

# LITTLETON'S COLLECTORS GUIDE TO U.S. SILVER DOLLARS



## *Collector Clubs from Littleton Coin Company*

*“There is probably no other United States coin that has been as thoroughly studied, as avidly collected or as well known to numismatists and the public alike, as the silver dollar.”*

– Kenneth Bressett  
Editor, *Guide Book of United States Coins*



*The first U.S. Mint*

Dear Collector,

Coins reflect the culture and the times in which they were produced, and the United States silver dollar follows America's story from the nation's founding to the present.

Step back to the days of the American Revolution, and you'll find that the colonists used a variety of silver coins. Yet, the principal coin was the Spanish dollar, or 8 Reales, forerunner to America's dollars.



*David M. Sundman,  
LCC President*

### **A legacy of our nation's past!**

In 1792, Congress authorized a silver dollar, and in 1794-1795, America's first silver dollars – the Flowing Hair – were struck. These were followed by Draped Bust dollars.

In early America, the frontier was the Appalachian Mountains. Precious gold and silver was scarce, so except for a few Liberty Seated dollar patterns, no silver dollars were issued from 1804 to 1840.

In 1848, the discovery of gold lured thousands to California. By foot, horseback and wagon they came, with their worldly possessions and, perhaps, carefully tucked away Seated Liberty dollars of 1840-1873. Later, with the Comstock Lode's discovery, the Morgan silver dollar was born!

Morgans... Peace dollars... Eisenhower dollars and the small-size Susan B. Anthony dollar are all obsolete and most no longer circulate, but each is an enduring legacy from our nation's past!

### **Have a plan for your collection**

It's always good to have a plan and focus for what you want to collect. Although there is a variety of ways, building a complete date and mint mark collection is considered by many to be the ultimate achievement. The anticipation of waiting to fill the next space in your album becomes proud satisfaction when you locate that coin.

Whatever your level of interest or experience, I hope you'll find this collectors club booklet on U.S. Silver Dollars an interesting, useful, and educational guide to the series.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Sundman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David M. Sundman  
President

# Introduction to U.S. Silver Dollars

**Silver dollars** tell the story of America in a way that no other artifact can. Why? Because these coins have been used since the nation's beginning. Pathfinders and trendsetters – George Washington, Kit Carson, Teddy Roosevelt, and JFK – you, your parents, grandparents, and ancestors have all used America's dollars.

With coins, the past comes to life. And silver dollars, especially the traditional large ones, were used in daily commerce. When you hold one in your hand, you can't help but imagine what it might have been spent on, and who used it long ago. Today, silver dollars spanning over 210 years of American history are available to collectors, depending on one's budget and desire.

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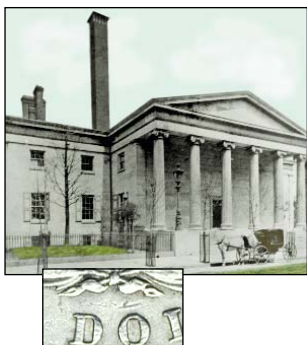
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# All About U.S. Mints, Silver

America's very first mint started operations in 1793, and cents were the very first regular U.S. coins struck for circulation. Once the site of a former brewery, that mint (shown right) was very different from today's mechanized facilities. All the dies were cut by hand, and each die cutter would add his own touches. A screw press was used to squeeze the planchets between the obverse and reverse dies. Horses or strong men powered the press, and the mint's security system was a ferocious dog named Nero!



Today, four different U.S. mints strike coins, while four others have struck coins in the past. (Two short-lived mints at Charlotte, NC and Dahlonega, GA struck only gold coins in the 1800s.) A small letter or mint mark on coins identifies the mints that struck them. These marks date back to ancient Greece and Rome. Mint marks on U.S. coins began with the passage of the Act of March 3, 1835. This established our first branch mints, and mint marks appeared on coins for the first time in 1838.



## PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

**1793-date, "P" mint mark**

**Flowing Hair, Draped Bust, Liberty Seated, Trade, Morgan, Peace, Eisenhower, Anthony and Silver American Eagle**

This has always been the main U.S. Mint facility. Most coins struck here have no mint marks. The exceptions are the Wartime nickels of 1942-45, Anthony dollars of 1979, and since 1980 all Philadelphia coins except the cent, which continues without.

(Pictured: 2nd Philadelphia Mint 1833-1901)

## DENVER, COLORADO

**1906-date, "D" mint mark**

**Morgan, Peace, Eisenhower, Anthony**

Major gold and silver discoveries in Colorado led to the establishment of a branch U.S. Mint, which grew out of an assay office. The building was completed in 1904, and coinage production began in 1906. Since its original construction, the Denver Mint has been expanded several times. Today, this Western facility shares the workload with Philadelphia striking circulating coins.



# Dollars, and their Mint Marks



## WEST POINT, NEW YORK

1984-date, “W” mint mark

Silver American Eagle

Located adjacent to the U.S. Military Academy, the former West Point Bullion Depository officially became a U.S. Mint on March 31, 1988. Prior to becoming an official mint, West Point struck coins and medals beginning in 1974. No mint marks appeared until 1983, with the striking of 1984 Olympic \$10 gold eagles.

## SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1854-date, “S” mint mark

Liberty Seated, Trade, Morgan, Peace, Eisenhower, Anthony and Silver American Eagle

When gold was discovered in 1848, massive population growth began in California. Coins were in short supply and private issues were being used. So Congress rapidly established a San Francisco branch mint, and coinage was under way by 1854.

(Pictured: 2nd San Francisco Mint 1874-1937)

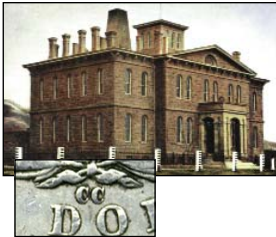


## CARSON CITY, NEVADA

1870-1893, “CC” mint mark

Liberty Seated, Trade, Morgan

The Comstock Lode of Virginia City, Nevada, was such a large strike that a branch mint was set up in nearby Carson City, named after the famous frontiersman, Kit Carson. The Nevada Mint was a short-lived facility and produced some of the scarcest coins in numismatics.

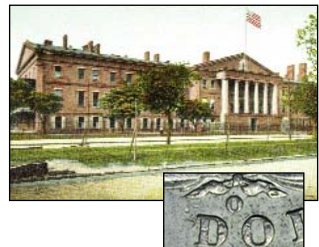


## NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

1838-1909, “O” mint mark

Liberty Seated, Morgan

This southern mint underwent a stormy history through the Civil War years, controlled at times by the state of Louisiana and the Confederacy. After its closure in 1909, the building was used as an assay office until 1942, and was renovated as a museum in 1979.





# Silver Dollars



**Flowing Hair 1794-1795**



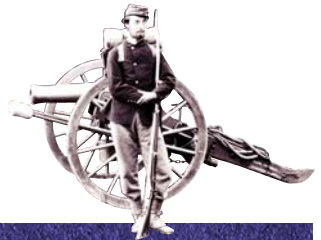
**Draped Bust 1795-1804**



**Liberty Seated 1840-1873**

## Dollars 1794-1873

Early silver dollars represent the remarkable era in America's history when the colonies united to form what would become one of the greatest nations on earth. Since precious silver ore was scarce in that era, the dollars of that period have very low mintages. Silver dollars were not minted from 1804 through 1835, so those that still circulated were scarce and hoarded. In addition to the early dollars pictured, a number of so-called "Gobrecht" dollars were issued between 1836-1839, and served as patterns for the Liberty Seated dollar.



# Spanning America's History



## Dollars 1873-date

The U.S. dollar coins of the late 19th century to date are the most recognized in the entire series. These include Trade, Morgan and Peace silver dollars, as well as Eisenhower and Anthony dollars. Plus, in 1986 the U.S. Mint introduced the American Eagle dollar struck in 99.93% silver.



Trade 1873-1885



Morgan 1878-1921



Peace 1921-1935



Eisenhower  
1971-1978



Susan B. Anthony  
1979-1981,  
1999



American Eagle  
1986-date



# Early U.S. Silver Dollars

Early American “money” consisted primarily of wampum, beaver skins and tobacco. The immigrants really had no use for coinage until foreign traders began to arrive and demand payment for their goods. Only then did coins begin to circulate regularly.

At first, foreign coins were used, then enterprising Americans began to strike their own copper and silver pieces during the 18th century. There was a scarcity of small-denomination coins, so English coins were brought to our shores. Later, the government regulated all coinage and gave states the right to produce their own. Eventually, America began producing national coinage.

When the United States established its own standard monetary unit on July 6, 1785, the word “dollar” was adopted because Americans were used to the Spanish dollar (or Piece of Eight) that had circulated in the original colonies. The first U.S. Mint building in Philadelphia started operations in 1793, and cents were the first coins struck for circulation.

Our first mint was the former site of a brewery and was very different from today’s mechanized mints. Back then, the mint was made up of several buildings, with a ferocious dog named Nero for its security system. A screw press, operated by strong



*Flowing Hair Type*



*Draped Bust Type,  
Heraldic Eagle reverse*



*Inspecting the first official U.S. coins*



men or horses, squeezed the planchets between the obverse and reverse dies. All the dies were cut by hand, and each die cutter would add his own touches.

### **The Silver Dollars produced by the United States of America!**

The first U.S. silver dollar to appear was the Flowing Hair dollar of 1794-95. The official mint report states that only 1,758 dollars were struck the first year. It is said that there was interest in portraying President George Washington on the first U.S. silver dollar, but Washington didn't like the idea because it smacked of British royalty.

The Flowing Hair dollar was replaced in 1795 by the Draped Bust dollar, which was struck until 1804. This bore a reverse design similar to the Flowing Hair dollar until 1798; then it was changed to a heraldic eagle derived from the Great Seal of the United States.

These coins represent a remarkable era in American history, when the colonies united to form the greatest nation on Earth. Their incredible historical significance and very low mintages make them popular among collectors and historians as unique mementos of early America.

