noteworthy condition rarity with full, soft, frosty mint luster blanketing both sides. Pretty rose-gold color is also notable, as is razor sharp to full striking detail. Fully Uncirculated in preservation with an impressively smooth appearance for the assigned grade, the most discerning CC-Mint experts will be pleased with this piece.

Even with a production of just 24,015 pieces, the 1881-CC still ranks among the highest mintage issues of this mintmarked gold type. Doug Winter (2001) speaks of a small hoard of AU and Mint State coins entering the market circa 1997 to 1998. However, this issue remains rare in Uncirculated preservation

with Rusty Goe (2020) allowing for only about 30 examples at that level. The CC#1 coin is the remarkable Eliasberg-Battle Born Collection specimen, certified MS-64 by NGC and approved by CAC. Ranking just behind it, is the top-pop PCGS MS-63, also with CAC approval, from our recent sale of the Fairmont Collection's Hendricks Set. Possessing superior quality, undeniable originality and impressive rarity, this offering from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set will attract excitement when it crosses the auction block.

PCGS# 8692. NGC ID: 265X.

PCGS Population: 15; 14 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 15 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Top Pop 1881-O Liberty Head Eagle



3321

**1881-O Winter-1, the only known dies. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Rich reddish-rose and orange-honey in color with significant prooflike reflectivity in the fields. Uniformly sharp, remarkably attractive, and with no sizable marks, this coin is a premium quality BU 1881-O eagle.

After the Civil War, the New Orleans Mint did not resume production of the eagle until 1879, and then only in modest quantities. All three of the New Orleans Mint eagles dated 1880 to 1882 are important rarities in today's numismatic market. The 1881-O is the most elusive issue in this group, and it ranks third in both absolute and high grade rarity among the 16 O-Mint eagles of the Motto type. At the time of striking, collecting coins by mintmark had not yet taken off, therefore very little

numismatic notice was paid to this issue. Once the 1881-O eagle found an audience, Mint State examples were generally unavailable, making it a significant condition rarity. The present example is one of perhaps only 275 to 325 coins extant in all grades (per Doug Winter, 2020). Mint State survivors number fewer than 10 coins, and this CAC-approved offering from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set is among the finest known and certainly among the most desirable.

PCGS# 8693. NGC ID: 265Y.

PCGS Population: 5 in all categories; 0 finer.

CAC Population: 5; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3322

**1881-S MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** Vivid rose-gold patina blends with intense mint luster on both sides of this smartly impressed, exceptionally well preserved 1881-S eagle. From a generous mintage of 970,000 pieces, survivors of which are plentiful in an absolute sense, yet conditionally rare at the present grade level. None finer have been seen by either PCGS or CAC.

PCGS# 8694. NGC ID: 265Z.

PCGS Population: 6; 0 finer.

CAC Population: 6; 0. The former total includes coins certified both MS-63 and MS-63+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3323

**1882 MS-63+ (PCGS).** Delightful satin surfaces are also possessed of full striking detail and vivid rose-gold patina. Produced in generous numbers (2,324,440 circulation strikes), the 1882 is one of the most plentiful Liberty Head eagles in terms of total number of coins extant. A fair percentage of the mintage found its way overseas in international transactions, repatriations in recent decades providing a sizeable population of Uncirculated coins for today's gold type and date collectors. Premium Choice examples such as this remain scarce, however, and the issue is seldom offered any finer.

PCGS# 8695. NGC ID: 2662.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Choice AU 1882-CC Ten-Dollar Gold Rarity



3324

**1882-CC Winter 2-A. Misplaced Date. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.**  
A highly appealing, very sharp survivor of this challenging Carson City Mint eagle. Nearly full detail remains and when combined with virtually complete luster and bright frosty to semi-prooflike surfaces, one could easily envision an AU-58 grade for this coin. The color is a richly original blend of deep honey-gold and lighter pinkish-rose. Supremely attractive, this is a PQ coin for the assigned grade that is sure to see spirited bidding among astute collectors.

Production of ten-dollar gold eagles at the Carson City Mint dropped off markedly in 1882 compared to 1880 and 1881. Only 6,764 coins were struck, all of which were delivered by the coiner in September. Although virtually the entire mintage of the 1882-CC circulated in the American West, some worn examples may

have found their way overseas later in bulk shipments of U.S. gold coins as part of international transactions. Curiously for an issue that saw such extensive commercial use, the 1882-CC has an above average rate of survival with Rusty Goe (2020) estimating that as many as 190 pieces are extant in all grades. Q. David Bowers (2012) takes a similar approach with an estimate of 125 to 175 survivors, and both authors agree regarding the extreme rarity of this issue in Mint State. With only four or five Uncirculated coins accounted for (again, per Rusty Goe), this CAC AU-55 represents a significant find in today's competitive numismatic market.

PCGS# 8696. NGC ID: 2663.

PCGS Population: 29; 27 finer, just seven of which are Mint State (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 9; 13.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Condition Census 1882-O Eagle



3325

**1882-O Winter-1, the only known dies. MS-61 (PCGS).** An incredibly attractive piece bathed in vivid golden-honey and pale apricot colors. The richly frosted complexion reveals subtle reflectivity in the fields. Both sides are bold to sharply struck, especially at the focal features, and remain free of any individual distractions.

The 1882-O is the most frequently encountered New Orleans Mint eagle of the 1880 to 1882 era, although we stress that all three are low mintage rarities. The present example is one of the

finest survivors from a 10,820-piece delivery, most of which are circulated to one degree or another. Of the approximately 350 coins extant, only around 10 distinct examples are thought to remain in Mint State grades. This piece is situated near the upper reaches of Condition Census, and would make an impressive addition to an advanced collection of Liberty Head eagles or New Orleans Mint coinage.

PCGS# 8697. NGC ID: 2664.

PCGS Population: 12; 4 finer (MS-63 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



## Premium Choice AU 1883-CC \$10



3326

**1883-CC Winter 1-B. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** This sharply to full defined example survived a limited stint in active circulation without acquiring so much as a single significant blemish. It retains nearly complete frosty to semi-prooflike luster, the surfaces with delicate pink overtones to dominant honey-orange color.

In the first few years of the 1880s, mineral yields in Nevada declined markedly, and not as much precious metal made its way to the Carson City Mint. By 1883, the yields began to surge again when lower-grade ores started to be refined in addition to smaller, somewhat more distant mine operators shipping their bullion to Carson City. Ten-dollar gold production this year began to pick up; 12,000 eagles were produced, all in the month of July, nearly double the number made the previous year. Like

most issues from this rather remote Western mint, the coins entered circulation almost immediately or managed to make their way abroad to be repatriated many decades later. Estimates range from as few as 125 to as many as 350 examples extant in all grades, the tightest and most accurate range being that of 150 to 200 coins put forth by Rusty Goe in 2020. All but perhaps a few dozen of the survivors are at the lower circulated grade levels. The Battle Born specimen, regarded as one the finest for the issue, is only MS-61. This AU-55, not all that far removed from Mint State, has the further distinction of CAC approval and will make an impressive addition to any Western gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8700. NGC ID: 2667.

PCGS Population: 19; 26 finer, just seven of which are Mint State (MS-61 finest).

CAC Population: 6; 5 (AU-58 finest certified).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Condition Census 1884-CC Eagle



3327

**1884-CC Winter 1-A, the only known dies. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** This phenomenal offering is for a fresh, new-to-market 1884-CC eagle, Condition Census for the issue based on the noteworthy MS-61 grade assigned by PCGS and approval bestowed by CAC. It is a lovely coin in all regards — original golden-honey surfaces with overlying pinkish-apricot toning, fully struck design elements, and complete mint luster in a softly frosted texture. Exceptionally smooth in hand for both the issue and the assigned grade, and sure to sell for a strong premium.

The final CC-Mint ten struck prior to 1890, the 1884-CC has a mintage of 9,925 pieces and likely suffered attrition

predominantly through domestic circulation in the American West with limited numbers of coins (mostly worn) finding their way to Europe in later years. Repatriations and other newcomers to today's market tend to be in circulated grades. The example offered here is a notable exception as it is fully Mint State. It has come down to us today still fresh and Uncirculated, and its offering in this sale represents a fleeting opportunity for the collector of condition rarity Carson City Mint gold coinage.

PCGS# 8704. NGC ID: 266B.

PCGS Population: 6; 4 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 5 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3328

**1886-S MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** Frosty rose-gold surfaces are sharply struck from the rims to the centers. Although the 1886-S is one of the more popular type issues from the 1880s Liberty Head eagle series,

premium Choice Mint State examples such as this are scarce from a condition standpoint. A find for the astute gold collector.

PCGS# 8709. NGC ID: 266G.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3329

**1887-S MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** This smartly impressed, fully defined example makes a lovely appearance due to the originality of the rose-gold patina that blankets both sides. With hundreds of low end Mint State coins found in European bank hoards in recent decades, the 1887-S is one of the more plentiful Liberty Head eagles from the 1880s. This is an uncommonly well preserved example, however, and a significant condition rarity that will appeal to advanced gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8711. NGC ID: 266J.

PCGS Population: 3; 9 finer (MS-64+ finest).

CAC Population: 11; 4. The former total includes coins certified both MS-63 and MS-63+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3331

**1888-S MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** Gorgeous pinkish-apricot surfaces are sharply struck with a fully frosted finish. A relatively common issue by 1880s Liberty Head eagle standards, the 1888-S is obtainable with ease in grades through MS-62 thanks to the discovery of many examples in foreign bank hoards. Few Choice Uncirculated pieces have come to light, however, the among the finest seen by both PCGS and CAC. Outstanding quality and eye appeal for the advanced gold enthusiast.

PCGS# 8714. NGC ID: 266M.

PCGS Population: 21; with a single MS-64+ finer.

CAC Population: 6; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3330

**1888-O Winter-2. MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** Frosty to semi-prooflike surfaces with an impressively smooth appearance for the assigned grade. Handsome medium gold color with a tinge of honey-olive also evident. Thanks to the repatriation of a fair number of examples from foreign bank hoards, the 1888-O is one of the most available New Orleans Mint eagles in Mint State. It is still a conditionally challenging issue, however, and with so few coins certified finer than MS-62 this premium quality BU example is sure to appeal to quality conscious gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8713. NGC ID: 266L.

CAC Population: 24; 6.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3332

**1889-S MS-64+ (PCGS).** Frosty honey-orange surfaces are sharply struck throughout and uncommonly smooth in a survivor of this conditionally challenging issue. With a generous mintage of 425,400 pieces and a good rate of survival in European bank hoards, the 1889-S is one of the more readily obtainable 1880s eagles, at least in lower grades through MS-63. This premium quality near-Gem would make a fitting addition to an advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8716. NGC ID: 266P.

PCGS Population: 5; with a single MS-65+ finer.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Frosty Choice Uncirculated 1890-CC Eagle



3333

**1890-CC Winter 1-A, the only known dies. MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** Gorgeous rose-gold surfaces are fully lustrous with a billowy, satin to softly frosted texture. The striking detail is full throughout, and both sides are exceptionally well preserved and solidly Choice Mint State in quality.

Ten-dollar eagle production resumed at the Carson City Mint in 1890 after a hiatus of five years. The 1890-CC has a mintage of 17,500 pieces, but thanks to an above average rate of survival it is one of the more frequently encountered issues in this mintmarked gold series. We believe that fewer than 1,000 coins

are extant in all grades, however, which is a limited total given the popularity of Carson City Mint coinage in today's market. The Mint State population is even smaller still with Rusty Goe (2020) estimating just 150 to 187 coins at that level. Few Uncirculated survivors are Choice, and this CAC-approved example from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set is certainly among the finest examples available to the discerning numismatist.

PCGS# 8718. NGC ID: 266S.

PCGS Population: 10; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 5; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Probable Finest Known 1891-CC \$10 Gold Eagle



3334

**1891-CC Winter 2-B. MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** As the highest graded example of the perennially popular 1891-CC ten-dollar gold issue to meet with CAC approval, this condition rarity MS-64 will be tremendously appealing to advanced CC-Mint gold enthusiasts and mintmarked type collectors. Beautiful satin to softly frosted surfaces display original color of vivid honey-rose. Razor sharp striking detail and an uncommonly smooth appearance enhance this coin's desirability.

103,732 eagles were struck in the penultimate year of the Carson City Mint's coining operations and, unlike for many issues in this mintmarked gold series, thousands were exported to Europe.

Repatriations beginning in the second half of the 20th century have swelled the Mint State population to upward of 2,300 coins (per Rusty Goe, 2020). Most of these grade no finer than MS-62, at which levels the 1891-CC is a mainstay of Mint State gold type sets and CC-Mint collections. Scarce in MS-63, higher grade pieces are formidable condition rarities. With coveted CAC approval, as above, this coin would serve as a centerpiece in even the finest gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8720. NGC ID: 266U.

PCGS Population: 7; 0 finer.

CAC Population: 1; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3335

**1892 MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** Softly frosted rose-gold surfaces are sharply struck with solid Choice Mint State quality. A substantial mintage of 797,480 circulation strikes helps to explain the readily obtainable nature of this popular type issue among 1890s Liberty Head eagles.

PCGS# 8721. NGC ID: 266V

PCGS Population: 16; 35 finer (MS-66 finest).

CAC Population: 13; 5. The former total includes coins certified both MS-63 and MS-63+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## High Condition Census 1892-CC Eagle



3336

**1892-CC Winter 2-A. MS-63 (PCGS).** This impressive and conditionally rare Choice Mint State example possesses full striking detail and bountiful frosty luster. Vivid honey-rose color adds to the eye appeal, as do uncommonly smooth surfaces.

Ten-dollar gold eagle production at the Carson City Mint remained high in 1892 (40,000 pieces) as the nation continued to churn out large numbers of such pieces to replace those lost to European export. Enough coins have survived that the 1892-CC is now widely regarded as the second most obtainable issue in

this mintmarked gold series. It is, however, far scarcer than the 1891-CC in Mint State. The present offering from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set is for one of the finest examples seen by PCGS. It is a high Condition Census coin fit for inclusion in the finest gold cabinet or CC-Mint collection.

PCGS# 8722. NGC ID: 266W.

PCGS Population: 2; with a single MS-63 finer.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3337

**1892-O Winter-1, the only known dies. Die State II. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Handsome medium golden surfaces are boldly to sharply struck with full, soft mint luster. The first New Orleans Mint eagle produced since 1888, the 1892-O is more obtainable than a mintage of 28,688 pieces might imply. Most of the coins repatriated from foreign bank hoards are heavily abraded, however, the present example is a distinct cut above the norm at the assigned grade level, as confirmed by CAC approval.

PCGS# 8723. NGC ID: 266X.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3338

**1893 MS-64+ (PCGS).** Billowy mint frost mingles with vivid rose-gold patina on both sides of this smartly impressed, visually appealing near-Gem. The 1893 vies with the 1894 as the most readily obtainable Liberty Head eagle in Mint State, the mintage a generous 1,840,840 circulation strikes and the rate of survival well above average. This conditionally scarce MS-64+ would make a lovely addition to a high quality type set.

PCGS# 8725. NGC ID: 266Z.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Historic Final Year 1893-CC \$10 Gold



3339

**1893-CC Winter 1-A, the only known dies. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** This beautiful coin really needs to be seen to be appreciated. The surfaces are exceptionally well preserved for the assigned grade with only a few small, singularly inconspicuous handling marks. Intensely lustrous with a frosty texture, along with a razor sharp strike and vivid pinkish-honey color.

Only 14,000 eagles were struck during the final year of coinage operations at the Carson City Mint. Unlike the 1891-CC, for which a fair number of examples found their way into overseas shipments of United States gold coins, the 1893-CC seems to have followed the usual path for Carson City Mint gold coinage: domestic circulation in the American West. Indeed, the typical example offered in old time collections was well worn in grades such as VF. Modern repatriations from foreign bank hoards

have yielded few 1893-CC eagles; the issue remains scarce in About Uncirculated condition and rare in Mint State. In his excellent reference *The Confident Carson City Coin Collector* (2020), Carson City Mint expert Rusty Goe estimated that only 15 to 19 different examples can be accounted for in all Uncirculated grades. With CAC approval at the near-Mint level, the Fairmont Collection specimen offered here is among the finest realistically obtainable for most numismatists. It is ideally suited for inclusion in an advanced collection of CC-Mint or Liberty Head gold.

PCGS# 8726. NGC ID: 2672.

PCGS Population: 42; 13 finer (MS-62 finest).

CAC Population: 13; 5.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3340

**1893-O Winter-1, the only known dies. MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** Fully struck over virtually all design elements, this highly lustrous example exhibits vivid pinkish-honey color to frosty surfaces. Thanks to the discovery and repatriation of hundreds of examples that had been held in European bank hoards since before World War One, the 1893-O is a far more obtainable issue in Mint State than a mintage of 17,000 pieces might imply. This beautiful CAC-approved MS-62 is about as nice as these come; the 1893-O eagle is a significant condition rarity any finer.

PCGS# 8727. NGC ID: 2673.

CAC Population: 19; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3341

**1894 MS-63+ (PCGS).** Pleasingly smooth surfaces in a survivor of this otherwise readily obtainable issue. Bathed in a blend of billowy mint frost and warm rose-gold patina, both sides also offer razor sharp striking detail from the rims to the centers. As one of the two most plentiful Liberty Head eagles in numismatic circles (the other is the 1893), the 1894 is a perennial favorite among Mint State gold type collectors. The beautiful Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here is a find for the discerning bidder that will do nicely in any gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8729. NGC ID: 2675.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3342

**1894-O Winter-4. MS-62+ (PCGS). CAC.** A lustrous, predominantly frosty example with decided semi-reflectivity evident in the fields when the coin is viewed with direct lighting. Pretty deep gold color is seen throughout, and there is razor sharp striking detail and well preserved, nearly Choice surfaces. The 1894-O is scarce by late date New Orleans Mint eagle standards, certainly more so than a mintage of 107,500 pieces might imply. Foreign bank hoards have yielded comparatively few examples, most of which are in the lowest Mint State grades (read: MS-60 and MS-61). Given the rarity of Choice Uncirculated pieces, our offering of this premium MS-62+ with CAC approval represent an important bidding opportunity for the discerning gold collector.

PCGS# 8730. NGC ID: 2676.

PCGS Population: 3; 21 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 16; 5. The former total includes coins certified both MS-62 and MS-62+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3343

**1895 JD-1, the only known dies. Rarity-6. Proof-53 (PCGS).** A fully original, undeniable Proof striking of this impressive ten-dollar gold design type. The fields retain bright reflectivity despite the presence of light friction and grade-defining marks. The devices are somewhat smoother in appearance, and they exhibit razor sharp striking detail as well as a softly frosted texture. The entire coin offers warm honey-orange and rose colors that enhance the eye appeal. The Philadelphia Mint delivered 66 Proof 1895 eagles for distribution as part of the year's Proof sets. It seems that no more than half the mintage was actually distributed in that manner, however, since John W. Dannreuther (2018) accounts for just 22 to 26 survivors in all grades. The offered coin appears to be an unsold specimen that the Mint disposed of, paying it out for use in commercial channels. It is every bit as rare as its finer-certified brethren, and would make an interesting and noteworthy addition to any cabinet.

PCGS# 8835. NGC ID: 28G2.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3344

**1895 MS-63+ (PCGS).** Conditionally scarce Choice Mint State quality for this otherwise readily obtainable 1890s Liberty Head ten-dollar gold issue. Both sides are sharply struck throughout and bathed in a blend of vivid rose-gold color and lively mint frost.

PCGS# 8732. NGC ID: 2678.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3345

**1895-O Winter-1. MS-63 (PCGS).** Handsome, fully original golden-apricot color blends with lovely mint luster on both sides of this conditionally rare example. The strike is sharp to full in virtually all areas, and the surface preservation is superior for a survivor of this challenging issue. Several sizable hoards from European banks have made the once scarce 1895-O eagle relatively obtainable in AU and lower Mint State grades. The present example is as nice as they come for a survivor of this 98,000-piece mintage, the certified populations dwindling rapidly beginning at the MS-63 level.

PCGS# 8733. NGC ID: 2679.

PCGS Population: 27; 8 finer (MS-64 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3346

**1896 MS-63+ (PCGS).** This fully original golden-rose example is sharply struck with bountiful mint luster. With precious few examples of this otherwise readily obtainable issue certified finer than MS-63, this lovely offering from the JBR Set represents a significant find for the astute gold enthusiast.

PCGS# 8735. NGC ID: 267B.

PCGS Population: 10; 21 finer (MS-64+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*





3347

**1897 MS-63+ (PCGS).** Abundant satin luster mingles with rich orange-gold color on both sides of this smartly impressed example. Although the mintage for this issue was slightly north of a million pieces, survivors are decidedly scarce in Choice Mint State, and rare in Gem grades. Sure to appeal to astute gold collectors.

PCGS# 8737. NGC ID: 267D.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3348

**1897-O Winter-3. MS-63 (PCGS).** A gorgeous Choice Mint State example that ranks among the finer survivors of this late date New Orleans Mint gold issue. This piece is brightly lustrous with a softly frosted, golden-apricot appearance to both sides. The major design elements are crisply delineated from a sharp strike, and the surfaces are smooth enough to suggest a near-Gem classification upon first glance. The 1897-O has a mintage of just 42,500 pieces, and it is among the scarcer Motto Liberty Eagles from the New Orleans Mint. It is rarer in all grades than the 1894-O, 1895-O, 1901-O and 1906-O, among other issues, and is hardly ever offered above the BU grade level. At PCGS MS-63, the offered coin from the Fairmont holdings nearly qualifies as Condition Census. It is a beautiful coin that is surely destined for an advanced cabinet of Liberty Head eagles.

PCGS# 8738. NGC ID: 267E.

PCGS Population: 22; 13 finer (MS-67 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3349

**1898 JD-1, the only known dies. Rarity-5+. Proof-55 (PCGS).** A very pretty piece for the assigned grade, with both sides exhibiting rich deep olive-orange color. Fully struck, as expected for a Proof, with no singularly notable marks. The mintage for the issue is 67 pieces, a total commensurate with most other Proof ten-dollar gold eagles from the 1890s. Numismatic scholars are generally in agreement with Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth (2008) accounting for only 30 to 40 coins extant, while *PCGS CoinFacts* offers an estimate of 40 to 50 survivors. Judging by certified population data, most known examples are clustered at the Proof-64 and Proof-65 grade levels, these certainly representing those that were sold to contemporary collectors as part of the year's Proof sets. The present example has come down to us through different channels, its surfaces suggest it was released into commercial channels. This could have been done by the Mint (an unsold Proof) or by an early numismatist who no longer valued the coin as a collectable. Both scenarios are equally likely for, through the earliest decades of the 19th century, Proof gold coins carried little, if any numismatic premium above face value. The history of this specimen is definitely interesting to contemplate. As an undeniable numismatic rarity in today's market, it is sure to appeal to many advanced collectors.

PCGS# 8838. NGC ID: 28G5.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3350

**1899 MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** A handsome rose-gold, near-Gem fit for the discerning type or date collector. Fully struck with bountiful satin luster.

PCGS# 8742. NGC ID: 267J.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Choice Mint State 1899-O Eagle



3351

**1899-O Winter-4. MS-63+ (PCGS).** Lustrous satin to softly frosted surfaces are enhanced by wonderfully original color in warm medium gold. The 1899-O is the rarest New Orleans Mint eagle struck after 1883, with a mintage of just 37,047 pieces. Mint State survivors are scarce with the typical piece in the MS-60 to MS-62 grade range. Most Uncirculated 1899-O eagles extant are repatriations from foreign bank hoards that returned to the United States beginning in the mid 20th century. Since the vast majority of U.S. gold coins shipped overseas were roughly

handled, this issue is a significant condition rarity at and above the MS-63 grade level. With superior quality at the PCGS MS-63+ grade level, the current Fairmont specimen would serve with distinction in any numismatic cabinet.

PCGS# 8743. NGC ID: 267K.

PCGS Population: 1; 7 finer (MS-68+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3352

**1899-S MS-63+ (PCGS).** Highly lustrous satin to softly frosted surfaces are fully struck with vivid, original deep orange-gold color. The most plentiful San Francisco Mint eagle from the mid to late 1890s, the 1899-S is still scarce when compared to such truly common Liberty Head issues as the 1901 and 1901-S. Finer than the typically offered survivor in MS-61 or MS-62, this impressive Choice Uncirculated example belongs in an advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8744. NGC ID: 267L.

PCGS Population: 18; 30 finer (MS-68 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3353

**1900 MS-63+ (PCGS).** Lovely golden-rose surfaces are smartly impressed and uncommonly well preserved for the issue. While Mint State 1900 eagles are plentiful in an absolute, premium examples such as this are scarce relative to the demand that they enjoy from discerning gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8745. NGC ID: 267M.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3354

**1900-S MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** Beautiful golden-apricot surfaces support a sharp strike and bountiful mint luster. After producing 841,000 coin in 1899, the San Francisco Mint delivered just 81,000 eagles in 1900. This is a low mintage issue whose scarcity in Mint State has so far withstood the test of time. Few examples have come out of hiding in foreign bank hoards; this upper end Choice example with superior quality is solidly in the Condition Census. A premium coin for the astute collector.

PCGS# 8746. NGC ID: 267N.

PCGS Population: 24; 7 finer (MS-67 finest).

CAC Population: 3; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3356

**1901-O Winter-2. MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** Very well preserved for this conditionally challenging issue, both sides of this handsome 1901-O eagle are fully original with warm golden-rose patina. Sharply struck with frosty mint luster throughout. Relatively obtainable by late date New Orleans Mint eagle standards, the 1901-O (72,041 pieces produced) has been well enough represented in repatriations from foreign bank hoards that the collector should be able to locate a low end Uncirculated example in MS-61 or MS-62. At the Choice and Gem grade levels, however, the rarity of this issue comes readily to the fore. A significant offering for both New Orleans Mint specialists and advanced gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8748. NGC ID: 267R.

PCGS Population: 8; 26 finer (MS-66 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3355

**1901 MS-66 (PCGS).** Exceptionally vivid surfaces exhibit blended rose-gold color and full mint luster. Sharply struck. While the 1901 is one of the most available issues of this type in Mint State, few examples are as smooth and attractive as this premium quality Gem. A find for quality conscious gold type and date collectors.

PCGS# 8747. NGC ID: 267P.

PCGS Population: 52; 11 finer (MS-67 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3357

**1901-S MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Exceptional and scarce premium near-Gem quality for this otherwise readily obtainable Liberty Head eagle issue of the Motto design type. Vivid yellow-apricot color mingles with billowy mint luster, the surfaces originally and carefully preserved. Sure to appeal to high grade gold type and date collectors.

PCGS# 8749. NGC ID: 267S.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3358

**1902-S MS-64 (PCGS).** This is a simply beautiful Choice Uncirculated example with smooth mint luster to vivid, visually appealing surfaces. Trailing only the 1901-S, the 1902-S is the most plentiful San Francisco Mint Liberty Head eagle in numismatic circles. Both circulated and Mint State examples abound, but precious few grade finer than MS-64. This offering from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set represents excellent value for the astute bidder.

PCGS# 8751. NGC ID: 267U.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3359

**1903 MS-64+ (PCGS).** Fully frosted in finish with a razor sharp strike, this lovely coin is further enhanced by original golden-apricot color. A lower mintage (125,830 circulation strikes) 20th century Liberty Head eagle, the 1903 is actually relatively obtainable in today's market. Many examples have been located in foreign bank hoards and repatriated to the United States in recent decades. Even so, this issue remains rare in grades above the basal MS-64 level, the present near-Gem seemingly earmarked for inclusion in an advanced collection of this challenging classic gold series.

PCGS# 8752. NGC ID: 267V.

PCGS Population: 8; 18 finer (MS-66 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3360

**1903-O Winter-2. MS-64 (PCGS).** Smartly impressed with bountiful, bright satin luster and deep, original golden-apricot color. Though the 1903-O is the most plentiful New Orleans Mint eagle, the issue is scarce when compared to common Philadelphia and San Francisco Liberty Head issues from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Finer pieces are significantly harder to attain, so this premium quality MS-64 is sure to be eagerly pursued.

PCGS# 8753. NGC ID: 267W.

PCGS Population: 27; 2 finer (MS-66 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3361

**1904 MS-63+ (PCGS).** CAC. A wonderfully original, warm orange-apricot coin that features razor sharp striking detail and lively mint luster. A scarce and inviting Choice Mint State example from a mintage of 161,930 circulation strikes.

PCGS# 8755. NGC ID: 267Y.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3362

**1904-O Winter-1, the only known dies. MS-63 (PCGS).** An attractive eagle, displaying honey-gold color with a tinge of pale apricot iridescence. Both sides exhibit softly frosted luster that includes some satiny qualities. Sharply struck. This is the second most obtainable New Orleans Mint eagle, trailing only the 1903-O, and enough examples have been repatriated from foreign bank hoards that the collector should have no difficulty locating an Uncirculated coin in the MS-60 to basal MS-62 grade range. Any finer and this issue remains scarce. A noteworthy bidding opportunity for the astute gold collector.

PCGS# 8756. NGC ID: 267Z.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3363

**1905 MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** A handsome golden-orange example with a sharp strike and full mint luster to both sides. Although relatively easy to obtain in lower Mint State grades, the 1905 is far scarcer than the truly common Liberty Head eagles from the 20th century (read: 1901 and 1901-S). Wonderfully original Choice examples such as this can be elusive, however, confirming the significance of this offering for the astute gold enthusiast.

