

# WTC COINS

*recovered at ground zero*



WTC Coins  
Recovered at ground Zero  
certified by PCGS

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***“Today, we gather to be reassured that God hears the lamenting and bitter weeping of Mother America because so many of her children are no more. Let us now seek that assurance in prayer for the healing of our grief stricken hearts, for the souls and sacred memory of those who have been lost. Let us also pray for divine wisdom as our leaders consider the necessary actions for national security, wisdom of the grace of God that as we act, we not become the evil we deplore.”***

***- Rev. Nathan Baxter, Dean of Washington National Cathedral***

## What This Book is About



This book has been created to let you get a better understanding of everything that has gone on to create these wonderful commemorative WTC coins.

There's much more than a historical, yes it is much more than that. This is literally a piece of our nation's history.

These actual pieces of silver, gold and platinum was recovered from Ground Zero where the coins were gathered. Creating what is very literally a physical piece of our history.

It's hard to actually take a piece of history since any real piece of historical events have been categorized and placed safely in

museums. Now of course we can visit these museums and see history with our own eyes but how rarely can we actually hold and own a piece of that history?

Practically never, until now that is. You can physically hold a piece of Ground Zero. It's completely and utterly overwhelming to look down in your hand and see these pieces of metal.

You will literally have your breath taken away as you gaze upon these beautiful Gold and Silver PCGS WTC coins.

So without further delay, read on to learn all about these coins and more about the timeline of one of the biggest events in our nation's history.

### **History of World Trade Center Attack with Timeline**

If you ask nearly any American where they were when they first found out about the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001, chances are good that they can remember exactly what was going on around them, and maybe even how they felt. The images of planes going into the iconic World Trade Center towers was an unforgettable sight, and the confusion surrounding all of the day's events increased our fear. America's resolve was not shaken, however, as its bravest and finest citizens came out to help the wounded, scared, and trapped.

Although some 19 terrorists were able to destroy some of our symbolic buildings, they did not destroy our faith or patriotism. The following is a timeline of the events of 9/11 with descriptions.

**All times are Eastern Standard Time (EST).**

**7:59 A.M.** - 81 passenger, including 5 hijackers, with 11 crewmembers on American Airlines Flight 11, a Boeing 767, depart Boston's Logan International Airport bound for Los Angeles International Airport.

**8:14 A.M.** - 9 crew, including 2 pilots and 7 flight attendants, with 56 passengers including 5 hijackers take on United Airlines Flight 175, a Boeing 767, depart from Boston's Logan International Airport bound for Los Angeles International Airport.

**8:20 A.M.** - 58 passengers, including 4 hijackers with 6 crew members - 2 pilots and 4 flight attendants aboard American Airlines Flight 77, depart Washington Dulles International Airport bound for Los Angeles International Airport.

**8:40 A.M.** - NORAD's Northeast Air Defense Sector is notified by the FAA that American Airlines Flight 11 might be hijacked.

**8:42 A.M.** - 38 passengers, including 5 hijackers with 7 crew members - 2 pilots and 5 flight attendants on United Airlines Flight 93, a Boeing 757, depart from Newark International Airport bound for San Francisco International Airport.

**8:43 A.M.** - Once again NORAD's Northeast Air Defense Sector is notified of United Airlines Flight 175's suspected hijacking.

**8:45 A.M.** - Tower 1 of the World Trade Center is hit by the first hijacked flight, American Airlines Flight 11.

**8:46 A.M.** - Jet fighters are scrambled from Otis Air National Guard Base in Fallmouth, Massachusetts.

**9:03 A.M.** - Tower 2, the southern tower of the World Trade Center, is hit by United Airlines Flight 175. Reporters and cameras on the scene witness the event live.

**9:08 A.M.** - The FAA prohibits all takeoffs of flights going to or through New York airspace.

**9:06 A.M.** - President Bush is notified by Andrew Card that "America's under attack" when the second plane hits. Bush remains in the elementary classroom for several more minutes after that.

**9:21 A.M.** - Manhattan is cut off from the rest of the city as all bridges and tunnels are closed.

**9:24 A.M.** - NORAD's Northeast Air Defense Sector is notified of another suspected hijacked airplane by the FAA, this time American Airlines Flight 77.

**9:25 A.M.** - All flights in the United States are grounded when the FAA orders the shutdown of all airports nationwide and bans takeoffs of all civilian aircraft.

**9:31 A.M.** - President George W. Bush makes his first television appearance from Emma Booker Elementary School in Sarasota, Florida. He calls the crashes and hijackings an "apparent terrorist attack."

**9:40 A.M.** - The west side of the Pentagon is hit by American Airlines Flight 77 crashes.

**9:45 A.M.** - An emergency operator receives a phone call from a passenger aboard United Airlines Flight 93. The caller says that the flight has been hijacked and that they are going to fight back to regain control of the aircraft.

**9:45 A.M.** - 4500 airborne aircraft are ordered to land immediately by the FAA.

**9:55 A.M.** - Scrambled Jet fighters reach Washington, D.C. area.

**9:57 A.M.** - President George W. Bush leaves Sarasota, Florida.

**9:59 A.M.** - Tower 2, the southern World Trade Center tower, is the first to collapse.

**10:07 A.M.** - United Airlines Flight 93 crashes near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

**10:10 A.M.** - A section of the Pentagon collapses.

**10:28 A.M.** - Tower 1, or the north World Trade Center tower, collapses.

**11:04 A.M.** - Evacuations of important buildings continue in Washington D.C., New York, and other major landmarks, such as The United Nations.