#### **Flowing Hair Silver Dollar**

**Date:** 1794 to 1795

**Composition:** .8924 silver, .1076 copper

**Weight:** 26.96 grams

**Diameter:** 39-40 mm

**Edge:** lettered HUNDRED CENTS  
ONE DOLLAR OR UNIT

**Mints:** Philadelphia

#### **Draped Bust Silver Dollar**

**Date:** 1795 to 1804

**Composition:** .8924 silver, .1076 copper

**Weight:** 26.96 grams

**Diameter:** 39-40 mm

**Edge:** lettered HUNDRED CENTS  
ONE DOLLAR OR UNIT

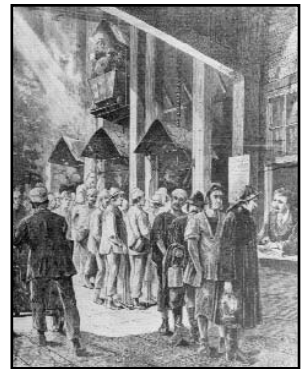
**Mints:** Philadelphia

# Liberty Seated Silver Dollars

The Liberty Seated silver dollars introduced in 1840 represented the first U.S. silver dollars struck for circulation since 1803. The Liberty Seated dollar design was created by U.S. Mint engraver Christian Gobrecht. The obverse depicts Liberty seated on a rock, her left hand holding a liberty cap on a pole, and her right hand resting on a shield inscribed LIBERTY. Liberty is surrounded by thirteen stars representing the original American colonies, with the date below.

The reverse portrays an eagle perched on an olive branch of peace. However, the eagle is grasping three arrows, symbolizing the nation's readiness to defend itself. The legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is inscribed along the upper edge, and the denomination ONE DOL. is below the eagle. Amid the religious fervor of the Civil War era, the motto IN GOD WE TRUST was placed on a banner above the eagle beginning in 1866, and continued through 1873, the end of the series.

In any coin series, there are key-date coins that are especially prized and difficult to find, and that are the keys to completing the series. Among the non-motto Liberty Seated silver dollars of 1840-65, the key issues are the 1851, 1852 and 1858 coins. Among the with-motto Liberty Seated dollars of 1866-73, the keys are the 1871-CC, 1872-CC and 1873-CC coins struck at the short-lived Carson City Mint in Nevada. (This U.S. Mint, located just a few miles from the rich silver strike known as the Comstock Lode, struck U.S. coins only from 1870 to 1893.)



*Period images of the  
Comstock Ophir Mine*

## Struck during a historic, challenging era in U.S. history

During the years of issue of the Liberty Seated silver dollars, 1840-73, the nation's population more than doubled from 17 million to over 40 million. States joining the Union included Florida, Texas, Iowa, Wisconsin, California, Minnesota, Oregon, Kansas, West Virginia, Nevada and Nebraska.

During the Mexican War of the late 1840s, Mexico gave up nearly half of its territory. Pioneers pushing west to settle the new lands soon shared the westward trails with thousands of prospectors, drawn from all walks of life to California after an extremely rich discovery of gold in 1848.

From 1861 to 1865, the Union experienced its most severe challenge as the nation divided against itself in the War Between the States. But the nation would survive, and western expansion would resume – aided by the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in 1869.



*Liberty Seated Dollars were issued during the great westward expansion of the nation.*

### Liberty Seated Silver Dollar

**Date:** 1840 to 1873

**Composition:** .900 silver, .100 copper

**Weight:** 26.73 grams

**Diameter:** 38.1 mm

**Edge:** reeded

**Mints:** Philadelphia, New Orleans,  
Carson City, San Francisco

# U.S. Trade Silver Dollars

By the 1850s, U.S. merchants were intent on expanding trade with the Orient and China. As Chinese merchants did not accept paper money and didn't like gold, silver coinage became the preferred medium of exchange. At that time, the fabulous Comstock Lode had yet to be discovered, and even though Liberty Seated dollars were being struck, their mintage was not sufficient enough so that quantities could be exported to the Orient. To conduct trade, U.S. merchants had to buy Spanish-American 8 Reales, "milled dollars," from Mexico at a premium.

So in 1873, Congress authorized special U.S. Trade dollars, with almost a grain more silver than Mexico's. The weight and purity of the new coins was inscribed below the eagle on the reverse: 420 GRAINS 900 FINE. The obverse depicted Liberty seated on a bale of cotton and a bundle of grain. She holds out an olive branch to the sea, facing left toward China, welcoming peaceful international trade.

Because the new U.S. Trade dollars were unfamiliar to the Orient, counterfeiters took advantage and made many fakes. Soon, the Chinese government stepped in and required Chinese merchants to guarantee the authenticity and purity of U.S. Trade dollars they handled. Each merchant had a unique symbol or character that they stamped on the coin. These were known as "chop marks" (see illustration top right).



*Sailing vessels on the Li River in the Chinese province of Gweilin*

Of the 36 million U.S. Trade dollars minted, over 27 million went to the Orient, and only a trickle ever came back. With high silver content, most Trade dollars were eventually melted down overseas – to be restruck into coins of other countries, or to be made into jewelry, tableware, and other silver items.