PCGS# 8757. NGC ID: 2682.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3365

**1906 MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Frosty rose-orange surfaces are fully struck with solid near-Gem quality. With a relatively generous number of the 165,497 circulation strikes produced located in foreign bank hoards, the 1906 is one of the easier 20th century Liberty Head eagles to obtain in lower Mint State grades. Finer than MS-63, as here, this is an elusive issue whose offering represents a fleeting bidding opportunity for the discerning gold collector.

PCGS# 8759. NGC ID: 2684.

PCGS Population: 5; 17 finer (MS-67+ finest).

CAC Population: 10; 5. The former total includes coins certified both MS-64 and MS-64+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3364

**1906 JD-1, the only known dies. Rarity-5. Proof-55 (PCGS). CAC.** A very pretty piece at the assigned grade level. Vivid deep gold surfaces support full striking detail and well mirrored fields. The design elements are more satiny in texture, and there is some semblance of a cameo finish. None of the wispy, grade-defining marks are singularly distracting. The Philadelphia Mint struck 77 Proof eagles in 1906. Not all of these specimens sold to contemporary collectors, however, and after the Mint's melting of some undistributed examples and the release of others into commercial channels, John W. Dannreuther (2018) accounts for an extant population of only 45 to 55 coins. This is a fortunate survivor of the latter group, a coin that appears to have spent decades in a bag with circulation strike coins, but retains nearly full Proof qualities and also possesses original surfaces and relatively strong eye appeal. An interesting offering for the advanced gold enthusiast.

PCGS# 8846. NGC ID: 28GD.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3366

**1906-D MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Frosty rose-gold surfaces with a full strike and strong eye appeal. The 1906-D is the first Denver Mint eagle, and has a generous mintage of 981,000 pieces. Enough Uncirculated coins have been located in foreign bank reserves that the 1906-D is available in grades up to and including MS-64, but is challenging any finer. This lovely near-Gem example would make an equally impressive addition to a mintmarked gold type set or specialized Liberty Head eagle collection.

PCGS# 8760. NGC ID: 2685.

PCGS Population: 28; 40 finer (MS-66 finest).

CAC Population:

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

Condition Rarity Choice Uncirculated 1906-O \$10



3367

**1906-O Winter-1, the only known dies. MS-64 (PCGS).** Luxurious deep rose-orange color and attractive mint luster are seen on both sides of this sharply struck, carefully preserved example. The 1906-O is the final New Orleans Mint eagle, and the penultimate gold issue from this Southern coinage facility (the final is the 1909-O Indian half eagle). It is among the scarcer New Orleans Mint tens of the Motto design type, although locating an example in the MS-60 to MS-62 grade range should

prove fairly easy under normal market conditions. As a solidly graded Choice Uncirculated, the Fairmont-JBR coin is rare from a condition standpoint and would make an impressive addition to an advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8761. NGC ID: 2686.

PCGS Population: 20; 9 finer (MS-66 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3368

**1907 Liberty Head. MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** A lovely pinkish-honey example that is sharply struck and fully lustrous on both sides. The 1907 is the final Philadelphia Mint issue in the Liberty Head eagle series. The circulation strike mintage is a generous 1,203,899 pieces, thousands of which were shipped to European countries, where they remained until repatriated beginning in the decades after World War Two. As a solidly graded and aesthetically pleasing MS-64+, the Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here would make a lovely addition to a Mint State gold type or date set.

PCGS# 8763. NGC ID: 2688.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3369

**1907 Liberty Head. MS-64 PL (PCGS).** Exquisite vivid orange-gold surfaces possess an uncommon degree of reflectivity to the finish for an issue that is usually offered with either satin or frosty luster. With a sharp strike and solid Choice Mint State quality, as well, this beautiful example represents a fleeting bidding opportunity for the advanced gold collector.

PCGS# 889740.

PCGS Population: just 1 in all grades in the PL category.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## INDIAN EAGLES



3370

**1907 Indian. No Periods. MS-64+ (PCGS).** A satiny orange-gold example with full mint luster and an impressively sharp strike for this challenging issue. The Philadelphia Mint produced 239,406 examples of the modified No Periods design in 1907. As the first examples of the new eagle to reach the general public, many 1907 No Periods coins were saved for posterity and Mint State pieces are plentiful in an absolute sense. On the other hand, many of these coins suffer from soft striking detail in the centers as well as general mishandling. For specialists seeking superior coins for their collections, this issue can be challenging at the finest levels of Mint State preservation, as here. This is a significant opportunity to acquire a near-Gem example of the first circulating coin of the Saint-Gaudens \$10 Indian eagle type.

PCGS# 8852. NGC ID: 28GF.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3372

**1908 Motto. MS-65+ (PCGS).** A visually stunning example with exceptionally smooth surfaces in a survivor of this challenging 20th century gold type. Fully struck with intricate detail to all devices, both sides also sport intense mint luster in a lively satin texture. Bathed in vivid orange-rose color, this smooth and inviting premium Gem would serve with distinction in an advanced Indian eagle set.

Augustus Saint-Gaudens' original design for the Indian eagle did not include the motto IN GOD WE TRUST because President Theodore Roosevelt believed it to be sacrilegious. Congress, upset that Roosevelt took this action without their consent, demanded the motto be restored. Chief Engraver Charles Barber modified the dies in 1908 to add it before the eagle's breast on the reverse, where it would remain until 1933. Overall, the quality of 1908 Motto eagles is very high and offers a pleasing example of the design. The Philadelphia Mint coined 341,486 eagles with the Motto added, and even though the issue suffered significant attrition due to the mass meltings of the late 1930s, it is generally available even in the lower Mint State levels. Above Choice Mint State, that situation changes dramatically and the issue rapidly becomes a notable condition rarity. Gem examples are especially scarce and the addition of a coin at this state of preservation is an achievement in and of itself. Delightful in every regard, this coin will readily find a new home in an outstanding cabinet.

PCGS# 8859. NGC ID: 28GJ.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3371

**1908-D No Motto. MS-62+ (PCGS). CAC.** This is a lovely Mint State 1908-D No Motto eagle. Both sides are fully lustrous and display delightful vivid rose-honey color and a softly frosted finish. The strike is suitably bold for the issue, with the reverse sharply defined throughout and the obverse with a touch of characteristic softness to the central high points. With its strong eye appeal, this coin is sure to find its way into a high quality collection of 20th century United States gold. As the first Denver Mint Indian eagle, the 1908-D is also the only No Motto issue from this branch mint and the only Indian eagle with the mintmark positioned above the end of the olive branch on the reverse. The mintmark on all other Denver and San Francisco coins is below the end of the olive branch in front of the arrow heads. A mintage of 210,000 pieces is relatively generous by Indian eagle standards, but the 1908-D No Motto is actually one of the scarcer issues in this series in Mint State preservation.

PCGS# 8854. NGC ID: 28GH.

CAC Population: 12; 22 finer. The former total includes coins certified both MS-62 and MS-62+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3373

**1908-D Motto. MS-62+ (PCGS). CAC.** An attractive example of this transitional type with warm rose-gold surfaces. Sharply struck and uncommonly smooth for the assigned grade level. Initially, when the No Motto Denver Mint coins were struck, the D mintmark was very broad and boldfaced, and located above the leaves of the branch at the same angle as the rim in that area. When the Motto was added, the mintmark placement was lowered to near the end of the fasces below the leaves, where it remained for the duration of the series. Enough low end Mint State 1908-D Motto eagles are extant to satisfy demand from less discerning collectors. However, very few examples have met with CAC approval. This premium coin from the JBR Set is sure to see spirited bidding among discerning 20th century gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8860. NGC ID: 28GK.

CAC Population: 12; 14. The former total includes coins certified both MS-62 and MS-62+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3374

**1908-S EF-45 (PCGS).** The premier San Francisco Mint Indian eagle, the 1908-S is a low mintage affair with just 59,850 pieces produced. Survivors are eagerly sought at all levels of preservation, and this handsome Choice EF from the Fairmont Collection's JBR set is sure see spirited bidding.

PCGS# 8861. NGC ID: 28GL.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Underrated Near-Gem 1909 Eagle



3375

**1909 MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Pretty honey-orange surfaces are intensely lustrous with a bold to sharp strike throughout the design. Although readily obtainable in an absolute sense, the 1909 is one of the scarcer Philadelphia Mint issues among circulation strike Indian eagles. This attractive MS-64+ represents the finest realistically obtainable for most gold

enthusiasts in today's market, give the rarity of Gem and Superb Gem survivors.

PCGS# 8862. NGC ID: 28GM.

PCGS Population: 9; 33 finer (MS-67+ finest).

CAC Population: 24; 6. The former total includes coins certified both MS-64 and MS-64+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*





3376

**1909-D MS-63+ (PCGS).** This smartly impressed, fully defined example is awash in a bold blend of frosty mint luster and warm honey-rose color. One of the lower mintage entries in the Indian eagle series with 121,540 pieces produced, the 1909-D is still far from the rarest issue of the type in terms of total number of Mint State coins extant. Thanks to the relative availability of lower grade survivors in the MS-60 to MS-63 range, the 1909-D is only a median Indian eagle rarity in an absolute sense. However, this availability severely decreases as you approach Gem condition, and the present example is among the finer examples certified by PCGS.

PCGS# 8863. NGC ID: 28GN.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3377

**1909-S MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** Vivid honey-rose color blankets both sides and speaks volumes about the originality of this premium Choice example. Sharply struck with full mint luster. This is one of the top 10 rarest Indian eagles in terms of total number of Mint State coins known. Most Uncirculated 1909-S tens extant entered the numismatic market beginning in the 1970s, although the number of examples in any given find has never been substantial. Also a conditionally challenging issue, the 1909-S is seldom offered any finer than MS-62. This MS-63+ represents a significant find for the advanced 20th century gold specialist.

PCGS# 8864. NGC ID: 28GP.

CAC Population: 4; 20. The former total includes coins certified both MS-63 and MS-63+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3378

**1910 MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Lovely medium honey-orange color throughout, both sides also sporting sharp striking detail and billowy mint luster. As one of the more frequently encountered Indian eagles, the 1910 is popular with Mint State gold type collectors seeking to avoid the truly common issues in this series (read: 1926 and 1932).

PCGS# 8865. NGC ID: 28GR.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3379

**1910-S AU-55 (PCGS).** Despite a relatively generous mintage of 811,000 pieces — one of the highest in the Indian eagle series, in fact — the 1910-S is among the scarcer issues of this type in Mint State. This vivid, fully original Choice AU from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set represents an attractive alternative for the budget minded 20th century gold collector.

PCGS# 8867. NGC ID: 268D.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3380

**1911 MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** An outstanding near-Gem from the conditionally challenging Indian eagle series of 1907 to 1933. Highly lustrous with a frosty texture from the dies, the strike also imparted razor sharp detail to all design elements. Bathed in richly original orange-honey color, there is much to recommend this coin to the quality conscious gold type or date collector. Although not as plentiful as the 1932 or 1926, the 1911 still ranks among the most available Indian eagles in Mint State. Examples grading MS-60 to MS-66 are particularly popular for Uncirculated type purposes, although at the upper reaches of this range the 1911 is a noteworthy condition rarity when viewed in the wider context of U.S. numismatics. This is one of the nicest examples that we have handled in recent memory, and it is sure to sell for a strong premium.

PCGS# 8868. NGC ID: 28GT.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3381

**1911-D AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** Deep honey-gold color with glints of vivid reddish-rose also very much in evidence on both sides of this attractive Choice AU example. With a limited mintage of 30,100 coins, the 1911-D is one of the key date issues in the circulation strike Indian eagle series.

PCGS# 8869. NGC ID: 28GU.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Outstanding 1912 Indian \$10



3382

**1912 MS-65+ (PCGS).** Satiny in texture and sharply struck from the dies, this handsome example also possesses attractively original color in rich rose-orange. Despite its status as one of the more common Indian eagles in terms of total number of Mint State coins extant, the 1912 is still a scarce to rare find in grades above MS-65. Premium Gems such as this exceptionally smooth

example are rarer than those of the 1908 Motto, 1910, 1910-D, 1911 and 1913 issues. An endearing piece that stands tall among the 20th century gold coin offerings in the Fairmont Collection.

PCGS# 8871. NGC ID: 28GW.

PCGS Population: 11; 16 finer (MS-67 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3383

**1913 MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** A lustrous, smooth and vividly colored example, this delightful near-Gem comes highly recommended for inclusion in a top flight gold type or date set. Comparable in overall rarity to the 1908 Motto, 1910, 1912 and 1915, the 1913 is one of the more plentiful Indian eagles in terms of total number of Mint State coins extant. This is a superior quality, conditionally scarce survivor from a mintage of 442,000 circulation strikes that is sure to sell for a strong premium.

PCGS# 8873. NGC ID: 28GY.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3386

**1914-D MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** Superior quality and eye appeal for the issue, this honey-rose example is sharply struck with full mint luster to generally smooth-looking surfaces. The 1914-D is one of the more available of the branch mint Indian eagle issues with a mintage of 208,000 pieces. The coins were struck at a time of growing hostility in Europe and economic skittishness at home. The great melts of the 1930s claimed many coins, while some eagles were shipped abroad in the form of foreign payments where they remained until after World War II before returning stateside. The majority of survivors are heavily bagmarked, the telltale signs of this storage and transportation in sacks. Premium Choice and Gem Mint State examples are in short supply and with relatively few specimens at these levels approved by CAC, this is a significant offering from the Fairmont Collection for the discerning gold enthusiast.

PCGS# 8876. NGC ID: 28H3.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3384

**1913-S AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** It is difficult for us to imagine a more attractive, inviting example of this key date Indian eagle issue at the assigned grade level. Handsome honey-apricot surfaces are considerably lustrous with generally sharp striking detail. Worthy of the coveted CAC sticker in every regard, and sure to sell for a strong premium to a discerning 20th century gold enthusiast. Mintage: just 66,000 pieces.

PCGS# 8874. NGC ID: 28GZ.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3387

**1914-S MS-62+ (PCGS).** A sharply to fully struck beauty with full mint luster and vivid honey-rose color. Scarce in Mint State by Indian eagle standards, the 1914-S (208,000 pieces produced) is rare in the finest Mint State grades with attractive BU examples such as this enjoying strong demand among astute gold collectors.

PCGS# 8877. NGC ID: 28H4.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3385

**1914 MS-64+ (PCGS).** This frosty, sharply struck, medium orange-gold example would make a lovely addition to an advanced gold cabinet. Similar to the 1909, the 1914 is one of the scarcer and more underrated issues among Philadelphia Mint Indian eagles. Even so, examples that grade MS-60 to MS-64 are obtainable with ease under normal market conditions, but anything finer is rare. This is an upper end near-Gem that represents excellent value for the astute 20th century gold enthusiast.

PCGS# 8875. NGC ID: 28H2.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3388

**1915 MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Frosty rose-orange surfaces are fully struck with intense mint luster. A lovely Choice Mint State survivor from a mintage of 351,000 circulation strikes that would make an excellent addition to a high grade gold type or date set.

PCGS# 8878. NGC ID: 28H5.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3390

**1926 MS-65 (PCGS).** This beautiful golden-rose example is boldly struck throughout with intense mint luster. The most plentiful Indian eagle after only the 1932, the 1926 is a perennially popular type candidate in this conditionally challenging 20th century gold series. We caution bidders, however, that Gem examples in MS-65 are scarce relative to market demand.

PCGS# 8882. NGC ID: 28H9.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3389

**1916-S MS-62+ (PCGS). CAC.** A pretty honey-rose and orange-gold example with sharp striking detail and billowy mint frost. The 1916-S is the 10th scarcest of the 32 issues in the Indian eagle series. Although the recorded mintage of 138,500 pieces implies availability, this is only true in lower Mint State or, even more so, circulated grades. Furthermore, this date suffered particularly from the massive meltings that gobbled up the survivors in later years, most of those known today having returned from European banks in recent decades. Premium examples like the present piece are truly scarce.

PCGS# 8880. NGC ID: 28H7.

CAC Population: 17; 17. The former total includes coins certified both MS-62 and MS-62+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3391

**1932 MS-65+ (PCGS).** A very attractive Gem with warm golden-rose color throughout. Both sides are satiny and free of any significant distractions. The penultimate year for the denomination and for circulating gold of all denominations, the 1932 eagle is the most available of the later issues. A rather staggering mintage of 4,463,000 pieces were struck this year, but most were soon melted and doubtless only a fraction survive today. A considerable number of coins are known in Mint State, though almost all are below Gem. This PCGS MS-65+ example is a scarce and significant offering and represents a standout opportunity for the finest of Indian eagle collections.

PCGS# 8884. NGC ID: 28HB.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## DOUBLE EAGLES

## LIBERTY HEAD DOUBLE EAGLES

## Historic First-Year 1850 Double Eagle

### Rare in Mint State



3392

**1850 MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** A beautiful and conditionally rare survivor from this popular first year Liberty Head \$20 issue. Flashy and lustrous for the grade with a tinge of pale olive to original medium gold color. Attractive and exceptionally well composed for a Type I double eagle at the lower reaches of Mint State preservation.

The 1850 is the first regular issue double eagle from the Philadelphia Mint. This denomination, the highest that the United States Mint has ever produced for circulation, was authorized by the Act of March 3, 1849, to serve as a storehouse and convenient medium of exchange for the vast quantities of gold discovered and mined during the California Gold Rush. Indeed, during the earliest years of the double eagle series unprecedented quantities of gold were shipped from California to the eastern United States to be minted into coins at the Philadelphia and, to a lesser extent, New Orleans mints.

Using the Liberty Head design by Chief Engraver James Barton Longacre, the Philadelphia Mint produced 1,170,261 circulation strike double eagles in 1850. This issue saw extensive commercial use with worn survivors in grades such as VF and EF readily available in numismatic circles. Persistent buyers will usually be able to locate an attractive AU-50 or AU-53 without too much difficulty, but beginning at the AU-55 grade level the conditionally challenging nature of this issue comes to the fore. As a rare Mint State survivor, and even rarer with CAC approval, the present coin is a fitting opening to the double eagle offerings in the current installment of the Fairmont Collection. It will surely generate considerable interest among advanced gold collectors.

PCGS# 8902. NGC ID: 268F.

CAC Population: 16 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Significant Choice AU 1850-O Double Eagle Rarity



3393

**1850-O Winter-1. AU-55 (PCGS).** This is a particularly desirable example of this historic first year issue that will appeal to both double eagle enthusiasts and New Orleans Mint specialists. Wonderfully original color blankets both sides, and there is ample remaining luster. Boldly to sharply defined overall with superior quality and eye appeal for this conditionally challenging issue.

The perennially popular 1850-O is the premier double eagle from the Louisiana branch mint. A mintage of 141,000 pieces for this issue is considerably lower than the 1,170,261-coin mintage reported for the Philadelphia Mint's circulation strike delivery of the year. This began a trend that would continue throughout the early New Orleans Mint double eagle series of 1850 to 1861. While the vast quantities of gold that flowed east from California provided the bullion for double eagle coinage at both the Philadelphia and New Orleans mints, the majority of this precious metal found its way to the Northeast rather than the Deep South.

The 1850-O is one of the more challenging early date New Orleans Mint double eagles to collect. Survivors are rarer than those of the 1851-O and 1852-O issues, and most are well worn in grades such as VF or EF. As with the Philadelphia Mint's issue of 1850, the 1850-O saw extensive use in domestic circulation, primarily in regions west of the Mississippi River where gold coins were a preferred medium of exchange. Other examples were exported, primarily to London, where they were eventually melted. With its first year status resulting in particularly strong demand among mintmarked gold type collectors and New Orleans Mint enthusiasts, this impressive Choice About Uncirculated 1850-O double eagle is sure to see spirited bidding at auction.

PCGS# 8903. NGC ID: 268G.

PCGS Population: 12; 7 finer, just one of which is Mint State (MS-61).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Exciting Mint State 1851 \$20 Gold



3394

**1851 MS-60 (PCGS). CAC.** This is a lovely example that ranks among the finer survivors of this second year double eagle issue. Impressively sharp in striking detail, both sides also exhibit originally preserved surfaces and attractive mint luster. Minimally marked for the assigned grade, this coin would serve with distinction in any gold cabinet.

Large shipments of gold bullion from the rich fields of California continued to flow to the economic centers of the Northeast in 1851, the Philadelphia Mint achieving the highest mintage in the Liberty Head double eagle series prior to 1861 with 2,087,155 circulation strikes produced that year. Much of this bullion made the long journey from California to the Northeast by steamer south from San Francisco through the Pacific Ocean, then by land across the Isthmus of Panama, and finally by steamship once again through the Atlantic Ocean to New York City. Although primarily used in domestic circulation at the

time of issue, some portion of the mintage for the 1851 found its way overseas years later in banking transactions. Numerous examples of the date came back to the United States beginning in the mid-20th century through the diligence of coin dealers such as Paul Wittlin in the 1940s, James F. Kelly in the 1950s and, in later years, Ron Gillio, David Akers, and others who located them in Europe or South America. Repatriations such as these account for many of the Uncirculated 1851 double eagles, although the number of such coins remains limited. Q. David Bowers (2004) estimates that just 50 to 80 different examples of this date exist in true Mint State grades, with the preponderance of known specimens at the low end of the Mint State scale. As a premium quality MS-60 with CAC approval, the Fairmont-JBR specimen is among the finest obtainable for this issue.

PCGS# 8904. NGC ID: 268H.

CAC Population: 24 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Exceedingly Rare CAC-Approved Mint State 1851-O \$20



3395

**1851-O Winter-2. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** This is an exceptionally well preserved example of the otherwise relatively obtainable 1851-O double eagle. Originally preserved surfaces exhibit attractive color and full mint luster. The strike is more than adequate by early New Orleans Mint standards. Uncommonly smooth for the assigned grade, and offering outstanding eye appeal, this impressive coin would serve as a highlight in an advanced double eagle set or Southern gold collection.

After a modest mintage of 141,000 pieces in 1850, the New Orleans Mint increased double eagle output to 315,000 coins in 1851. Clearly more gold from California reached the Crescent City, and the 1851-O actually has the highest mintage among New Orleans Mint double eagles. Perhaps not surprisingly, this is the most frequently encountered O-Mint double eagle in numismatic circles. Survivors are scarce in an absolute sense, however, and particularly relative to those of many Philadelphia Mint issues of the era such as the 1851, 1852 and 1853. As with all early date Liberty Head double eagle issues, the 1851-O is

typically offered in circulated grades, most examples grading EF-40 through low end AU. Mint State survivors are exceedingly rare, most of which have survived purely as a matter of chance. There was no contemporary numismatic interest in these early double eagles, especially from the New Orleans Mint. Writing in the 2004 reference *A Guide Book of Double Eagle Gold Coins*, Q. David Bowers asserts that only six to 10 Uncirculated 1851-O double eagles are extant, although Doug Winter gives an updated estimate of 15 to 20 such pieces in the 2020 edition of *Gold Coins of the New Orleans Mint: 1839-1909*. Recent finds in Europe and elsewhere have increased the total and account for Winter's range, but in an absolute sense Mint State 1851-O double eagles remain rare. The significance of this offering for the advanced gold enthusiast can hardly be overstated.

PCGS# 8905. NGC ID: 268J.

PCGS Population: 7; 10 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 5 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



## Appealing Mint State 1852 Double Eagle FS-301 Repunched Date



3396

**1852 FS-301. Repunched Date. MS-62+ (PCGS). CAC.** This Mint State rarity ranks among the finest certified survivors of a dramatic variety. Fully struck with razor sharp detail, both sides exhibit a hard satin texture to lustrous surfaces. The overall appearance is very nice for the assigned grade level, especially for a Type I Liberty Head twenty. The strong eye appeal is enhanced by handsome color that confirms the coin's originality.

While the vast majority of 1852 double eagles extant were struck from "perfect" date dies, a small number of pieces are known with bold repunching to all four digits in the date. The underdigits are all evident to the north of the primary digits, and their remnants are clear enough to make this a naked eye

variety. In fact, the 1852 FS-301 is one of the boldest varieties of the era and is very desirable. The offered coin is one of very few Mint State survivors known, and only the fourth that we have handled in recent memory. It is very close to the top of the *PCGS Population Report* for the attribution, and it is an extremely important offering for advanced double eagle collectors and variety specialists.

PCGS# 145729. NGC ID: 268K.

PCGS Population (FS-301 attribution only): 1; 2 finer (both MS-63).

CAC Population (all die marriages of the issue): 14; 6. The former total includes coins certified both MS-62 and MS-62+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Premium Uncirculated 1852 Double Eagle



3397

**1852 MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Lovely deep golden color with tinges of more vivid toning evident. Pleasing mint luster blankets both sides, the surfaces of which are uncommonly smooth for both the issue and the assigned grade. A sharp to full strike adds to the appeal of this premium quality example.

The mintage for the circulation strike 1852 double eagle is 2,053,026 pieces. As with most early Philadelphia Mint double eagles, the quantity struck reflects the huge influx of gold from the California gold fields that was shipped to the Northeast beginning in 1849, then growing considerably larger with each passing year. The Philadelphia mintages would begin to lessen in size, however, after the opening of the mint at San Francisco in 1854, although not to the same extent as in New Orleans. Most 1852 double eagles remained in the

United States and were used in domestic commerce, though many were sent overseas years later, by which time the coins had already acquired considerable wear. Today's research suggests that only 50 to 100 different examples can be accounted for in Mint State, with most of the known survivors at the lower end of the grading scale. Indeed, even a coin in MS-60 represents a significant find in today's market. Not all that far removed from the Choice Uncirculated category, this offering from the phenomenal Fairmont Collection - JBR Set represents a significant bidding opportunity for the astute numismatist.

PCGS# 8906. NGC ID: 268K.

CAC Population: 23; 20.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Exceptional Near-Mint 1852-O Liberty Head Twenty



3398

**1852-O Winter-1, the only known dies. AU-58 (PCGS).** Handsome, fully original surfaces with a tinge of light iridescence evident. Both sides are sharply defined with abundant mint luster. Impressively smooth for an early date New Orleans Mint gold coin that saw light commercial use, and sure to sell for a strong premium to a discerning double eagle enthusiast.

The New Orleans Mint was the only Southern mint to produce the double eagle and only did so in modest quantities using gold provided from the vast California gold fields. 190,000 examples of the denomination were struck there in 1852, making it the second largest mintage for an O-Mint double eagle. These coins saw use throughout the South and the Atlantic Seaboard and seem to have only infrequently been shipped abroad in international trade. One of the most available of all the O-Mint double eagles,

the 1852-O can still be a challenge for the discerning specialist. Estimates vary on the number of surviving specimens, most likely in the range of 1,500 to 1,750 pieces, almost all of which are in mid-level circulated states of preservation. No vast quantities have so far been found in repatriated hoards, though several have appeared from such holdings. A few have been found in the *S.S. Central America* and *S.S. Republic* treasures, but these have not substantially augmented the supply. Above EF, this issue is quite scarce and with fewer than two dozen different Mint State examples believed extant, appealing Choice AU specimens — rare in their own right — are in constant demand from double eagle collectors and Southern gold specialists.

PCGS# 8907. NGC ID: 268L.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Top Pop Mint State 1853/'2' Double Eagle



3399

**1853/'2' FS-301. MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** Here is an extraordinary condition rarity for this eagerly sought, early date double eagle variety. Gorgeous color mingles with full mint luster on both sides of this richly original example. The strike is sharp to full throughout, and the in hand appearance is uncommonly smooth for the assigned grade.

An intriguing variety, the 1853/2' double eagle has fascinated and perplexed numismatists for years. The variety was discovered around 1959 and was popularized by Walter Breen who later listed it as an overdate in his *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*. The variety is listed as a clear overdate in Bill Fivaz's and J.T. Stanton's *Cherry-picker's Guide* and has been considered the only overdate in the entire Liberty Head double eagle series. Other scholars, however, are not so certain of its status as an overdate since the artifact within the 3 does not closely resemble that of a 2. Only the one obverse die is known for the 1853/'2' variety, which is also distinguished in its later die

states by a distinctive die chip under the right foot of the letter R in LIBERTY (which is noted as die rust in some references) as well as a repaired crossbar in the letter A in STATES. For many years after its discovery, the only known examples of the 1853/'2' were in lower grades, the coins often heavily abraded or cleaned. Three moderately high grade examples of the variety were recovered from the wreck of the S.S. *Central America* but to this day it remains a formidable condition rarity. One of the four finest seen by PCGS, and the highest graded verified by CAC, this newcomer to the Condition Census is a thoroughly appealing coin that represents the end of the search for a dedicated double eagle specialist seeking a top flight example of this challenging variety.

PCGS# 8909. NGC ID: 268M.

PCGS Population: 4; 0 finer.

CAC Population: 1; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## One of the Finest PCGS-Certified 1853 Double Eagles



**3400**

**1853 MS-62+ (PCGS). CAC.** Here is a phenomenal condition rarity for this popular Type I double eagle issue. Fully lustrous and frosty, both sides are enhanced by sharp striking detail and vivid, original color. The surfaces are exceptionally smooth and approach perfection for the issue.

The Philadelphia Mint's output of double eagles in 1853 fell somewhat from the previous year, resulting in a mintage of 1,261,326 circulation strikes for a face value total of \$25,226,520. Some portion of this mintage went overseas in later years, primarily to London, with many such pieces returning to the United States after World War Two. Despite third party certification data that suggests otherwise — undoubtedly due to

multiple resubmissions — we believe that perhaps as few as 30 to 40 different Mint State 1853 double eagles can be accounted for today. This is a remarkably small total considering the “common date” status this issue has in numismatic circles. Obviously, the 1853 is far more elusive in Mint State than the relatively generous mintage suggests. The present example is ranks solidly in the Condition Census and would serve as a highlight in even the finest double eagle set.