**11:44 A.M.** - President George W. Bush lands at Barksdale Air Force Base.

**12:30 P.M.** - Only 50 flights remain in the air, as reported by the FAA.

**1:04 P.M.** - President George W. Bush makes another statement, this time from Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana.

**1:38 P.M.** - In an effort to keep the executive safe, President George W. Bush is whisked from site to site, and leaves Barksdale Air Force Base for Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Nebraska.

**1:47 P.M.** - White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer makes his first briefing to the press corp.

**2:51 P.M.** - The U.S. Navy dispatches missile destroyers to New York City and Washington, D.C.

**4:36 P.M.** - President George W. Bush leaves Offutt Air Force Base.

**5:20 P.M.** - World Trade Center 7 collapses.

**6:42 P.M.** - The Department of Defense briefs the press on the Pentagon Attack.

**6:55 P.M.** - President George W. Bush finally arrives at the White House to prepare his remarks to the nation.

**7:15 P.M.** - Attorney General, Secretary of HHS, Secretary of Transportation and the Director of FEMA make a joint briefing.



**8:30 P.M.** - President George W. Bush makes an address live from the Oval Office.

**8:35 P.M.** - The President and members of his cabinet attend a national security meeting.

The events of this day may still be fresh in the minds of many people, and America will surely never forget both the fear and sense of camaraderie as people of all ages, races, and creeds pulled together that September morning.

Although the rescue effort lasted for days, it took months to clean up and recover any of the remaining materials and artifacts underneath the Towers. In less than two months, millions of dollars worth of bullion and gold ingots as well as coins from around the world would be recovered from the site.



## **The World Trade Center Coins: Location in the Vault and Timeline**

To many New Yorkers' surprise, in October 2001 following the terrorist attacks of 9/11 that destroyed several towers of the World Trade Center, a treasure trove of little-known about gold was discovered.

While almost everything had been destroyed in the towers, precious coins from around the world were unearthed from a vault in one of the smaller towers, most in pristine condition. These became known as the "World Trade Center Coins" and have controversially become collector's items.

While some news reports from the time of discovery say that it was rumored that up to \$160 billion in coins was stored underground, it was not until weeks after the attacks that it was finally unearthed. Reports around this time seem unclear and varied, with some putting the estimate around \$240 million.

What does seem conclusive, however, is that COMEX, the futures exchange, had a major proportion of its stockpile of silver and other metals in the vaults underneath the World Trade Center. In addition, the Bank of Nova Scotia admitted that it held some \$200 million in gold and silver bullion in building 4 of the World Trade Center. The World Trade Center coins came from the Iron Mountain Vault belonging to the COMEX. The Comex metals trading division is a division doing future trade on precious metal.

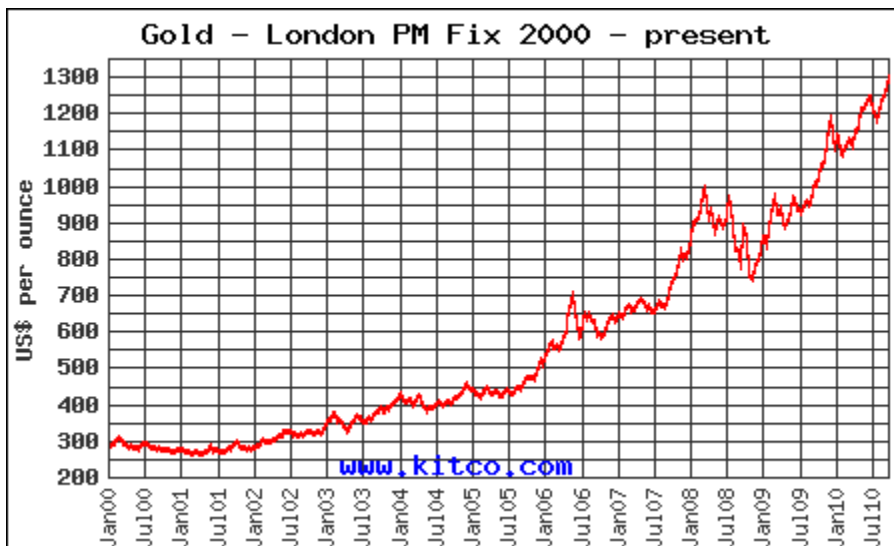
The Bank of Nova Scotia had large amounts of bullion coins in Platinum, Gold and silver stored at the Comex vault; these coins were moved from the vault under World Trade Center #4 from mid October 2001 to the 1st of November 2001. Two Brinks armored trucks transported the coins out from ramp J of the World Trade Center to Collectors Universe in California. The transport of the coins from the World Trade Center to Newport Beach California.

Brink's has been providing secure transportation services since 1859 and are the trusted partner in this venture.

Under heavy security from federal agents, workers excavated the precious metal bullion as well as coins from around the world. Located in the Iron Mountain vault directly underneath the World Trade Center building #4, Comex's reserves were returned to them while some of the coins belonging to The Bank Of Nova Scotia were sent via Brinks armored vehicles to the parent company of the renowned Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS), Collectors Universe.

These metals were stored by the Scotia Mocatta Depository Corporation on behalf of investors that traded futures contracts in precious metals. The price of the metals rose after the terrorist attacks due to investors putting their money into traditional 'safe' assets, like gold and because the amount of gold that was taken off the market for 1 1/2 month. Almost 37 tons of gold was located in the Comex vault. 3,800 gold bars - weighing 12 tons and 800,000 (25 tons) ounces of gold held for other banks.