### **Unwanted domestic circulation of Trade Dollars brings unique measures**

Though intended for use overseas, Trade dollars were made legal tender to help get them accepted. So, they were legal payment for goods and services within the United States. But by 1876, there was unwanted wide circulation of Trade dollars in America, so Congress removed their legal tender status (the first time a U.S. coin had been demonetized).

Though legal tender status ended in 1876 and commercial production ended in 1878, several million Trade dollars continued to circulate within the United States into the 1880s. In March 1883, Congress declared a six-month redemption period for Trade dollars. About 7.7 million Trade dollars (nearly 20% of the entire mintage) were redeemed for Silver Certificate paper money and Morgan silver dollars. The Trade dollars were melted down and restruck into other silver coins.

Since the vast majority of United States Trade dollars was sent overseas never to return, and most remaining were redeemed and melted down, these historic coins are now scarce and in great demand among collectors.

#### **Trade Silver Dollar**

**Date:** 1873 to 1885  
(1879 to 1885 Proof only)

**Composition:** .900 silver, .100 copper

**Weight:** 27.22 grams

**Diameter:** 38.1 mm

**Edge:** reeded

**Mints:** Philadelphia, Carson City,  
San Francisco

# The Morgan Silver Dollars

Large, heavy, handsome, historic... and struck in .900 fine silver, the legendary Morgan silver dollar has been appropriately nicknamed the “King of America’s Coins”! Morgan silver dollars are prized mementos of 19th-century America, and, as official issues of the United States Treasury, they are genuine pieces of history.

The Morgan silver dollar has captured the interest of the public like no other coin. It was minted when the nation was still young and life was indeed a daily adventure... a time of gunslingers, cattle barons, riverboat gamblers, railroad tycoons and dancehall queens. And a time when money meant large, hefty silver dollars, not credit cards and check books!

Morgan dollars were named after their designer, George T. Morgan, whose beautiful Liberty Head design was modeled after schoolteacher Anna Williams. They were struck at five U.S. Mints from 1878 to 1921, and circulated mainly in the West. The cowboys of the Old West dubbed the coins “cartwheels” because of their hefty size and weight.



## The forgotten hoard of Morgan Silver Dollars...

Although relatively few people used silver dollars (particularly in the East where paper money was favored), the government continued to produce them due to political pressure from silver-mining interests. Consequently, millions of the coins were stored away in government vaults. They remained there until 1918, when the Pittman Act sent millions of them to the melting pot to help finance the military effort during World War I.

In 1964, when the U.S. Mint stopped producing coins in .900 fine silver



*In the early 1960s, when the U.S. Treasury began paying out Silver Dollars from the bags that had been stored in their vaults for decades, a stampede occurred. Hundreds of collectors hoping to hit the jackpot waited in line daily.*

and stopped redeeming paper money in silver dollars, the government made an accounting of silver dollars still in storage. To everyone's surprise, a hoard of Uncirculated Carson City Morgan silver dollars was discovered in a forgotten corner of the main Treasury building in Washington! Since the coins were scarce and in great demand among collectors, the government decided to seal them in special holders and sell them to the public.

The Treasury anticipated an enthusiastic response, but the flood of orders they received was beyond all expectations! In the final sale of 1980, more than 400,000 orders were received, and over 200,000 orders had to be turned away unfilled! It was a great day for collectors when those mint-sealed bags of silver dollars were released to the public, and that special sale ignited a surge of popularity in the Morgan dollar series. This popularity remains just as strong today, making the Morgan silver dollar the most collected silver coin in the world!



*In 1964, a forgotten hoard of Carson City Morgan Silver Dollars was found in the vaults of the U.S. Treasury.*

### **Morgan Silver Dollar**

**Date:** 1878 to 1921

**Composition:** .900 silver, .100 copper

**Weight:** 26.73 grams

**Diameter:** 38.1 mm

**Edge:** reeded

**Mints:** Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco,  
New Orleans, Carson City

# The Peace Silver Dollars

The First World War, in which 8 million soldiers died and another 20 million were wounded, was optimistically called the “War to End all Wars.” Unfortunately, it did not live up to this billing.

But as the weary troops returned home at the end of World War I, most nations adopted symbols of peace. The United States chose a silver dollar, with a design selected from a competition among the top medalists of the era. The winning entry was submitted by an Italian immigrant named Anthony de Francisci, who studied under the famous sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

De Francisci modeled the silver dollar after his young wife Teresa. It was a dream come true for Teresa. She had been deeply moved on seeing the Statue of Liberty when she came to America from Italy at the age of five. Later, when the Peace dollar was first coined in 1921, she wrote to her brother: “You remember how I was always posing as Liberty, and how brokenhearted I was when some other little girl was selected to play the role in the patriotic exercises in school? I thought of those days often while sitting as a model for Tony’s design, and now seeing myself as



Miss Liberty on the new coin, it seems like the realization of my fondest childhood dream.”