PCGS# 8908. NGC ID: 268M.

PCGS Population: 1; 5 finer, MS-63+ finest).

CAC Population: 5; 1. The former total includes coins certified both MS-62 and MS-62+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Remarkably Well Preserved 1853-O Double Eagle



3401

**1853-O Winter-1, the only known dies. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Offered is an important coin for the advanced double eagle or New Orleans Mint enthusiast, as relatively few 1853-O \$20s survive from the mintage of 71,000 pieces, and very few grade finer than AU-50. This is a fully Choice About Uncirculated example with vivid, original surfaces that retain plenty of lively mint luster. The strike is impressively sharp throughout the design, the surfaces displaying only the most trivial rub confirming a short stint in commerce. Virtually all known surviving 1853-O double eagles show some degree of circulation, and finding an example in such a high technical grade as AU-58 usually requires considerable patience and much persistence. Definitely a find for the advanced gold collector, the

present 1853-O is in a grade high enough to attract an advanced specialist — especially with coveted CAC approval — yet it is much less expensive than a premium Mint State coin would be, if indeed you could find one.

New Orleans Mint double eagles were important to trade in their day — by steamboat up the Mississippi River connecting to inland cities and towns, and by sea to foreign countries. It is little wonder, then, that issues such as the 1853-O saw intense use, and suffered a high rate of attrition.

PCGS# 8910. NGC ID: 268N.

PCGS Population: 13; 2 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 2; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3402

**1854 Small Date. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Rich, original color blends with lovely mint luster on both sides of this boldly to sharply defined example. The year 1854 saw a significant downturn in the number of double eagles struck at Philadelphia over previous years with only 757,899 pieces. Instead of shipping gold to the East, now the newly inaugurated San Francisco Mint would require bullion for its own use. Two distinct date logotypes were used with small and large numerals. The majority of the coins struck used the smaller style logotype, making it the most frequently seen of the two varieties. Relatively

available in VF and EF, the issue becomes increasingly challenging at the AU level and above. It is estimated that at most there are only 40 to 60 different Mint State specimens extant, a limited total that places strong collector pressure on premium quality Choice AUs such as this CAC-approved offering from the JBR Set. Often overlooked in favor of the first double eagle issue from San Francisco, a nice 1854 Philadelphia Mint \$20 has much to offer the discerning collector.

PCGS# 8911. NGC ID: 268R.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3403

**1854 Small Date. Repunched Date. AU-55 (PCGS).** Our multiple offerings of such examples in this installment of the Fairmont Collection notwithstanding, the 1854 Small Date is a scarce and underrated double eagle in the finer AU grades. This inviting Choice example is lustrous, well struck and pleasingly smooth for the grade. Attractively original, as well, and sure to catch the eye

of astute gold enthusiasts. An interesting variety, the 1 in the date exhibits repunching south, the 54 north. We have handled few other examples in recent memory.

PCGS# 8911. NGC ID: 268R.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Condition Census 1854 Large Date \$20



3404

**1854 Large Date. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** One of the most significant offerings in the current installment of the fabulous Fairmont Collection, this is a high Condition Census example of the elusive 1854 Large Date double eagle. Wonderfully original — characteristic of the coins in this collection — both sides are bathed in a warm, vivid color and full mint luster. Sharply to fully struck throughout, and sure to appeal to astute double eagle collectors.

Circulation strike double eagle production at the Philadelphia Mint amounted to 757,899 coins in 1854, a total that was split between Small Date and Large Date varieties. The latter is by far the rarer date style of the issue, and it likely amounts to no more

than 10% of the coins extant. According to Q. David Bowers (2004) only three to five Mint State examples are known, and he describes the 1854 Large Date as “by [far] the rarest Philadelphia Mint double eagle minted up to this point in time.” While the number of Uncirculated coins has crept up slightly over the last couple of decades, the variety remains a formidable condition rarity at this level. We anticipate strong bidder competition for this highly significant offering from the Fairmont holdings.

PCGS# 98911. NGC ID: 268S.

PCGS Population: 4; 4 finer (MS-64+ finest).

CAC Population: 7 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Popular First Year 1854-S Double Eagle

### Rare Mint State Preservation



3405

**1854-S MS-60 (PCGS).** Outstanding lustrous surfaces are bathed in mint frost. This is a well struck coin with most design elements fully rendered. It is also very well preserved for both the issue and the assigned grade. Not only are the surfaces fully Mint State, but they are largely free of individually distracting marks. Visually appealing and sure to impress.

After several years of political wrangling, the mint in San Francisco was finally opened for business in March 1854. The mint was first located in the offices of the highly regarded private coiners Moffat & Company at 608-610 Commercial Street until 1874 when it was replaced by a larger facility better suited for mass production. The first coins struck in 1854 were the five main gold denominations: the gold dollar, quarter eagle, half eagle, eagle, and the double eagle. A total of 141,468 \$20 gold

pieces were struck that first year, all of which were promptly absorbed into the regional economy and would remain there for years. Because of the coins' heavy use in a cash-starved West, this is a comparatively scarce issue that is almost always found in low grades. It was not until a group of 1854-S double eagles were found on the wreck of the *Yankee Blade* that any examples in higher grades became available. Even so, this issue is scarce in Mint State with Q. David Bowers accounting for only 200 to 300 Uncirculated examples when he wrote his *Guide Book of Double Eagle Gold Coins* in 2004. Examples such as this are particularly desirable among advanced collectors given that the issue is seldom encountered in finer certified grades.

PCGS# 8913. NGC ID: 268U.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3406

**1855 AU-58 (PCGS).** CAC. Possessing the originality that we have come to expect from the Fairmont Collection, this luxurious piece also displays nearly full mint luster and bold to sharp striking detail. Well composed for the assigned grade and worthy of a strong premium. The year 1855 is the first in which the Philadelphia Mint would produce fewer double eagles than its San Francisco counterpart, indicative of the fact that the newly opened West Coast facility would leverage its proximity to the gold fields to strike the lion's share of California's precious metal into coins. This dominance would continue, with few exceptions, through the end of the Liberty

Head series in 1907. Indeed, the mintage for the 1855, 364,666 circulation strikes, is modest by Philadelphia Mint standards of the era. It is thought that fewer than 50 different 1855 double eagles can be considered Mint State today, thus placing extreme collector pressure on premium Choice AU survivors with CAC approval, as here.

PCGS# 8914. NGC ID: 268V.

CAC Population: 21; 10.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Fabled 1855-O Double Eagle Third Rarest New Orleans Mint \$20



3407

**1855-O Winter-1, the only known dies. EF-45 (PCGS). CAC.** A landmark offering among the Fairmont Collection Liberty Head double eagles. Uncommonly well preserved and attractive for an example of this legendary Southern gold rarity, both sides sport superior EF quality and undeniable originality. The color is attractive, the luster is quite strong for the grade, and there is plenty of bold to sharp striking detail remaining.

With just 8,000 pieces produced and the effects of commercial use taking their toll, the 1855-O is regarded as an important rarity among New Orleans Mint double eagles. In fact, it is the third rarest O-Mint twenty after only the legendary 1854-O and 1856-O. The extant population of the 1855-O is universally regarded as numbering fewer than 100 coins in all grades, with Doug Winter (2020) providing a more precise estimate of 80 to 90 pieces. Most survivors grade VF to EF. Opportunities to acquire an 1855-O of even marginal quality are few and far between in today's market; the chance to obtain an example as nice as this CAC-approved Choice EF is truly a rare occurrence. Advanced double eagle collectors are advised to pay special attention to this offering and bid accordingly.

It might seem strange at first glance that the New Orleans Mint produced so few double eagles in virtually every year from 1850 through the facilities' seizure by Confederate forces in 1861. After all, the Coinage Act of March 3, 1849, created the double eagle directly in response to the discovery of gold in California the preceding year. However, most gold was shipped to New York City where it was processed by the sub-Treasury with much sent to England and to the Philadelphia Mint. There was no particular reason to have double eagles coined in New Orleans with the Philadelphia Mint so close to New York.

Production started reasonably well, nonetheless, with yearly mintages of double eagles in New Orleans topping the 100,000-coin mark from 1850 to 1852. In 1851 a total of 315,000 twenties were struck, a limited number compared to the output of the Philadelphia Mint at that time (2,087,155 pieces), but it was a record for the New Orleans Mint. Beginning in 1853, however, two important events would severely curtail double eagle production in New Orleans through the onset of the Civil War. The first was the commencement of large scale \$20 gold coin production at the United States Assay Office of Gold in San Francisco in 1853. With the ability to convert gold bullion

into a high quality, widely accepted \$20 gold coin so close to the mining operations, there was little need to take on the cost and risk of transporting the metal to New Orleans. Double eagle coinage in New Orleans reflected this shift in fortunes with a reduction in mintage figures from 190,000 pieces in 1852 to just 71,000 coins in 1853.

The downward spiral of double eagle production in New Orleans would continue and, in fact, steepen in 1854, caused in part by the facility being in disrepair and needing extensive renovations. From that year through 1861 and the onset of the Civil War, double eagle deliveries from the New Orleans Mint would remain below the 40,000-coin mark each year, and in 1855, 1856, 1859 and 1860 they would not even reach 10,000 pieces.

Throughout the entire era of Type I double eagle production there, problems in the New Orleans Mint also contributed to limited yearly mintage figures. Built on unstable ground that had once been river bed and remained close to the Mississippi River, the building settled and suffered significant enough wear and tear from its opening in 1838 that by 1854 the federal government began taking action to repair the facility, as noted above. Construction commenced in 1855 and continued intermittently through 1857. Additionally, the humid atmosphere and wet conditions in New Orleans brought on a yellow fever epidemic in 1853 that claimed the lives of 8,000 people in only four months.

With both local conditions and developments out West conspiring against it, it is remarkable that the New Orleans Mint produced as many double eagles as it did throughout the 1850s. In many ways conditions were nearly as rustic and challenging as those that prevailed at the Carson City Mint during its earliest years of operations in the 1870s. Like those who are attracted to the history and romance of Carson City Mint coinage, a growing number of specialists are attracted by the fascinating story of our nation's southernmost mint. The 1855-O is one of the rarest collectible double eagles from this facility and the example offered here would establish the importance of any collection of New Orleans Mint coinage.

PCGS# 8915. NGC ID: 268W.

PCGS Population: 18; 22 finer (AU-58 finest at this service).

CAC Population: 6; 1 (AU-55).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*





## Rarely Offered Mint State 1855-S Double Eagle with CAC Approval



3408

**1855-S MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** A glorious example of this popular early San Francisco Mint gold issue. Boldly struck with bountiful mint luster, the surfaces are further adorned with exceptionally original color. The level of preservation is superior to that seen in the typical survivor of this issue, the surfaces solidly in the Mint State category and nearly Choice. Double eagle enthusiasts and Gold Rush collectors alike are sure to compete vigorously for the honor of acquiring this significant condition rarity.

The San Francisco Mint struck 879,675 double eagles in 1855, as production of double eagles was in high gear owing to the continuing influx of gold from the region's gold fields. The mintage of the 1855-S, in fact, is more than six times that of 1854, when the San Francisco Mint was getting started and gaining speed. Most examples of this issue were used in commerce on the West Coast.

Prior to the discovery and salvage of the S.S. *Central America* treasure, the 1855-S was a major condition rarity in Mint State. Of the 304 examples recovered from that shipwreck, 63 coins were in Mint State preservation. A smaller number of Uncirculated coins were found in an earlier shipwreck salvage off the coast of Florida during the 1970s, although those coins are noticeably impaired with granular surfaces from years of immersion in sea water. The S.S. *Central America* coins, however, have been expertly preserved and now account for the majority of Mint State 1855-S twenties certified by PCGS and NGC. Far rarer is the Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here, which is most definitely not a shipwreck find. Exceptionally appealing for the issue, it is sure to sell for a strong premium to a discerning bidder.

PCGS# 8916. NGC ID: 268X.

PCGS Population: 40; 29 finer (MS-66 finest).

CAC Population: 8 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Underrated 1856 Philadelphia Mint \$20



3409

**1856 MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** A remarkably well preserved example of this underrated condition rarity among 1850s Liberty Head double eagle issues. Richly original with vivid coloration, both sides are further adorned with lively mint luster. The strike is bold throughout, and the in hand appearance is far smoother than one might expect at the assigned grade level.

The mintage for the 1856 is 329,878 circulation strikes, down nearly 40,000 pieces from the previous year's figure. The 1856 is considered by many to be a common date, no doubt because of the size of the mintages that occurred in Philadelphia at the beginning of the series. With regard to higher grades nothing

could be further from the truth. This date has long been respected by specialists in the denomination as one of the more challenging Philadelphia Mint issues of the 1850s, especially in attractive Uncirculated condition, as here. Indeed, Q. David Bowers allowed for just 12 to 20 Mint State survivors when he penned his *Guide Book of Double Eagle Gold Coins* in 2004 for Whitman. Today's estimate is not much greater and probably on the order of 30 to 40 different coins.

PCGS# 8917. NGC ID: 268Y.

PCGS Population: 7; 6 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 2; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Superior 1856-S Double Eagle Not a Shipwreck Find



3410

**1856-S MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** A gorgeous example of this popular San Francisco Mint issue with quality superior to the typically offered Mint State coin salvaged as part of the S.S. *Central America* treasure. Richly original color dominates the complexion, enhanced by full mint luster. The surfaces are impressively smooth for both the issue and the assigned grade. Boldly to sharply struck with outstanding eye appeal and extraordinary numismatic desirability.

Though nearly 1.2 million examples of this issue were produced, survivors are surprisingly scarce in Mint State. The recovery

of 1,085 examples on the wreck of the S.S. *Central America* somewhat increased availability, though less than 500 pieces are likely to exist across all Uncirculated grades. The present offering is from an entirely different source and ranks among the most attractive examples of this desirable Type I Liberty Head issue available to today's discerning double eagle enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8919. NGC ID: 2692.

CAC Population: 19 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3411

**1857 AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** A handsome example with undeniably original surfaces. Sharply, if not fully struck throughout with outstanding luster quality for the assigned grade. The Philadelphia Mint produced slightly more double eagles in 1857 than it did the previous year, although this issue's mintage of 439,375 circulation

strikes is still modest for the era. This piece is far finer than most seen at the Choice AU level and would make an impressive addition to an advanced collection of this perennially popular series.

PCGS# 8920. NGC ID: 2693.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Original Near-Mint 1857-O Double Eagle

### An Outstanding Condition Rarity



3412

**1857-O Winter-1, the only known dies. AU-58 (PCGS).** This is an exceptionally attractive, undeniably rare Choice AU example of an issue that is elusive even in lower circulated grades. Beautiful original color blankets both sides. Ample evidence of a prooflike finish can be seen, reflective tendencies most pronounced in the protected areas around the devices. Although most survivors of this issue are softly struck, this piece is well produced by early New Orleans Mint standards. Overall detail is bold, and the O mintmark is fully appreciable. A premium quality coin for both the issue and the assigned grade that stands tall among the highlights in the current offerings from the Fairmont Collection.

The 1857-O and 1858-O are anomalies among New Orleans Mint double eagles from the late 1850s, being the only two issues from that era with mintages in excess of 10,000 coins. For the 1857-O, government records provide a figure of 30,000 pieces struck. This is still a paltry total in an absolute sense, of course, the New Orleans Mint receiving very little gold bullion from California after the San Francisco Mint commenced coinage operations in 1854. Additionally, the Louisiana facility

was closed in the early part of 1857 due to repair work to the building.

The 1857-O is in the third rarity tier among New Orleans Mint double eagles, ranking alongside the 1858-O and 1860-O. Examples are elusive in all grades, Douglas Winter (*Gold Coins of the New Orleans Mint: 1839-1909*, 2020) providing for just 200 to 250 coins extant. Q. David Bowers takes a stricter approach with an estimate of 90 to 150 survivors in his *Guide Book of Double Eagle Gold Coins*, although that reference was published earlier (2004). Both authors are in agreement that fewer than 10 Mint State coins are extant. Nearly as rare, this is one of our only offerings at the AU-58 level in recent decades. Interested parties are urged to pursue this coin with vigor for, once it finds its way into another advanced double eagle collection, it may be many years before an example of comparable rarity and quality appears on the market.

PCGS# 8921. NGC ID: 2694.

PCGS Population: 12; 4 finer (MS-63 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3413

**1857-S MS-61 (PCGS).** An ever-popular issue among Type I Liberty Head double eagles, this is a fully Mint State 1857-S that was not part of the *S.S. Central America* treasure. Vivid surfaces possess beautiful, original color and full, lively mint luster. Sharply struck and aesthetically appealing, this appealing coin should have no difficulty finding its way into an advanced double eagle set.

The mintage of 970,500 pieces for the 1857-S represents a reduction of nearly 220,000 coins from the preceding year's tally. Until the *S.S. Central America* treasure reached the marketplace, the 1857-S was considered a fairly rare item, especially so in Mint State. Indeed, prior to the advent of that treasure in the numismatic marketplace, many

“name” collections featured only a VF or EF specimen. Since the *S.S. Central America* treasure brought more than 5,400 Mint State 1857-S double eagles into the collecting community — including some fantastic Gems and Superb Gems — this issue is now by far the most plentiful Type I Liberty Head double eagle in high grades. With warmer color that tends more toward a honey-gold shade, however, the coin offered here has an appearance quite unlike that of the typical *S.S. Central America* 1857-S twenty. It is one of the rare Mint State examples that entered numismatic circles through another avenue. Sure to please, and worthy of the strongest bids.

PCGS# 8922. NGC ID: 2696.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Premium Uncirculated 1858 \$20



3414

**1858 MS-61 (PCGS).** The lustrous and vivid surfaces of this coin are remarkably well preserved in a survivor of this scarce, conditionally challenging Type I double eagle issue. The strike is sharp, luster intense, and the eye appeal is strong. A coin that one will need to examine in person to fully experience.

The mintage for this issue was just 211,714 pieces, down more than 227,000 pieces from the previous year's tally at the Philadelphia Mint. Perhaps only 25 to 35 or so different

examples of the date can be considered Mint State by today's grading standards, with the typical grade just MS-60. Very few pieces exist with such superior technical quality and strong eye appeal as the present Fairmont offering, and gold specialists will readily acknowledge this significant opportunity.

PCGS# 8923. NGC ID: 2697.

PCGS Population: 15; 11 finer (MS-64 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Absolute and Condition Rarity 1858-O Double Eagle



3415

**1858-O Winter-3. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Offered is one of the two highest graded 1858-O double eagles that have met with strict CAC approval. Beautiful, fully original surfaces are incredibly lustrous for a survivor of this issue. The strike is impressively sharp throughout and the detail is as close to full as one could expect for this often poorly produced issue. This is a premium quality example in all regards that is worthy of the strongest bids. While not in the same league as the 1854-O and 1856-O, the 1858-O is elusive in all grades and ranks among the rarer double eagles from the New Orleans Mint. According to Douglas Winter (2020), survivors of this 35,250-piece mintage number only 225 to 275 coins in all grades. Q. David Bowers'

2004 estimate is a bit more conservative, with no more than 150 pieces extant. Mint State coins are particularly rare and can be counted on one or two hands. With its undeniable originality and superior eye appeal, the present example is among the finest that we have ever had the privilege of bringing to auction. A find for the advanced double eagle or Southern gold collector that is worthy of the strongest bids.

PCGS# 8924. NGC ID: 2698.

PCGS Population: 15; 9 finer, seven of which are Mint State (MS-62 finest).

CAC Population: 2; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Awe-Inspiring 1858-S Liberty Head \$20



3416

**1858-S MS-62 (PCGS).** This is a beautiful example that ranks high in the Condition Census for the issue. Both sides display rich, original color that blends with bountiful mint luster. The surfaces remain well composed and the eye appeal is exceptional for the assigned grade. Well struck and exceptionally attractive.

The 1858-S is a significant condition rarity in Mint State with only a few dozen examples known. Some 1858-S double eagles were reported in the treasure recovered from the *S.S. Republic* shipwreck. However, that loss occurred seven years after 1858-S

twenties were minted, and most of the recovered coins were in AU condition, with only a few at the lowest end of Uncirculated condition, and heavily abraded. The present piece is not a shipwreck find, is a truly superior example, and ranks among the finest certified by PCGS. Eagerly anticipating inclusion in an advanced double eagle cabinet.

PCGS# 8925. NGC ID: 2699.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (both MS-63).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Low Mintage 1859 Double Eagle



3417

**1859 AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.** This 1859 double eagle offers superior Choice AU quality for an elusive and conditionally challenging issue. Bordering on AU-58, both sides are awash in richly original color with abundant mint luster. A bit lightly struck in isolated areas, yet impressively sharp overall.

With just 43,597 circulation strikes produced, the 1859 has the second lowest mintage among Philadelphia Mint double eagles of the Type I Liberty Head design. Douglas Winter and Adam Crum (*An Insider's Guide to Collecting Type I Double Eagles*, 2002) mention just three of four Uncirculated coins that surfaced during the late 1990s. Obviously, the 1859 has not

benefited from any shipwreck or similar finds that increased the availability of issues such as the 1857-S and 1865-S. Only 350 or so coins are believed extant, most of which are in circulated grades such as VF and EF. Mint State survivors remain of the utmost rarity, with premium CAC-approved Choice AUs only marginally less rare. This coin from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set is one of our most important and desirable offerings for this underrated issue in recent years.

PCGS# 8926. NGC ID: 269A.

PCGS Population: 20; 25 finer, just five of which are Mint State (MS-62 finest).

CAC Population: 4; 5.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



## Condition Census 1859-S \$20 Gold



3418

**1859-S MS-62 (PCGS).** A truly exceptional example of this scarcer, more conditionally challenging San Francisco Mint double eagle issue from the 1850s. Well struck and lustrous, the surfaces are undeniably original in handsome honey-rose color. Minimally marked for both the issue and the assigned grade, this attractive coin will please even the most discerning gold enthusiast.

The mintage for the 1859-S double eagle was down more than 200,000 pieces from the tally of the previous year. The high grade rarity of this issue is nearly unknown outside of the field

of specialized double eagle collectors for the 1859-S has not been represented in any significant hoards, either shipwreck treasures or repatriations from foreign holdings. While the S.S. *Republic* shipwreck did yield 67 1859-S double eagles, only one of those coins has been designated as Mint State. The present Fairmont Collection specimen is not a shipwreck find, in any event, and ranks among the finest and most desirable examples of the issue that we have ever had the privilege of bringing to auction.

PCGS# 8928. NGC ID: 269C.

PCGS Population: 17; 2 finer (MS-63 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Among the Finest PCGS-Certified 1859-S FS-101 Double Eagles



3419

**1859-S FS-101. Doubled Die Obverse. MS-61 (PCGS).** A rare and significant bidding opportunity for the advanced variety collector specializing in Liberty Head gold coinage. As attractive and original as one would expect given the Fairmont Collection provenance, this piece sports richly original color to technically superior surfaces. Well struck and lustrous with abundant eye appeal.

As related above in our offering of the MS-62 example from the Fairmont Collection, the 1859-S as an issue is a significant rarity

in Mint State. The FS-101 Doubled Die Obverse is even more so, and this extraordinary piece is among the finest seen by PCGS to date. The variety is attributable by light doubling at Liberty's profile and the letters in the word LIBERTY on the obverse. A choice and thoroughly appealing example that will enjoy strong demand among astute bidders.

PCGS# 145732. NGC ID: 269C.

PCGS Population (FS-101 attribution only): 2; 1 finer (MS-62+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Superior Uncirculated 1860 \$20



3420

**1860 MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** This richly original example exhibits handsome color to lustrous, frosty surfaces. A boldly defined and inviting coin worthy of serious bidder consideration. The Philadelphia Mint produced 577,670 circulation strikes of this denomination in 1860. Q. David Bowers estimated a Mint State population of 40 to 60 different pieces when he wrote his 2004 *Guide Book of Double Eagles* published by Whitman. Since then the recovered treasure from the S.S. *Republic* shipwreck has yielded about 150 more coins, and a few additional pieces seem to have come to light as part of repatriations from foreign bank

hoards. Even so, Uncirculated 1860 double eagles remain scarce relative to the demand that such pieces enjoy among today's advanced gold collectors. For the assigned grade, it is difficult for us to imagine a more desirable example than this offering from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set.

PCGS# 8929. NGC ID: 269D.

PCGS Population: 17; 17 finer (MS-65 finest).

CAC Population: 6; 6.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Remarkable Mint State 1860-S \$20



3421

**1860-S MS-61 (PCGS).** Richly colored surfaces are undeniably original in preservation. Bountiful mint luster throughout, both sides are sharply struck with minimal abrasions for the assigned grade level. Federal records indicate that 544,950 double eagles were coined in the San Francisco Mint during 1860, these having a face value of \$10,899,000. In 1982, David W. Akers found a scant five offerings of examples listed as Mint State in a survey of more than 400 major auction sales. Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth, in their *Encyclopedia of U.S. Gold Coins: 1795-1933* (2008), noted:

*This issue is very rare in Mint State. Only about two dozen Uncirculated coins are known, including examples found on the wrecks of the S.S. Brother Jonathan and S.S. Republic.*

The offered coin from the Fairmont Collection is most definitely not a shipwreck find, but rather represents an even rarer 1860-S twenty that survived in Mint State by other means. It is a newcomer to the numismatic market, and is not all that far from Condition Census standing for the issue. Sure to see spirited bidding among astute double eagle enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8931. NGC ID: 269E.

PCGS Population: 21; 14 finer (MS-64 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Noteworthy Choice Mint State 1861 Double Eagle



3422

**1861 MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** This lovely double eagle is smartly impressed with razor sharp to full striking detail throughout the design. Original surfaces are beautifully colored and highly lustrous with a bold satin to softly frosted finish. It will be equally well suited for a high quality type set or advanced Liberty Head double eagle collection.

With 2,976,453 pieces produced, the 1861 has the highest mintage of any pre-1904 double eagle, achieved to help fund the Union war effort on the outbreak of armed conflict with the South. Prior to the salvage of shipwreck treasures such as that of the S.S. *Central America*, this was the most available issue of the Type I Liberty Head design. A string of early Union defeats on the battlefield resulted in Northern banks suspending gold

specie payments in December 1861. Hoarding began, an activity that probably accounts for most of the several hundred Mint State survivors of this issue. Given the popularity of the Liberty Head double eagle series with today's advanced gold specialists, premium Choice Uncirculated examples such as this are rare from a market availability standpoint. Indeed, we have offered very few 1861 twenties of similar quality and eye appeal over the years. This Fairmont Collection offering is sure to result in spirited bidding among astute collectors.

PCGS# 8932. NGC ID: 269G.

PCGS Population: 40; 23 finer (MS-67 finest).

CAC Population: 13; 7.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Historic 1861-O Twenty-Dollar Gold Rarity

### An Issue Struck Under the Authority of Three Different Governments



3423

**1861-O Winter-1, the only known dies. AU-55+ (PCGS). CAC.** This is an exceptionally well preserved and attractive example of one of the most eagerly sought Type I Liberty Head double eagle issues. Handsome khaki-gold patina blankets both sides, which feature brighter orange and rose highlights. Strong light brings out ample remnants of a semi-prooflike finish that is most intense in the protected areas around the devices. Overall boldly defined and free of singularly mentionable handling marks. With superior quality and eye appeal for this exceptionally challenging issue, we anticipate that this coin will have no difficulty finding its way into an advanced collection of double eagles or Southern gold coinage.

The desirability of the 1861-O double eagle is well established in numismatic circles and stems from two important characteristics of this issue. First, the 1861-O is a scarce issue in all grades with no more than 175 coins believed extant from a mintage of 17,741 pieces. Based on this estimate Doug Winter (*Gold Coins of the New Orleans Mint: 1839-1909*, 2020 edition) ranks the 1861-O seventh in rarity among the 13 New Orleans Mint issues in the Liberty Head double eagle series, ahead of the 1850-O, 1851-O, 1852-O, 1853-O, 1857-O and 1858-O.

Second, the mintage for the 1861-O comprises coins that were struck under three different governments — a unique occurrence in the Liberty Head double eagle series and a circumstance that has affected few other issues throughout U.S. coinage history. The mintage for the 1861-O can be divided as follows:

- January 1-26, 1861: 5,000 coins struck under the authority of the United States of America
- January 26-March 31, 1861: 9,750 coins struck under the authority of the State of Louisiana after it seceded from the Union and took over control of the New Orleans Mint
- April 1-30, 1861: 2,991 coins struck under the authority of the Confederate States of America after Louisiana joined the Southern Confederacy

Production of the 1861-O, therefore, closely followed the shifting political landscape of the nation during the months leading up to the outbreak of armed hostilities that started the Civil War.

The close association of this issue with the Confederate States of America, in particular, confirms its desirability among specialized collectors, for the 1861-O double eagle is one of the few regular issue coins produced by that short lived government.

All 1861-O double eagles were struck using a single pair of dies, however, and even the pieces produced by the Southern Confederacy bear the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA as part of the reverse design. The staff in the New Orleans Mint simply had no other way of creating or otherwise obtaining new dies after the facility left Union control, and it was forced to use what tools were on hand to strike limited quantities of coins before the supply of bullion became exhausted.

How, then, do numismatists differentiate between those coins struck by the Union, the State of the Louisiana, and the Confederate States of America? The process is imprecise and somewhat conjectural, but Doug Winter has identified a late die state of this variety (Die State III) with a bold date and an obverse die crack (as made) from the rim outside star 2 to Liberty's chin. He believes that those late die state examples were struck by the Confederate State of America, and we see no reason to doubt that attribution.