Therefore, the Trade Center bullion became even more valuable. The metal in the WTC hadn't been moved for many years, as trading gold and silver was usually done on paper, rather than transference of physical assets. The price of gold has nearly quintupled since 2001 to 2010, with gold now approaching \$1300 an ounce!



Other collectors and investors were not so lucky, as many safety-deposit boxes were ruined and irreparable damage was done to the assets contained in these boxes.



The World Trade Center coins, as they have come to be known, are themselves of varying quality, with some in pristine condition and some remaining burnt. The most noticeable WTC coins have heat damage this would be shown if the coin was bent or if the coin was black. In the vault the coins would be stack in rolls of coins and normally the end coin in a roll would be the one showing the heat damage. These coins have been named "End Roll Coins" and are often sought after by collectors.



After PCGS obtained the coins, they proceeded to catalog, grade, and encapsulate the surviving coins in its tamper resistant capsules. The coins are distinguished by a commemorative United States flag insert in order to authenticate that it was one of the coins recovered from a vault underneath the World Trade Center. PCGS went on to copyright this particular insert, and it cannot be found on any other coin series.

To many collectors' surprise, the coins that were recovered come from a variety of countries, including:

- 1) Australia
- 2) Austria
- 3) Canada
- 4) England
- 5) Hungary
- 6) Jamaica
- 7) Mexico
- 8) South Africa
- 9) Uruguay
- 10) USA

***Here is a basic timeline of the discovery and retrieval of the coins:***

**Oct. 30, 2001:** News reports confirm that “a small army of federal agents” stood guard as two Brinks armored trucks worth of gold from underneath Tower #5 of the World Trade Center. In order to reach the cache, workers had to get around a 10 wheeled truck and crushed cars.

**Oct 31, 2001:** Mayor Rudy Giuliani confirms that much of the lost treasure under 4 World Trade Center has been recovered.

**Nov 1, 2001:** Iron Mountain Vault that is directly under Tower 4 of the WTC is finally reached, with the coins therein transferred via Brinks armored trucks to storage facilities.

**November-December, 2001:** The coins are slowly recovered, and eventually sent to Collectors Universe, which is not a grading company itself. CU lists the coins as “Gem Uncirculated”.

**Dec. 1, 2001 – June 2002:** PCGS starts grading and cataloguing the recovered coins.

While the history of the recovered World Trade Center coins has been surrounded by debate and controversy, it is notable that Collector’s Universe raised some \$42,000 for members of the NYFD and their families via the Uniformed Fire Fighters Association Widows and Children's Fund through the sale of some of the coins.

It is also noteworthy that many of the recovered World Trade Center coins demanded prices in the following year greater than other PCGS graded coins of the same year, indicating demand for these artifacts of American history.

While many may be scarred by the searing heat, they are a sober reminder of pain and wreckage from that day. Although the lives lost from the World Trade Center and other crashes on that day cannot be recovered, these coins perhaps serve as a reminder of the perseverance of the American spirit, rising out of the ashes to begin anew.



## **The Process of PCGS Certifying the Recovered WTC Coins**

In the months following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, clean-up and recovery began at Ground Zero. What many recovery workers discovered was astonishing: millions, perhaps billions, of dollars worth of platinum, gold, and silver bullion as well as coins from around the world were discovered in a series of vaults underneath the World Trade Center buildings.

While the salvageable bullion was sent to their respective owners, as for the coins, many of them were sent to Collectors Universe, the parent company of the coin rating agency, PCGS. During the month of November, Collectors Universe certified some of the coins as "GEM Uncirculated", but eventually the remaining sets were sent over to PCGS for cataloguing and certification. The reason for this switch was a demand by collectors to get a grade on each coin as this would eventually make the coins more appreciated as an investment object.

The cost difference between just certifying coins as "Gem Uncirculated" and giving them an actual grade by PCGS was very different and it meant that the "money people" behind this project had to come up with a lot of extra cash to get the coins graded by PCGS. It is rumored that as the gold and silver price rose during 2002 and 2003 a lot of the coins from the WTC were melted down to pay for the certification of other coins.

The result of this switch from collectors universe "gem uncirculated" to a PCGS grade of "MS" also meant that the

original coins going through as collectors universe certified coins are much more rare today than coins graded by PCGS. You can check on the back of your coin, if your coins have been graded by PCGS or Collectors Universe.

### **Collectors Universe Back of slab**



### **PCGS Back of slab**



This article provides some background into PCGS and the process of certifying the recovered World Trade Center Coins. The Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS) was founded by a group of the nation's premier rare coin experts in 1986.

The founding philosophy behind PCGS was to improve consumer confidence with respect to coin collecting through cataloguing, grading, and certifying coins. PCGS has become a premier coin grading agency, and was the recipient of most of the recoverable World Trade Center coins through its parent company, Collectors Universe.

PCGS popularized the use of sonically-sealed, quality capsules for affirming its Guarantee of Grade and Authenticity for every coin that it certified. Inside the capsule contains a unique certification number that is permanently sealed within each coin's capsule, and serves as a reliable method of proving a coin's certification and identity to the coin collector. PCGS maintains a database for all its catalogued coins.

When PCGS completes its examination and grading of the coin, it is sonically sealed inside a tamper-resistant capsule that also contains the coin's certification tag with its particular identification number, denomination, and grade.

The computer inventory system at PCGS then generates a unique certification number. Therefore, PCGS has maintained its reputation for quality and meticulous methodology for all the coins that it has graded since this system was implemented.

Therefore, once PCGS graded and catalogued the recovered WTC coins, they had the ability to provide a population count and the various grades of all the recovered coins from the vault. These statistics should be kept in their archived computer database, like all other coins it has graded.