*Teresa de Francisci,  
model for the Peace Dollar*



## The last U.S. Dollar coins struck in 90% silver!

The new design symbolized the end of wartime bitterness and the beginning of a future dedicated to peace. Liberty wears a spiked headdress similar to that found on the Statue of Liberty. On the reverse, an American eagle is perched on a mountain crag, facing the new dawn of peace, with an olive branch at its feet. Below the eagle is the word PEACE, which makes this the first regular U.S. coin to carry lettering other than traditional coinage mottoes and legends. And this eagle was the first on U.S. coinage not to bear any symbols of war – such as arrows or shields.

With a brief lifetime of 10 years, 1921-28 and 1934-35, the overall mintage of the Peace dollar series is quite small. Peace dollars were struck in .900 fine silver, each containing over 3/4 ounce of pure silver. After the production of Peace dollars was stopped in 1935, no U.S. dollar coins were issued until the Eisenhower dollars were introduced in 1971. Eisenhower dollars were the first U.S. dollar coins minted in a clad composition.

Today, Peace dollars are in limited supply in finer grades. Few were saved due to the financial difficulties of the Great Depression, and many were lost to huge silver melts over the years. The scarcity of these coins, combined with their remarkable beauty, have made them favorites among collectors. They represent a dream that America still pursues to this day – peace.



*The WWI “doughboys” bid the girls good-bye before boarding the train.*

### Peace Silver Dollar

**Date:** 1921 to 1935

**Composition:** .900 silver, .100 copper

**Weight:** 26.73 grams

**Diameter:** 38.1 mm

**Edge:** reeded

**Mints:** Philadelphia, Denver,  
San Francisco

# The Eisenhower Dollars



Introduced in 1971, the Eisenhower dollar was an exciting event in U.S. coinage history. It was the first U.S. dollar coin in more than 35 years! It was also a chance to honor an extraordinary American, as well as an extraordinary American achievement.

The obverse of the new dollar pictured Dwight D. Eisenhower, American hero of World War II and 34th president of the United States. But in a most unusual event, the reverse of the new coin carried an equally significant design. Based on the official emblem of the *Apollo 11* space mission, the coin's reverse honored the 1969 moon landing of the manned *Eagle* spacecraft.

Eisenhower dollars were issued from 1971 until 1978. In addition to regular copper-nickel issues, the U.S. Mint also struck special .400 silver dollars for collectors until 1976. During 1975 and 1976, special Eisenhower dollars were produced to commemorate America's Bicentennial. The obverse remained the same except for the dual date "1776-1976," and the reverse was given an entirely new design featuring the Liberty Bell superimposed over the moon. The lettering was changed early in 1975 to be more attractive, creating a second variety. The Bicentennial dollar was struck in a .400 silver version and a copper-nickel version.

Dwight Eisenhower stands out as the only 20th-century American honored on a circulating U.S. coin who led our nation both on the battlefield and in the White House.



*Variety I (top): Design in low relief, bold lettering on reverse*

*Variety II (bottom): Sharp design, delicate lettering on reverse*

## An American hero remembered on America's last circulating large-size dollar coins!

Ike attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point before beginning a 33-year career with the United States Army. He commanded the successful World War II invasion of North Africa and Italy, the dramatic D day invasion of Europe, and the offensive through France and Germany – rising to the rank of five-star general.

Following the war, Ike was in turn chief of staff of the army, president of Columbia University, commander of NATO Supreme Headquarters, and then a two-term U.S. president. In his own words, his most notable achievement was that “the United States never lost a soldier or foot of ground in my administration. We kept the peace.” Little wonder that this celebrated soldier and statesman was immortalized on America's last large-size dollar coins issued for circulation.



Gen. Dwight D. “Ike” Eisenhower

*“May we pursue that right – without self-righteousness. May we know unity – without conformity. May we grow in strength – without pride of self. May we, in our dealings with all people of the earth, ever speak the truth and serve justice...”*

-- Dwight D. Eisenhower

### Eisenhower Dollar

**Date:** 1971 to 1978

**Composition:** Silver issues – outer layer of .800 silver, .200 copper bonded to inner core of .209 silver, .791 copper;

Copper-nickel issues – outer layers of .750 copper, .250 nickel bonded to inner core of pure copper

**Weight:** Silver issues – 24.59 grams;

Copper-nickel issues – 22.68 grams

**Diameter:** 38.1 mm

**Edge:** reeded

**Mints:** Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

# The Susan B. Anthony Dollars



The Susan B. Anthony dollar is the shortest-lived U.S. dollar since the 1794-1795 Flowing Hair dollar – America’s first! Anthony dollars were produced in 1979 and 1980, a limited number in 1981 that weren’t released for circulation, and finally in 1999.

The coins were struck at the Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco Mints, and were the first U.S. dollars to bear Philadelphia’s “P” mint mark. It was hoped that the new mini-dollars would replace the paper dollar bill, but the coins were never popular in circulation. In fact, they’ve only achieved popularity recently as collectibles.

Anthony dollars honor Susan Brownell Anthony (1820-1906), a 19th-century feminist whose relentless fight for suffrage led to the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote in all elections. Ms. Anthony was an agent for the American Antislavery Society from 1859 until the Civil War, and she published *The Revolution* from 1868-1870 with Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Though the 19th Amendment wasn’t adopted until 14 years after her death, it was a direct result of Ms. Anthony’s perseverance and dedication to equal rights.