The coin we offer here, however, is an early die state example (Die State I) with the digits in the date weakly impressed and no die crack on the obverse. This coin is almost certainly one of the 5,000 1861-O double eagles struck by the United States of America between January 1 and 26 of that year. Assigning this coin to the United States of America seems particularly appropriate since there is also an intermediate die state (Die State II) known to exist for this issue on which the base of the digit 8 in the date has been strengthened by Mint personnel. Die State II examples probably represent some (but perhaps not all) of the coins struck under the authority of the State of Louisiana.

PCGS# 8934. NGC ID: 269J.

PCGS Population: 2; 11 finer, just one of which is Mint State (MS-60).

CAC Population: 2; 4 (all AU-58). The former total includes coins certified both AU-55 and AU-55+.

From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.



3424

**1861-S AU-58 (PCGS).** Appealing orange-honey coloration adorns both sides of this significant example, accented by hints of pinkish-apricot iridescence. Luster is nearly full with superior quality for the assigned grade. Attractive in all regards, and sure to please even the most discerning double eagle enthusiast. After producing 19,250 double eagles in early 1861 using the famed Paquet Reverse, the San Francisco Mint went on to strike an additional 768,000 examples using the pre-existing “regular” Longacre reverse. Most of these coins

entered circulation in the West and were eagerly accepted, leaving most survivors in heavily worn condition for today’s collectors. Similar in overall rarity to the 1859-S and 1860-S, the 1861-S is the most desirable of these three double eagle issues in AU and finer grades.

PCGS# 8935. NGC ID: 269K.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Key Date 1862 Double Eagle Desirable Near-Mint Preservation



3425

**1862 AU-58 (PCGS).** Offered is a rare Choice AU survivor of a low mintage double eagle issue that is scarce even in lower circulated grades. Attractively original, as befits the Fairmont Collection provenance, both sides exhibit warm, even coloration to lustrous surfaces. The strike is impressively bold, and the eye appeal is truly exceptional for this challenging issue.

After striking a record total of 2,976,453 circulation strikes in 1861, the Philadelphia Mint delivered just 92,133 double eagles for commerce in 1862. This marked reduction in output is a result of the suspension of gold specie payments by Northern banks in late 1861 due to the uncertain outcome of the Civil War. Most

examples of this issue were used in export trade, and survivors are scarce, representing coins that have been repatriated in recent decades. The 1862 has never been represented in quantity in double eagle finds, although the treasure of the S.S. *Brother Jonathan* shipwreck yielded a single coin. Fewer than 350 coins are believed extant in all grades, and in Mint State the estimate dwindles to only 35 to 50 pieces. This Fairmont Collection specimen, among the finest circulated coins extant, would serve as a focal point in an advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8937. NGC ID: 269M.

PCGS Population: 8; 14 finer (MS-63 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Impressive Mint State 1862-S \$20 Gold



3426

**1862-S MS-60 (PCGS). CAC.** Warmly patinated honey-rose surfaces exhibit full mint luster in a frosty texture. Boldly struck and originally preserved. While the economic repercussions of the Civil War resulted in a sharp decrease in double eagle production at the Philadelphia Mint beginning in 1862, the San Francisco Mint remained busy churning out generous numbers of these coins. Records state that 854,173 examples were struck at the California facility, or \$17,083,460 in face value. These coins circulated on the West Coast in an era in which they were not seen in commerce in the East and Midwest. Although less than 1/2 of 1% of the mintage for the 1862-S is extant, circulated examples exist in such numbers — Bowers (2004) says 2,500 to 3,500 pieces — that locating one should be relatively easy under

normal market conditions. The same cannot be said for Mint State survivors, however, which exist to the extent of just 70 to 80 pieces. A fair number of the Uncirculated coins entered the market recently from shipwreck treasures such as those of the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* and *S.S. Republic*, although we stress that most examples recovered from those sources are circulated to one degree or another. As an attractive Mint State coin, this is a scarce and significant find for the advanced double eagle collector.

PCGS# 8938. NGC ID: 269N.

PCGS Population: 5; 30 finer (MS-63+ finest).

CAC Population: 8 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Delightful 1863 Double Eagle

### Rare and Desirable



3427

**1863 AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** A wonderfully original example with handsome honey-gold and rose-orange color on lustrous surfaces. Bold to sharp striking detail is also notable, as is an appearance that is uncommonly smooth for both the issue and the assigned grade. Outstanding!

The Philadelphia Mint produced just 142,790 circulation strike double eagles in 1863. Due to hoarding, the issue did not circulate in the East or Midwest. Gold coins were available only by paying a sharp premium for them. It is likely that many double eagles of this era were exported and melted at their destination, as examples have not turned up in European bank

hoards to any great extent. In fact, many of the 50 to 55 Mint State pieces believed extant have been recovered from the wreck of the *S.S. Republic* by Odyssey Marine Exploration. Given that this is scarce even in circulated grades (Bowers, 2004, accounts for just 200 to 300 worn examples), the opportunity to acquire this premium PCGS/CAC AU-58 deserves serious bidder attention, especially since it not a shipwreck find. As such, here is an extraordinarily rare 1863 double eagle.

PCGS# 8939. NGC ID: 269P.

PCGS Population: 20; 26 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 10; 6.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



## Seldom-Seen Uncirculated 1863-S \$20



3428

**1863-S MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** A wonderfully original example bathed in frosty mint luster and warm golden-orange color. Well struck, expertly preserved, and worthy of inclusion in the finest double eagle set.

The mintage for the 1863-S double eagle is 966,570 pieces, a substantial production figure for the Civil War era. This issue circulated extensively in West Coast commerce at a time when specie had virtually disappeared from day-to-day transactions in the Midwest and the East. Although many were likely exported overseas in later years, survival rates are comparable to most other double eagle issues from the early to mid 1860s. Q David Bowers estimated an Uncirculated population of 30 to 50 different pieces in his 2004 *Guide Book of Double Eagles*. David W. Akers enumerated 15 listings of examples cataloged as Uncirculated in his 1982 study of double eagle auction records.

All bets were off when Odyssey Marine Exploration later discovered the lost wreck of the *S.S. Republic*, which yielded a further 175 pieces. As treasure-found twenties typically do, these soon found their way into collections and, today, market appearances for Mint State examples are few and far between.

One subgroup of Mint State 1863-S double eagles has remained exceedingly rare: non-shipwreck coins that owe their existence to repatriations from foreign bank hoards or other sources. The present Fairmont Collection offering is one of these highly coveted rarities, and it sure to sell for a strong premium commensurate with its significance and desirability.

PCGS# 8940. NGC ID: 269R.

PCGS Population: 17; 12 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 8; 2.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Exceptional Mint State 1864 Double Eagle



3429

**1864 MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** A premium quality Mint State example of this key date Civil War era gold issue. Lovely golden-honey color blankets both sides, the surfaces fully lustrous with strong eye appeal. Bold to sharp in strike and remarkably well preserved.

Federal records report that 204,235 circulation strike double eagles were coined at the Philadelphia Mint during 1864, and due to the continued problem with hoarding — which lasted until late December 1879 — none were used in regular day-to-day transactions in the eastern half of the United States. It seems that many were exported, and to the extent that this happened, most were likely melted into bullion, as examples have not turned up in European bank hoards to any great extent. We estimate a surviving population of between 300 to 450 circulated pieces, most of which grade VF or EF. Dave Bowers, in his study of the series, estimated a Mint State population of only between three and five pieces. David Akers, writing in 1982, stated: “I have

never personally examined a true Mint State piece, and despite the rather numerous auction records, have seen relatively few that could even be graded AU.” Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth (2008) commented: “There were 42 examples of the 1864 Philadelphia issue on board the *S.S. Republic*, but this is very small in comparison to the large number of double eagle collectors.” Not all of these coins were Uncirculated or choice.

As a non-shipwreck example with superior surface preservation and eye appeal, the Fairmont Collection specimen offered here is one of the rarest and most desirable 1864 double eagles available to today’s discerning collectors. It is worthy of the strongest bids, and will certainly see spirited competition at auction.

PCGS# 8941. NGC ID: 269S.

PCGS Population: 16; 14 finer (MS-65 finest).

CAC Population: 11 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Exquisite 1864-S Liberty Head Twenty Among the Finest Certified at PCGS



3430

**1864-S MS-62+ (PCGS).** A remarkable example with few peers, and even fewer superiors among 1864-S double eagles certified by PCGS. Warm color in deep rose-gold blankets both sides and confirms the coin's original preservation. The surfaces also offer softly frosted luster and overall sharp striking detail, and they are exceptionally smooth.

The San Francisco Mint produced 793,660 double eagles in 1864 according to government records. These circulated extensively on the Pacific Coast and it is believed that many were exported overseas. The 1864-S once ranked as a foremost rarity in Mint State; indeed, David W. Akers listed just four auction appearances of Uncirculated examples in his 1982 tome on double eagles. Since that time, additional Mint State examples have entered the

market. In 1999, as a consequence of the underwater excavation of the wreck of the *S.S. Brother Jonathan*, which sank in 1865, newly discovered Mint State examples were added to the roster of known specimens, followed by more from the *S.S. Republic* treasure. It is known that even more Mint State examples came from other sources and, presently, the Uncirculated population is estimated at 225 to 250 coins. This total is still limited when compared to the strong demand that Mint State double eagles enjoy in today's market. Not a shipwreck find, and a formidable rarity as such, the Fairmont specimen offered here is one of the finest examples of the issue that we have ever offered.

PCGS# 8942. NGC ID: 269T.

PCGS Population: 1; 4 finer (all MS-63).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Noteworthy Uncirculated 1865 Twenty-Dollar Gold



3431

**1865 MS-61 (PCGS).** A delightful honey-gold example that also reveals wisps of faint rose and apricot iridescence under a light. Both sides are smartly impressed with sharp to full definition throughout the design. Full, strong mint luster adds to the appeal of this lovely Mint State double eagle.

Circulation strike double eagle production at the Philadelphia Mint amounted to 351,175 coins in 1865. Since gold coins continued to be hoarded in the East and Midwest, these were available only at a premium in terms of Legal Tender notes. Q. David Bowers estimated a surviving population of only 14 to 18 different Mint State examples in his *Guide Book of Double Eagles* published by Whitman in 2004. At the time this dovetailed nicely with David W. Akers' research, as he found a scant eight auction listings of specimens cataloged as Uncirculated when he wrote his widely used double eagle reference book in 1982. Later came

news from Odyssey Marine Exploration of 363 pieces found in the wreck of the *S.S. Republic*. We once again remind readers that these coins were not in general circulation at the time, but were owned by those who paid a sharp premium for them in terms of Legal Tender notes. As a rule, the *S.S. Republic* 1865 double eagles exhibit bright golden-yellow surfaces with a rather soft frosty texture. With bolder patina and heavier mint frost, the present example from the Fairmont Collection is one of the truly rare Mint State 1865 double eagles that has come from sources other than the *S.S. Republic* treasure. It is an outstanding coin for both the issue and the assigned grade that would serve as a highlight in an advanced double eagle set.

PCGS# 8943. NGC ID: 269U.

PCGS Population: 18; 32 finer (MS-65 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3432

**1865-S AU-55+ (PCGS).** CAC. Richly original honey-orange and rose-apricot surfaces are boldly defined with ample luster remaining. The mintage for this issue is 1,042,500 pieces, one of the largest production figures for the denomination during the Civil War and Reconstruction eras. These circulated freely on the West Coast,

where most became well-worn in a relatively short time. This solidly graded, originally preserved AU would make an impressive addition to an advanced double eagle set.

PCGS# 8944. NGC ID: 269V.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Landmark 1866-S No Motto Double Eagle



3433

**1866-S No Motto. AU-58 (PCGS).** As one of the finest examples of this classic Liberty Head double eagle rarity that we have ever offered, this coin is extremely significant. It is a beautiful piece irrespective of date or issuing mint, with richly original surfaces that retain abundant mint luster. Well struck for this challenging issue, and exceptionally well preserved in all regards.

The story of the 1866-S No Motto double eagle starts five years earlier with the outbreak of hostilities after the separation from the Union of the Southern secessionist states. The nation's morale was severely wounded and as an appeal during this time of national crisis, Reverend M.R. Watkinson of Ridleyville, Pennsylvania petitioned Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase urging the placement of a motto acknowledging "Almighty God in some form in our coins." Approving of this request, Chase instructed the director of the Mint to create designs and prepare patterns with various versions of the motto that he could take to Congress. Congress also thought kindly of the change and on April 22, 1864, they passed a law that specified the addition of the motto IN GOD WE TRUST on the newly created two-cent coin. The following year, Congress then instructed that the motto be added to all gold coins of suitable size — that is, half eagles and larger — starting in 1866.

The Philadelphia Mint began preparations in late 1865 for the change to the Motto reverse. The reverse dies were then shipped

to San Francisco but because overland transit took over two months during that era, they did not arrive there until March. In the meantime, because the demand for coin, especially the double eagle, was strong on the West Coast, the San Francisco Mint went ahead with production of 1866 half dollars, half eagles, eagles, and double eagles using the older No Motto reverse dies on hand. Once the new dies arrived the old ones were swiftly retired, but not before somewhere around 120,000 No Motto double eagles were struck and released into circulation, where they remained for many years. This issue suffered a very high attrition rate and now the 1866-S No Motto double eagle is widely considered the second rarest San Francisco Mint issue of this denomination, ranking behind only the legendary 1861-S A.C. Paquet Reverse. The 200 or so known pieces are primarily in VF or EF condition, often with significant impairments or otherwise limited eye appeal. The issue is all but unknown in Mint State. As an uncommonly original and aesthetically pleasing Choice AU, the opportunity to acquire this coin may very well be a once in a lifetime event for the advanced double eagle collector.

PCGS# 8945. NGC ID: 269W.

PCGS Population: 9; 7 finer (MS-62 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Exciting 1866 Double Eagle



3434

**1866 MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** A fully lustrous example with remarkably untouched surfaces for a survivor of this historically significant and eagerly sought issue. Undeniably original in preservation, as well, with solid striking detail and plenty of eye appeal.

The first year of the Type II design with the addition of the motto IN GOD WE TRUST on the reverse, the post-Civil War economy was still quite tenuous when the Philadelphia Mint struck 698,745 double eagles in 1866. The entire issue entered commercial channels with little fanfare and were subject to hoarding or were used for overseas payments where specie was

the preferred medium of exchange, a situation that would persist well into the 1870s. Even though a few thousand survivors are thought extant, almost all of these are in lower circulated grade levels. Popular as the first year issue for the Motto type, here is a desirable and rare Mint State offering for the double eagle connoisseur, especially since it is one of the few examples to have met with strict CAC approval at its assigned grade level.

PCGS# 8949. NGC ID: 269X.

PCGS Population: 42; 12 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 12; 2 (MS-62).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## High Condition Census 1866-S Motto Double Eagle None Finer at CAC



3435

**1866-S Motto. MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Gorgeous honey-rose color blankets both sides of this fully lustrous, attractively original example. Well struck throughout the design, and exceptionally well preserved for this conditionally challenging issue, the surfaces are not all that far removed from the Choice Mint State category.

842,250 double eagles of the With Motto design type were struck at the San Francisco Mint in 1866 according to government records. Most circulated extensively on the West Coast, and some others were shipped overseas to facilitate trade and were melted at their destinations. The 1866-S With Motto was once regarded as a great condition rarity. Back in 1982, David W. Akers wrote: "I have seen only two Uncirculated examples, the finest being...from the Harry Bass Collection." As recently as 2000, the issue was considered to be extremely rare and was

cataloged as such when we (Bowers and Merena) auctioned the Bass specimen. Since that time, however, additional pieces have come to light. Presumably an old hoard was dispersed, or some coins were repatriated from overseas holdings, but no details have come to hand. In any event the number of coins involved was minimal and in 2004, Q. David Bowers estimated a population of just 40 to 70 different Mint State examples in his *Guide Book of Double Eagles* published by Whitman. This premium quality offering from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set is a newcomer to the Condition Census for the issue. It is a phenomenal condition rarity worthy of inclusion in the finest numismatic cabinet.

PCGS# 8950. NGC ID: 269Y.

PCGS Population: 23; 10 finer (MS-62+ finest).

CAC Population: 4; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3436

**1867 MS-60 (PCGS).** Handsome rose-honey color graces the lustrous surfaces of this superior Uncirculated Type II Liberty Head \$20 gold coin. The strike is incredibly sharp, as well, and the overall quality and eye appeal is undeniable. The mintage of this Philadelphia Mint issue is 251,015 circulation strikes. An exception to the general rule for double eagle issues from the Civil War and Reconstruction eras, many were sent to Europe, and of these at least a few hundred were not melted. Q. David Bowers estimates the Mint State population at 350 to 500 coins, which is a dramatically larger figure than is usually seen for Philadelphia Mint double eagles from the 1860s. David W. Akers

in 1982 wrote that these came from Europe in the 1960s, and he was of the opinion that there were multiple hoards. Perhaps there were simply multiple disbursements from a single hoard, as the surface characteristics are said to be similar for these pieces. This Fairmont Collection piece is obviously from a different source, and it is a truly impressive 1867 double eagle. This newcomer to the numismatic market is a find for both Mint State type and date collectors.

PCGS# 8951. NGC ID: 269Z.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Rarely Offered Mint State 1867-S Double Eagle



3437

**1867-S MS-61 (PCGS).** Dressed in softly frosted mint luster and vivid rose-gold color, this premium BU double eagle is also uncommonly smooth for the assigned grade. Circulation strike Type II Liberty Head double eagles are often plagued by soft striking detail but, while the present example has a characteristic appearance along the left obverse border in this regard, the balance of the design features offer sharp to full detail.

Mint records indicate that 920,750 double eagles were produced at the San Francisco facility during 1867. As is typical of double eagles produced at this mint, they were heavily used in day-to-day transactions on the Pacific Coast, something completely opposite to the situation that prevailed in the eastern half of the United States, where precious metal coins were extensively hoarded and most transactions were conducted using paper money. Q. David Bowers estimated a Mint State population of

just three to five different Mint State examples when he wrote his 2004 *Guide Book to Double Eagles* published by Whitman. This dovetails nicely with David W. Akers' research, as the latter found only three listings of Uncirculated specimens in a survey of more than 400 major auction sales. Although a few more Uncirculated coins have slipped into the market in recent years, the 1867-S continues to be celebrated as a major condition rarity. Indeed, to the best of our knowledge this issue has not been widely represented in any overseas hoards. A highlight of the Type II twenties from the JBR Set, this is one of the finest examples known to PCGS and is eagerly awaiting inclusion in another advanced double eagle cabinet.

PCGS# 8952. NGC ID: 26A2.

PCGS Population: 16; 9 finer (MS-64 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



## Challenging 1868 Liberty Head Twenty



3438

**1868 AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** A beautiful example, both sides exhibit strong mint luster for the grade with undeniable original color. Bold to sharp striking detail is also notable. Most Type II Liberty double eagles of 1866 to 1876 are highly elusive in Mint State, and even “common date” Type II twenties such as the 1873 Open 3 and 1875-S are scarce relative to the market demand for them. The 1868 is actually the rarest Type II Liberty Head twenty from the Philadelphia Mint, per Doug Winter and Mike Fuljenz (2004), and the present offering for a premium Choice AU survivor is sure to see significant interest.

The nation was still picking up the pieces from the Civil War when the modest mintage of only 98,575 double eagles rolled off the Philadelphia Mint’s presses in 1868. Preservation of

such a high denomination coin like a double eagle was not a priority for most at the time. Many of these comparatively few coins were used for international payments and spent decades in bank vaults before finally being repatriated. As a result, most of the surviving examples are in the middle to higher end of the circulated grade scale and very few are Mint State, and those are mostly heavily abraded. Original, superior-quality 1868 double eagles such as this are few and far between in any grade. Here is an opportunity not to be missed.

PCGS# 8953. NGC ID: 26A3.

PCGS Population: 28; 20 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 7; 4.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3439

**1868-S AU-50 (PCGS). CAC.** Wisps of pale rose mingle with dominant deep honey-gold color on both sides of this handsome, pleasingly original example. Boldly struck overall for an example of the challenging Type II Liberty Head double eagle. Consistent with other years during the 1860s, the production of double eagles at the San Francisco Mint was immense, dwarfing that of the Philadelphia facility. In 1868, some 837,500 examples were coined and most

entered into the channels of commerce along the Pacific Coast, where gold was used in day-to-day transactions as freely as paper money was used back East. Many others were likely shipped overseas and melted. Today, opportunities to acquire premium quality examples at all grade levels deserve serious consideration.

PCGS# 8954. NGC ID: 26A4.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Handsome Mint State 1869 \$20



3440

**1869 MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** An original and attractive example with handsome color to lustrous, frosty surfaces. Very well struck for the type with superior quality and eye appeal at the assigned grade level. The Type II double eagle as a whole is among the most challenging issues to obtain in high grade. The Type I double eagle is available in Uncirculated thanks in part to treasure recovered from ships like the *S.S. Republic*, *S.S. Brother Jonathan*, and most notably the *S.S. Central America*. Even Type III issues can be found in moderately higher grades courtesy of repatriations of large quantities from overseas as well as efforts by well-positioned and well-heeled numismatists. This is not the case with the Type II double eagle where high degrees of preservation is much more rarefied and more by chance.

The 1869 double eagle is no exception. In that year, 175,130 double eagles were struck at Philadelphia with an additional 686,750 at the San Francisco Mint. While many San Francisco-produced double eagles entered the channels of commerce, those

coined in Philadelphia tended to be obtained by large banks or other trading firms who used them for international commerce, shipping them in large quantities overseas. Those that remained in circulation domestically experienced the typical rigors of commercial use and are generally found in EF to AU. Large quantities of the issue ended up in the Treasury's melting pots during the 1930s, leaving even fewer behind. After the Second World War, some of the coins that were shipped overseas found their way back to the United States, but only a few turned out to be in Mint State, almost exclusively between MS-60 and MS-62. Above that level and this issue is a major condition rarity. One would be hard pressed to find a more appealing MS-61 than the offered coin from the Fairmont holdings, and it would serve equally well in a Mint State type or date set.

PCGS# 8955. NGC ID: 26A5.

PCGS Population: 19; 19 finer (MS-65+ finest).

CAC Population: 8 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Enticing Mint State 1869-S \$20



3441

**1869-S MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** Delicate iridescent highlights enliven otherwise dominant deep rose-orange color on both sides of this lustrous and original Mint State example. Sharply struck for the type, especially on the reverse, and possessed of exceptional eye appeal.

Double eagle production at the San Francisco Mint in 1869 amounted to 686,750 coins. David W. Akers was able to identify just 12 auction appearances of examples listed as Mint State when he wrote his double eagle reference book in 1982. Later in 2004, when Q. David Bowers penned his *Guide Book of Double Eagles*, the estimate was about 40 to 50 examples. Population

reports give larger numbers but undoubtedly contain many duplicate submissions, although it is likely that a few additional pieces have slipped into the market from foreign repatriations in recent years. The grade of the present Fairmont Collection offering is superior to that of most others, and its recent entry into the market provides an important opportunity for discerning double eagle enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8956. NGC ID: 26A6.

PCGS Population: 13; 7 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 5; 2.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Very Rare Premium Mint State 1870 \$20 Gold



3442

**1870 MS-62+ (PCGS).** Handsome medium gold coloration with hints of original rose-apricot patina on both sides. This is a nicely struck, fully lustrous example with superior eye appeal for the assigned grade. Nearly Choice, and worthy of the strongest bids, as such.

Just 155,150 circulation strike double eagles of this date and mint were produced and many of these were sent overseas in later years, by which time they were worn. While EF and AU coins are readily obtainable in the context of the Type II Liberty Head series, Uncirculated examples are rare and seldom offered. In the year 1870 the few numismatists who were interested in collecting double eagles ordered Proofs from the Mint. In January 1936, Thomas L. Elder, in his offering of the Charles

W. Sloane and Frank Lenz collections, offered an Uncirculated example and noted it was “very rare.” More than any other dealer of the era, Elder, based in New York City, eagerly sought scarce gold coins of all denominations after 1933 when the government began calling them in. Elder sent out notices to bank tellers and others, offering premiums, and was responsible for saving countless thousands of pieces from the melting pot. By 1936 he was well aware that a Mint State 1870 double eagle was a rarity, as noted. The presently offered coin offers the successful bidder a chance to obtain a remarkably high grade example of this challenging issue. Condition Census!

PCGS# 8957. NGC ID: 26A7.

PCGS Population: 2; 3 finer (MS-63+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3443

**1870-S MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** A notable condition rarity for the issue that exhibits richly original surfaces. Free of significant marks, a sharp strike and pretty color further enhance this coin's appeal. The mintage for this issue is a generous 982,000 pieces and likely, many were sent overseas later in the decade, accounting for most of those surviving today. We estimate that upward of 300 Mint State examples are extant, and these are eagerly sought by advanced collectors specializing in high grade Liberty Head gold coinage. Most

numismatists will have to settle for a heavily marked coin in MS-60 or MS-61, for the 1870-S is conditionally rare beginning at the MS-62 level. This CAC-approved example is far superior for the assigned grade and represents a bidding opportunity that is not to be missed.

PCGS# 8959. NGC ID: 26A9.

CAC Population: 17 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Low Mintage 1871 \$20 in Attractive Mint State



3444

**1871 MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** Lovely golden-rose surfaces are vivid and lustrous. Sharply struck throughout, and impressively so for the type.

The circulation strike mintage for the 1871 double eagle was tiny for the era with just 80,120 pieces produced, the lowest Philadelphia Mint production tally of any date in this series after 1859 and prior to 1881. Many lightly worn examples of this date were exported in later banking transactions, only to return to America in the mid to late 20th century, though this repatriation

brought back very few high grade Uncirculated specimens. In fact, we suggest just 30 to 40 or so examples of this issue qualify as Mint State today, with most of those clustered around the MS-60 end of the grading scale. Exceptionally attractive at the assigned level, the coin offered here is sure to see spirited bidding at auction.

PCGS# 8960. NGC ID: 26AA.

PCGS Population: 6; 4 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 5 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Rare 1871-CC Double Eagle



3445

**1871-CC AU-53 (PCGS).** A sharp and exciting example of this challenging key date in the Carson City Mint double eagle series. Eye appeal is exceptional for the issue, the surfaces fully original and bathed in golden-honey color. The luster is uncommonly full and lively across both sides. Scattered marks are commensurate with an early date CC-Mint twenty at this grade level, and none are worthy of undue concern.

The 1871-CC double eagle is one of the principle rarities of the denomination struck at Carson City, second only to the vaunted 1870-CC. The 174,387 coins produced at the Nevada facility that year were destined for immediate use in commerce, where gold was the vastly preferred medium of exchange. Thanks to its somewhat remote location in regard to other population centers at the time, the coins were heavily used in local circulation

for many years. There were essentially no numismatists in the region, hence nobody had the interest or wherewithal to set aside an example at the time. Very few escaped the trials and tribulations of extensive circulation, and when available at all, the 1871-CC is usually found damaged and heavily abraded. The present example represents a significant find for the advanced numismatist seeking one of the early historic double eagles from this perennially popular Western mint. It is among the finest of only 100 to 135 coins believed extant in EF and AU grades (per Rusty Goe, 2020), few of which are as problem free or undeniably original.

PCGS# 8961. NGC ID: 26AB.

PCGS Population: 11; 15 finer, just two of which are Mint State (MS-61 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Virtually Unsurpassable 1871-S Twenty-Dollar



3446

**1871-S MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** Delightful satin to frosty surfaces are enhanced by vivid, original mint color in golden-apricot. Fully struck in most areas with nicely preserved surfaces that border on a higher grade.

The mintage for this popular San Francisco Mint issue is 928,000 pieces. Some small amount of this mintage later found its way into foreign banking transactions. Many of the low range Uncirculated pieces known today owe their existence to the return of those exported coins to America in the mid 20th century. We estimate that 100 to 150 Mint State examples of the date can be accounted for today. Prior to the mid 20th

century, as alluded to above, the 1871-S was seldom seen in the marketplace, and when encountered at all was apt to grade no finer than EF. This newcomer to the market from the extensive Fairmont holdings is not only fully Mint State, but also Choice to guarantee a ranking near the top of Condition Census for the issue. It is one of the finest examples available to today's quality conscious gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8962. NGC ID: 26AC.

PCGS Population: 4; with a single MS-64 finer.

CAC Population: 3; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Prized Mint State 1872 Double Eagle Tied for Finest PCGS-Certified



3447

**1872 MS-63 (PCGS).** This is an exceptionally attractive Choice Mint State example with lovely, fully original color throughout. The surfaces are well composed and remain free from any singularly distracting blemishes. The appeal is enhanced by a well executed strike that is superior for a Liberty Head double eagle of the Type II design.

The 1872 double eagle has a mintage of 251,850 circulation strikes, a good portion of which was sent overseas at a later time. Many high grade EF and AU pieces, along with some Mint State coins, found their way back to America beginning with the efforts of Paul Wittlin and James F. Kelly in the

1950s. These repatriated examples account for many of the examples in numismatic hands. Mint State survivors are in the minority, with perhaps just 80 to 120 pieces extant. Most of the Uncirculated coins encountered are at the lower end of the Mint State spectrum, generally MS-60 or MS-61. The present MS-63 example ranks near the top of Condition Census for the issue, as PCGS has certified just four coins in MS-63 and none finer. Double eagle enthusiasts will surely recognize the significant opportunity afforded by this double eagle.

PCGS# 8963. NGC ID: 26AD.

