

2025 – COIN YEAR IN REVIEW

by Rich Uhrich Jr., LSCC # 968

BIGGEST NEWS: Elimination of the business strike U.S. cent.

2nd BIGGEST NEWS: Big increases in prices of gold and silver. Gold closed at \$4,318, up 64.4% for the year, while silver closed at \$71.55, up 147.9% for the year. I believe gold is up because central banks throughout the world have been buying a lot of gold, and I believe silver is up because of industrial demand and also demand for the American Silver Eagle.

3rd BIGGEST NEWS: 232 sets of the last of the 2025 cents, with an “Omega” counter-mark, were sold by Stacks Bowers on December 11. The sets included a 2025 Philadelphia Mint cent, a 2025-D Denver Mint cent, and a GOLD 2025 Philadelphia Mint cent. The total prices realized for all 232 sets was \$16.76 million.

CLIMBING TO THE TOP: Inspired by the book *The 100 Greatest U.S. Coins*, the owner of the Elite Collection is trying to acquire as many as possible. In June, the coins currently in the collection were featured on mycollect.com and also the PCGS Message Board. Some really rare and wonderful coins are in that collection! Current total in the collection is 76 out of the 100.

BIG PRISON TIME: Delaware coin dealer Robert L. Higgins was sentenced to 65 years in federal prison after being convicted of mail fraud, wire fraud, and income tax evasion charges connected to his mismanagement of First State Depository in Wilmington, DE.

SOMEBODY'S GOTTA GO BACK AND GET A S____ LOAD OF DIMES (*Blazing Saddles* reference for those of you who remember that movie)... A tractor-trailer carrying 8 million 2025-D dimes overturned in Texas, spilling the dimes on the highway and surrounding landscape. The dimes were vacuumed up!

GREAT FIND #1: A collector from Arizona found a Choice Uncirculated 1969-S Doubled Die Obverse cent in a sealed roll, estimated value over \$100,000.

GREAT FIND #2: An Eisenhower dollar was found that was struck in two different mints: first as a 1978-S proof in San Francisco, then it was overstruck as a business strike in Philadelphia.

GREAT FINDS #3 AND #4: Two 1990 No S cents were discovered in proof sets at a shop in Illinois.

GREAT FIND #5: Collector Sean Kelly discovered a new variety of Capped Bust half dime, which has been designated as 1833 LM-9.2. Congratulations, Sean!

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GREAT FIND #6: A man bought a storage unit's contents for \$500. Inside was a safe, which when opened, contained \$7.5 million in cash.

BUSINESS NEWS: A-Mark Precious Metals acquired Stack's Bowers Galleries.

ANA: The World's Fair of Money show was held in Oklahoma City, OK. Despite it being more difficult to fly there than some of the more usual venues, the show was a big success.

THE ANA NATIONAL MONEY SHOW: Was held in Atlanta in late February – early March, and it drew 3,200 attendees plus dealers and staff.

THIS WE'LL DEFEND: U.S. Mint issues 2025-W Proof American Silver eagle with a privy mark celebrating the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army.

RETIREMENT NEWS: After over 70 years in numismatics, Q. David Bowers retired. He was a dealer for almost all of those years, and the number of numismatic books he wrote is legendary. I want to express my appreciation for all that he has done for numismatics throughout his lengthy career.

MORE RETIREMENT NEWS: Director of the U.S. Mint Ventris Gibson retired March 31. Her contributions to the numismatic community are much appreciated!

NEW MINT DIRECTOR: Paul Hollis, former coin dealer and Louisiana state legislator, was nominated as the new Mint Director.

SUPER LOW-MINTAGE COINS: The United Kingdom Royal Mint issued a total of just 6 coins honoring Paul McCartney (5 silver and 1 gold). One coin was given to Paul, and the other 5 coins sold for \$753,000.

GOLD SACAGAWEA DOLLARS: In 1999, 39 proof gold Sacagawea dollars dated 2000 were struck and sent into space on the Space Shuttle. 27 of these were destroyed and 12 were retained by the Mint. In 2025, Stack's Bowers sold 7 of these for prices ranging from \$360,000 to \$550,000.