With the controversy surround the WTC coins, there were some differences with grading and providing information. The following information is what is known about the process of

the certification of the WTC coins.

Population numbers: Population numbers were recorded and kept by PCGS for the coins with bar codes on the front of their capsule. While PCGS initially graded the WTC coins through their standardized method, they were wary of the controversy surrounding the sale of these coins, some calling them “blood coins.”



They eventually realized the rarity of some of the coins, as some were available in higher numbers than others. PCGS wanted to prevent the coins' sale from becoming value driven due to the sensitivity surrounding the event, so they eventually decided to not record population data for the remainder of their graded coins.

Grading: The majority of the recovered coins were graded Gem Uncirculated, MS69 and a select few were graded MS70 with the variety 'WTC'. While some coins will have a bar code, others will not, for the above reasons. If your coin has a bar code you can look up the population number for coins with a bar code that came from the WTC vault



Flag insert: The distinguishing factor of a PCGS certified World Trade Center coin is the United States flag insert. This commemorative design, meant as a tribute to those who perished on that day, is the identifying factor that must be present in the sealed capsule of a WTC coin for it to be considered an authentic artifact from that site.

PCGS copyrighted the design, and no other coin sets will be marked by this emblem ever again. The flag insert must not be removed, as PCGS cannot provide additional flags for graded coins.

Despite PCGS' following standard procedure when grading and certifying the WTC coins like they have done with other sets, they ceased to provide population data for many interested collectors.

Some information is available on their website, but the population numbers must be regarded as incomplete. Despite this, the coins have increased in value over the years, although prices for some coins remain so varied that a price range cannot be accurately established.

PCGS has never released any finalized population data, perhaps preventing prices from becoming stabilized, leaving some collectors frustrated but nonetheless excited to add a piece of American history to their collection.

## **The Recovered World Trade Center Coins: Denominations and Origins**

In the months following the terrorist attacks of 9/11/01, the Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS) received many of the salvaged coins discovered in the vaults underneath Ground Zero. The following is a list and descriptions of the types of coins recovered, certified, and catalogued by PCGS.



### United States Collections:

#### PCGS Silver Eagles:

- PCGS Silver Eagle 2001 was found in these 3 grades: Gem Uncirculated, MS68, MS69
- PCGS Silver Eagle 2000 was found in Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS Silver Eagle 1993 was found in 3 grades: Gem Uncirculated, MS68, MS69



- PCGS Silver Eagle 1991 was found in 2 grades: Gem Uncirculated, MS69
- PCGS Silver Eagle 1989 was found in Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS Silver eagle 1987 was found in 2 grades: Gem Uncirculated and MS69



PCGS Gold Eagles:

### **1/10 oz Gold Eagle \$5:**

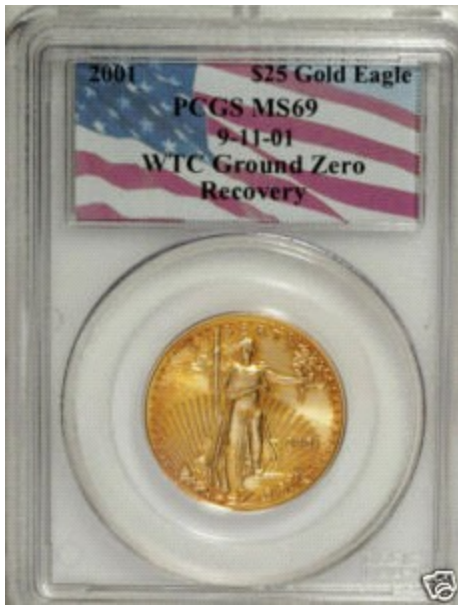
- PCGS \$5 Gold Eagle 2001 found in MS70, MS69, MS68, Gem Uncirculated population unknown
- PCGS \$5 Gold Eagle 2000 found in MS69, Gem Uncirculated population unknown

- PCGS \$5 Gold Eagle 1999 found in MS69, MS68 Gem Uncirculated population unknown
- PCGS \$5 Gold Eagle 1998 found in MS70, MS69, Gem Uncirculated population unknown



### **1/4 oz Gold Eagle \$10**

- PCGS \$10 Gold Eagle 2001 found in MS69, Gem Uncirculated, population unknown
- PCGS \$10 Gold Eagle 2000 found in MS69, Gem Uncirculated, population unknown
- PCGS \$10 Gold Eagle 1999 found in MS69, Gem Uncirculated, population unknown



### **1/2 oz Gold Eagle \$25**

- PCGS \$25 Gold Eagle 2001, found in MS70, MS69, Gem Uncirculated, population unknown
- PCGS \$25 Gold Eagle 1999, found in MS69, Gem Uncirculated, population unknown
- PCGS \$25 Gold Eagle 1998, found in MS67, Gem Uncirculated, population unknown
- PCGS \$25 Gold Eagle 1990, found in MS67, population unknown
- PCGS \$25 Gold Eagle 1986, found in MS68, MS67, population unknown



### **1 oz Gold Double Eagle \$50**

- PCGS \$50 Gold Eagle 2001 (1oz), found in MS70, MS69, Gem Uncirculated, population unknown
- PCGS \$50 Gold Eagle 1999 (1oz), found in MS69, Gem Uncirculated, population unknown
- PCGS \$50 Gold Eagle 1998 (1oz), found in MS69, Gem Uncirculated, population unknown
- PCGS \$50 Gold Eagle 1997 (1oz), found in MS70, MS69, Gem Uncirculated, population unknown
- PCGS \$50 Gold Eagle 1994 (1oz), found in MS69, MS67(pop 15), Gem Uncirculated, population unknown except for MS67
- PCGS \$50 Gold Eagle 1993 (1oz), found in Gem Uncirculated, population unknown

