

# LITTLETON'S U.S. COIN GRADING STANDARDS



Jim Reardon, Littleton's Chief Coin Buyer, examining recently purchased coins

**L**ittleton's grading standards are widely recognized to be among the most stringent in the profession. Our goal is to consistently bring you the highest-quality product within a designated coin grade.

**Grade:** When referring to a coin that has been in circulation, grade represents the amount of wear a coin has received. For Uncirculated coins without rub or wear, grade represents the coin's level of preservation. Coin grading is a subjective measurement. Generally, the higher the grade, the more valuable the coin becomes, and the greater the asking price. This is one factor in determining value, while popularity or demand and scarcity are just as important.

You don't have to be an expert grader to enjoy collecting coins, but increased knowledge can be helpful over time for you to develop an appreciation for the nuances of coin grading. Learning the terms is a first step.

When you order from Littleton, you will receive a quality coin that is right for the grade, backed by the Littleton 45-day money back guarantee of satisfaction and our guarantee of authenticity. Our expert graders have more than 100 years of U.S. coin grading experience among them and through their direction, assure that every coin in our stock is graded accurately and consistently so that you can order with confidence.

## Littleton's Select Quality Coins

When you buy from Littleton, you receive a coin that well represents the designated grade, not one that barely makes it. As a matter of course, our grading experts select less than 50% of the coins they evaluate as qualifying for Littleton's select quality. These coins are described using the grading descriptions shown in the accompanying list of grades (see box at right).

**Certified encapsulated coins offered by Littleton:** A coin grade is an opinion, and grading coins is an art and necessarily subjective. Littleton does not always agree with every certified coin we examine and will reject those with grades that don't meet our standards. Therefore, we only offer you encapsulated and certified coins that already meet Littleton's high standards for grade and quality.

The use of **PCGS**, **NGC**, and **ANACS** in a coin item description in this publication denotes coins in our inventory that meet our exacting grading standards, and additionally have been certified by an independent grading service. These grading services (**PCGS**, **NGC**, and **ANACS**) have certified and encapsulated each coin in a sonically sealed holder, with a bar coded identification insert noting the coin, variety, date, and coin grade.

Coins in certified holders offered by Littleton and designated as "Premium" are high-end coins that offer exceptional quality or above average eye appeal for the grade.

- PCGS** Graded by Littleton Coin and the Professional Coin Grading Service
- NGC** Graded by Littleton Coin and the Numismatic Guaranty Corporation of America
- ANACS** Graded by Littleton Coin and the ANACS Grading Service

**#2 Quality:** These coins are clearly labeled as "#2" quality within their designated grade, and priced according to condition at a discount appropriate to the grade. Each is a very collectible coin, and right for the grade, but has one or several slight imperfections (such as a stray mark, rim ding, or blemish) or has been lightly cleaned. Uncirculated and Proof coinage with flaws and imperfections are also designated as "#2".

**Average Circulated (AC) Quality:** These coins have a nice appearance, with common wear, rim bruises, and/or minor imperfections. Their condition is the result of normal circulation, with expected wear or handling characteristics earned in the process. They do not meet the standards to be graded Good or better, however many of our customers find them highly appealing. We price them according to condition at a discount appropriate to the grade.

**Genuine Quality:** These coins exhibit noticeable flaws and imperfections due to wear or damage, excessive cleaning, or a combination. Most dates, mint marks and lettering are readable, however some characteristics of the coin's surfaces may reflect handling damage or heavy wear from circulation. These coins do not meet the standards to be graded Average Circulated quality (note that Uncirculated and Proof coins with flaws and imperfections may also be included in Genuine quality). However, Genuine quality coins play an important role for many collectors; they are an affordable way to add coins to a collection that may not otherwise be attainable due to scarcity or budget.

GRADING TERMS & NUMERICAL RATINGS		
Grade Descriptions	Abbreviations	
Non-Certified & Certified Coins	Non-Certified Coins	Certified Coins
Poor	PO	PO-1
Fair	FR	FR-2
About Good	AG	AG-3
Good	G	G-4
Good/Very Good	G/VG	G-6
Very Good	VG	VG-8
About Fine	AF	VG-10
Fine	F	F-12
Fine/Very Fine	F/VF	F-15
Very Fine	VF	VF-20, VF-25
Very Fine/Extra Fine	VF/XF	VF-30, VF-35
Extra Fine	XF	XF-40
Extremely Fine	EF	EF-40
Extra Fine/About Uncirculated	XF/AU	XF-45
Extremely Fine/About Uncirculated	EF/AU	EF-45
About Uncirculated	AU50	AU-50, AU-53
Choice About Uncirculated	AU55	AU-55, AU-58
Borderline Uncirculated	BL58	*
Uncirculated	MS-60	MS-60
Select Uncirculated-61	MS-61	MS-61
Select Uncirculated-62	MS-62	MS-62
Choice Uncirculated-63	MS-63	MS-63
Very Choice Uncirculated-64	MS-64	MS-64
Gem Uncirculated-65	MS-65	MS-65
Gem Uncirculated-66	MS-66	MS-66
Superb Gem Uncirculated-67	MS-67	MS-67
Superb Gem Uncirculated-68	MS-68	MS-68
Superb Gem Uncirculated-69	MS-69	MS-69
Perfect Uncirculated-70	MS-70	MS-70
MS-60 - MS-70 Prooflike	PL-60 - PL-70	PL-60 - PL-70
MS-60 - MS-70 Deep Mirror Prooflike	DMPL-60 - DMPL-70	DMPL-60 - DMPL-70
Proof	PR-60	PR-60, PF-60
Select Proof-61	PR-61	PR-61, PF-61
Select Proof-62	PR-62	PR-62, PF-62
Choice Proof-63	PR-63	PR-63, PF-63
Very Choice Proof-64	PR-64	PR-64, PF-64
Gem Proof-65	PR-65	PR-65, PF-65
Gem Proof-66	PR-66	PR-66, PF-66
Superb Gem Proof-67	PR-67	PR-67, PF-67
Superb Gem Proof-68	PR-68	PR-68, PF-68
Superb Gem Proof-69	PR-69	PR-69, PF-69
Perfect Proof-70	PR-70	PR-70, PF-70

\*Not used by certification services

“I feel safe buying coins because of your meticulous attention to grading. The coins I have ordered always seem to exceed your offers.”

R.L., Brooklyn, NY

To see Littleton's complete Grading Standards Guide, visit our Learn Center at [LittletonCoin.com](http://LittletonCoin.com).