PCGS Population: 4; 0 finer.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



## Stellar Quality 1872-CC Twenty



3448

**1872-CC AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Warmly patinated in even honey-gold, this minimally circulated example retains ample evidence of a satiny finish. Overall striking detail also remains bold, although we do note characteristic softness of definition in and around the centers on both sides. The in hand appearance is smoother than one might expect for an early date Carson City Mint double eagle at the Choice AU grade level, and this is clearly a superior example of a key date issue.

The 1872-CC is the third double eagle issue from this frontier era branch mint, the mintage a modest 26,900 pieces. In the first three years of coinage operations at the Carson City Mint — 1870, 1871, and 1872 — it seems that the gold coins were used regionally and, indeed, we suspect that the 1872-CC double

eagle as an issue helped form the backbone of the economy in and around Carson City. Beginning in 1873, however, quantities of gold coins were more widely distributed, including in shipments sent to foreign banks. Today, the first three CC-Mint gold issues across all three denominations — \$5, \$10, and \$20 — are all true classics. Grades for surviving 1872-CC double eagles are often VF to EF. This lovely near-Mint offering from the Fairmont holdings is exceptional and, considering the rarity of the issue in Mint State, it is sure to be of particular interest to quality conscious collectors.

PCGS# 8964. NGC ID: 26AE.

PCGS Population: 27; 7 finer (MS-62 finest).

CAC Population: 8; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3449

**1872-S MS-61 (PCGS).** Fully lustrous with a bold, frosty finish to both sides, this lovely Mint State example also offers vivid golden-apricot color and universally bold to sharp striking detail. It is a generally smooth and well preserved coin for the issue that would fit right into the finest double eagle set.

The mintage for the 1872-S double eagle amounted to 780,000 pieces, reduced by 148,000 coins from the 1871 total at the San Francisco Mint. As with many issues from the era, some portion found its way

into overseas banking and bullion transactions. Perhaps 250 or so Mint State coins are known today, with the preponderance of such pieces at MS-60 or slightly finer. Many of the Uncirculated 1872-S double eagles in numismatic hands were returned to America from overseas banking sources beginning in the latter half of the 20th century. This attractive MS-61 represents a significant bidding opportunity for double eagle enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8965. NGC ID: 26AF.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Condition Rarity 1873 Open 3 Double Eagle



3450

**1873 Open 3. MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** An extraordinary Type II Liberty Head double eagle irrespective of date or issuing mint. Dressed in full mint luster, both sides are enhanced by vivid color in lovely orange-gold. The strike is sharp to full throughout, the surfaces exceptionally smooth for both the type and issue.

With 1,500 to 2,500 or more examples extant, the 1873 Open 3 is one of the most readily obtainable issues of its design type in Mint State. Many of the Uncirculated pieces were repatriated from foreign bank hoards in the decades following World War

Two. This is still a conditionally challenging issue, however, the vast majority of examples confined to the MS-60 to MS-62 grade range. A premium quality survivor at the MS-64 level, the offered coin from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set is a delight to behold and would do nicely in either a high grade type set or advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 8967. NGC ID: 26AH.

PCGS Population: 16; with a single MS-65+ finer.

CAC Population: 5; 1.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## One of the Few Uncirculated 1873-CC Double Eagles Known Sole CAC-Verified Example



3451

**1873-CC MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** An extraordinary condition rarity that will appeal to both advanced double eagle collectors and specialists in coins from the fabled Nevada branch mint. This is a lovely coin with fully original surfaces dressed in rich golden-rose color. Lustrous, as well, we note a softly frosted texture to smartly impressed, sharply defined features.

During the late 19th century the Western regions of the United States preferred to conduct business with specie rather than paper money, with the double eagle particularly favored for large transactions. Even at the newly opened Carson City Mint, focus on gold coin production was directed toward the double eagle. In its third year of operation 22,410 examples of this denomination were produced at the rustic frontier facility,

spread out in several batches throughout the year, almost all of which immediately entered circulation. Numismatists were effectively nonexistent in the region, thus high grade examples were not retained. Today, only 15 to 20 Mint State specimens are reported (per Rusty Goe, 2020), generally at the MS-60 level or slightly finer. For the assigned grade, it is difficult for us to imagine a more desirable example than that offered here from the Fairmont Collection. Premium quality in all regards, and worthy of the strongest bids.

PCGS# 8968. NGC ID: 26AJ.

PCGS Population: 8; 2 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 1 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Scarce 1873-S Close 3 \$20 MS-62 PCGS



3452

**1873-S Close 3. MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** Colorful golden-apricot color blends with strong mint luster on both sides of this attractive piece. Sharply struck overall with superior quality and eye appeal for a BU double eagle of the Type II Liberty Head design. The mintage of this variety comprised the larger part of 1,040,060 pieces for the 1873-S double eagle. These coins circulated extensively in commerce on the West Coast and, after having seen some use, were also used in the export trade (this at a time when gold coins did not circulate in the East or Midwest, a period that extended until December 1878). It seems that many 1873-S double eagles were exported to South America, probably around the turn of the 20th century. Information concerning

specific overseas hoards is very difficult to find as the banks and governments involved prefer secrecy.

We estimate that 350 to 450 Mint State examples survive for the 1873-S Close 3. Most are in the lowest grades, MS-60 or MS-61. Virtually all are coins repatriated after World War Two. Before the 1960s, Mint State 1873-S double eagles were very rare in numismatic hands. Indeed, it was not until the 1990s that they were seen with some frequency, although MS-62 examples such as that offered here remain scarce from a condition standpoint.

PCGS# 8969. NGC ID: 26AL.

CAC Population: 19; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Lovely 1874 Double Eagle



3453

**1874 MS-62 (PCGS).** This lovely MS-62 example exhibits a bold blend of frosty mint luster and vivid rose-orange color. Sharply struck with eye appeal that would support an even higher grade.

The circulation strike mintage for this issue is 366,780 pieces, reduced nearly 1.4 million coins from the previous year's output in Philadelphia. The effects of the Panic of 1873 were still felt in 1874, and nearly 6,000 more businesses failed, thus adding up to

a slightly higher total of losses than in the Panic of 1857. Many of the known low-range Uncirculated examples of the 1874 have come from overseas bank hoards in the second half of the 20th century, the current population perhaps in the range of 300 to 400 coins. This is one of the finer certified pieces, a newcomer to the market that would do justice to an advanced type or date set.

PCGS# 8970. NGC ID: 26AN.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Lovely Mint State 1874-CC Double Eagle

### A Formidable Condition Rarity



3454

**1874-CC MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** A truly remarkable survivor of this conditionally challenging issue, both sides retain full mint luster in an intense frosty texture. Striking detail is sharp throughout, the surfaces minimally abraded for the assigned grade with beautiful pinkish-rose highlights to dominant honey-gold color. The Carson City Mint delivered 115,085 double eagles in 1874, up considerably from the 22,410 coins struck in 1873. The coins went directly into commerce locally, with few if any being shipped overseas at the time. Carson City Mint double eagles were not sent to foreign destinations in quantity before 1879, and only intermittently after that time. As a result, repatriated Carson City Mint gold coins typically are circulated, having received wear in the United States prior to being shipped overseas.

The fact that most 1874-CC double eagles circulated locally explains the extreme rarity of this issue in Mint State. There was

no known numismatic interest on the frontier at the time, and very few coins were preserved in Mint State as part of foreign bank hoards. Rusty Goe (2020) believes that as few as 20 to 30 examples of this issue can be called truly Mint State today, mainly repatriated coins. Here is a significant bidding opportunity for double eagle collectors and Carson City Mint specialists alike.

The 1874-CC was recognized as a rarity at an early time. On two occasions in 1929, Thomas L. Elder, the main buyer of double eagles and other gold coins from bank tellers, offered two of them at auction, both in only Fine grade, one called very rare and the other called rare. Elder was aware of the aspects of scarcity and rarity before most other dealers.

PCGS# 8971. NGC ID: 26AP.

PCGS Population: 17; 3 finer (all MS-62).

CAC Population: 5 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3455

**1874-S MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Awash in original golden-wheat color with a tinge of pinkish-rose evident. Both sides are lustrous, sharply struck and remarkably smooth for the issue. The mintage for the 1874-S double eagle is 1,214,000 pieces, a marginally larger figure than that of the 1873-S. Much of the mintage made it into overseas transactions, and numerous Mint State examples came home beginning in the twilight years of the 20th century. We estimate that 700 to 1,000 Mint State examples of the 1874-S double eagle are known. To repeat a popular chorus, this issue, once rare in Mint State, is relatively easy to find today. Most examples offered in the

market grade MS-60 or MS-61, however, and very few of the latter have met with CAC approval, as here.

In 1874 the new San Francisco Mint opened, a modern facility with state of the art equipment, far finer than the original building it replaced. From that point forward, until 1937, this was the main center for coinage as well as storage of coins on the West Coast. In 1937 it was replaced by a new structure that is still in use today.

PCGS# 8972. NGC ID: 26AR.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Exquisite Choice Uncirculated 1875 \$20 Gold



3456

**1875 MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** This is an uncommonly well preserved example for both the type and issue. Fully original surfaces display rich, attractive color that provides outstanding eye appeal. The luster is full and the strike is sharp, especially for a Liberty Head double eagle of the Motto, TWENTY D. design. Expertly preserved and visually appealing, this coin would serve with distinction in an advanced numismatic cabinet.

The gold coins produced at the Philadelphia Mint are some of the rarest circulation issues of the mid 19th century with one exception, the double eagle. Double eagles maintained their popularity in commerce through the 1870s and the Philadelphia Mint kept up the pace by delivering 295,720 circulation strikes in 1875. Available in most grades up to the lowest Uncirculated levels, the 1875 double eagle is particularly popular for type collectors seeking a representative of the relatively short-lived

Type II reverse design. At the low end of the Mint State range, 1,000 to 1,500 examples are thought to survive. However, most of these specimens come from repatriated overseas hoards and are heavily abraded and impaired, thanks to decades spent in bags that were shifted from one vault to another. Examples with lovely eye appeal are quite scarce even though a few Choice Mint State pieces have been certified (these numbers are likely highly inflated due to resubmissions). The issue plateaus at the MS-64 level where the number of grading events drops off precipitously. The offered Choice Mint State example boasts superior quality and will appeal to bidders who will accept only premium quality coins for their collections.

PCGS# 8973. NGC ID: 26AS.

PCGS Population: 10; 6 finer (all MS-64).

CAC Population: 12; 4. The former total includes coins certified both MS-63 and MS-63+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Perennially Popular 1875-CC Double Eagle



3457

**1875-CC MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** This is a well preserved 1875-CC double eagle that would do justice to an advanced collection of Carson City Mint gold. It is bathed in rich, original color with subtle traces of iridescent toning scattered throughout. The luster is uniform and softly frosted, with only minor handling marks precluding a Choice Mint State grade. An incredibly handsome coin to examine, it ranks among the finer survivors of the issue and represents a significant bidding opportunity.

In 1875, double eagle production was stepped up significantly with a sufficiently large mintage of 111,151 pieces, helped by the \$1.5 million bullion deposit made by the Consolidated Virginia Mining Company in June of that year. These coins entered

circulation in the region and served many years of service. Later on, many examples were shipped abroad, but by this time were quite worn. As one of the most available of the Carson City double eagle issues, the 1875-CC is a particularly popular issue for collectors desiring an example from the legendary Nevada mint. However, this issue is incredibly challenging at the finer Mint State levels, as most Uncirculated survivors exhibit copious marks or other surface problems. The present piece is a notable exception to this rule and would be difficult to improve upon.

PCGS# 8974. NGC ID: 26AT.

CAC Population: 30; 8.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3458

**1875-S MS-62+ (PCGS). CAC.** Nicely struck with bountiful mint luster, both sides are further adorned with vivid, fully original color that enhances already strong eye appeal. The San Francisco Mint turned out 1,230,000 double eagles in 1875. Some of the mintage was sent overseas and later many lower range Mint State examples of the date were returned to the United States. Perhaps 1,000 to 1,500 Uncirculated examples exist, most of which grade no finer than MS-61. A notable exception, this premium quality Uncirculated example with CAC approval is sure to catch the eye of discerning gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8975. NGC ID: 26AU.

CAC Population: 18; 31 finer (MS-67 finest).

CAC Population: 33; 5. The former total includes coins certified both MS-62 and MS-62+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3459

**1876 MS-63 (PCGS).** Inviting rose-orange color blankets both sides of this sharply struck, wonderfully original example. The Philadelphia Mint delivered 583,860 double eagles for commercial use in 1876, nearly twice the figure of the preceding year. Some of the mintage made its way overseas as was common in the era, and many of today's lower range Uncirculated examples are from those holdings. Some 1,000 to 1,500 examples probably exist in Mint State, mostly at the low end of the grading scale, but with enough high quality pieces available for those who seek them. This Centennial year issue is frequently selected for inclusion in gold type sets, and quality conscious bidders would be wise to focus on this impressive Choice quality offering from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set.

PCGS# 8976. NGC ID: 26AV.

PCGS Population: 45; 14 finer (MS-65 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Splendid Mint State 1876-CC \$20 Gold



3460

**1876-CC MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Vivid reddish-rose highlights mingle with dominant golden-apricot color on both sides of this boldly struck, visually appealing example. Fully lustrous and remarkably well preserved for an example of this popular Centennial year issue from the Carson City Mint.

The 1876-CC double eagle has a mintage of 138,441 pieces, more than 27,000 coins above the previous year's total. Numerous examples of this issue were sent overseas in banking transactions. We estimate 300 to 400 or slightly more Mint State examples exist, although Rusty Goe (2020) takes a more conservative view with only 175 to 275 Uncirculated coins extant. In either case, most of these at the lower end of the Mint State grading scale

and somewhat "baggy" from storage and friction. Many of these coins were included in repatriations of United States gold coins from foreign bank hoards.

Regardless of exactly how many examples are extant, the 1876-CC is one of the more readily obtainable Carson City Mint double eagles in low end Mint State, and it is consequently popular with mintmarked type collectors as well as series specialists. The offered coin is finer than most at this level and offers noteworthy condition rarity to tempt the advanced collector.

PCGS# 8977. NGC ID: 26AW.

CAC Population: 35; 7.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3461

**1876-S MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** Lively mint frost swirls around handsome golden-rose surfaces on both sides of this smartly impressed, exceptionally well preserved example. The mintage for this plentiful San Francisco Mint issue is 1,597,000 pieces, up more than 250,000 pieces from the previous year's total at the West Coast facility. Many were exported, beginning in a significant way in 1879. We estimate a Mint State population for the 1876-S of 2,000 to 3,000 pieces, if not more. Most of these are at MS-60 to MS-61, though MS-62 pieces can be found with a modicum of patience. Beginning at

the MS-63 level, offered here, your chances of obtaining a specimen thin dramatically despite the certified population reports. A rare coin in an absolute sense, and even rarer from a market availability standpoint, this impressive piece represents a significant find for the quality conscious gold enthusiast.

PCGS# 8978. NGC ID: 26AX.

CAC Population: 25; 6.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



## Near-Choice 1877 Double Eagle Popular First Year Type III Issue



3462

**1877 MS-62+ (PCGS). CAC.** Sharply to fully struck overall, this vivid medium gold example also exhibits intermingled pinkish-rose highlights that add further appeal. Fully lustrous with impressively smooth surfaces for both the issue and the assigned grade. The Philadelphia Mint's output of double eagles in 1877 amounted to 397,650 circulation strikes, down considerably from the previous year. Portions of this mintage were used in overseas banking transactions, mostly shipped starting in 1879. We estimate a Mint State population for the issue of 750 to 1,000

or so pieces, most of which grade MS-60 or MS-61. Given that prior to World War II most double eagle collections contained a circulated example of the issue, the opportunity to acquire this premium quality PCGS/CAC MS-62+ deserves serious consideration.

PCGS# 8982. NGC ID: 26AY.

PCGS Population: 14; 20 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 28; 2. The former total includes coins certified both MS-62 and MS-62+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Rarely Offered Choice AU 1877-CC Double Eagle With CAC Approval



3463

**1877-CC AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.** Vivid orange-honey surfaces make a lovely impression in all regards. Smartly impressed with sharp to nearly full striking detail throughout the design, abundant mint frost is also evident enhancing the coin's appeal.

The mintage for this scarce issue is just 42,565 pieces, a figure reduced by nearly 96,000 coins from the previous year's relatively high production mark at the Carson City Mint. Many were shipped overseas after they had circulated in regional

commerce. Some 1,100 to 1,300 examples of the 1877-CC are known in all grades, per Rusty Goe (2020), who also asserts that just 20 to 25 of those are Mint State. This is one of our finest offerings for the issue at the Choice AU level of preservation, and it is a coin destined for inclusion in an advanced collection of Carson City Mint or Liberty Head gold.

PCGS# 8983. NGC ID: 26AZ.

CAC Population: 16; 9.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3464

**1877-S MS-62+ (PCGS). CAC.** This is an outstanding double eagle irrespective of type or issue. Both sides are fully struck and bathed in frosty rose-orange luster. Exceptionally smooth for this conditionally challenging issue, and worthy of a premium bid, as such. The 1877-S double eagle registered a mintage of 1,735,000 pieces, down some 138,000 coins from the previous year. Some portion of the mintage made it into overseas banking transactions, a familiar scenario — and a blessing to later generations of numismatists. Thanks to repatriations from foreign bank hoards, in fact, our estimate for

Mint State survivors is a rather generous 1,500 to 2,500 coins. Most of these, however, hover around the MS-60 and MS-61 grade levels. As a solidly graded and upper end MS-62+, this nearly Choice offering from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set represents the finest realistically obtainable for the issue as far as most of today's double eagle specialists are concerned.

PCGS# 8984. NGC ID: 26B2.

PCGS Population: 19; 38 finer (MS-65+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Handsome Choice Uncirculated 1878 Liberty Head \$20



3465

**1878 MS-63 (PCGS).** A fully struck, highly lustrous example whose golden-apricot surfaces are exceptionally well preserved in a survivor of this issue. Frosty, impressively smooth, and sure to sell for a strong premium.

The mintage for the circulation strike 1878 double eagle is 543,625 pieces, up more than 145,000 coins from the year before. Portions of the mintage were used in international trade, repatriations in recent decades accounting for many of the 700 to 900 or more Mint State examples that we believe can

be traced today. Most of these grade MS-60 to MS-62, yet even they represent a marked increase in quality over the VF and EF examples that were used to represent the 1878 in most “old time” collections. With superior technical quality and strong visual appeal, this condition rarity MS-63 from the remarkable Fairmont holdings is sure to catch the eye of advanced double eagle enthusiasts.

PCGS# 8985. NGC ID: 26B3.

PCGS Population: 50; 11 finer (MS-64 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Lustrous Choice AU 1878-CC Double Eagle



3466

**1878-CC AU-58 (PCGS).** A beautiful example with subtle pinkish-rose highlights on dominant golden-orange color. The surfaces are lustrous, frosty and exceptionally well preserved for an issue that is almost always offered in lower circulated grades. Sharply to fully struck.

The mintage of double eagles at the Carson City facility dropped from 42,565 in 1877 to 13,180 in 1878. Writing in 1988, specialist David Akers noted, “The 1878-CC is a rare date in all grades; in fact, it is the fourth rarest CC-Mint Double Eagle, just nosing out the lower mintage 1879-CC. Virtually all known specimens grade in the F to EF grades and a strictly graded AU is a rarity.” Doug Winter and Jim Halperin corroborate this assessment, ranking this issue fourth in rarity out of the 19 Carson City

double eagles in their reference *The Gold Coins of the Carson City Mint* (2001). The most modern scholarship on the issue is that provided by Rusty Goe in his 2020 reference *The Confident Carson City Coin Collector*, in which he provides an estimate of 475 to 550 survivors in all grades. Only seven to 10 of those are Mint State (again per Goe), and appearances at this level are understandably few and very far between under normal market conditions. The offered coin from the Fairmont Collection’s JBR Set is a desirable Choice AU alternative — rare in its own right — that is sure to see spirited bidding among advanced CC-Mint and/or double eagle collectors.

PCGS# 8986. NGC ID: 26B4.

PCGS Population: 20; 7 finer (MS-62+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3467

**1878-S MS-62+ (PCGS).** CAC. A highly lustrous, frosty textured example with uncommonly well preserved surfaces for an 1878-S double eagle. Beautiful rose-orange color with a sharply executed strike and outstanding visual appeal. The San Francisco Mint produced 1,739,000 double eagles of this date, up just 4,000 coins from the preceding year at the West Coast facility. Most examples of this issue saw use in overseas transactions. We estimate a Mint State population for this plentiful date of 1,000 to 1,500 pieces, perhaps a

trifle more, with most examples in the MS-60 to MS-62 range. At and near the Choice Mint State level of preservation, as here, this issue is rare and seldom offered except for when the finest gold collections enter the market.

PCGS# 8987. NGC ID: 26B5.

PCGS Population: 11; 17 finer (MS-64 finest).

CAC Population: 15; 1. The former total includes coins certified both MS-62 and MS-62+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3468

**1879 MS-62 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous with a razor sharp strike, this beautiful double eagle is enhanced by mottled reddish-rose iridescence on a base of golden-apricot color. Mintage for this circulation strike Philadelphia Mint double eagle issue is 207,600 pieces, down more than 336,000 coins from the previous year's tally at this facility. Much of the mintage was sent abroad in banking transactions, although many were paid out at par in the next few years — the first time gold coins circulated in East Coast commerce since 1861. About 500 to 600 Mint State examples of the issue are extant, mainly in the MS-

60 to MS-61 range, and finer pieces are seldom available. The 1879 was a true scarcity in Uncirculated condition until the second half of the 20th century, when specimens began to flow back to America. Even now it is among the scarcer Type III Liberty Head double eagles in all Mint State grades, and the discerning collector would be hard pressed to improve upon this Fairmont Collection offering.

PCGS# 8988. NGC ID: 26B6.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Low Mintage 1879-CC \$20 Rare Mint State Preservation



3469

**1879-CC MS-60 (PCGS).** Warm honey-orange color overall, both sides also exhibit intermingled reddish-rose highlights that provide additional eye appeal. This is a sharply struck coin that offers nearly full definition to most design elements. Highly lustrous, as well, and eagerly awaiting inclusion in a collection of high grade Liberty Head or CC-Mint double eagles.

While generous quantities of double eagles were being produced at Philadelphia and San Francisco during the 1870s, many of which ended up in foreign bank vaults for generations, this was not the case at the Carson City Mint. Here, double eagles — and gold coins in general — were almost exclusively made for local consumption, where they performed yeoman's duty in commerce. Specie redemption was permitted for Legal Tender notes in January of 1879, prompting concern that there would be a run on gold. When the run never materialized, the need

for double eagles waned and coinage of the denomination ceased early in the year at the Nevada facility. The limited production run of 10,708 pieces for the 1879-CC double eagle was accomplished in two batches using a single pair of dies.

Fairly elusive in all grades, Carson City Mint expert Rusty Goe (2020) accounts for only 265 to 375 survivors in all grades, only 11 or 12 of which are Mint State. While the addition of any 1879-CC double eagle is a notable accomplishment for the advanced numismatist, the acquisition of one of the exceedingly rare Mint State coins would establish the buyer as one of the leading collectors of CC-Mint and/or Liberty Head gold coinage in today's market.

PCGS# 8989. NGC ID: 26B7.

PCGS Population: 3; 8 finer (MS-62 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Legendary 1879-O Double Eagle

### Rare Key Date Issue with Just 2,325 Pieces Produced



3470

**1879-O Winter-1, the only known dies. AU-53 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with virtually full detail remaining to both sides, this is an outstanding absolute and condition rarity in a Type III Liberty Head double eagle. Warmly and evenly patinated in honey-gold, the surfaces are lustrous for the grade with mottled rose-russet highlights also evident.

Alone among New Orleans Mint double eagles of the Type III Liberty Head design type, the 1879-O was produced upon the reopening of the New Orleans Mint after its forced closure at the onset of the Civil War. The reason for this mintage is unknown, as the government's primary purpose in reopening the New Orleans facility in 1879 was to aid in the production of Morgan silver dollars. The 1879-O double eagle may have been produced simply to mark the historic resumption of coinage in New Orleans, a theory that gains support when we consider that the mintage of this issue is a token 2,325 pieces.

Regardless of exactly why they were produced, many examples of the 1879-O were exported alongside other double eagles of the era as part of international transactions. Fewer than 150 coins are extant, generally in EF or AU, and mostly thanks to repatriations from foreign bank hoards in recent decades. With such a limited number of examples known, the 1879-O is obviously a leading rarity in the Southern gold series. Doug Winter (2020) ranks this issue sixth in rarity among New Orleans Mint double eagles after the 1856-O, 1854-O, 1855-O, 1859-O and 1860-O. The present example is a highlight of the extensive double eagle offerings from the Fairmont Collection, and it is sure to have no difficulty finding its way into an advanced cabinet.

PCGS# 8990. NGC ID: 26B8.

PCGS Population: 7; 17 finer, just three of which are Mint State (MS-62 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Premium Quality 1879-S Double Eagle



3471

**1879-S MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** Attractive golden-apricot surfaces are fully struck with bountiful mint frost readily apparent. A truly handsome example, with superior eye appeal for the assigned grade.

The mintage for this issue is 1,223,800 pieces. Many were shipped to foreign destinations, although fewer have been repatriated than for many other double eagles of the era. Some 500 to 700

Uncirculated examples exist, mainly at the MS-60 and MS-61 levels. The 1879-S was a particularly challenging issue in Mint State before examples starting returning to the United States from foreign bank hoards. Even so, it remains scarce with the quality and eye appeal offered here, and rare any finer.

PCGS# 8991. NGC ID: 26B9.

CAC Population: 11; 2.

From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.

## Elusive 1880 Double Eagle



3472

**1880 MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** A frosty, fully original, sharply struck example of this highly elusive Type III Liberty Head double eagle. Vivid orange-apricot surfaces are minimally abraded and very attractive for the assigned grade. The mintage of this issue is just 51,420 circulation strikes. The 1880 marked the beginning of a low-production trend for Philadelphia Mint double eagles that lasted until 1893. In 1882, 1883, and 1887, no circulation strikes were produced at all at this coinage facility.

Many 1880 double eagles were exported, accounting for most that survive today. Q. David Bowers, in his 2004 *Guide Book of Double Eagles* estimated a Mint State population of just 40 to 60 pieces. In 1982, David W. Akers was able to account for just eight

appearances of Uncirculated examples in a survey of more than 400 major auction sales. Many of the best preserved examples known today were repatriated from overseas after Akers did his research. Others have come to light since publication of Bowers' reference, the present example included, although it is unlikely that the current Mint State population exceeds 70 or 80 coins. This rare CAC offering from the Fairmont holdings represents an important bidding opportunity.

PCGS# 8992. NGC ID: 26BA.

PCGS Population: 36; 13 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 5 in all Mint State grades.

From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.

## Lovely Mint State 1880-S Liberty \$20



3473

**1880-S MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** Desirable Mint State preservation for this scarce and conditionally challenging Type III Liberty Head double eagle issue. Both sides are bathed in a handsome blend of vivid, original color and billowy mint luster. Fully struck and nearly in the Choice Mint State category.

836,000 double eagles were coined at the San Francisco Mint in 1880, eclipsing the Philadelphia Mint production figure by a wide margin. It is likely that large numbers immediately entered the channels of commerce, as gold coins were very popular on the West Coast for day-to-day transactions. Many others may have been kept on hand in Treasury vaults for the redemption

of Gold Certificates. Q. David Bowers in his 2004 *Guide Book of Double Eagles* estimated a population of 200 to 300, or perhaps even more Uncirculated examples. This estimate (which is probably on the order of at least 500 coins in today's market) represents a vast increase in supply since the early 1980s, the result of repatriations from foreign bank hoards. The 1880-S is still rare in comparison to many other late date San Francisco Mint Liberty Head double eagles, however, especially at and above the grade level offered here.

PCGS# 8993. NGC ID: 26BB.

CAC Population: 13; 5.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*





3474

**1881-S MS-62+ (PCGS).** A superior example with strong eye appeal and technical quality. All devices are incredibly sharp and blanketed in rich, frosty mint luster. Overall golden-wheat color is accented by warmer rose-apricot toning. The West Coast mint reported a mintage of 727,000 double eagles in 1881, and it is likely that most of the mintage entered into the channels of commerce and remained there until the average grade was only in the VF to EF range. Other pieces were likely reserved in banks and Treasury vaults for the redemption of Gold Certificates. Q. David Bowers in his 2004 *Guide Book of Double Eagles* estimates an Uncirculated supply of 500 to 750+ pieces. This estimate is a little on the low side relative to modern combined

PCGS and NGC population statistics (even taking into consideration the likelihood of resubmissions), but even so it represents a large increase in available supplies since the early 1980s. Obviously many examples have been repatriated from foreign bank reserves in recent years, a familiar story in the Liberty Head double eagle series. With most survivors grading no finer than MS-62, this beautiful nearly Choice Uncirculated example offers superior quality for the astute double eagle collector.

PCGS# 8995. NGC ID: 26BD.

PCGS Population: 12; 34 finer (MS-64 finest).

From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.

## Extraordinary Mint State 1882-CC Double Eagle



3475

**1882-CC MS-61 (PCGS).** CAC. An outstanding condition rarity that will tempt collectors of Mint State Carson City Mint coinage or Liberty Head double eagles. Intensely lustrous surfaces exhibit a richly frosted texture. Color is vivid and original in delightful rose-orange. Sharply struck and pleasingly smooth, this incredible piece is a superior survivor of the issue in all regards.

