

2024 – COIN YEAR IN REVIEW

by Rich Uhrich Jr., LSCC # 968

HOARD MUCH? The 20th known example of the 2000 Sacagawea mule (reverse, with a State quarter obverse) sold for a record price of \$194K. The buyer now owns 15 of the 20 coins.

GREAT FIND #1: A hoard of over 2,500 silver coins found by a metal detectorist in England, dated from 1066 – 1068, was sold for \$5.6 million.

GREAT FIND #2: There are only two known NE Threepence, one is in a museum, the second one sold for \$2.5 million, a record for a colonial coin in silver.

GREAT FIND #3: A set of 19th century gold dollars pedigreed to Philadelphia dealer Henry Chapman was discovered and its value is estimated at \$2 million.

GREAT FIND #4: A metal detectorist found a Henry III gold penny in a field, it sold for \$821K, most valuable single coin find in the U.K.

GREAT FIND #5: 1840-O Liberty Seated quarter, With Drapery, Large O reverse, VF, cleaned and scratched, for \$80! Probably worth at least \$1,500.

YOU CAN GET JUST ABOUT ANYTHING AT COSTCO: Costco has been selling 1 oz. gold bars since summer 2023, reportedly they are selling \$200 million per month.

WHAT WILL 'DOGE' DO ABOUT THIS? Cost to produce one cent is 3.07 cents. Cost to produce one nickel is 11.54 cents.

RINSE & REPEAT: In 2026, the U.S. Mint will strike 5 coins in .9999 fine gold. These will be the 1916 Mercury dime, Standing Liberty quarter, Walking Liberty half, 1804 Draped Bust dollar, and 1907 High Relief double eagle. The first three coins were already done in 2016.

FOREIGN SALE #1: A Greek 1852 gold 20 drachma coin, one of only 3 available privately, sold for \$1,171K. Mint records show 16 coins were minted.

FOREIGN SALE #2: An 1891 quarter from the Netherlands, 1 of only 2 known, sold for \$1,130K, a record for a coin from the Netherlands.

FOREIGN SALE #3: A Petition Crown of Charles II of England from 1663 sold for \$1 million, the most expensive British silver coin sold at auction.

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UNEXPECTED SNOWSTORM IN COLORADO IN MARCH: The ANA's Spring National Money show in Colorado Springs, CO was interrupted by what was reported as an "unexpected" snowstorm. However, dealer sales were said to be good.

ANA: The Summer ANA Convention was very active, most dealers reported a great show.

BIG SALE OF A DOUBLE EAGLE: The finest known 1870-CC double eagle sold for \$1.5 million.

BIG SALE OF A TYPE COIN: An 1861 Liberty Seated quarter in PCGS PR68 DCAM CAC sold for \$156K.

BIG SALES OF MULES: A 2001-D cent muled with a Roosevelt dime reverse sold for \$96K, while a 2000-D Sacagawea dollar muled with a South Carolina quarter sold for \$84K.

BIG SALE OF A MORGAN: The 6th dollar from the Denver Mint in 1921 was sold for \$50K.

BIG SALE OF AN ERROR: The finest known 1983 transitional cent struck on a copper planchet sold for \$29K.

WE USE TO SELL THESE FOR \$5: A 1922 Peace dollar in PCGS MS67 sold for \$9K.

WE USED TO SELL THESE FOR \$2: A 1964 Kennedy half in NGC MS68* sold for \$57K.

WE USED TO SPEND THESE: A 2000 "Cheerios" cent in PCGS MS69 sold for \$4,050.

A LONG TIME TO SETTLE A WILL: The L. E. Bruun Collection of 20,000 Scandinavian coins is being auctioned in stages by Stacks Bowers. Mr. Bruun died in 1923, and his will stated that his collection would be held by The Royal Danish Collection for 100 years, then auctioned to benefit his heirs.

GOLD HOARDING: In the last two years, central banks have purchased 2,500 tons of gold. Assuming \$2,000 per ounce, that is \$120 billion.

THIEF PROFITS FROM THEFT: A postal employee in Texas was convicted of stealing over \$500K in coins and bullion from the mail; she was sentenced to 37 months in prison and \$179K in restitution. Somehow, she was allowed to retire from the Post Office, probably so she could get her pension! Effective wage for this theft was \$104K per year plus the potential pension.

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TAMPA SHOW: The inaugural Tampa show in September was poorly attended, but I got to see a 1913 Liberty nickel in PR66, a 1943 bronze cent in AU50, a 3-coin set of 1845 proof gold coins, the finest set of 1879 – 1880 Stellas, and one of the two 1975 No S proof dimes in PR67, which subsequently sold for \$506K.

1794 DOLLAR CLONES: The 2024 230th Anniversary Flowing Hair silver medal, which looks exactly like a 1794 dollar except for the date, sold quickly at \$104 plus postage, while the 2024 230th Anniversary Flowing Hair gold dollar coin sold out in 4 minutes at \$3,640 plus postage.

GREAT WORK BY THE LSCC: Christian Gobrecht was the 3rd Chief Engraver of the U. S. Mint, and he designed the Gobrecht dollar and all of the Liberty Seated silver coinage. He died in 1844, and his grave was moved and it had a rather simple marker. So the Liberty Seated Collectors Club made a marker and placed it at his grave on November 13. (You can see all the details in the December E-Gobrecht.)

MY FAVORITE CURRENCY EVEN THOUGH I DON'T OWN ANY: Scotsman in St. Louis auctioned two double-denomination bills: a 1934-D \$5/\$10 in PMG Ch CU64EPQ sold for \$29K and a 1974 \$20/\$10 in PMG XF40 sold for \$21K.

1964 SMS SETS NEWS: The November *Numismatist* discusses the mysterious 1964 Special Mint Sets. It concludes that they are uncirculated coins struck from fresh dies, and not special in any way. Too bad for those who paid mega-bucks for these coins!

GREAT AUCTIONS: The Ray Ballinger Collection of Liberty Seated dollars (complete except for the 1870-S!), and the Jon Lusk Collection of Capped Bust quarters (which included an 1823/2 in VG-8).

PRECIOUS METALS UP: Gold closed at \$2,625, up 27.2% for the year, while silver closed at \$28.86, up 21.3% for the year.

GONE TOO SOON: Richard August, collector of early coinage; Gordon Berg, dealer and show promoter, started the Suburban Washington show (and MANA) which became the Baltimore show; Bill Luebke, collector best known for his collection of XF45 Liberty Seated dollars; Bernard Rome, founder of the auction house Teletrade.

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