

Coin collecting, or numismatics is a hobby as old as time. Numismatics has been around for more than 2,500 years. This is since the use of coins has been around for the same amount of time too. Man has always had a keen collection for small, round, shiny things. Throughout the ages, coin collectors or numismatists have been on the lookout for the oldest, rarest, most attractive coins.

Numismatics comes from the Greek word nomisma, meaning 'currency,' or coin. It is also related to the study of banknotes, tokens, and other early forms of money.

Coins and other forms of money are issued by governments and other monetary agencies. Billions of these flood the market yearly. But as time goes by, the number of these coins go down. Some get lost and some are damaged beyond recognition.

Numismatists and collectors number millions around the world. Numismatics is taken very seriously around the globe transacting in billions of Dollars every year.

The lure of coins lies in its power to draw people into the era it belonged to. These coins show many aspects of everyday life during those times. By examining a coin, one comes to know the geography, philosophy, sociology, artistry and other aspects of the culture they existed in.

Ancient kings (and even today's leaders) had a telling habit of having their faces imprinted on their currency. Some historians have been able to put together clues regarding the ancient civilizations using these coins. Sometimes, coins would tell of a leader or prominent figure that would have been forgotten by time if it were not for these coins.

Numismatists and collectors usually start collecting coins from their own locality. This makes sense because they are the easiest to collect.

The price for a coin is determined by the demand for this coin married together with the historical significance and international grading achieved on a coin. Many factors affect this demand. The rarer and the higher the quality of the coin the higher the annual growth rate that will be achieved.

Before purchasing coins, one must do much research about that coin. He must assess its current market value and make sure that the coin is genuine. He should also consider how much he could earn if he resells the coin.

Whether you are a numismatist or a serious collector, coin collecting will always bring a sense of fulfillment and history to your life. It is never too late to start collecting today. You can't lose! Your collection can only grow in value as the time passes by!

When dealers are looking at a rare coin value estimate there are a number of things that they will need to take into account. In this article we will look at the things that such dealers will consider when estimating the value of a rare coin.

Age

Although generally speaking the older a coin is then the more it is worth. However, but this may not be the case if the particular coin is not rare.

Condition

Unfortunately a coin which is badly corroded and you are unable to tell what it is will not actually be worth much. But in more recent coins the fine degrees of condition can mean the difference between coins being valuable or it is just a curiosity.

Metal Content

As we all know the coins that contain high amounts of gold or silver are more valuable than those that contain copper, nickel or zinc. But there is always an exception to the rules and in some cases there may be a very rare copper coin that can be worth lot more than some more common silver coins.

Rarity

This is probably the single most important trait when valuing a rare coin. Sometimes coins that contain mistakes are often the most valued. As mistakes do not happen very often and are often quickly caught by the mint if such a coin does make it into circulation

Market Value

If there happens to be a high demand for a coin at any one time and if you happen to be selling one then you are more than likely going to get a good price for it.

But when looking at a rare coin value estimate it is best if you leave this to an expert. Such people are better able to judge the market more accurately and will be able to tell you when is the best time to buy or sell a certain coin.

Coin collecting is something that dates back to the when coins were first issued for trade. It was only in the Middle Ages that people turned this into a hobby because of the art work and monetary value.

Coin collecting today is still a hobby that many people enjoy. One of the most precious and most expensive collections that anyone can ever have are those of gold coins. The most expensive gold coin ever bought was worth around eight million dollars. This was the American 1933 Gold Eagle. This is why the collecting of gold coins deserves to be called the hobby of kings.

Since these are no longer in circulation, the price for one of this rare commodity is quite high. Gold is now used for other things such as jewelry or bars that people retain as an investment.

South Africa minted its first gold coin called the Krugerrand in 1967. This coin has no face value but trades according to the daily international gold price.

A lot of people retain gold today as an investment because they speculate that the demand will cause its market value to increase. Others hold it as a form of insurance should the financial situation become worse. There was a point in time when the more paper money that was made, the higher the price of gold which maintained gold and cash as equal value. After this standard ended in 1971, this enabled government to produce more paper

Commemorative Coins

When it comes to the commemorative gold coins, since gold is deemed as a highly valuable kind of metal, it is an obvious choice when it comes to making or producing special commemorative coins. In the past, there are sets of gold coins that were just issued to mark coronations as well as other important state events. A lot of financial reserves that are being held by banks are in the form of gold coins. Gold coins are a desired form of a reserved asset since gold coins are not really used for circulation anymore.

Grading of Coins

There are only two trusted and accepted grading companies which global numismatists use and they are namely NGC and PCGS.