

Collecting Third Party Grading Holders

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Agenda

- Grading Services Overview
- Major Grading Services Timelines
- Collecting Ideas
 - “Collecting the Holder, not the Coin”



Grading Services Overview

- ▶ ANA essentially started the first grading service in 1972, and still in operating as ANACS
- ▶ PCGS & NGC started in 1986 & 1987 and are the primary reputable grading companies still in business today
- ▶ Dozens of other companies started/ended in the 80's & 90's, such as PCI, SEGS, ACG, and ICG. ICG is still operating.

ANACS History

- ◆ Founded in 1972 by the ANA
- ◆ Response to the rise in counterfeit and altered date coins in the 1960's
- ◆ Published the "Official ANA Grading Standards for US Coins" in 1977
- ◆ ANACS started with photographs of coins for authentication
- ◆ Moved to PVC holders, and then to encapsulated coins by the end of the 80's
- ◆ Sold to Amos Press in 1990

ANACS Slab Examples

Mid-1980's

1990's

Early 2000's

Mid 2000's

Current

Photo Certificate

Small White

Curved Blue

Straight Blue

Straight Yellow



PCGS History

- Professional Coin Grading Service started in 1985 by 7 coin dealers
- First to use slabs for all authenticated coins
- Slabs evolved over the years to combat counterfeiting
- Database to track & verify any graded coin
- PCGS does not photograph all coins, so still susceptible to counterfeits

PCGS Slab Examples

1986-89

Rattler



1989

Doily



1990's

Old Green Holder



1999-2014

Blue label



2014-present

Secure Plus & NFC s



NGC History

- ◆ Numismatic Guaranty Service started in 1987
- ◆ Named official grading service of the ANA in 1995
- ◆ Slabs evolved over the years to combat counterfeiting
- ◆ Also has a conservation service for restoring corroded coins
- ◆ Database to track & verify any graded coin, with photos of every coin

NGC Slab Examples

Mid 1980's

Fat Boy



Mid 1990's

Smaller



Mid 2000's

with Hologram back



Current

Hologram label



Other Notable Services

- ◆ ICG – Independent Coin Grading
 - ◆ Started in 1998, still operating. Lower reputation than PCGS/NGC/ANACS
- ◆ PCI – Photo Certified Coin Institute
 - ◆ Started in 1986, had photos in the slab. Transitioned to Hallmark slabs in 1991 without photos. Dominion Grading Service bought them out in 2008, but also closed
- ◆ SEGS – Sovereign Entities Grading Service
 - ◆ Started in 1998 by Larry Briggs, and continued until closing in recent years. Liberal grading standards

Additional Slab Examples

ICG



PCI Photo



PCI



SEGS



Collecting Options

- ◆ When it's OK to "Buy the holder, not the coin"
- ◆ Sample slabs, slabs issued at coin shows
- ◆ Older slabs or holders
- ◆ Unique slabs or holders in your collecting focus area

Collecting Sample Slabs

◆ Sample Slabs

- ◆ Examples of older slabs that were promotional giveaways from the grading companies
- ◆ Slabs created to commemorate an event, typically a coin show or meeting
- ◆ Older reference web site – www.sampleslabs.com
- ◆ David Schwager book – www.sampleslabbook.com
- ◆ Easy to find on eBay – search for “sample slab”
- ◆ Example photos on earlier pages



Collecting Older Holders

- ◆ Early holders from the grading companies
- ◆ Unique or unusual types of holders
- ◆ Sometimes these show up at coin shows
 - ◆ Let the dealers know you are looking for them
- ◆ Auction sites like eBay and GreatCollections have them occasionally
 - ◆ Search terms – “unusual slab” “unique holder” “photo certificate”

Older Holder Examples



Older Holder Examples



Collecting Unique Holders in Your Focus Area

- ◆ Everybody has a collecting focus
 - ◆ Certain series – Lincoln cents, Seated Liberty, Morgan Dollars, etc.
- ◆ Interesting challenge is to find examples in your focus area that are still in unique holders
 - ◆ More rare coins in the older holders are even harder to find as they typically would have been cracked out to send for re-grading
 - ◆ Even more challenging to look for coins with interesting attributes (die varieties, pedigree, CAC sticker, etc.)
 - ◆ Gives you something different to search for that you don't already have in your set

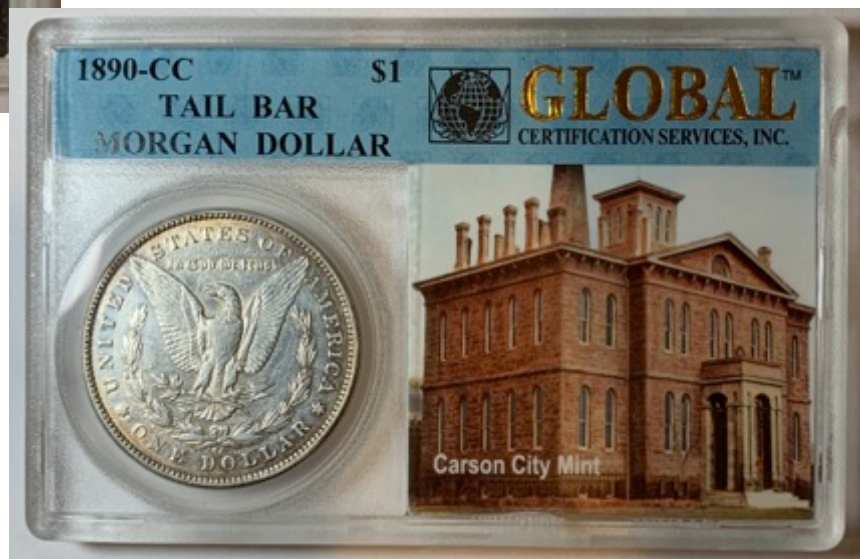
Carson City Coin Examples



Carson City Coin Examples



Carson City Coin Examples



Carson City Coin Examples



CC Amazing Find



- ◆ PCGS Regency holder – mid 1990's
 - ◆ Less than 1000 coins ever slabbed in this holder
- ◆ This example is the 1890-CC Morgan Dollar Tail Bar variety
- ◆ And, has a CAC sticker
- ◆ Highlight of a CC slab variety collection

Summary

- ◆ Fun to “Collect the holder, not the coin”
- ◆ Even more fun to find “your coins” in the interesting holders
- ◆ Lots of opportunities to collect something different, and still be relevant to your collection focus