Only 39,140 double eagles were struck at the Carson City Mint in 1882. Most of these circulated extensively on the West Coast, although others were shipped overseas and found their way into European bank hoards. Q. David Bowers estimated an Uncirculated population of 70 to 100 examples when he wrote his *Guide Book of Double Eagles* for Whitman in 2004.

His estimate has stood the test of time, with Rusty Goe (2020) providing a similar, if more conservative, estimate of 64 to 75 Mint State survivors. It is believed that many, and perhaps most of the high grade examples presently known have been imported from Europe in recent decades. Population reports are laden with resubmissions that do not represent different coins. What population reports do confirm is that the 1882-CC is a formidable condition rarity in grades above MS-62. This captivating Mint State example ranks among the finest certified examples, and is also one of the finest known. It would serve as a highlight in any collection.

PCGS# 8997. NGC ID: 26BF.

PCGS Population: 12 in all Mint State grades.

From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.



3476

**1882-S MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** An attractively original and nicely preserved example of this popular type issue among 1880s San Francisco Mint double eagle issues. Vivid color throughout, the surfaces also possess appealing mint luster and a razor sharp strike. The San Francisco Mint coined 1,125,000 double eagles in 1882, attesting to the fact that the demand for gold coins on the West Coast continued to be robust. Large numbers entered into the channels of commerce where they circulated until they were well worn; others were used in overseas trade. Back in 1982 David W. Akers regarded the true Uncirculated examples of the issue as “definitely scarce” and accounted for auction appearances of Mint State examples in scarcely more than 5% of the major auction sales he examined in his research.

By 2004, when Q. David Bowers wrote his *Guide Book of Double Eagles*, the situation had changed, and Mint State examples were estimated to be in the hundreds rather than dozens. Current high-end estimates put the Uncirculated population well in excess of 1,000 pieces, and MS-60 examples command prices close to the “type” level. Above the level represented here, however, the 1882-S is anything but a “type” coin; in fact, it is a significant condition rarity that is seldom encountered in today’s market. Given the rarity of Choice examples, the bidding opportunity represented by our offering of this PQ MS-61 from the Fairmont Collection’s JBR Set should not be overlooked.

PCGS# 8998. NGC ID: 26BG.

From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.

## Significant Mint State 1883-CC \$20



3477

**1883-CC MS-62 (PCGS).** Outstanding honey-rose surfaces are fully lustrous with smartly impressed, sharply defined features. Frosty in texture and uncommonly smooth, even the most discerning gold enthusiasts will be impressed by this beautiful coin.

Mint records indicate a production figure of 59,962 1883-CC double eagles, most of which entered the channels of commerce and circulated extensively. David W. Akers in his 1982 treatise on double eagles accounted for 39 auction appearances of Mint State double eagles in a survey of more than 400 major auction sales. This figure seems to dovetail nicely with Dave Bowers’ estimate of 60 to 100 examples, which he presented in his 2004 *Guide Book of Double Eagles* published by Whitman, as well as Rusty

Goe’s modern (2020) estimate of 75 to 90 survivors at this level. The certification service statistics indicate a larger Uncirculated population, but this data is likely skewed by the fact that some specimens are cracked out of holders and resubmitted multiple times. On the other hand, we do believe that a few additional Uncirculated coins have entered the market in recent years through repatriations from foreign bank hoards. The offered example from the Fairmont Collection’s JBR Set is a newcomer to the market. It is an important numismatic treasure, and a coin that will surely be eagerly pursued by advanced collectors of Carson City coinage and Liberty Head gold.

PCGS# 8999. NGC ID: 26BH.

PCGS Population: 30; 10 finer (MS-63 finest).

From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.



3478

**1883-S MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** Lustrous, frosty surfaces are adorned with vivid, original rose-gold color. A fully struck, expertly preserved example that belongs in an advanced double eagle set. With a large production run of 1,189,000 double eagles at the San Francisco Mint in 1883, the domestic needs for the large denomination as well as foreign payment requirements were met. Still more were retained as backing for the recently introduced Series 1882 Gold Certificates. In circulated grade levels, the 1883-S is by no means a rare coin and is sometimes traded at little over bullion value. Thanks to the repatriation of gold coins from Europe in the second half of the 20th century, a reasonable number of Mint State specimens are available

for collectors, making this a popular type coin for collectors of all stripes. As with most double eagles of the period, especially those that spent time abroad, Mint State specimens are most often heavily abraded and fall at the low end of the scale, so much so that full Gem examples are all but unknown. For connoisseurs who desire only the finest, it would be quite the arduous task to improve upon this Choice offering from the Fairmont Collection's JBR Set.

PCGS# 9000. NGC ID: 26BJ.

PCGS Population: 22; 20 finer (MS-64+ finest).

CAC Population: 11; 2. The former total includes coins certified both MS-63 and MS-63+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Attractive 1884-CC Double Eagle Tied for Finest Known



3479

**1884-CC MS-63 (PCGS).** A remarkably well preserved and attractive example of this popular Carson City Mint issue. Undeniably original surfaces are bathed in a blend of softly frosted luster and handsome golden-apricot color. Fully struck, aesthetically pleasing, and sure to sell for a strong bid.

Only 81,139 double eagles were coined at the Carson City Mint in 1884. Although most known examples are circulated, hundreds of Mint State coins also exist. Many were shipped overseas for payments that required gold. Q. David Bowers said that these first started to appear in returns from foreign bank holdings beginning around 1950. His 2004 *Guide Book of Double*

*Eagles* gave a high end estimate of 500 pieces for the Mint State population. Recently (2020), however, Carson City Mint expert Rusty Goe put forth a more conservative estimate of 330 to 370 Mint State survivors. While both ranges constitute a generous population by Carson City Mint double eagle standards, the vast majority of Uncirculated coins are in the lowest grades (MS-60 and MS-61). Fully Choice, the example offered here ranks among the finest known and is sure to find its way into a world class double eagle or Carson City Mint set.

PCGS# 9001. NGC ID: 26BK.

PCGS Population: 9; 0 finer.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## High Condition Census 1884-S Double Eagle



3480

**1884-S MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** This delightful example is sharply struck with bountiful mint luster and vivid, fully original color. The surfaces are remarkably smooth and approach numismatic perfection for the issue.

The mintage for this San Francisco Mint double eagle issue is 916,000 pieces. Similar to contemporary issues, many served in commerce, others were shipped overseas, and some were held in reserve for the redemption of Gold Certificates. David W. Akers accounted for dozens of Uncirculated examples in his 1982 double eagle treatise, and when Q. David Bowers penned his

*Guide Book of Double Eagles* in 2004 the estimate had grown to thousands, most of which are believed to have been repatriated to American collections from foreign bank hoards. The present example from the Fairmont holdings is far superior to most, however, and would do equally well in a top flight type or date set.

PCGS# 9002. NGC ID: 26BL.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (MS-65+ finest).

CAC Population: 3; 1. The former total includes coins certified both MS-64 and MS-64+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Incredible Mint State 1885-CC Double Eagle



3481

**1885-CC MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** Simply put, this is one of the most significant Carson City Mint double eagle rarities that we have ever had the privilege of bringing to auction. It is a nearly Choice, visually appealing coin displaying a bold blend of honey-gold color and frosty mint luster. Sharply to fully struck with enhancing blushes of iridescent pinkish-apricot.

Only 9,450 double eagles were coined at the Carson City Mint in 1885, by far the smallest production figure of any \$20 from this facility during the 1880s. This is the final Carson City Mint double eagle coinage until 1889-CC; the frontier mint struck no coins of any denomination from 1886 to 1888. Writing in the excellent reference *The Confident Carson City Coin Collector* (2020), Rusty Goe accounts for just 20 to 25 Mint State coins among the 360 to 425 pieces believed extant in all grades. The

finest example confirmed by the author is the marvelous Battle Born specimen in PCGS/CAC MS-62 that fetched \$57,500 in our August 2012 sale of that collection. Our recent (Spring 2022 Auction) offering of the Fairmont's Collection Hendricks Set introduced an incredible PCGS/CAC MS-63 example to the market, which fetched a stunning \$264,000. Its counterpart from the JBR Set, offered here, is also a newcomer to the market, and also solidly in the Condition Census for the issue. We expect it to see spirited bidding that will result in a strong price at the assigned grade level.

PCGS# 9004. NGC ID: 26BN.

PCGS Population: 12; 2 finer (both MS-63).

CAC Population: 7 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Marvelous Choice Mint State 1885-S \$20



3482

**1885-S MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** A noteworthy condition rarity among circulation strike 1880s double eagles. Beautiful rose-gold surfaces are originally and expertly preserved with eye appeal to spare. Lustrous and frosty, as well, with a razor sharp strike throughout the design.

The mintage for this issue is 683,500 coins. Similar to contemporary San Francisco Mint twenties most 1885-S examples promptly entered circulation; many others were shipped overseas, and still others were set aside for the backing of Gold Certificates. David W. Akers, writing in 1982, enumerated a few dozen Uncirculated examples that he found listed in a survey of major auction sales

going back to the 1940s. By 2004, when Q. David Bowers penned his *Guide Book of Double Eagles*, the supply was estimated at between 2,000 and 4,000 examples, this being in a different era after significant quantities had been repatriated from foreign bank hoards. While plentiful in lower grades, the 1885-S remains rare at the Choice Mint State level, as here. This extraordinary near-Gem Fairmont specimen is sure to attract spirited bidding.

PCGS# 9005. NGC ID: 26BP.

PCGS Population: 11; 3 finer (all MS-65).

CAC Population: 6; 0. The former total includes coins certified both MS-64 and MS-64+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3483

**1887-S MS-62 (PCGS).** Gorgeous golden-apricot color blankets both sides of this sharply defined, well preserved 1887-S twenty. Fully lustrous and frosty with abundant eye appeal. 283,000 double eagles were struck at the San Francisco Mint in 1887. Although this is not a particularly small mintage in an absolute sense, it marked the lowest production for double eagles coined at the San Francisco facility during the 1880s. As recently as 1982, David W. Akers considered the 1887-S to be scarce in Uncirculated condition, and Mint State examples appeared in fewer than 10% of the major auction sales that he surveyed in preparation of his landmark double eagle treatise. Later in 2004, when Q. David Bowers authored his *Guide Book of Double Eagles*, the situation was completely different, as thousands of Uncirculated examples from overseas bank reserves had come to light, and were repatriated in American collections. Today, the more generous estimates place the Uncirculated population above the 3,000-coin figure. Given the rarity of coins certified MS-63 and finer, the Fairmont-JBR specimen in MS-62 represents a significant find for the astute gold collector.

PCGS# 9007. NGC ID: 26BS.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3484

**1888-S MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** Handsome, fully original surfaces are carefully preserved at the Choice Mint State grade level. A mintage of 859,600 double eagles was recorded for the San Francisco Mint in 1888, and the vast majority of these probably served extensively in the daily needs of commerce, while others were used for overseas trade or kept on reserve for the redemption of paper currency. In 1982, David W. Akers reported appearances of Uncirculated examples in only about 10% of the major auction sales examined by him while preparing his celebrated double eagle opus. He regarded the issue as "moderately scarce" in Mint State. In subsequent years, the number of Mint State examples increased dramatically, and by 2004 when Q. David Bowers wrote his *Guide Book of Double Eagles*, the high end Mint State estimate had swelled to an excess of 2,500 pieces. Even so, examples grading finer than MS-62 remain scarce from a condition standpoint, confirming the significance of the present offering for the quality conscious gold collector.

PCGS# 9009. NGC ID: 26BU.

CAC Population: 17; 9. The former total includes coins certified both MS-63 and MS-63+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Significant Mint State 1889-CC Twenty-Dollar Gold



3485

**1889-CC MS-61 (PCGS). CAC.** Lovely golden-honey surfaces with a tinge of pinkish-rose color evident. Sharply struck throughout, both sides also possess outstanding luster quality in a softly frosted texture. Uncommonly smooth for both the issue and the assigned grade.

The Carson City Mint produced a mere 30,945 double eagles in 1889. David W. Akers, writing in 1982, characterized Mint State examples as “very scarce,” and although some specimens were undoubtedly plucked from overseas gold reserves by numismatists in subsequent years, the estimated number of

Uncirculated survivors remains on the low side. In 2004, Q. David Bowers in his *Guide Book of Double Eagles* gave a high-end estimate of just 200 Mint States examples, while Rusty Goe (2020) provides a more conservative estimate of 90 to 110 coins at this level. In any event, the present example is a significant find for the high grade double eagle collector or advanced Carson City Mint specialist.

PCGS# 9011. NGC ID: 26BV.

CAC Population: 14 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3486

**1889-S MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.** A universally frosty example with wonderfully original color in vivid golden-rose. The strike is sharp throughout and the eye appeal is strong. The San Francisco Mint produced 774,700 double eagles during the year 1889, a typically large production figure for the West Coast facility. David W. Akers, writing in 1982, noted that prior to the 1960s, the 1889-S was rare in Mint State and that some major collections of the era such as Roach, Flanagan, Atwater, Baldenhofer, Melish, and many others had to be satisfied with circulated specimens. Beginning on an especially large

scale in the 1960s, and to a much greater extent in subsequent years, Uncirculated examples from overseas hoards were imported back into the United States, so that by 2004 when Q. David Bowers penned his *Guide Book of Double Eagles*, he supplied a high-end estimate for Uncirculated examples at 2,500 or more coins. The typical example grades no finer than MS-63, however, and the present Fairmont specimen is scarce from a condition standpoint.

PCGS# 9012. NGC ID: 26BW.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3487

**1890 MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** Frosty surfaces are highly lustrous with a razor sharp strike from the rims to the centers. Richly original mint color further dominates the in hand appearance and is a delight to behold. Only 75,940 double eagles were struck at the Philadelphia Mint in 1890, though that figure was up more than 31,000 pieces from the previous year's output. Portions of the mintage went overseas in banking and other business transactions. Due to the "silver question" and the "Free Silver" movement, politicians placed heavy emphasis on the supposed desirability of silver dollars over gold coins. Overseas merchants and bankers feared that the government might pay its obligations in silver dollars of reduced intrinsic value (just 81 cents). This precipitated a rush to buy double eagles in the 1880s that continued into the new decade. The Treasury Department was

on its way to running out of such coins! Treasury or Coin Notes, first issued this year, were redeemable in silver or gold, at the option of the treasurer of the United States, as it was not certain if there would be sufficient gold available.

Prior to the later years of the 20th century when examples of the issue began to return from overseas, the 1890 was not often seen in Mint State. Today, we estimate some 700 to 900 or more Mint State examples of the date exist, most at the low end of the Uncirculated range. This is a very well preserved, conditionally scarce coin to represent an interesting era in the Liberty Head double eagle series.

PCGS# 9013. NGC ID: 26BX.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Premium Mint State 1890-CC \$20



3488

**1890-CC MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** Lustrous Uncirculated quality with a bold to sharp strike and richly original honey-orange color to both sides. The mintage for this popular issue is 91,209 pieces, up more than 60,000 coins from the preceding year's double eagle production at the Carson City Mint. Most of the 1890-CC double eagles in Mint State have come to light within the past two decades. Twenty-one years ago in our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Stetson University Collection we noted in part, "PCGS has certified no example higher than MS-61. Most pieces are in notably lower grades, usually EF or AU." Thanks to recent repatriations from foreign bank hoards, some 270

to 325 Mint State 1890-CC twenties are now believed extant. (This estimate is per Rusty Goe, 2020; Q. David Bowers takes a more liberal view and asserts that 500 to 750 coins are extant at this level in his 2004 *Guide Book of Double Eagles*). These are immensely popular with both double eagle and Carson City Mint enthusiasts. One of the finer examples seen by PCGS, this offering from the Fairmont Collection will appeal to advanced collectors.

PCGS# 9014. NGC ID: 26BY.

*from the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*





3489

**1890-S MS-62 (PCGS).** Vivid honey-apricot color delivers outstanding eye appeal. Intensely lustrous with a razor sharp strike throughout the design. Mintage for the 1890-S was 802,750 pieces, up 25,000+ coins from the previous year's San Francisco Mint double eagle delivery. Some 1,500 to 2,500 or more examples of the date can be called Mint State today, with the majority MS-60 or MS-61. Most of these coins returned to America in the late 20th century from foreign bank hoards. Years ago Mint State 1890-S double eagles were few and far between. There were exceptions with some "name" collections of

which Stack's had a majority of listings, with Numismatic Gallery (Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg) coming in second. The 1954 ANA Convention sale held in Cleveland and cataloged by the Federal Coin Exchange offered an example in VF grade, a piece that would hardly merit such an individual listing in an ANA sale today. The 1890-S is now regarded as a plentiful issue in grades up to and including MS-62, although it is scarce to rare above that mark.

PCGS# 9015. NGC ID: 26BZ.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Eagerly Sought Low Mintage 1891-CC Double Eagle Rare Mint State Quality



3490

**1891-CC MS-61 (PCGS).** CAC. Deep golden-wheat color with intermingled pinkish-rose highlights, this is a beautiful and conditionally rare example of a key date CC-Mint gold issue. Sharply to fully struck with bountiful mint luster in a richly frosted texture. Uncommonly smooth and inviting for the assigned grade, and worthy of a strong premium.

With just 5,000 pieces produced, the 1891-CC is the lowest mintage Carson City Mint double eagle of the 1889 to 1893 era. Circulation on the West Coast was immediate and extensive, although a couple of thousand of examples were probably exported after acquiring wear. Most of those coins were melted overseas, although a few hundred have been repatriated in recent

decades, to the delight of collectors who would otherwise not be able to obtain an example of this key date Carson City Mint \$20. As above, the majority of the repatriated coins are worn to one degree or another, and Mint State survivors number only 26 to 35 examples (per Rusty Goe, 2020). This is one of the very few examples at this level that we have offered in recent decades, and it is a leading highlight of the extensive double eagle offerings in this installment of the Fairmont Collection.

PCGS# 9017. NGC ID: 26C3.

PCGS Population: 14; 6 finer (MS-63 finest).

CAC Population: 5 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3491

**1891-S MS-63 (PCGS).** This beautiful example exhibits original, attractive color to fully lustrous surfaces. Sharply struck and sure to please. Mintage for the 1891-S double eagle amounted to 1,288,125 pieces, up more than 485,000 coins from the preceding year. We estimate that 6,000 to 8,000 or even more Mint State coins are extant, most in the MS-60 to 62 grade range, but with enough forays into MS-63 or marginally finer to go around. As with so many issues in the Liberty Head \$20 series, the 1891-S is rare in higher Mint State grades, and the present example represents the finest realistically obtainable for most of today's gold collectors.

If you had been collecting double eagles 60 years ago a Mint State 1891-S would have been a scarcity if not a rarity. Today we are fortunate to have many double eagles available in Uncirculated preservation. The same can be said for Morgan and Peace dollars — due to hoards they are much easier to collect now than they were two or three generations ago.

PCGS# 9018. NGC ID: 26C4.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Key Date Uncirculated 1892 Double Eagle



3492

**1892 MS-60 (PCGS). CAC.** Remarkably attractive surfaces deliver original color in deep, vivid golden-apricot. Both sides are intensely lustrous with a delightful frosty texture. Sharp striking detail adds to the appeal of this rare Type III double eagle.

Only 4,430 examples of this circulation strike issue were forthcoming from the Philadelphia Mint in 1892, a meager output by any standards. Amazingly, that small figure was up 3,040 pieces from that mint's previous year's mintage, but it would remain the lowest of any date from that point through the termination of the denomination in 1933. Some were used for overseas banking transactions, to which we owe most of today's AU and Mint State 1892 double eagles.

Only 150 to 250 or so circulated examples of this issue can be found today. VF and EF are the most frequently encountered grades, though patience will provide a nice AU to those who desire one. In Mint State our estimate dwindles to just 25 to 40 pieces, most of which are MS-60 to MS-62, as here. With undeniable originality and strong eye appeal, this is still a superior quality coin in a Mint State 1892 \$20, and it is sure to sell for a strong premium to a discerning double eagle specialist.

PCGS# 9019. NGC ID: 26C5.

PCGS Population: 9; 27 finer (MS-67 finest).

CAC Population: 8 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Superior Quality 1892-CC \$20 Gold



3493

**1892-CC MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** This incredible Carson City Mint condition rarity displays dominant golden-apricot color with a blush of pinkish-rose overall. Bountiful mint luster dominates the in hand appearance, and bold to sharp striking detail is also very much in evidence. Minimally marked for both the issue and the assigned grade, the surface preservation is outstanding for a CC-Mint twenty irrespective of date.

Positioned late in this mintmarked gold series, the 1892-CC double eagle enjoyed an above average rate of survival in an absolute sense, but was long considered unobtainable in Mint State. Unlike early date CC-Mint twenties, which were largely used in domestic commerce, many examples from this

27,265-piece issue were exported, and the ones that were not shipped overseas circulated heavily. Rusty Goe (2020) estimates that perhaps 1,050 to 1,300 examples survive of this issue, and, from that number, only 195 to 255 are Mint State — most of which were repatriated from European bank hoards in the second half of the last century. With any high quality 1892-CC double eagle representing a true numismatic prize, this premium Mint State example should attract strong bids when it crosses the auction block.

PCGS# 9020. NGC ID: 26C6.

CAC Population: 15 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3494

**1892-S MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** Gorgeous rose-orange surfaces are exceptionally smooth for this San Francisco Mint issue. Sharply defined and highly lustrous, even the most discerning double eagle enthusiasts will be impressed with this lovely near-Gem. Mintage for this issue was 930,150 pieces, down nearly 358,000 pieces from the previous year's double eagle delivery at the West Coast mint. Some 5,000 to 7,000 or more Mint State examples can be found today. This variety was somewhat scarce in the 1950s and 1960s, but recent decades have brought many from overseas back to America, and now AU and low-end Mint State pieces are plentiful. In MS-64, as here, the issue remains scarce from a condition standpoint.

PCGS# 9021. NGC ID: 26C7.

CAC Population: 35; 6.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3495

**1893 MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** This is an exceptionally well preserved, highly attractive example. Razor sharp in striking detail with bountiful mint frost, both sides are adorned with vivid golden-rose color. The mintage for this issue is 344,280 coins, up some 340,000 pieces from the preceding year at the Philadelphia Mint. Perhaps 7,500 to 10,000 or more Uncirculated examples of the date are available today. Most are MS-60 to MS-63 with limited examples in basal MS-64 and just a handful finer. In 1982 David W. Akers recorded that he had never found an auction record for a Mint State example of this issue prior to 1965. This variety was VF and EF in most collections formed before the mid-1960s. The Panic of 1893 caused problems nationwide. The migration of double eagles to foreign countries increased. Treasury reserves were very low and, while undoubtedly a problem for the nation at the time, mass exports laid the groundwork for later repatriations that have provided many of the Mint State Liberty Head double eagles in today's market.

PCGS# 9022. NGC ID: 26C8.

CAC Population: 15; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Historic Final Year 1893-CC Double Eagle



3496

**1893-CC MS-62 (PCGS).** CAC. Vivid golden-apricot and pale rose surfaces are intensely lustrous with a satin to softly frosted finish. Both sides are fully struck from the rims to the centers with an exceptionally smooth appearance for a CC-Mint double eagle.

The Carson City Mint's final double eagle issue has a mintage of just 18,402 pieces. The institution had struggled against politics and other factors since its opening in 1870, but time had finally run out in 1893. Perhaps not coincidentally, the nearby Comstock Lode also largely dried up by 1893, the heady days of gold mining at the site rapidly coming to an end. With an above average rate of survival for a Carson City Mint double

eagle, the 1893-CC is more obtainable in today's market than the mintage might suggest. This is fortunate for collectors, allowing many to acquire an example of a historic issue from one of the nation's most romanticized and popularly collected coinage facilities. For the advanced collector only a Mint State coin will do, however, and such pieces are scarce in an absolute sense with Rusty Goe (2020) allowing for only 290 to 350 examples. The Fairmont-JBR specimen offered here is among the finer obtainable in today's market and comes highly recommended.

PCGS# 9023. NGC ID: 26C9.

CAC Population: 20; 3.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3497

**1893-S MS-63+ (PCGS).** This is an attractive, fully original example with bountiful mint luster and a razor sharp strike. The 1893-S double eagle was produced to the tune of 996,175 pieces, up some 66,000 coins from the previous year's figure at the San Francisco Mint. We estimate 7,500 to 10,000 or more Mint State examples of this issue are extant. Though they were slightly scarce in mid-20th century collecting circles, the importation of gold coins from abroad in later years brought back many 1893-S double eagles in lower Mint State ranges. Few are finer than basal MS-63, however, confirming the conditionally scarce nature of this impressive offering from the Fairmont holdings.

PCGS# 9024. NGC ID: 26CA.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3498

**1894 MS-64 (PCGS).** Originally preserved with deep rose-gold color, this lovely near-Gem example also offers sharp striking detail and bountiful mint luster. The surfaces are remarkably pristine in hand, confirming this coin as among the finest known for the circulation strike 1894 double eagle. The mintage for this issue was 1,368,940 pieces, up more than one million coins over the previous year's tally of double eagles at the Philadelphia Mint. Most examples found their way overseas in banking and other transactions, and large numbers of 1894 double eagles have been repatriated in recent decades. We estimate some 15,000 to 25,000 Mint State examples of the date can be found today. However, most grade MS-60 to MS-62; premium Choice survivors, as offered here, are rare.

PCGS# 9025. NGC ID: 26CB.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3499

**1894-S MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** A lustrous and satiny example further adorned with vivid golden-apricot color. The San Francisco Mint produced 1,048,550 double eagles of this date. Much of the mintage was used in overseas transactions. We estimate 6,000 to 10,000+ Mint State examples of the 1894-S can be found today, most of those at the low end of the uncirculated scale, though MS-63 and MS-64 examples can be found with patience. In the 1930s and 1940s an EF example of the date was considered a top-notch coin, though that changed after World War Two when large quantities of the issue were returned to America by coin dealers and others. As with so many other issues in the popular and widely collected Liberty Head double eagle series, however, the 1894-S remains a formidable condition rarity in grades above the basal MS-64 level.

PCGS# 9026. NGC ID: 26CC.

PCGS Population: 55; 16 finer (MS-65+ finest).

CAC Population: 33; 1. The former total includes certified both MS-64 and MS-64+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3500

**1895 MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Lustrous satin to softly frosted surfaces are sharply struck with handsome original color throughout. The mintage for the 1895 double eagle amounted to 1,114,605 circulation strikes, down nearly 255,000 pieces from the previous year's tally. Much of the mintage found its way overseas in banking and other business transactions, as was customary for double eagles from that era. Some 20,000 to 30,000 or more Mint State examples of the date are extant, mainly in MS-60 to MS-63 with occasional forays into higher grades, as here. Most Uncirculated coins are from repatriations of quantities that fled the country in the mid-1890s.

PCGS# 9027. NGC ID: 26CD.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3501

**1895-S MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Appealing golden-apricot surfaces are sharply struck, fully lustrous and offer outstanding eye appeal. Mintage for this issue was 1,143,500 pieces, up some 94,000+ coins from the previous year's double eagle production at the San Francisco Mint. Much of the mintage went overseas in business and banking transactions. Many of these coins have been repatriated in the past few decades, explaining our estimate of 8,000 to 12,000+ Uncirculated coins extant. Most grade no finer than MS-63, however, and the present near-Gem is decidedly scarce from a condition standpoint.

PCGS# 9028. NGC ID: 26CE.

PCGS Population: 37; 11 finer (MS-65+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3502

**1896 FS-301. Repunched Date. MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Vivid golden-apricot surfaces are fully struck with intense mint luster. The circulation strike 1896 has a recorded mintage of 792,535 pieces, down more than one million coins from the previous year's production figure at Philadelphia. As is typical, much of the mintage was shipped overseas in business and other transactions. Mint State coins have been coming back to America's shores for decades, and our current estimate for such examples is in the range of 10,000 to 16,000 or more coins. With a generous population, the 1896 is particularly popular for Mint State type purposes, although we caution bidders that the paucity of certified Gems in MS-65 and higher grades has resulted in strong collector demand for premium quality Choice examples, as here.

PCGS# 145739. NGC ID: 26CF.

PCGS Population (FS-301 attribution only): 5; 0 finer.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3503

**1896 MS-64 (PCGS).** A wonderfully original near-Gem dressed in a bold blend of frosty mint luster and vivid rose-orange color. Sharply struck, carefully preserved, and highly attractive.

PCGS# 9029. NGC ID: 26CF.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3504

**1896-S MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** A bright and beautiful example, both sides are aglow with frosty mint luster and vivid rose-gold color. Sharply struck and a delight to behold. The mintage of the 1896-S double eagle amounted to 1,403,925 pieces, up more than 260,000 coins from the previous year's total at the San Francisco Mint. Much of the mintage was exported, repatriations in recent decades swelling the Mint State population to 10,000 to 16,000 or more examples. This piece is far finer than the typical survivor in the MS-60 to MS-62 grade range, and it is sure to catch the eye of discerning bidders.

PCGS# 9030. NGC ID: 26CG.

PCGS Population: 16; 4 finer (MS-67 finest).

CAC Population: 18; 0. The former total includes coins certified both MS-64 and MS-64+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3505

**1897 MS-64+ (PCGS).** Frosty rose-orange surfaces are sharply to fully struck with very smooth surfaces for the issue. The Philadelphia Mint produced 1,383,175 double eagles in 1897, up 590,000+ pieces from the preceding year. Much of the mintage was used in overseas transactions. We estimate that 17,500 to 22,500 or more Mint State examples of this issue are extant, most of which have been repatriated in recent decades, and many of which are clustered in the MS-60 to MS-62 range. As alluded to above, this beautiful MS-64+ is scarce from a condition standpoint and represents a significant find for the discerning gold enthusiast.