*Susan B. Anthony (shown seated in photo at right) was a pioneer in the fight to win voting rights for women.*

## The first circulating U.S. coin to picture an actual woman (rather than a mythical figure)!

Chief Mint Engraver Frank Gasparro meticulously copied a portrait of Susan B. Anthony for the new dollar, but most people felt it was a very unflattering depiction of her. For the reverse of the coin, the popular design from the Eisenhower dollar was retained. It symbolized the 1969 *Apollo 11* space mission, when the *Eagle* landed on the surface of the moon.

Because the Anthony dollar was too close in size to the quarter (earning it the derisive nickname “the Carter quarter”), and because the portrait of Ms. Anthony was considered unflattering, the coins piled up in Treasury vaults unused. The issues of 1981 were never even released.

For years, Anthony dollars were stockpiled, and the government slowly released them into circulation for use in vending machines and mass transit. This increased the quantities of circulated issues, but created an even greater demand for Uncirculated versions!

But by the end of the nineties, it was apparent that accelerated demand for Anthony dollars in vending and transit industries would deplete the government stockpile before the new “golden” dollar was struck. So 18 years after the last Anthony dollar was struck, new 1999-dated SBA dollars were minted, both Uncirculated and Proof issues.

Today, this short-lived dollar has become a popular collectible, especially the two varieties struck in 1979. That year, the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia changed the thickness of the Anthony dollar’s 11-sided rim. This created the “Near Date” and “Far Date” varieties, shown below.



*Far Date:*  
Date appears farther  
from the rim. Sometimes  
called *Narrow Rim*.



*Near Date:*  
When thickness of rim changed,  
the date appears closer.  
Sometimes called *Wide Rim*.

### Susan B. Anthony Dollar

<b>Date:</b>	<b>1979 to 1981, 1999</b>
<b>Composition:</b>	<b>copper-nickel</b>
<b>Weight:</b>	<b>8.1 grams</b>
<b>Diameter:</b>	<b>26.5 mm</b>
<b>Edge:</b>	<b>reeded</b>
<b>Mints:</b>	<b>Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco</b>

# The Silver American Eagles



Until 1965, America's silver coinage was composed of 90% silver. When the international silver market skyrocketed in the mid-1960s, the coins became worth more for their silver content than their face value. Worldwide demand for silver far outpaced production. Industrial consumption was massive, for use in photographic film, electronic components, and batteries.

But the largest demand came from coin production, which had been greatly increased in the U.S. due to a severe coin shortage. Merchants would not have survived this shortage if not for the Treasury's 1964 emergency increase in production, when the two U.S. Mints operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week! This desperate action temporarily kept coins circulating until the Coinage Act of 1965 was introduced, reducing or eliminating silver from America's coins. Dimes and quarters were changed to a copper-nickel composition, while the silver content of half dollars and dollars was reduced to 40%. In 1971, half dollars and dollars also changed to the copper-nickel composition.

## The return of America's Silver Dollars!

Recognizing the continued demand for silver coins by collectors and investors, the government entered the international bullion coin market in the mid-1980s. In 1985, President Ronald Reagan signed an act authorizing a new dollar bullion coin that would contain one troy ounce of 99.9% silver (virtually pure), as opposed to the 90% silver content of earlier silver dollars. It was specified that the obverse would bear a representation of Liberty, and the reverse would depict an American eagle.

One of the most popular U.S. coin designs was chosen for the obverse – Adolph Weinman's beautiful Liberty Walking design from the 1916-47 half dollars. For the reverse, John Mercanti created a stunning heraldic eagle inspired by the Great Seal of the United States.

Both designs were enthusiastically received when the Silver American Eagle was introduced in 1986. The coins have been struck annually ever since, at the Philadelphia, San Francisco and West Point Mints.

The Proof versions all bear a mint mark and are available directly from the U.S. Mint. Traditional Uncirculated versions do not have a mint mark, and are only available through dealers like Littleton Coin Company.

Today, Silver American Eagles are the most popular modern silver dollar coins in the world. They are still prized by investors because of their fine silver content, but they are most appreciated by coin collectors who enjoy the magic of America's silver dollars!



*Adolph Weinman, creator of the beautiful Liberty Walking design*

### **Silver American Eagle**

**Date:** 1986 to date

**Composition:** 99.93% silver, .07% copper

**Weight:** 31.101 grams

**Net Weight:** "1 OZ. FINE SILVER"

**Diameter:** 40.6 mm

**Edge:** reeded

**Mints:** Philadelphia, San Francisco,  
West Point





foreign dignitaries and royalty. It was customary to include the major silver coin, but no U.S. silver dollars had been produced for years.

Since 1804 represented the most recent year of authorization for silver dollars, a few 1804 Proof silver dollars were struck during 1834-35 for the Proof Sets. Then, some years later in 1858 (after the “1804” dollars had been recognized as prominent rarities), a few more “1804” silver dollars were secretly struck for privileged collectors. Only 15 1804 silver dollars are known to exist. Eight of the “original” coins struck in 1834-1835 are known as Class I, and seven re-strikes produced in 1858 or later, known as Class II & III, exist. In 1999 a Class I specimen, considered the finest known 1804 dollar and graded Proof-68 by PCGS, sold at auction for \$4,140,000!