- PCGS \$50 Gold Eagle 1991 (1oz), found in MS69 population unknown
- PCGS \$50 Gold Eagle 1986 (1oz), found in MS69, population unknown



#### PCGS Gold Bars:

- PCGS 1 oz. Gold Bar 2001, Suisse Credit Bar



PCGS Platinum Eagles:

PCGS \$10 Platinum Eagle 2001 was found in MS69

PCGS \$25 Platinum Eagle 2001 was found in MS69

PCGS \$100 Platinum Eagle 2001 found in MS69



### International Collections:

All international coins are graded "Gem Uncirculated" by PCGS

### Australia:



- PCGS \$100 Australian nugget 2000
- PCGS \$50 Gold Coin 2000, found in Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS \$15 Gold Coin 2000, found in Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS \$100 Australian nugget 1999, Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS \$50 Australian nugget 1999, Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS 1 oz. Gold Nugget 1997 found in Gem Uncirculated



### Austrian Collections:



- PCGS Gold 200 Schillings 1999 found in Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS 1 oz. Gold Coin 1998 Philharmonic found in Uncirculated BU (pop. Maybe 2 in USA)
- PCGS 100 Cronas 1915 coin found in Gem Uncirculated

### Canadian Collections:



- PCGS \$50 Platinum Leaf (1 oz.) 1996 found in Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS \$50 Platinum Leaf 1991 found n Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS \$5 Gold Maple Leaf 1999 found n Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS \$50 Gold Maple Leaf 1998 found in Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS \$50 Platinum Leaf 1991 found n Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS \$5 Silver Maple Leaf 1989 found in Gem Uncirculated

English Collection:



- PCGS Gold Sovereign 1912 found in Gem Unc. BU



Jamaican Collection:



- PCGS ½ Jamaican Penny 1961 found in Gem Unc.

## South African Collection:



- PCGS 1/10 oz. Krugerrand 2000, Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS 1/4 oz. Krugerrand 2000, Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS 1/2 oz. Krugerrand 2000, Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS 1 oz. Krugerrand 1984, Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS 1 oz. Krugerrand 1983, Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS 1 oz. Krugerrand 1982, Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS 1 oz. Krugerrand 1981, Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS 1 oz. Krugerrand 1980, Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS 1 oz. Krugerrand 1979, Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS 1 oz. Krugerrand 1978, Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS 1 oz. Krugerrand 1977, Gem Uncirculated

- PCGS 1 oz. Krugerrand 1976, Gem Uncirculated
- PCGS 1 oz. Krugerrand 1975, Gem Uncirculated

Uruguayan Collection:



PCGS 10 Pesos found in Gem Unc. BU

Coins from Hungary and Mexico were also rumored to have been recovered, but information on any availability of these coins by PCGS or evidence of sales on Ebay is not available at this time.

## World Trade Center Coins: Numbered Series

After the coins excavated from the ruins of the vaults underneath the World Trade Center were certified and graded by the Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS), an interesting system was observed on some of the coins.

Although complete information regarding population numbers are unavailable due to PCGS' concern that a coin's rarity would controversially increase its value, some of the recovered coins from Ground Zero are numbered, such as 1 of 900, etc. This has a unique significance for the recovered coins.



The numbered series for WTC PCGS certified coins was a way for PCGS to divide the coins into different groups of coins and batching the coins together. It is speculated that each batch of



coins has something to do with the owners of each batch of coins. The coins indicate that those coins with numbering came from the same deposit box and/or owner. For example, if a person held 150 coins in the Iron Mountain vault where the WTC coins were discovered, and assuming that all of these recovered coins were given to PCGS to grade, PCGS would number this person's collection as 1 of 150, then 2 of 150, and on and on. The reason why this theory might make sense is because we have the 1oz Suisse gold bars and 1 oz silver eagle as 1 of 12 and 1 of 426. Also the 1 of 190, 1 of 256, 1 of 531 are very similar with all the 2001 gold eagles in there.

Another theory is that by doing the series the "money men" behind the coins could get away with a lot more "Gem Uncirculated" coins that should be cheaper to grade than MS graded coins. I know some of the series has MS coins in them but a lot of them are Gem Uncirculated.

All of the coins in a series would be graded by the agency, and this numbering system does not mean that all the coins are of the same denomination or grade, however. A collector might have had \$1 silver with \$5 gold coins of varying grades, although most coins recovered were graded Gem Uncirculated (minimum MS65) or MS69 some but very few MS70.

These coins could have been sold off, either all of the series or part of it, making them now available to other collectors. Some collectors might want to acquire whole silver or gold collections of numbered coins, meaning that they would ultimately acquire all of the coins that were held in the vault together.

Although some people may wish to submit their coins to PCGS to re-grade their coins, especially if they were given the original “Gem Uncirculated” grade, this is not advised in order to preserve the American flag that signifies a particular coin as belonging to the WTC recovered collection of coins.

Value will likely increase for a Gem Uncirculated coin that retains the original flag slab rather than a re-graded coin without it, due to the historical nature of these coins.