PCGS# 9031. NGC ID: 26CH.

PCGS Population: 29; 9 finer (MS-65+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3506

**1897-S MS-64+ (PCGS).** Smartly impressed with lovely mint luster, this overall smooth and appealing near-Gem is enhanced by attractive orange-apricot color. The San Francisco Mint struck 1,470,250 double eagles in 1897, much of the bullion coming from the Klondike Gold Rush that began in mid-August 1896. Much of this mintage was used in overseas transactions, repatriations from foreign bank hoards in recent decades resulting in a Mint State population of some 15,000 to 18,000+ coins. With most grading MS-60 through MS-63, this upper end near-Gem example is sure to catch the eye of quality conscious double eagle enthusiasts.

PCGS# 9032. NGC ID: 26CJ.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Top Pop 1898 Double Eagle



3507

**1898 MS-64+ (PCGS).** Rich lustrous surfaces showcase beautiful orange-apricot color. This near-Gem features exceptional eye appeal for both the issue and the type, and it is an absolute delight to behold in every way.

Just 170,395 examples of the date were struck, a paltry sum in light of the mintages of other Philadelphia Mint double eagles of the era. Though not considered a rarity in the classic sense, the date is anything but common in mid-to-high Mint State grades. Indeed, the present MS-64+ example is tied for finest

certified by PCGS, no mean feat in itself. Perhaps you enjoy the double eagle series as a whole, or perhaps you are simply on the lookout for a suitable example of the denomination for your type collection. Either way, the present beauty is both a condition rarity as well as a scarce date, and should see spirited bidding activity as a result.

PCGS# 9033. NGC ID: 26CK.

PCGS Population: 2; 0 finer.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3508

**1898-S MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Frosty rose-orange surfaces are carefully and originally preserved with eye appeal to spare. The San Francisco Mint produced 2,575,175 double eagles in 1898, up more than 1.1 million pieces over the previous year's production at the West Coast facility. Much of this coinage found its way overseas in banking and business transactions. We estimate as many as 30,000 to 50,000 or more Mint State examples exist of this plentiful issue,

many of which are from European bank hoards that came to light over the last several decades. This is a truly delightful coin, far finer than most, that is worthy of the strongest bids. Sure to please even the most discriminating of collectors.

PCGS# 9034. NGC ID: 26CL.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3509

**1899 MS-65 (PCGS).** An outstanding condition rarity for both the type and issue, this appealing Gem would fit comfortably into the finest gold cabinet. Fully frosted with a razor sharp strike, the surfaces are nice for the assigned grade. Vivid pinkish-apricot patina blankets both sides and provides memorable eye appeal. The double eagle presses in Philadelphia turned out 1,669,300 circulation strikes in 1899, nearly 1.5 million more than in the previous year. Much of the mintage was used in overseas business and banking transactions. By this time paper money was used domestically in preference to gold coins except in certain areas of the West. With 25,000 to 45,000 or more Uncirculated examples available today, the 1899 is a plentiful issue, especially in the MS-60 to MS-63 grade range. Much of the known Mint State population has returned to the United States in the past several decades. As an expertly preserved and solidly graded Gem, the coin offered here ranks among the finer certified and is rare from a condition standpoint.

PCGS# 9035. NGC ID: 26CM.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3510

**1899-S MS-64+ (PCGS).** CAC. Lovely honey-rose color mingles with lively mint luster, and both sides are exceptionally attractive even for the impressive Choice Mint State grade. Sharply to fully struck and nicely preserved in all regards. The San Francisco Mint produced 2,010,300 double eagles in 1899, many of which saw use in foreign banking and business transactions. The mintage was down nearly 565,000 pieces from the preceding year's production figure. We suggest that some 12,000 to 18,000 or more Mint State examples of this bountiful issue are available, with coins up to MS-63 available with regularity; higher grades, as here, are scarce to rare. Many of the known pieces have been repatriated from European holdings in recent decades, though Mint State examples of the date have always been available to the numismatic community. A lovely near-Gem equally well suited for inclusion in a high quality type or date set.

PCGS# 9036. NGC ID: 26CN.

PCGS Population: 32; 4 finer (MS-67 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3511

**1900 MS-65+ (PCGS).** CAC. Delightful Gem surfaces are sharply struck, intensely lustrous and exhibit vivid rose-gold coloration. Mint records report that 1,874,460 circulation strike double eagles were coined at the Philadelphia Mint in 1900. Tens of thousands of Uncirculated examples are thought to exist and are readily available. This lovely coin from the Fairmont holdings, rare at the PCGS MS-65+ level, would do equally well in a high grade gold type set or specialized double eagle collection.

PCGS# 9037. NGC ID: 26CP.

PCGS Population: 31; 2 finer (MS-66+ finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3512

**1900-S MS-63+ (PCGS).** CAC. Vivid deep golden-apricot color mingles with satiny mint luster on both sides of this lovely example. Double eagle production at the San Francisco Mint in 1900 amounted to 2,459,500 pieces. Writing in 2004, Q. David Bowers estimated that the Mint State population might top out at more than 16,000 pieces. This is clearly one of the more readily obtainable Liberty Head double eagles, although we caution bidders that the 1900-S is scarce to rare in grades above the basal MS-63 level.

PCGS# 9038. NGC ID: 26CR.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*





3513

**1901 MS-65+ (PCGS).** Gorgeous rose-gold surfaces are fully lustrous with a predominantly smooth, softly frosted texture to both sides. Sharply struck, as well, and a delight to behold. Only 111,430 circulation strike double eagles were coined at the Philadelphia Mint in 1901, a figure that amounts to a face value of \$2,228,600. Although this is a fairly low mintage by 20th century standards, a large proportion of the original production figure has survived to the present time, as indicated by population reports and other data. In fact, Q. David Bowers, in his 2004 *Guide Book of Double Eagles*, gives a high end estimate of more than 15,000 Mint State coins extant. Premium Gems such as this, however, are rare and always in demand among discerning gold collectors.

PCGS# 9039. NGC ID: 26CS.

PCGS Population: 10; 4 finer (all MS-66).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3514

**1901-S MS-62+ (PCGS).** CAC. Blended honey-gold and light pinkish-rose colors engage the viewer from highly lustrous, frosty textured surfaces. Double eagle production at the San Francisco Mint for 1901 was characteristically large at 1,596,000 pieces. In Mint State, Q. David Bowers (2004) provides a high end estimate for the issue of 9,000 or more pieces. This total, while not among the more generous for 20th century Liberty Head issues, is still sufficiently large to allow most collectors to acquire an attractive Uncirculated example, as here.

PCGS# 9040. NGC ID: 26CT.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3515

**1902-S MS-61 (PCGS).** Of the 1,753,625 double eagles coined in the San Francisco Mint in 1902, exportation as part of the United States' international trade was the destiny for most examples. Many have been repatriated in recent years, providing a bountiful supply for Mint State type and date collectors. The present coin is attractively original, typical of the Fairmont Collection, and would make a lovely addition to any cabinet.

PCGS# 9042. NGC ID: 26CV.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3516

**1903 MS-65+ (PCGS).** CAC. Here is an exceptional 1903 double eagle with pinkish-gold surfaces and a remarkable strike on both sides. The luster is uniformly satiny throughout, gently cartwheeling behind a dusting of original apricot and silver patina. Incredibly smooth beneath a glass and delightful to examine. The 1903 is one of the lower mintage circulation strike Liberty Head double eagles from the 20th century. Only 287,270 pieces were produced, falling dramatically short of the 6.2 million that would be struck in Philadelphia the following year. Fortunately, ten of thousands of Uncirculated 1903 double eagles are available for today's collectors, though most of these are in grades of MS-64 or lower with bag marks and similar defects. This issue becomes surprisingly scarce in Gem, and the present MS-65+ is among the finer known.

PCGS# 9043. NGC ID: 26CW.

PCGS Population: 42; 12 finer (MS-66+ finest).

CAC Population: 42; 0. The former total includes coins certified both MS-65 and MS-65+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3517

**1903-S MS-62+ (PCGS). CAC.** Offered is a beautiful Mint State example of both the issue and the type. It is a lustrous, satiny coin with a sharp strike and vivid color. The San Francisco Mint produced 954,000 double eagles in 1903. The Mint State population probably exceeds 10,000 pieces and may approach 15,000, most of which have

been repatriated from foreign bank hoards beginning after World War Two. This example is a delight at the assigned grade level and would fit comfortably into many collections.

PCGS# 9044. NGC ID: 26CX.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3518

**1904 MS-65+ (PCGS). CAC.** A frosty golden-apricot example with razor sharp striking detail throughout the design. Surfaces are silky smooth in appearance and impressively well preserved for both the issue and the type. By the early 20th century gold coins no longer actively circulated within the United States, except for limited use on the West Coast, which needs were easily met by the San Francisco Mint. As such, it seems that most examples of this Philadelphia Mint issue were used in international commerce, generally in the form of shipment to England or France. Hundreds of thousands of these

coins returned to the United States beginning after World War Two, and the 1904 is the most available issue of its type in Mint State. At the premium Gem Uncirculated level, as here, the 1904 is scarce and enjoys particularly strong demand for inclusion in high grade type and date sets. This is a beautiful coin, and it is sure to sell for a strong bid.

PCGS# 9045. NGC ID: 26CY.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3519

**1904-S MS-65 (PCGS).** A breathtakingly beautiful example that ranks among the finer examples of both the type and issue available to today's discerning gold collectors. Exquisite golden-apricot surfaces are further adorned with billowy mint frost. The strike is bold to sharp throughout, as befits the issue, and the surfaces are remarkably smooth in appearance. The mintage for the 1904-S double eagle is 5,134,175 pieces, a record figure for a San Francisco Mint issue of this denomination. Tens of thousands of Mint State examples are

estimated to exist, most of which have been repatriated from foreign bank hoards beginning after World War Two. Although plentiful in an absolute sense the 1904-S is, like all classic U.S. Mint gold coins, a conditionally challenging issue that is rare in the finest Mint State grades. This is a superior quality Gem that would serve as a highlight in an advanced cabinet.

PCGS# 9046. NGC ID: 26CZ.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Challenging Low Mintage 1905 \$20 Gold



3520

**1905 MS-64 (PCGS). CAC.** With lovely mint frost on very smooth looking surfaces, this premium quality example seems conservatively graded even at the MS-64 level. Blushes of pinkish-rose iridescence enhance otherwise dominant golden-apricot color on both sides of this highly attractive coin.

After only the 1902, the 1905 is the lowest mintage circulation strike Liberty Head double eagle of the 1900 to 1907 era. Only 58,919 circulation strikes were coined at the Philadelphia Mint in 1905. David W. Akers considered the 1905 to be “very scarce” in *Uncirculated condition* when he wrote his double eagle book in 1982. In subsequent years, examples from overseas

hoards have swelled the Mint State population to 1,500 or more examples. Nonetheless, the 1905 remains a comparatively scarce issue that commands a substantial premium in Mint State; the low mintage figure also adds to the date’s desirability at all Uncirculated levels. This attractive piece is far finer than most, qualifies as Condition Census, and is sure to sell for a strong bid.

PCGS# 9047. NGC ID: 26D2.

PCGS Population: 11; 4 finer (all MS-64+).

CAC Population: 5; 0.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3521

**1907 Liberty Head. MS-64+ (PCGS).** Deep golden-orange color blends nicely with frosty mint luster on both sides of this expertly produced, expertly preserved near-Gem. The Philadelphia Mint produced 1,451,786 circulation strikes in 1907, marking the final Liberty Head double eagle issue from this facility. The Mint State population is estimated at the low five-figure level and, while the issue is readily available in grades up to MS-64, it is scarce with the quality and eye appeal offered here.

PCGS# 9052. NGC ID: 26D7.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3522

**1907-S MS-63+ (PCGS).** An original honey-rose example with a sharp strike and billowy mint luster. The San Francisco Mint’s final Liberty Head double eagle issue was produced to the extent of 2,165,800 pieces. The Mint State population is estimated to be in the low to mid four-figure range, making the 1907-S somewhat scarce by 20th century double eagle standards, yet plentiful enough to satisfy collector demand in most grades.

PCGS# 9054. NGC ID: 26D9.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

SAINT-GAUDENS DOUBLE EAGLES



3523

**1907 Saint-Gaudens. Arabic Numerals. MS-65 (PCGS).** Lovely mint frost blends with vivid deep orange color on both sides of this appealing example. The Mint released the first examples of the low relief Saint-Gaudens double eagle to the general public on December 13, 1907, with a total of 361,667 pieces produced by year's end. This piece is among the finer certified of the surviving examples, a coin that would do nicely in a high quality gold cabinet.

PCGS# 9141. NGC ID: 26F5.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3524

**1908 No Motto. MS-66+ (PCGS). CAC.** Frosty orange-gold surfaces are sharply struck from the dies with an uncommonly smooth appearance that is sure to catch the eye of discerning bidders. One of the most plentiful Saint-Gaudens double eagles in Mint State, the 1908 No Motto is a perennial favorite among type collectors as well as series specialists.

PCGS# 9142. NGC ID: 26F6.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

**Underrated 1908 With Motto Double Eagle**



3525

**1908 Motto. MS-65 (PCGS).** The luster is soft and frosty across this beautiful Gem, blanketing the surfaces in a uniform matte-like texture. Rich, medium rose-gold in color and sharply rendered on each side, this coin is outstanding in both technical and aesthetic quality.

Far scarcer than its identically dated No Motto counterpart, the 1908 Motto double eagle saw just 156,258 circulation strikes produced. An even more significant factor in determining this issue's rarity is its distribution. Most early date issues in the Saint-Gaudens series were shipped overseas as international trade coins. While we believe that many examples of the 1908 Motto were used in this manner, an unusually large percentage

of the mintage seems to have been retained in America until melted in 1937. Indeed, the 1908 Motto has only been minimally represented in repatriations of classic U.S. Mint gold coins from foreign bank hoards, and today it is among the scarcer issues of its type in Mint State. In Gem MS-65 the 1908 Motto is a decided condition rarity, this being one of our finest offerings for the issue in recent years. The present example is a delightful representative of this rare population and approaches the very finest known for the issue, with just 23 coins graded finer by PCGS through MS-67.

PCGS# 9147. NGC ID: 26F8.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3526

**1908-D Motto. MS-64+ (PCGS).** Lovely golden-apricot surfaces are originally and carefully preserved, both sides just a few inconsequential marks away from a full Gem Mint State rating. Sharply struck and worthy of the strongest bids. This is the premier Denver Mint Saint-Gaudens double eagle with the motto IN GOD WE TRUST included as part of the reverse design. Mint State survivors from a mintage

of 349,500 pieces are scarce by the standards of the type, Q. David Bowers (2004) accounting for 7,500 to 12,500 or more examples at that level of preservation. This is one of the finer coins known to PCGS, and it would do nicely in a high grade gold cabinet.

PCGS# 9148. NGC ID: 26F9.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Perennially Popular 1909/8 Double Eagle



3527

**1909/8 FS-301. MS-63+ (PCGS). CAC.** Original golden-apricot surfaces are fully lustrous with a sharply executed strike. A highly significant variety, the 1909/8 double eagle is the only overdate in the four popular 20th century U.S. Mint gold series. While repatriations from foreign bank hoards have made low end Uncirculated coins relatively obtainable, the variety remains

scarce in Choice Mint State and rare any finer. For the assigned grade, it is difficult for us to imagine a more appealing coin than this handsome Fairmont Collection specimen.

PCGS# 9151. NGC ID: 26FC.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3528

**1909-S MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Handsome honey-rose surfaces are wonderfully original in preservation. Carefully preserved, as well, with full mint luster and an overall sharp strike as well. Struck to a quantity of nearly 2.8 million coins, the 1909-S double eagle is among the more common issue of the series in the lower Mint State grades. However, at and near the Gem Mint State level, it becomes scarce from a condition standpoint. The present MS-64+ represents the finest realistically obtainable for the issue as far as most collectors are concerned, and it is sure to see spirited bidding.

PCGS# 9153. NGC ID: 26FE.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3531

**1910-S MS-64 (PCGS).** Handsome honey-rose surfaces also sport full, softly frosted mint luster. Sharply struck. Quite well preserved for the issue, and worthy of serious bidder consideration.

PCGS# 9156. NGC ID: 26FH.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3529

**1910 MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Pretty rose highlights enliven already vivid orange-apricot color. This is a sharply struck coin with full, frosty mint luster. The Philadelphia Mint produced 482,000 double eagles for commercial use in 1910, its largest total for this denomination from the 1909 to 1920 era. A substantial percentage of the 1910 mintage ended up overseas, which helps to explain the generous number of Mint State examples available to today's collectors. However, as is the case with several other Saint-Gaudens issues, premium Choice example such as this are scarce from a market availability standpoint.

PCGS# 9154. NGC ID: 26FE.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3532

**1911 MS-64+ (PCGS).** Impressive and significant near-Gem Mint State quality for this low mintage, conditionally challenging issue. Luster quality is outstanding on this 1911 twenty, both sides with a lively frosty finish from the dies. Those same dies imparted razor sharp to full definition throughout the design. Handsome deep golden-orange color throughout, with remarkably smooth surfaces. Produced to the extent of just 197,250 circulation strikes, the 1911 is one of the scarcest early date issues in the Saint-Gaudens double eagle series. Most Uncirculated survivors grade no finer than MS-64, and many have inferior eye appeal due to subdued, lackluster surfaces. Exceptionally well produced and preserved, this delightful piece would serve as a highlight in an advanced double eagle set or larger collection of classic U.S. Mint gold coinage.

PCGS# 9157. NGC ID: 26FJ.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3530

**1910-D MS-65 (PCGS).** This delightful example exhibits vivid honey-rose color to smooth, highly lustrous surfaces. While far from the rarest issue in the Saint-Gaudens double eagle series, the 1910-D can be challenging to locate in grades above MS-64. Attractive Gems in MS-65 are rare relative to the demand that they enjoy among discerning gold collectors. A beautiful and desirable coin that is sure to see spirited bidding at auction.

PCGS# 9155. NGC ID: 26FG.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3533

**1911-D/D FS-501. Repunched Mintmark. MS-65+ (PCGS).** Beautiful rose-gold surfaces possess rich frosty mint luster and exceptionally smooth, nearly Superb-quality surfaces. The strike is full and the obvious repunched mintmark variety provides additional appeal for this conditionally scarce 1911-D double eagle.

PCGS# 145010. NGC ID: 26FK.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3534

**1911-S MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Billowy mint frost mingles with warm golden-apricot patina on both sides of this sharply struck, expertly preserved example. The 1911-S is one of the more readily obtainable Saint-Gaudens double eagles from the San Francisco Mint, ranking 34th among the 53 circulation strike issues in this series in terms of total number of Mint State coins extant. Most examples in numismatic and investor circles have been repatriated from foreign bank hoards in recent decades. Despite their prodigious numbers, survivors are seldom encountered with the quality, originality and eye appeal of this premium near-Gem from the extensive Fairmont holdings.

PCGS# 9159. NGC ID: 26FL.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3535

**1912 MS-63 (PCGS).** A fully original, boldly struck example with bountiful mint luster to light pinkish-gold surfaces. A popular issue for advanced gold type purposes, the 1912 is the first Saint-Gaudens double eagle with 48 stars around the obverse periphery. Circulation strike coinage for the date is limited at just 149,750 pieces produced, and Mint State survivors are scarce in the context of this series.

PCGS# 9160. NGC ID: 26FM.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Low Mintage 1913 Saint-Gaudens \$20



3536

**1913 MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** This lovely near-Gem displays original honey-apricot color across each side. The devices exhibit a fine, satiny luster, which handsomely contrasts with the more matte-like texture that blankets the fields throughout. Well struck and technically superior in every respect.

The 1913 Saint-Gaudens double eagle boasts the sixth lowest mintage for a regular issue from the Philadelphia Mint, ranking after the 1914, 1912, 1915, 1908 with Motto, and 1909. Just 168,780 examples were struck and very few circulated domestically. Instead, the majority of these coins were held in bags for export abroad or eventual melting. Most surviving

examples of this issue are from repatriated holdings in Europe or South America and many show significant bagmarks. Examples are somewhat common in lower Mint State grades, but the 1913 \$20 becomes a considerable Condition Rarity approaching Gem. The present piece is among the finest Choice Uncirculated survivors of this low-mintage issue. Collectors of premium U.S. gold will consider this an important opportunity.

PCGS# 9161. NGC ID: 26FN.

PCGS Population: 41; 18 finer (MS-65+ finest).

CAC Population: 38; 3. The former total includes coins certified both MS-64 and MS-64+.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3537

**1913-D MS-64+ (PCGS).** Vivid apricot-gold surfaces are highly lustrous and just shy of a full Gem Mint State rating. Readily obtainable at lower Mint State levels, yet scarce in MS-65, the 1913-D double eagle offers excellent value at the assigned grade.

PCGS# 9162. NGC ID: 26FP.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3539

**1914 MS-63 (PCGS).** The frosty honey-gold complexion is accented by light apricot patina. A razor sharp strike and uncommonly smooth Choice Mint State surfaces contribute to the excellent eye appeal. The 1914 boasts a paltry circulation strike mintage of 95,250 pieces, survivors of which are on the scarce side in the context of the Saint-Gaudens double eagle series. This is a superior MS-63 that would serve well in an advanced collection.

PCGS# 9164. NGC ID: 26FS.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3538

**1913-S MS-63 (PCGS).** CAC. Impressive and frosty mint luster blankets both sides of this richly original example. The surfaces are uncommonly smooth even at the MS-63 level, and the coin's appeal is enhanced by a sharp strike and lovely honey-rose color. A popular low-mintage issue, only 34,000 double eagles were coined at San Francisco in 1913.

PCGS# 9163. NGC ID: 26FR.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Scarce Upper End Gem 1914-D Double Eagle



3540

**1914-D MS-66 (PCGS).** A vivid and lustrous Gem with varying shades of pink and apricot toning to dominant honey-gold color. With only 453,000 coins struck, this popular branch mint double eagle always adds a distinguished element to an advanced gold type set. At MS-66, as offered here, there are probably far

more seekers than there are examples to go around, so please plan your bidding accordingly.

PCGS# 9165. NGC ID: 26FT.

PCGS Population: 85; 9 finer (MS-67 finest).

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*





3541

**1914-S MS-66 (PCGS).** Delightful orange-gold surfaces display tinges of pinkish-apricot iridescence. The strike is sharp and the texture is frosty making a lovely impression in all regards. Despite its status as one of the most available issues from the pre-1920 Saint-Gaudens double eagle series, the 1914-S is scarce in MS-66 and virtually unknown any finer.

PCGS# 9166. NGC ID: 26FU.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3542

**1915-S MS-65 (PCGS). CAC.** A vivid and lustrous example with exceptionally smooth and well preserved surfaces. While the 1915-S double eagle is among the most common of the early Saint-Gaudens issues in an absolute sense, examples are relatively scarce in premium MS-65, as here.

PCGS# 9168. NGC ID: 26FW.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Rare 1921 Saint-Gaudens \$20



3543

**1921 About Uncirculated, Damaged (Uncertified).** A most intriguing example of this rare, key date Saint-Gaudens double eagle issue. The positive aspects include original golden-wheat color and a tinge of pale pinkish iridescence. Plenty of frosty mint luster remains, and the detail is suitably bold in the presence of light high point rub. Most of the marks are small and singularly inconspicuous, although there is one significant detractor. Our qualifier concerns an unfortunate scrape on the obverse that has all but effaced the penultimate digit in the date. The trained eye aided by a loupe, however, will be able to discern enough of the 2 to confirm the date as 1921. Even so, this damage is the reason that, upon submission, both PCGS and NGC have declined to certify this coin, which fact should be borne in mind by bidders. Sure to be of keen interest, nonetheless, and certainly one of our most interesting offerings to date from the extensive Fairmont holdings. **This is a must see, sold as is, no return lot.**

The 1921 has a mintage of 528,500 pieces, a respectable total for a circulation strike double eagle from the early to mid Saint-Gaudens series. However, many double eagles produced during the 1920s were exported in quantity, or, in the case of the 1920-S, 1921, mintmarked issues from 1924 to 1931, and Philadelphia Mint issues from 1929 to 1932, largely retained in federal vaults, primarily as backing for gold certificates. Limited quantities of these issues were exported or otherwise released from storage before the government stopped paying out gold coins at face value in April 1933. The following year the government began to call in gold coins from the public, excluding those of recognized numismatic value. These recalled pieces were destroyed through melting in 1937, along with other undistributed gold coins in government storage. With only 150 or so coins extant in all grades, virtually the entire mintage for the 1921 double eagle met this fate. Survivors are eagerly sought at all levels of preservation.

PCGS# 9172. NGC ID: 26G2.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3544

**1922 MS-64+ (PCGS). CAC.** Lustrous frosty surfaces are sharply struck and expectably smooth for the assigned grade. Vivid rose-gold color provides further visual appeal. Many of the 1,375,500 double eagles that the Philadelphia Mint produced in 1922 were exported during the 1920s. These coins remained as part of foreign bank reserves until after World War Two, when they began to make their

way back to the United States. Today, the 1922 is readily available in lower Mint State grades, but it is grossly underrated at and above the basal MS-64 level when compared to the truly common date 1924 and 1927. A find for the astute double eagle enthusiast.

PCGS# 9173. NGC ID: 26G3.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3545

**1923 MS-64+ (PCGS).** Original rose-apricot color is noted over both sides of this vivid and attractive double eagle. Soft mint luster and a razor sharp strike enhance this coin's appeal. While the 1923 is part of a run of more available Philadelphia Mint double eagles from the 1922 to 1928 era, it is the rarest issue in this group in the finer Mint

State grades. Indeed, Choice examples such as this are far scarcer than identically graded examples of the 1925, 1926 and 1928, to say nothing of the 1924 and 1927. Sure to appeal to astute gold collectors.

PCGS# 9175. NGC ID: 26G5.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3546

**1923-D MS-64+ (PCGS).** This beautiful example exhibits bold, vivid, rose-gold color throughout. Fully struck and highly lustrous with captivating eye appeal. The 1923-D is the most available mintmarked double eagle from the Roaring Twenties. Obviously many of the 1,702,250 coins struck were used in international transactions, and thus spared from the widespread melting of gold coins during the late

1930s. Even so, upper end Choice examples such as this are scarce from a condition standpoint. An ideal candidate for an advanced type set or double eagle collection.

PCGS# 9176. NGC ID: 26G6.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3547

**1924 MS-65 (PCGS). CAC.** A highly lustrous, orange-apricot example with smooth, lively mint luster. The 1924 is one of several post-1916 issues in the Saint-Gaudens double eagle series that was exported in quantity. This is fortunate for today's collectors since the coins that were shipped overseas escaped the fate of the gold coins that remained in federal vaults — mass destruction through melting in 1937. Widely represented in repatriations beginning in the mid to late 20th century, the 1924 has become one of the most plentiful Saint-Gaudens double eagles. Mint State examples abound, and none are more popular for high grade type purposes than upper end Gems such as this offering from the Fairmont Collection's fabulous JBR Set.

PCGS# 9177. NGC ID: 26G7.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3548

**1924-D MS-63 (PCGS).** Highly desirable Choice Mint State preservation for this key date double eagle issue. Warm golden-honey color dominates the in hand appearance. Sharply struck throughout with full mint luster. Far scarcer in numismatic circles than a mintage of 3,049,500 pieces might imply, the 1924-D is one of many late date Saint-Gaudens double eagles that suffered a high rate of attrition through melting during the late 1930s. Several thousand examples were exported, however, and repatriations in recent decades account for the vast majority of survivors. With Gems prohibitively rare, this solidly graded MS-63 represents a particularly significant opportunity for advanced gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 9178. NGC ID: 26G8.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3549

**1925 MS-66 (PCGS).** The 1925 is one in a string of accessible Philadelphia Mint double eagles from the mid to late 1920s, claiming a mintage of just over 2.8 million coins. Many examples were exported, as well, thereby escaping the fate of melting in the United States in 1937. This exquisite upper end Gem is smartly impressed and bathed in a bold blend of orange-gold color and full frosty luster.

PCGS# 9180. NGC ID: 26GA.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

3550

**1926 MS-65 (PCGS).** Handsome honey-gold and deep rose surfaces are undeniably original in preservation. Carefully preserved, as well, frosty luster remains full and impressively smooth over both sides. Despite its status as one of the more frequently encountered Saint-Gaudens double eagles in today's market, the 1926 is underrated compared to the truly common issues of the type (1924, 1927, 1928).

PCGS# 9183. NGC ID: 26GD.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Elusive 1926-D Double Eagle



3551

**1926-D MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** This golden-honey example displays overtones of pale rose patina. It is boldly struck in most areas with full, softly frosted luster.

Like many later date Saint-Gaudens double eagles, the 1926-D saw little, if any, actual circulation and its fairly generous mintage of 481,000 pieces can falsely give the impression of a common issue. Instead, these coins were predominantly stockpiled in Treasury vaults until scarcely 10 years later, when almost the

entire mintage ended up in the melting pot. Most of the few that survived are in the lowest Mint State grades, with Gem examples extremely rare. Even at the Choice Mint State level the 1926-D can be very challenging, such is the popularity of this series with gold enthusiasts. The lovely coin presented here would serve as a focal point in any cabinet.

PCGS# 9184. NGC ID: 26GE.

CAC Population: 20 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3552

**1927 MS-66+ (PCGS).** A visually striking premium Gem with intense luster and vivid rose-gold color blanketing sharp design elements. Among the finer certified from this mintage of 2.9

million coins, and ideally suited for inclusion in a high quality gold set.