### **The San Francisco “cornerstone coins”**

Among the Liberty Seated silver dollars of 1840-73, the greatest rarity is the 1870-S issue from the San Francisco Mint. The cornerstone for this West Coast mint was laid in 1870, and apparently a small number of 1870-S silver dollars were struck so that one could be placed in the cornerstone, and so that dignitaries and government officials at the cornerstone



*Second San Francisco Mint building (1874-1937)*

ceremony could receive a “souvenir” silver dollar. Estimates of the number of 1870-S silver dollars that were minted range from 50 to 200. Today, only nine or ten are known to exist, with values from \$55,000 to over \$1,000,000.

From 1873 to 1878, Trade silver dollars containing more silver than regular \$1 coins were struck by the U.S. Mint for commercial use in the Orient. Following these years, special high-quality Proof Trade dollars continued to be struck until 1885, though the 1884 and 1885 coins were apparently struck secretly and without authorization (mint production records do not list any 1884 or 1885 Proof Trade dollars). However, ten 1884 Proofs and five 1885 Proofs are now known to exist, with values of \$125,000 for the 1884 and \$325,000 for the 1885.

# Hoard, Hoarders and Unusual Finds!



Morgan silver dollars, struck from 1878 to 1904 and then one last time in 1921, have become the most sought-after silver coins in the world today. And while all Morgan dollars are in demand among collectors, certain date and mint mark issues are especially desirable. The most prominent issue is the 1893-S, which has the lowest mintage of the series except for the 1895 Morgan dollar (of which only Proofs are known to exist). A low-grade 1893-S Morgan dollar would cost about \$5,000, while a Gem example sold at auction in November 2001 for \$414,000!

## The fabulous Redfield Hoard

The most famous private hoard of U.S. silver dollars was accumulated by eccentric multi-millionaire LaVere Redfield, who had made a fortune in stocks and real estate. Redfield distrusted banks and the government, and kept much of his money in cash in his Reno, Nevada home (he had a long feud with the IRS and served 18 months for tax evasion in the early 1960s).

Though very rich, Redfield drove around Reno in an old pickup truck, and traveled the world on tramp steamers even though he could afford the finest luxury liner accommodations. He was often very generous, giving money to the poor and unfortunate, and land to squatters and tenant farmers.

Redfield put a lot of money into bags of Morgan and Peace silver dollars (including many scarce-date issues), which he kept in his basement. Also in the basement were damaged and unlabeled cans of food bought at a discount outlet to save money! Supposedly, cans of peaches stored near the



*LaVere Redfield hoarded Silver Dollars in his Nevada home.*

coin hoard exploded one summer from fermentation – showering some coin bags with peach juice, and causing a good number of the silver dollars to become spotted and stained.

However, when the hoard was offered for sale after LaVere Redfield's death in 1974, there was tremendous demand for the more than 400,000 silver dollars with the Redfield pedigree – including all those with peach juice stains!



*Rudy had the chance to set aside over 3,000 Morgan silver dollars while working in a Reno casino.*

## The Reno Casino Hoard

A man named Rudy, who also lived in Nevada, worked in a Reno casino. He especially liked Morgans from the Carson City, Nevada Mint. As he spotted them among the coins he handled daily, Rudy saved them, and traded his own money for these silver coins.

As Morgans grew scarcer in casino change, Rudy began saving every silver dollar he could find. After his retirement, Rudy's hoard totalled more than 4,100 silver dollars – including 3,312 Morgans!

## The Vermont Yankee Hoard

Alexander and Imogene Miller lived on the other side of the country, but had the same love for Morgan dollars. The couple appeared to be poor. Alexander still rode his 1903 bicycle to town and Imogene wore plastic bags for a raincoat. Yet, what was found after their deaths in and under the various outbuildings of their Vermont farm amazed everyone. A fortune – estimated at \$3,000,000 – in luxury antique cars, gold bars, silver ingots, stocks, high-denomination Federal Reserve Notes and more – the Millers' cache was incredible! Tucked away in old cigar boxes and nondescript wrappers were dozens of Morgan dollars, some still in Choice Uncirculated condition, despite having been buried for years.



*Buried under the floorboards of outbuildings in a Vermont farmhouse was a fortune in gold, silver and antiques.*

## The Southern “CC” Cache

An international business executive from Georgia got hooked on coin collecting after once receiving old silver coins as part of a payment. He set out to collect Uncirculated GSA Sale “CC” dollars because he knew they came from U.S. Mint bags before being sealed in original government holders. In time, he amassed over 8,261 “CC” Morgans, all in original General Service Administration (GSA) holders! A vault in an old bank building held all of his coins. This hoard turned out to be one of the largest groups of “CC” Morgans accumulated since those in the Treasury Sales of the 1970s & 1980.