The available information indicates that the numbered coins are available in these different series:

- 1 of 12- (bar and coin) 1 oz gold bar and 1 oz silver eagle 2001, Gem BU,
- 1 of 140 - (1 coin) 1998 1 oz gold Philharmonic, Gem BU
- 1 of 150 -(2 coins) 2001 1/2 oz Gold Eagle, 1 oz Silver Eagle, Gem BU
- 1 of 190 (6 coins)- 2001 \$1, \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 \$100, Silver, Gold, Platinum, Gem BU
- 1 of 269 (5 coins)- 2001 \$1, \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50, Silver and gold Gem BU
- 1 of 426 ( bar and coin)- 2001 1oz gold bar and 1 oz silver eagle, Gem BU
- 1 of 531 (5 coins)- 2001 \$1, \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50, Silver and gold Gem BU
- 1 of 900 (1 coin) 1998 1 oz Gold Eagle, Gem BU
- 1 of 1000 (2 coins)- 1999 \$5 gold eagle. 2001 1 oz silver eagle both MS69

- 1 of 1100, (2 coins) 1975 and 1984 1 oz Krugerrand
- 1 of 1440 (2 sets) 2001 \$5 gold eagle, \$1 silver eagle

Although the population information for the WTC coins has been kept secret by the PCGS, the total number of these "WTC Series coins" are at least 13,206 coins. Certainly if any collector could obtain all the numbered coins in a series, they would own a valuable and interesting piece of American history.

## **Mystery Surrounds Population Numbers of PCGS-Certified WTC Coins**

After the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks, recovery workers were shocked to find literally billions of dollars worth of platinum, gold, and silver bullion and coins from around the world.

The recovered coins that were sent to Collectors Universe for grading became an immediate symbol of what transpired that day, and have become an important historical artifact. Many of them surprisingly remained in pristine MS condition, though Collectors Universe, which owns the grading company PCGS, graded the first set, all with the grade "Gem Uncirculated."

In fact, the majority of the coins have this grading, as they were graded about 6 months prior to the WTC coins graded by PCGS. Therefore, coins with grades like MS69 or MS70 are rare, it is however not advised to re-submit coins for re-grading because the re-grading process would result in the removal of

the distinctive American flag slab in the sealed PCGS case.

This American flag is the identifying factor that confirms that a coin was a WTC recovery coin. Despite many collectors' please, PCGS has not released any comprehensive population numbers for the WTC coins as of this writing.

While in the beginning phases of grading the WTC coins, PCGS did calculate population numbers, they subsequently ceased this traditional practice because some coins or denominations were scarce and therefore would become more valuable over time as only a limited number of coins were found at the WTC vault.

PCGS stopped recording the population numbers after this. Some WTC coins have bar codes, which can identify the coins in PCGS' database, and some have corresponding population numbers, but it seems that nothing can be concluded due to incomplete information.



In addition, although one particular coin may have a bar code, this does not mean that all coins of the same grade and denomination will also have one, making calculation of the PCGS WTC coins nearly impossible for collectors. PCGS also does not have a complete record of the coins that actually *do* have a bar code either.

PCGS has been around since 1986, and is one of the premier grading companies, with a meticulous system and database that can trace any coin with a serial number. Therefore, it's disconcerting that PCGS does not have or will not make available population reports on the WTC coins.

These are historical artifacts that obviously can never be

replaced, but PCGS seemingly has little interest in providing population data to WTC coin collectors. It begs the question as to why they would accept the coins, provide extra security for the coins if they did not plan to keep a record of the coins that they received.

These coins' value is already increased due to the event surrounding them, but due to a dearth of population statistics, reliable and standardized price ranges are hard to come by. Most collectors look at the market place like Ebay and Heritage auction to find a price level for these coins.

For veteran numismatists around the world, these pieces serve as an historical heirloom, and have a value beyond their selling price.

They are the lasting tangible reminder to never forget our fallen citizen's. Artifacts from wars and other dark historical events have been collected and sold around the world, and it is curious why some people think WTC coins would not have the same collection value to some.

In addition, though many people make the respectable claim that these WTC center coins are tainted items, many dealers have donated a considerable share of the revenue for charities such as the Uniformed Firefighters Association Widows' and Children's Fund. Regarding these donations, PCGS put out a statement in November 2001 saying,

*"...In the months following Sept 11, we were approached on numerous occasions to do coin-related projects. We rejected all the projects except one PCGS project from one source. After considerable thought, we decided to do the one PCGS project*

*because we knew the people handling the deal very well, they assured us that everything would be handled in the best possible way, and they assured us a hefty donation would be made to the victims.*

*It is our understanding that there are 4 direct retailers of these coins, that the two largest have committed to donating between 6% and 12% of the gross sales price to the fireman/victims funds, and that the largest retailer has raised close to \$400,000 for the funds. It was certainly not our intention to participate in anything that is disrespectful to our country or the victims of our National tragedy. I hope this explains what we did and why we did it..."*

Since so much money was apparently raised through the sale of these coins, the claim that profiteers simply want to make money off of a national tragedy has less support if these facts are true. In addition, some scams have cropped up on the internet, claiming to have for sale WTC coins but they in fact may be false.

More accurate population data from the PCGS could help prevent people truly only out to profit from tragedy, instead of hurting genuine collectors.

As noted elsewhere, the PCGS was given many of the coins, and they subsequently created some numbered series. These series includes the following:

- 1 of 12 (2 coins)- Gem BU
- 1 of 140- (1 coin)-Gem BU
- 1 of 150 (2 coins)- Gem BU
- 1 of 190 (6 coins)- Gem BU



- 1 of 269 (5 coins)- Gem BU
- 1 of 426 (2 coins)- Gem BU
- 1 of 531 (5 coins)- Gem BU
- 1 of 900- (1 coin)- Gem BU
- 1 of 1000 (2 coins)- MS69
- 1 of 1100- (2 coins)- Gem BU
- 1 of 1440 (2 coins) -Gem BU

Therefore, it can be deduced that at least 13,206 coins exist from the Ground Zero vaults. But as we all know many more coins in Gem Uncirculated, MS69 and some in MS70 are present in today's market place.