PCGS# 9186. NGC ID: 26GG.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

## Superior Mint State 1927-S Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle



3553

**1927-S MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.** This is an exceptional survivor of this rare issue with beautiful honey-rose color to both sides. The surfaces remain incredibly composed at this grade level, with only the most trivial marks scattered about. A superior combination of eye appeal, surface quality and utmost rarity.

For the numismatist assembling a set of Saint-Gaudens double eagles, the later issues present a formidable challenge, even when the 1933 double eagle is excluded. Most were struck at the Mint then immediately set aside in Treasury vaults where they sat until the early 1930s when they were sent right back to the Mint for melting down into ingots. The 1927-S \$20 is typical of these late issues and examples are very scarce in today's market. The mintage of 3,107,000 pieces would ordinarily suggest a very common coin, but of these three million, only 3,750 were actually delivered to the Federal Reserve or to large commercial

banks. A little more than 3,000 were retained for assay purposes, and the balance of about 3.1 million coins was immediately sent into storage then destroyed without having seen the light of day.

The rarity of the 1927-S was suspected by the numismatic community as early as the 1940s, during which large quantities of double eagles started returning to the United States after World War II, making formerly rare issues more widely available. However, the 1927-S did not surface in any appreciable numbers and certainly not enough to remove its status as a rarer issue. It is estimated that fewer than 300 examples remain in all grades. This piece is surely one of the most desirable examples and is ideal for an advanced collection of this series.

PCGS# 9188. NGC ID: 26GJ.

CAC Population: 20 in all Mint State grades.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*



3554

**1928 MS-66 (PCGS). CAC.** Silky smooth surfaces are fully lustrous with a billowy frosty texture. Sharply struck, attractive, and sure to please the discerning gold enthusiast. Struck on the eve of the Great Depression, the 8,816,000 double eagles struck at Philadelphia in 1928 proved to be by far the largest mintage for the series and the last readily available issue for the entire series. A significant portion were shipped abroad in international trade while a smaller quantity were paid out domestically. The massive Treasury melts of the 1930s took

their toll on the coins that remained. The coins that sat in European and South American vaults fared better since the vast majority of the surviving specimens among those that returned stateside beginning in the 1940s and 1950s are Uncirculated. The issue is readily available up through Gem Mint State and even above, a fortunate situation for today's quality conscious collectors.

PCGS# 9189. NGC ID: 26GK.

*From the Fairmont Collection-JBR Set.*

### END OF SESSION 3

## Bidding Increments

Bid	Bid Increment
\$0-\$499	\$20.00
\$500-\$999	\$50.00
\$1,000-\$1,999	\$100.00
\$2,000-\$4,999	\$200.00
\$5,000-\$9,999	\$500.00
\$10,000-\$19,999	\$1,000.00
\$20,000-\$49,999	\$2,000.00
\$50,000-\$99,999	\$5,000.00
\$100,000-\$199,999	\$10,000.00
\$200,000-\$499,999	\$20,000.00
\$500,000-\$1,999,999	\$50,000.00
\$2,000,000-\$9,999,999	\$100,000.00
\$10,000,000+	\$200,000.00

### Bank Wire Information:

**For Domestic (U.S.) Banks, please direct your bank wire transfer to:**

Bank Name: CIBC Bank USA  
ABA/Routing#: 0710-0648-6  
Account Number: 2612038

Account Name: Stacks-Bowers Numismatics LLC  
Address: 120 South LaSalle Street. Chicago, IL 60603

**For Foreign Banks\*, please direct your bank wire transfer to:**

Bank Name: CIBC Bank USA  
International Swift Code: PVTBUS44  
Account Number: 2612038

Account Name: Stacks-Bowers Numismatics LLC  
Address: 120 South LaSalle Street. Chicago, IL 60603

\*Bank wires sent from a foreign bank are subject to an international bank wire fee of \$35. If an international order will be settled using a different form of payment, please contact us by phone or email to have the wire fee removed. If the wire will be sent in any currency other than USD, Stack's Bowers Galleries needs to be contacted prior to the transfer in order to arrange for an intermediary bank.

**IMPORTANT: Please have your bank add the Invoice Number or Your Name on the wire information.**



## Terms & Conditions – Showcase and Collectors Choice Auctions

1. Auction Basics. This is a public auction sale (“Auction Sale”) conducted by bonded auctioneers, Stack’s Bowers Galleries or Stack’s Bowers and Ponterio (hereinafter referred to as “Auctioneer” and at times as “Stack’s Bowers”). Bidding in this Auction Sale constitutes acceptance by you (“Bidder”) of all the Terms of Sale stated herein. Bidders may include consignors who may bid and purchase lots in the Auction Sale consigned by the consignor or by other consignors pursuant to their consignment agreement with Stack’s Bowers (“Consignor” or “Consignors”). A Consignor that bids on their own lots in the Auction Sale may pay a different fee than the Buyer’s Premium charged to all other Buyers. Stack’s Bowers reserves the right to include in any auction sale its own material as well as material from affiliated or related companies, principals, officers or employees. Stack’s Bowers may have direct or indirect interests in any of the lots in the auction and may collect commissions. THE TWO PRECEDING SENTENCES SHALL BE DEEMED A PART OF THE DESCRIPTION OF ALL LOTS CONTAINED IN THE CATALOG. Where the Consignor has repurchased a lot and the lot is either returned to the Consignor or otherwise dealt with or disposed of in accordance with the Consignor’s direction, or pursuant to contractual agreement, Stack’s Bowers reserves the right to so note in the prices realized or to omit a price from the prices realized. Stack’s Bowers and its affiliates may bid for their own account at any auction. Stack’s Bowers and its affiliates may have information about any lot that is not known publicly, and Stack’s Bowers and its affiliates reserves the right to use such information, in a manner determined solely by them and for their benefit, without disclosing such information in the catalog, catalog description or at the auction. Bidder acknowledges and agrees that Stack’s Bowers and its affiliates are not required to pay a Buyer’s Premium, or other charges that other Bidders may be required to pay and may have access to information concerning the lots that is not otherwise available to the public. Any claimed conflict of interest or claimed competitive advantage resulting therefrom is expressly waived by all participants in the Auction Sale. Lots may carry a reserve (“Reserve”). A Reserve is a price or bid below which the Auctioneer will not sell an item or will repurchase on behalf of the Consignor or for Stack’s Bowers. Reserves may be confidential and not disclosed. The Buyer is the Bidder who makes the highest bid accepted by the Auctioneer, and includes the principal of any Bidder acting as an agent.

2. Descriptions and Grading. Bidder acknowledges that grading of most coins, currency and cryptocurrency tokens in this Auction has been determined by independent grading services, and those that are not may be graded by Stack’s Bowers. Grading of rare coins, currency and crypto tokens is subjective and, even though grading has a material effect on the value of the coins, currency and cryptocurrency tokens, grading may differ among independent grading services and among numismatists. Stack’s Bowers is not responsible for the grades assigned by independent grading services, and makes no warranty or representation regarding such grades. Bidder further acknowledges and agrees that grades assigned by Stack’s Bowers and lot descriptions are based solely upon an examination of the coins, currency and cryptocurrency tokens and are intended to identify coins, currency and cryptocurrency and note any perceived characteristics. However, coin grading and descriptions are subjective. Stack’s Bowers does not warrant the accuracy of such grading or descriptions, nor do they in any way form the basis for any bid. All photographs in this catalog are of the actual items being sold but may not be the actual size or to scale.

3. The Bidding Process. The Auctioneer shall have the right to open or accept the bidding on any lot by placing a bid on behalf of the Consignor or his or her agent; a Bidder by mail, telephone, Internet or telefax; or any other participant in the Auction Sale. Bids must be for an entire lot and each lot constitutes a separate sale. All bids must be on increment as established by the Auctioneer, or half increment (a cut bid). Non-conforming bids will be rounded down to the nearest half or full increment and this rounded bid will be the bidder’s high bid. No lot will be broken up unless otherwise permitted by the Auctioneer. Lots will be sold in their numbered sequence unless Auctioneer directs otherwise. All material shall be sold in separate lots to the highest Bidder as determined by the Auctioneer. Auctioneer shall have the right in its sole and absolute discretion to accept or decline any bid, establish bid increments, challenge any bid or bidding increment, to reduce any mail bid received, adjudicate all bidding disputes, to exclude any bidder and to determine the prevailing bid. The Auctioneer shall have the right, but not the obligation, to rescind the acceptance of any bid and place the lot(s) for Auction Sale again. Auctioneer’s decision on all bidding disputes shall be binding and final. For the mail and Internet Bidder’s protection, no “unlimited” or “buy” bids will be accepted. When identical bids are received for a lot, preference is given to the first bid received as determined by the Auctioneer. A mail bid will take precedence over an identical floor bid; a Floor Bidder, Telephone Bidder and Live Internet Bidder must bid higher than the highest mail bid to be awarded any lot. Cut bids are only accepted on bids greater than \$500 and each bidder may only execute one cut bid per lot. Bids will not be accepted from persons under eighteen (18) years of age without

a parent’s written consent which acknowledges the Terms of Sale herein and agrees to be bound thereby on behalf of the underage Bidder. The auction sale is complete when the Auctioneer so announces by the fall of the hammer or in any other customary manner.

THIS IS NOT AN APPROVAL SALE. Bidders who physically attend the Auction sale, either personally or through an agent (“Floor Bidders”) should carefully examine all lots which they are interested in purchasing. Bidders who bid by telephone, either personally or through an agent, or through our live auction software receive a similar benefit as Floor Bidders in being able to actively participate in the live Auction Sale (“Telephone Bidders” and “Live Internet Bidders”). Except as otherwise expressly provided in these Terms of Sale, NO PURCHASED ITEMS MAY BE RETURNED FOR ANY REASON. All prospective Bidders who examine the lot(s) prior to the Auction Sale personally assume all responsibility for any damage that Bidder causes to the lot(s). Stack’s Bowers shall have sole discretion in determining the value of the damage caused, which shall be promptly paid by such Bidder.

Certain auctions or auction sessions, will be conducted exclusively over the Internet, and bids will be accepted only from pre-registered Bidders.

STACK’S BOWERS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS IN BIDDING. All Bidders should make certain to bid on the correct lot and that the bid is the bid intended. Once the hammer has fallen and the Auctioneer has announced the Buyer, the Buyer is unconditionally bound to pay for the lot, even if the Buyer made a mistake. Stack’s Bowers reserves the right to withdraw any lot at any time, even after the hammer has fallen, until the Buyer has taken physical possession of the lot. No participant in the Auction Sale shall have a right to claim any damages, including consequential damages if a lot is withdrawn, even if the withdrawal occurs after the Auction Sale.

4. Bidder Registration Required. All persons seeking to bid must complete and sign a registration card either at the auction or online, or otherwise qualify to bid, as determined in the sole discretion of the Auctioneer. By submitting a bid, the Bidder acknowledges that Bidder has read the Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale, the descriptions for the lot(s) on which they have bid, and that they agree to be bound by these Terms of Sale. This agreement shall be deemed to have been made and entered in California. The Bidder acknowledges that the invoice describing a lot by number incorporates the catalog and Terms of Sale. Person appearing on the OFAC list are not eligible to bid.

5. Buyer’s Premiums. A premium of twenty percent (20%) based upon the total amount of the hammer (minimum of \$20), will be added to all purchases of individual lots, regardless of affiliation with any group or organization (the “Buyer’s Premium”). A reacquisition charge may apply to Consignors pursuant to a separate agreement, which may be higher or lower than the Buyer’s Premium.

6. Payment. Payment is due immediately upon the fall of the auctioneer’s hammer. Payment is delinquent and in default if not received in full, in good funds, within fourteen (14) calendar days of the Auction Sale (the “Default Date”), without exception, time being of the essence. Unless otherwise agreed in writing prior to the Auction Sale, all auction sales are payable strictly in U.S. Dollars or Hong Kong Dollars. All invoices will be made in United States Dollars. If paying in Hong Kong Dollars, Buyer’s invoices will be credited with the amount of U.S. Dollars at the rate established by the Auctioneer at the time of the Auction Sale. Payments may be made by credit card, Paypal, Union Pay, check, wire transfer, money order and cashier’s check. Cash transactions will be accepted in the sole discretion of Stack’s Bowers, and if accepted, for any cash transaction or series of transactions exceeding \$10,000, a Treasury Form 8300 will be filed. Contact Stack’s Bowers for wiring instructions before sending a wire. Bank wires sent from a foreign bank are subject to an international bank wire fee of \$35. We accept payment by Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover or Paypal for invoices up to \$2,500, with a maximum of \$10,000 in any 30 day period. All payments are subject to a clearing period. Checks drawn on U.S. banks will be subject to up to a 10 business day hold, and checks drawn on foreign banks will be subject to a 30 day hold. Stack’s Bowers reserves the right not to release lots for which good funds have not yet been received. On any past due accounts, Stack’s Bowers reserves the right, without notice, to extend credit and impose carrying charges (as described below). Buyers agree to pay reasonable attorney’s fees and cost incurred to collect past due accounts. Any invoice not paid by the Default Date will bear a five percent (5%) late fee on the invoice amount. Buyers personally and unconditionally guarantee payment in full of all amounts owed to Stack’s Bowers. Any person submitting bids on behalf of a corporation or other entity, by making such bid, agrees to be personally jointly and severally liable for the payment of the purchase price and any related charges and the performance

## Terms & Conditions – Showcase and Collectors Choice Auctions (cont.)

of all Buyer obligations under these Terms of Sale and Stack's Bowers reserves the right to require a written guarantee of such payments and obligations. Bidders who have not established credit with Stack's Bowers must furnish satisfactory information and credit references and/or deposit at least twenty-five percent (25%) of their total bids for that Auction Sale session(s) or such other amount as Stack's Bowers may, in its sole and absolute discretion require before any bids from such Bidder will be accepted. Deposits submitted will be applied to purchases. Any remaining deposits will be promptly refunded, upon clearance of funds.

7. Sales Tax. Buyers will be charged all applicable sales tax unless a valid Resale Certificate has been provided to the Auctioneer prior to the auction. Should state sales tax become applicable in the delivery state prior to delivery of the property on the invoice, the Buyer agrees to pay all applicable state sales tax as required by the delivery state as of the shipping date. In the event any applicable sales tax is not paid by Buyer that should have been paid, even if not such tax was not charged or collected by Stack's Bowers by mistake, error, negligence or gross negligence, Buyer nonetheless acknowledges responsibility to pay such sales tax and remains fully liable for and agrees to promptly pay such taxes on demand, together with any interest or penalty that may be assessed by the taxing authority and agrees to indemnify and hold Auctioneer harmless from any applicable sales tax, interest or penalties due. Lots from different Auctions may not be aggregated for sales tax purposes.

8. Financial Responsibility. In the event any applicable conditions of these Terms of Sale herein are not complied with by a Buyer or if the Buyer fails to make payment in full by the Default Date, Stack's Bowers reserves the right, in its sole discretion, in addition to all other remedies which it may have at law or in equity to rescind the sale of that lot or any other lot or lots sold to the defaulting Buyer, retaining all payments made by Buyer as liquidated damages, it being recognized that actual damages may be speculative or difficult to compute, and resell a portion or all of the lots held by Stack's Bowers, in a commercially reasonable manner, which may include a public or private sale, in a quantity sufficient in the opinion of Stack's Bowers to satisfy the indebtedness, plus all accrued charges, and Stack's Bowers may charge a seller's commission that is commercially reasonable. More than one such sale may take place at the option of Stack's Bowers. If Stack's Bowers resells the lots, Buyer agrees to pay for the reasonable cost of such sale, together with any incidental costs of sale, including reasonable attorney's fees and costs, cataloging and any other reasonable charges. Notice of the sale shall be by U.S.P.S. Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to the address utilized on the Bid Sheet, Auction Consignment and Security Agreement or other last known address by Stack's Bowers. The proceeds shall be applied first to the satisfaction of any damages occasioned by Buyer's breach, then to any other indebtedness owed to Stack's Bowers, including without limitation, commissions, handling charges, carrying charges, the expenses of both sales, seller's fees, reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, collection agency fees and costs and any other costs or expenses incurred. Buyer shall also be liable to Stack's Bowers for any deficiency if the proceeds of such sale or sales are insufficient to cover such amounts.

Buyer grants to Stack's Bowers, its affiliates and assignees, the right to offset any sums due, or found to be due to Stack's Bowers, and to make such offset from any past, current, or future consignment, or purchases that are in the possession or control of Stack's Bowers; or from any sums due to Buyer by Stack's Bowers, its affiliates and assignees. In addition, defaulting Buyers will be deemed to have granted to Stack's Bowers, its affiliates and assignees, a security interest in: (x) the purchased lots and their proceeds, and (y) such sums or other items and their proceeds, in the possession of Stack's Bowers, its affiliates or assignees, to secure all indebtedness due to Stack's Bowers and its affiliated companies, plus all accrued expenses, carrying charges, seller's fees, attorney fees, and costs, until the indebtedness is paid in full. Buyer grants Stack's Bowers the right to file a UCC-1 financing statement for such items, and to assign such interest to any affiliated or related company or any third party deemed appropriate by Stack's Bowers. If the auction invoice is not paid in full by the Default Date, a carrying charge of one-and-one-half percent (1-1/2%) per month may be imposed on the unpaid amount until it is paid in full. In the event this interest rate exceeds the interest permitted by law, the same shall be adjusted to the maximum rate permitted by law, and any amount paid in excess thereof shall be allocated to principal. Buyer agrees to pay all reasonable attorney's fees, court costs and other collection costs incurred by Stack's Bowers or any affiliated or related company to collect past due invoices or to interpret or enforce the terms hereof or in any action or proceeding arising out of or related to the Auction Sale. Stack's Bowers reserves the right to assign its interest to any third party. To the extent that the Buyer for any lot consists of more than one person or entity, each such person or entity is jointly and severally liable for all obligations of the Buyer, regardless of the title or capacity of such person or entity. Stack's Bowers shall have

all the rights of a secured creditor under Article 9 of the California Commercial Code and all rights of the consignor to collect amounts due from the Buyer, whether at law or equity.

9. Shipping. It is the Buyer's responsibility to contact Stack's Bowers after the sale to make shipping and packaging arrangements. Due to the fragile nature of some lots, Stack's Bowers may elect not to assume responsibility for shipping or packing, or may charge additional shipping and handling. Stack's Bowers, in its sole discretion, may not ship to select countries. Lots indicated as being "framed" or that are specifically identified in the catalog are shipped at Buyer's risk. All taxes, postage, shipping, if applicable, handling, insurance costs, the Buyer's Premium, and any other fees required by law to be charged or collected will be added to the invoice for any lots invoiced to Buyer. All lots shipped to foreign countries will be billed an additional one-half percent (1/2%) for insurance (minimum of \$10). For any lots delivered outside the country where the auction is hosted, the declaration value shall be the item(s) hammer price plus its buyer's premium. Auctioneer shall not be liable for any loss caused or resulting from seizure or destruction under quarantine or customs regulation or confiscation by order of any government or public authority. Buyer shall be responsible for paying all applicable taxes, duties and customs charges for all lots delivered outside the country where the auction is hosted. All lots will be shipped FOB Destination, freight prepaid and charged back. Title and risk of loss pass to the Buyer at the destination upon tender of delivery. Acceptance of delivery constitutes acceptance of the purchased lots. Inspection of the purchased lots is not required for acceptance. Any and all claims based upon Buyer's failure to receive a purchased lot, Buyer's receipt of a lot in damaged condition, or otherwise related to delivery, must be received in writing by Stack's Bowers no later than the earlier of thirty (30) days after payment, or the date of the Auction Sale (the "Outside Claim Date"). As Buyers may not receive notification of shipment, it is Buyer's responsibility to keep track of the Outside Claim Date and make timely notification of any such claim. The failure to make a timely claim, time being of the essence, shall constitute a waiver of any such claim. Orders paid by credit card will only be shipped to the verified address on file with the credit card merchant.

10. DISCLAIMER AND WARRANTIES. NO WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE IS MADE OR IMPLIED ON ANY LOT. NO WARRANTY, WHETHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, IS MADE WITH RESPECT TO ANY LOT EXCEPT FOR WARRANTY OF TITLE, AND IN THE CASE OF TITLE, AUCTIONEER IS SELLING ONLY THAT RIGHT OR TITLE TO THE LOT THAT THE CONSIGNOR MAY HAVE AS OF THE AUCTION SALE DATE. ALL LOTS ARE SOLD "AS IS" AND WITH ALL FAULTS. PURCHASER HEREBY ASSUMES ALL RISKS CONCERNING AND RELATED TO THE GRADING, QUALITY, DESCRIPTION, CONDITION, AND PROVENANCE OF A LOT.

a. COINS, CURRENCY AND CRYPTOCURRENCY TOKENS LISTED IN THIS CATALOG AS GRADED AND ENCAPSULATED BY PCGS, NGC, ANACS, ICG, PCGS CURRENCY, PMG, PCGS BANKNOTE GRADING, CMC OR ANY OTHER THIRD PARTY GRADING SERVICE ARE SOLD "AS-IS" EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY SET FORTH HEREIN AND MAY NOT BE RETURNED FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER BY ANY BUYER. ALL THIRD PARTY GRADING SERVICE GUARANTEES, INCLUDING AUTHENTICITY, ARE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE THIRD PARTY GRADING SERVICE AND NOT WARRANTIES OR GUARANTEES OF THE AUCTIONEER. BUYERS SHOULD CONTACT THESE THIRD PARTY GRADING SERVICES DIRECTLY WITH RESPECT TO ANY CLAIMS OR QUESTIONS THEY MAY HAVE CONCERNING THEIR GUARANTEES AND WARRANTIES. BUYERS ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE THAT AUCTIONEER IS NOT BOUND BY OR LIABLE FOR ANY OPINION OR CERTIFICATION BY ANY THIRD PARTY GRADING SERVICE.

b. In the case of non-certified coins, currency and cryptocurrency tokens that have neither been examined by the Buyer prior to the Auction Sale, nor purchased by the Buyer or Buyer's agent at the Auction Sale, if it is determined in a review by Stack's Bowers that there is a material error in the catalog description of a non-certified coin, currency, or cryptocurrency token such lot may be returned, provided written notice is received by Stack's Bowers no later than seventy-two (72) hours of delivery of the lots in question, and such lots are returned and received by Stack's Bowers, in their original, sealed containers, no later than fourteen (14) calendar days after delivery, in the same condition the lot(s) were delivered to the Buyer, time being of the essence. Non-certified coins, currency and cryptocurrency tokens that have been either examined by the Buyer prior to the Auction Sale or purchased by the Buyer or Buyer's agent at the Auction Sale, will not be granted return privileges, except for authenticity.



## Terms & Conditions – Showcase and Collectors Choice Auctions (cont.)

c. All non-certified coins and currency are guaranteed to be genuine.

d. All certified and non-certified cryptocurrency tokens are guaranteed to be genuine only. Auctioneer disclaims any guaranty of any kind with respect to cryptocurrency tokens, including, but not limited to: face value, the contents or existence of any accounts, wallets, or other physical, digital or other receptacles of value, the existence of a cryptographic private key, or the ability to fund any cryptocurrency. Actual cryptocurrency value is neither confirmed nor guaranteed by Auctioneer.

If an item or items are returned pursuant to the terms herein, they must be housed in their original, sealed and unopened container.

e. Late remittance or removal of any item from its original container or third party graded holder, or altering a coin constitutes just cause for revocation of all return privileges.

f. Grading or condition of rare coins, currency and cryptocurrency tokens may have a material effect on the value of the item(s) purchased, and the opinion of others (including independent grading services) may differ with the independent grading services opinion or interpretation of Stack's Bowers. Stack's Bowers shall not be bound by any prior, or subsequent opinion, determination or certification by any independent grading service.

g. Questions regarding the minting of a coin as a "proof" or as a "business strike" relate to the method of manufacture and not to authenticity.

h. All oral and written statements made by Stack's Bowers and its employees or agents (including affiliated and related companies) are statements of opinion only, and are not warranties or representations of any kind, unless stated as a specific written warranty, and no employee or agent of Stack's Bowers has authority to vary or alter these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale. Stack's Bowers reserves the right to vary or alter the Terms of Sale, either generally or with respect to specific persons or circumstances, in its sole discretion. Any variation or alteration shall be effective only if in writing and signed by an officer of Stack's Bowers authorized to do so.

i. Stack's Bowers is acting as an auctioneer. Title to the lots purchased passes directly from the Consignor to the Buyer. Accordingly, Stack's Bowers is not making, and disclaims, any warranty of title.

j. Bidders shall have no recourse against the Consignor for any reason whatsoever.

k. Bidder acknowledges that the numismatic and cryptocurrency token market is speculative, unregulated and volatile, and that prices may rise or fall over time. Stack's Bowers does not guarantee or represent that any customer buying for investment purposes will be able to sell for a profit in the future.

l. Bidder acknowledges and agrees that neither Stack's Bowers, nor its employees, affiliates, agents, third-party providers or consignors warrant that auctions will be unimpaired, uninterrupted or error free and accordingly shall not be liable for such events.

11. Waiver and Release. Bidder, for himself, his heirs, agents, successors and assignees, generally and specifically waives and releases, and forever discharges Stack's Bowers, and its respective affiliates, parents, officers, directors, shareholders, agents, subsidiaries, employees, managers and members and each of them, and their respective successors and assignees from any and all claims, rights, demands and causes of actions and suits, of whatever kind or nature, including but not limited to claims based upon Auctioneer's negligence, whether in law or equity, tort or otherwise, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected (a "Claim"), which Bidder may assert with respect to and/or arising out of, or in connection with any challenge to the title to or authenticity

of any goods purchased, the sale itself, any lot bid upon or consigned, and/or the auction, except where such Claim is otherwise expressly authorized in these Terms of Sale. It is the intention of Bidder that this waiver and release shall be effective as a bar to each and every Claim that may arise hereunder or be related to the Auction Sale, and Bidder hereby knowingly and voluntarily waives any and all rights and benefits otherwise conferred upon him by the provisions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads in full as follows:

"A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY."

12. Disputes. If a dispute arises concerning ownership of a lot or concerning proceeds of any sale, Stack's Bowers reserves the right to commence a statutory inter-pleader proceeding at the expense of the Consignor and Buyer and any other applicable party, and in such event shall be entitled to its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. Stack's Bowers reserves the right to cancel or postpone the Auction Sale or any session thereof for any reason whatsoever. No Bidder shall have any claim as a result thereof, including for incidental or consequential damages. Neither Stack's Bowers nor any affiliated or related company shall be responsible for incidental or consequential damages arising out of any failure of the Terms of Sale, the auction or the conduct thereof and in no event shall such liability exceed the purchase price, premium, or fees paid. Rights granted to Bidders under the within Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale are personal and apply only to the Bidder who initially purchases the lot(s) from Stack's Bowers. The rights may not be assigned or transferred to any other person or entity, whether by sale of the lot(s), operation of law or otherwise. Any attempt to assign or transfer any such rights shall be absolutely void and unenforceable. No third party may rely on any benefit or right conferred by these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale.

Any dispute arising out of or related to these Terms of Sale, the Auction Sale or any lot, with the sole exception of actions by Stack's Bowers to collect amounts owed to it and other damages, shall be submitted to binding arbitration pursuant to the commercial arbitration rules of the American Arbitration Association, with any arbitration hearing to occur in Orange County, California. Absent an agreement of the parties, the arbitrator shall limit discovery to that which is necessary to enable the hearing to proceed efficiently. The arbitrator shall not have the power to award punitive or consequential damages, nor alter, amend modify any of the terms of this Agreement. The award by the arbitrator, if any, may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Each

party shall pay one-half the costs of the arbitration. Bidder acknowledges and agrees that the competent courts of the State of California shall have exclusive in personam jurisdiction, subject to the requirement to arbitrate, over any dispute(s) arising hereunder, regardless of any party's current or future residence or domicile. Bidder further agrees that venue of the arbitration proceeding shall be in Orange County, California; and any court proceeding shall be in the Orange County Superior Court, in the State of California, and in each case waive any claim of Forum Non Conveniens. Bidder agrees that any arbitration or legal action with respect to this Auction Sale is barred unless commenced within one (1) year of the date of this Auction Sale. AUCTION PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSLY WAIVE ANY RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY.

13. General Terms. These Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale and the auction shall be construed and enforced in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the State of California, regardless of the location of the Auction Sale. These Terms of Sale and the information on the Stack's Bowers' website constitute the entire agreement between the parties hereto on the subject matter hereof and supersede all other agreements, understandings, warranties and representations concerning the subject matter hereof. If any section of these Terms of Auction Sale or any term or provision of any section is held to be invalid, void, or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections or terms and provisions of a section shall continue in full force and effect without being impaired or invalidated in any way. Stack's Bowers may at its sole and absolute discretion, make loans or advances to Consignors and/or Bidders.

14. Chinese Translation. The Chinese translations are provided as a matter of convenience. In the event of a conflict, all English Terms and Conditions and lot descriptions take precedence and are binding.

Bidding in this auction sale constitutes unconditional acceptance by the Bidder of the foregoing Terms of Sale.

Please note: Transparent holders in which the auction lots are stored are to facilitate viewing and inspection of the lots and ARE NOT for long-term storage.

PCGS and NGC numbers provided are for bidder convenience only, we do not guarantee their accuracy. An incorrect PCGS or NGC number is not grounds to return a lot.

For PRICES REALIZED after the sale, call 1-800-458-4646. Preliminary prices realized will also be posted on the Internet soon after the session closes.



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