*Littleton Coin's David & Maynard Sundman with Coin Buyer Ken Westover shown with the Southern “CC” Cache.*



*The original mint bags of 1927-D Silver Dollars.  
(Photo courtesy of Sotheby's Auction catalog)*



## Silver for the 25th Wedding Anniversary...

In 1927, one man purchased 2½ bags of Peace dollars (2,500 silver dollars) from the Denver Mint to give to his wife in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary. Those original bags of Peace dollars went right into the couple's vault, where they remained for 65 years. Little did the thoughtful husband know his unusual anniversary gift would decades later become sought-after scarce key dates – according to John Highfill in the *Comprehensive U.S. Silver Dollar Encyclopedia*, the 2nd rarest of the series in Uncirculated condition! An unusual find! Luckily, in the summer of 1992, these special coins became available and Littleton was able to purchase several hundred of these very scarce 1927-D Peace dollars to offer to collectors.

# About Littleton Coin Company

Over 60 Years of Convenient Service  
to Collectors in All 50 States



*Maynard and Fannie  
Sundman in 1941*

Littleton Coin Company was founded by Maynard Sundman, who turned his enthusiasm for collectibles into one of the largest collectibles firms in the country.

Maynard and Fannie Sundman officially founded the firm in 1945, although Maynard had operated a small stamp business from his home in Bristol, Connecticut in the 1930s. When he was drafted into the army in 1941, he put his stamp business on hold and served his country overseas.

## Resuming the business...

Following the war, Maynard and Fannie relocated to Littleton, New Hampshire, a small town nestled in the picturesque White Mountains. Littleton Stamp & Coin Company began in a small upstairs office, but the mail-order firm experienced steady growth by offering a range of services for collectors. Most popular were its Stamps-on-Approval and Coins-on-Approval Services, which allowed collectors to examine stamps or coins in their homes before they decided whether to purchase. The firm also began publishing catalogs and price lists of stamps and coins.

## Growth and expansion...

In 1974, the Sundman family purchased the Mystic Stamp Company in Camden, New York, and Maynard and Fannie's youngest son Don took the reins of the newly acquired firm. The Littleton operation later became devoted exclusively to coins and paper money. The Sundmans' oldest son, David, became president of Littleton Coin Company in 1985, and continued to expand its coin selections and collector services. Now it operates from an 85,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art headquarters.

Today, the company is one of the largest coin retailers, offering a wide selection of U.S. coins and paper money through a variety of mail-order services to all 50



*The Littleton family is ready to  
help you enjoy the hobby.*

# What Can Littleton Coin Do for Me?

Ever since Littleton Coin first opened its doors in 1945, this family-owned business has been committed to providing outstanding service to collectors – it's our top priority. When you hear or see the name Littleton Coin Company, you probably think of the friendly voice you speak with on the phone. But teams of employees work behind the scenes to ensure you have the coins, paper money, supplies and information you need to enjoy the hobby to its fullest.



Deb,  
Customer Service

## The largest selection of U.S. coins in the widest range of grades!

Littleton offers you the widest variety of coins and paper money available. We're connected to over 2,000 dealers, and Littleton's coin buyers travel to coin shows across the country to replenish our inventory.

## See each coin *before* you buy!

Enjoy Littleton's convenient "Free Examination" Coins-on-Approval Service and collector clubs. This special service lets you examine coins in your home *before* you buy. It's like having a coin shop come to your house. You buy only what you want from any selection, and you can cancel this special service at any time – there's no obligation.

## Special Request Service, one-stop shopping & collecting information, and FREE publications for collectors!

Having access to a large selection of coins "on approval" is just one of the services Littleton offers you. We also offer a Special Request Service to help you locate hard-to-find coins and paper money, a comprehensive website, and FREE publications that offer helpful collecting tips. You'll find that as your knowledge increases, you'll get more out of this exciting hobby.





## Caring for Your Coins

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

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



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

Most experienced collectors and dealers agree that coins should only be cleaned by experts.

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

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

Littleton's exclusive Showpak® packaging was designed for permanent storage and protection of your coins, and cannot be resealed once opened.

# You'll build nice collections with Littleton's exclusive clubs

Over the years, we've developed a wide variety of exclusive collector clubs tailored to fit your individual needs. As a Club Member, you'll always receive these special benefits...

- Affordable monthly shipments to fit your budget
- You see each coin FREE for 15 days *before* you decide – We trust you!
- There's no obligation to purchase – EVER, and no membership fee!
- Your coins are hand selected for eye appeal – you'll get the best value for your dollar!
- Each coin is delivered right to your door – so you conveniently add to your collection in the comfort of your own home
- Get FREE gifts and special collecting opportunities!
- You'll earn Profit Shares redeemable for FREE coins, paper money, and collecting supplies!

## Littleton's 45-Day Money Back Guarantee of Satisfaction

You must be completely satisfied with every purchase you make from Littleton. If not, simply return it within 45 days for a prompt exchange or refund, whichever you prefer.

To explore other Littleton Collector Clubs, call our friendly Customer Service staff at

**1-800-645-3122**

or visit us on the web at  
[LittletonCoin.com](http://LittletonCoin.com)



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