## **Market Places for World Trade Center Coins**

Whether you're an experience coin collector or simply want a piece of American history, you've probably wondered where you could acquire one of the thousands of coins that were recovered underneath the World Trade Center rubble.

Many of the coins were in fine condition, while some had some visible damaged or were even charred to some degree. Therefore, it may be difficult to calculate specific ranges for a type of coin, but here are some researched historical prices and places to purchase these one-of-a-kind artifacts.



### **Ebay:**

Ebay has become the world's marketplace, and if it can be found, it can usually be found on eBay. Fortunately WTC coins crop up on a regular basis and provided here are some

historical prices for selected coins.

PCGS WTC Silver Eagles may be one of the more available coins, as it's believed that thousands may be available. Population numbers are unknown for all PCGS WTC coins, as the company decided to not release that information.

**Prices recorded Jan 2008**

Year	2001 Gem	2001 MS69	2000 Gem	1993 Gem	1993 MS69	1991 Gem	1991 MS69	1989 Gem	1987 MS69
Price (\$)	102	199	87	104	899	245	279	114	419

Next are the PCGS WTC \$5 Gold Eagles, with years ranging from 1998-2001.

**Prices recorded Jan 2008**

Year	2001 Gem	2001 MS69	2000 MS69	1999 MS69	1998 Gem	1998 Gem
Price (\$)	400	460	3895	499	299	330

Finally are the \$50 WTC Gold Eagles. Available are 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1994, 1993, 1991, 1986. This list is not exhaustive, but rather meant to be informative.

**Prices recorded Jan 2008**

Year	2000 MS69	1999 9	1999 MS69	1998 8	1998 MS69	1997 MS69	1994 MS68	1994 MS69	1991 MS69	1986 MS69
Price (\$)	1445	1199	1395	1160	1390	1345	1875	3499	1435	1895

Current eBay prices for the \$50 gold eagle range between \$1300 and \$3200.

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In addition to scouring eBay for the latest WTC coin additions, coin collectors can also join Heritage Auction's website at [www.ha.com](http://www.ha.com), which calls itself the "world's largest collectibles auctioneer". If you sign up for their email list, alerts can be sent straight to your inbox when a new WTC coin is up for sale. Traditionally prices have been better on Heritage auction due to the fact that many inexperienced collectors may not know the market value for their WTC coins.

As you can see, prices for WTC certified coins can vary significantly, depending on the grade, whether the coin is part of a numbered series, and the rarity of its appearance on the market. The two best resources for finding PCGS WTC coins are on eBay and Heritage Auction, where you can set up alerts to be notified of a coin's auction.

## **Inherent Value of World Trade Center Coins: A Piece of History**

Everyone knows what you mean when you speak of "9/11". It was a tragic day in American History, causing the most lost of

life in a surprise attack since Pearl Harbor during WWII. Everyone alive during that time remembers where they were when they heard about the planes flying into the World Trade Center towers, and watched in horror as they eventually came crashing down.

Many people sadly did not survive, but surprisingly some assets and coins were recovered from the sub-basements of the WTC vaults, where buried inside the debris were millions of dollars worth of bullion and coins.

Many of these coins eventually found their way to the Professional Coin Grading Service, the premier organization of its kind in the United States. Many people were wary of the buying and selling of these coins, and PCGS has acknowledged that it was a difficult decision and they wanted to proceed carefully.

They got many of the dealers to agree to donate up to 12% of their sales price to help the firemen and their families that were affected by the attacks. Indeed, PCGS acknowledged that the sale of these coins' sale raised over \$400,000 from one dealer alone!

Firefighters thanked the PCGS community for their contribution. These coins have value in more than just dollar terms, however, as several factors set them apart from other collectable items.

Since these coins were stored in the vaults underneath the World Trade Center, many of them are damaged due to the destruction of that day. However, many of them remained in

MS69 or above grade, a tribute to American resiliency.

Indeed, these coins serve as a sober reminder of the events of that day, and owning a physical artifact such as this from Ground Zero would surely remind the owner to “never forget”. These coins have value, then, as an historical artifact and an heirloom that can be passed down from generation to generation.

Obviously no other coins like these can ever be made again- they are truly one of a kind. The WTC coins promise to gain in value due to the limited, albeit unknown population numbers.

Although the PCGS refused to release such data, the appearance of certain coins on the market is certainly more prevalent than others. For example, the 1 oz. Gold Philharmonic Austrian coin is probably the rarest of the WTC coins, as only 2 are known to be available in the United States today.

In addition, many of the higher denomination coins are in rare supply but in good condition. The \$1 silver eagle coins are most likely the WTC coins that are in the greatest supply, but many coins of other metals like platinum and gold are rarer and thus demand a greater price on the market.

If a collector obtains one of these rare coins, their rarity as well as historical significance is sure to be a factor in increased pricing over time.

Lastly, since 2001, and particularly since the economic depression that started in 2007, investors from around the

world have put much of their assets into metals like gold. Gold has again become a very valuable commodity, with individuals selling their gold jewelry and assets at sky-high gold prices.

Gold in 2001 was a little above \$200 per ounce, and by late 2010 that price has risen to nearly \$1300. The price of silver has also dramatically increased since its 2001 levels. Some analysts and investors believe this price will remain steady and even increase as the economic times continue to stagnate, leading investors to seek security.