GOLD SACAGAWEA DOLLARS PART II: In 2025, to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Sacagawea dollar, the Mint issued proof 2025-W gold Sacagawea dollars weighing one-half ounce, for \$2,175. 7,500 were issued.

GOLD & SILVER NOW LEGAL TENDER IN FLORIDA: Gov. Ron DeSantis signs bill allowing some gold and silver to be used as legal tender in some transactions.

FIRST EVER SALE: Of a gold FDR 4th Inaugural Medal (by Stack's Bowers). There were only ten struck. It sold for \$240,000.

BIG SALE OF A SILVER DOLLAR: 1804 Class III dollar sold for \$6 million.

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ANOTHER BIG SALE OF A SILVER DOLLAR: 1794 sold for \$4.5 million.

BIG SALE OF A DOUBLE EAGLE: 1927-D sold for \$3.84 million.

BIG SALE OF A HALF EAGLE: 1798 Capped Bust Right, Small eagle sold for \$3 million.

BIG SALE OF A DIME: 1894-S sold for \$2.16 million.

BIG SALE OF A GOLD DOLLAR: 1849-C Open Wreath (5 known) sold for \$1.56 million.

MUSICIAN SELLS COLLECTION: Well-known musician Rick Springfield sold his collection of gold coins.

COINS & COMIC BOOKS: DC Comics teams with the U. S. Mint for coins and medals celebrating Superman and other comic superheroes.

LONG-TIME COLLECTOR/DEALER SELLS LONG-TIME COLLECTION: Jim Matthews sells his set of Draped Bust and Capped Bust dimes. Part of the sale took place in 2025, and part will take place in 2026.

LONG-TIME COLLECTOR SELLS HIS COLLECTION OF BUST QUARTERS: Steve Tompkins' collection was nearly complete by die variety.

LOTS OF 1889-CC DOLLARS DISCOVERED: Heritage sold this hoard of 35 Uncirculated 1889-CC Morgan dollars.

BIG GOLD THEFT: A theft of \$15 million in gold American Eagles in Oklahoma is being investigated.

WHAT IS AN ORIGINAL HOLDER WORTH? Great Collections sold an 1881-S Morgan dollar in MS-63 in a first generation "white rattler" holder for just over \$119,000.

LATEST COSTS FOR CENTS AND NICKELS: A cent costs the Mint 3.69c to make, while a nickel costs the Mint 13.78c to make.

SUPERMARKET CHAIN OFFERS PROFIT FOR CENTS: Giant Eagle chain offers 2c for each cent provided to them.

ANS MOVING: From New York City to Toledo, Ohio, in 2028.

GONE TOO SOON: *Sondra Beymer*, wife and business partner of West Coast dealer Jack Beymer. *Richard "Babe" Binette*, a long-time and well-known dealer from Maine. Former Delaware Governor and U. S. Congressman *Michael Castle*, famous for his support of the state quarter program. *Dr. Steven Duckor*, accomplished numismatist who completed or nearly completed many gold sets, the most significant of which was his set of St. Gaudens double eagles. *David Ganz*, coin attorney and author. *Cont...*

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John Highfill, dealer in mostly dollars and author of a significant book on that subject. George Frederick Kolbe, long-time bookseller. Ron Landis, engraver and co-founder of the Gallery Mint Museum. Joan Langbord, matriarch of the Langbord family, which owned 10 1933 double eagles before the government took them in a long-disputed lawsuit.

Editor Commentary: Every year at this time (in recent years), E-Gobrecht has presented annual reviews and forecasts from qualified experts in the hobby that LSCC members and other hobbyists across the numismatic spectrum look forward to receiving in the new year. Rich Uhrich as a retired and respected coin dealer and collector has been compiling his "Coin Year in Review" now for 15 years in various publications. Thank you Rich, Jeff, Len, Dennis, Joanne and 'anonymous' for your contributions to this year's "packed" issue. What does the future hold for each of us this coming year?

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See page 20 for the full story

Reminder Notice for LSCC Members

If your membership ends in 2025, please remember to submit your dues renewal so you don't miss the next issue of The Gobrecht Journal. Also, don't forget to vote for your favorite articles. Dues and voting can all be done on-line on the Club website or mailed hard-copy using the insert in your Fall 2025 issue. Thank You!