Therefore, any assets in precious metals are a good way to both diversify a portfolio of assets as well as have a physical asset whose availability is in limited supply, like gold is. The WTC coins come in silver, gold, and platinum, and in addition to owning a unique symbol of American history, collectors and investors can simultaneously invest in rising metal prices.

For these reasons above, acquiring World Trade Center PCGS coins is both a good investment and valuable collector's item for coin collectors and curious individuals alike. No other WTC coins can ever be created again, as these coins are unique in their circumstance.

Despite PCGS' wariness, the value of these coins on the market has risen since their original sale, and as time goes by their intrinsic value is sure to increase as they are historical artifacts of that fateful day that changed America.

Lastly, gold and other metal prices have skyrocketed due to economic conditions, and as many savvy investors have known for years, owning physical finite metals is a great investment



strategy to hedge against inflation and currency depreciation and uncertain economic times.

World Trade Center coins serve all three purposes, and more and more collectors are seeking out these valuable pieces of history for their sets.

## **World Trade Center Coins: How to Collect**

The coins that were discovered below the World Trade Center certainly have a unique history to them because of their location; they were retrieved several months after the attacks of 9/11/01, and subsequently graded by Collectors Universe and then its company PCGS.

The uniqueness of WTC coins does not stop there; following the controversy of the potential profiting from these coins, PCGS stopped recording population numbers in an effort to subdue any value increase for rare coins.

However, thanks to the research of dedicated coin collectors, more information is now available, though population numbers remain incomplete. There are several ways for interested investors and collectors to acquire WTC coins. Discussed here are some methods.

## 1) Collection by year



Many of the coins have identifiable years in which they were minted, with most being 2000 and 2001. The oldest known coins from the WTC are from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, with most having dates since 1983.

An interesting method of collection might be to acquire coins by year, such as 2001, as this year is representative of both

the year in which these coins became “WTC coins”, as well as being more readily available. Conversely, coins made in more rarely represented years could become a very valuable set if a collector acquires many coins from that year.

## 2) Collect by Series



When the coins were excavated, PCGS rated and numbered

many of the coins. The numbering system signifies that a coin is “1 of 269” that a particular owner had or that was present in box in the vault.

Only several of these series exist, some with quite large counts, however. Series includes: 12, 140, 150, 190, 269, 426, 531, 900, 1000, 1100, and 1440. Some of the particular series are known to have certain kinds of coins; therefore collecting by numbered series may take a while but is certainly doable.

### **3) Collect by Country**





To many people's surprise, coins from around the world were stored underneath the World Trade Center, coming from 10 countries in total. Countries include Australia, Austria, Canada Hungary, England, Jamaica, Mexico, South Africa, United States, Uruguay.

The most readily available on the market are from Canada, the United States, and Australia. The retrieval of thousands of 10 pesos Uruguayan coins is intriguing, and is sure to be a interesting addition to a WTC collection. In addition, rarer coins from Austria and England could be a great find. If one acquired coins from many of these countries, it would be a valuable and unique collection.

#### **4) Collect by coin size**



Many of the coins that were found and certified come in specific weights, like 1/10<sup>th</sup> oz. or 1 oz. An interesting method of collecting WTC coins could be to acquire coins and bars based on weight.

For example, one could get a 1 oz. gold Suisse bar and add to their collection from there, adding more 1 oz. bars or coins over time. The good news is that this may be an easier way for some to create sets, as coins and bars are easily found by weight versus some other criteria, like date.

#### **5) Collect by metal type**



Three types of metals are known for the WTC coins: platinum, gold, and silver. A unique way of collecting WTC coins could be to acquire them by their specific metal, and you could acquire many different coins from different countries and years. In addition, a collector could get one or more of each type, having all metals represented in their set.

#### **6) Collect by grade**





This may be more difficult to do, as well over half of the coins were graded Gem Uncirculated, with only a minority receiving MS grades of 68 or higher. There have been historically MS68, 69, and even 70 on ebay or other auction sites, and it would be feasible to acquire coins based on their grade over time.

However, note that coins should not be submitted for re-grading, as this could remove the flag insert inside the sealed capsule that was originally provided by PCGS. The American flag in the capsule identifies the coin as a verified WTC coin, and should not be tampered with.

As you can see, there are many ways to go about creating sets of WTC coins. Other ideas may include collecting by

denomination, etc. If you've been wanting to start your own WTC coin set, these ideas should get you started for researching your own set. Although research on the pricing and availability of certain coins is scarce, there are some coins known to be rarer than others and thus a potentially exquisite find. Using eBay and Heritage Auction, collectors can now begin their search for completing their WTC coin commemorative sets.

As a reference site for your collection efforts this book and the website [www.wtc911coins.com](http://www.wtc911coins.com) are the authority on the subject of wtc coins.

## **If You're Interested**

Now you have learned all there is to know about the Certified PCGS WTC Collectors coins, there is no reason you can't get out there and start your very own collection.

From one of history's most tragic and well known events, we can commemorate each and every moment with these timelines and coins collected directly from Ground Zero.

These amazing coins are not to be taken lightly, as well as they are a piece of history, they are incredibly valuable.

Experts predict that the value of each coin will double and some even triple within the next 5 years. So you could very easily make an investment along with your collection.

As people do with stocks and bonds, these certified PCGS WTC

coins are said to gain value over the years. That means if you were to purchase a \$50 coin now, within a few years it would be worth roughly \$150, a few years later than that and it will continue to double.

This is an investment of a lifetime. Commemorate our nation's history along with making a very sound investment.

More information on the WTC Coins can be found at <http://www.wtc911coins.com>