



In this issue of our newsletter, we have another great article from Jeff Garrett on the subject of “once in a life-time opportunity.” Our next meeting will be held on Monday, April 15, 2019 at 6:30 PM at our new location at the Embassy Suites at Lexington Green, 245 Lexington Green Circle. As a reminder, they have asked that we not bring in outside food or drink when attending the meetings. Instead, there are several convenient locations within the facility to purchase soft drinks, coffee, or food items.

DOOR PRIZE TO BE GIVEN AWAY!

You won't want to miss this meeting! Jeff Garrett at Mid-American Rare Coin will be donating another door-prize item to be given away. Also, Jeff had a really nice deal for any club members who would like to become members of the American Numismatic Association. Jeff will pay 100% of the first year's basic membership dues (the online version of The Numismatist, a \$28.00 value) for any club member who wants to become an ANA member for the first time. The ANA offers members many outstanding benefits including discounted coin insurance, life insurance, library use, on-line delivery of The Numismatist Magazine, and a great numismatic convention each summer.

ONCE IN A LIFE-TIME OPPORTUNITY

By Jeff Garrett

I have been an observer of numismatic market trends for over 40 years. During that time rare coins have risen and fallen sharply many times. Historically, the rare coin market has been very cyclical. The first rare coin boom I experienced was in 1979-1980. Precious metal prices exploded in 1979, in part because of the Hunt Brothers trying to corner

the silver market. Rare coins rode the wave, and many issues increased in value 10 fold almost overnight.

By 1982 the bubble had burst on gold and silver prices and rare coins tumbled as well. The country was in the grips of a deep recession and the rare coin market suffered mightily. Many coin businesses were on the brink of bankruptcy, and it was during this time that Jim Halperin and Steve Ivy joined forces to survive the crash. The creation of Heritage Rare Coins worked out pretty well for them!!

The rare coin market rebounded in 1984 with a giant focus on generic gold issues. Many of today's most successful dealers got their start during this heady time of easy profits. Starting in 1989, the rare coin market again exploded with the advent of third party grading and Wall Street investments. Later, in 1991-92 the coin market fell sharply during the economic slowdown of the time.

The creation of the internet has changed the market profoundly by expanding the collector base of the hobby. The market no longer seems to jump sharply or drop rapidly. Market trends are much slower to develop.

One major market trend that has been developing in the last few years has been the slow erosion of market premiums for common date, and some not so common date, gold coins. The premium over melt value for double eagles is the lowest that it has been in my 45 year career. Many lower grade common date double eagles can be purchased for very little over melt value, and are less expensive than current date American Gold Eagles.

As an example of this trend these are the Greysheet bid prices for Mint State St. Gaudens double eagles over the last thirty years:

Date	Grade	Grey Sheet Bid	Spot Price	Premium Over Melt	Percentage Over Melt
1989	MS-60	460	386	74	19.17%
1999	MS-60	500	280	220	78.57%
2009	MS-60	1210	916	294	32.10%
2019	MS-60	1296	1318	-22	-1.67%
1989	MS-63	750	386	364	94.30%
1999	MS-63	550	280	270	96.43%
2009	MS-63	1460	916	544	59.39%
2019	MS-63	1321	1318	3	0.23%
1989	MS-64	1325	386	939	243.26%
1999	MS-64	650	280	370	132.14%
2009	MS-64	1650	916	734	80.13%
2019	MS-64	1360	1318	42	3.19%
1989	MS-65	3400	386	3014	780.83%
1999	MS-65	1040	280	760	271.43%
2009	MS-65	2000	916	1084	118.34%
2019	MS-65	1475	1318	157	11.91%

As you can see from the above information, there has never been a better time to purchase double eagles. Gold prices have been stable, hovering around \$1300 per ounce. There are a lot of precious metal gurus promoting the virtues of the ultimate hard asset. With the federal deficit passing the \$20 trillion dollar level, some investment in gold seems to be a logical hedge against financial calamity.

With United States gold coins trading at historic low premiums, these would offer two ways to profit. The coins will increase in value based on bullion prices, and the premiums could rise over time closer to historic norms. If you are interested on buying gold bullion, there is no better option than choosing United States double eagles.

The above information is primarily based on some sort of investment in gold bullion. My primary focus has always been to promote the joys and benefits of coin collecting. Now is probably the best opportunity in our lifetime to start a set of United States double eagles. You can now purchase from 75-100 different date mint condition U.S. double eagles for less than \$1,500 each. Many other dates are available for under \$3,000 each in lesser condition. For not much more than the price of bullion, you can assemble an incredibly impressive starter set of double eagles.

The following is a list of date and mint mark combinations with a retail catalogue value of less than \$1500. With careful shopping, most can be purchased for prices closer to bullion value.

DATE	MM	CATALOGUE
		MS60
1873		1,850
1876		1,850
1877	S	1,850
1878		1,750
1878	S	1,750
1880	S	1,800
1882	S	1,750
1883	S	1,750
1884	S	1,850
1885	S	1,800
1887	S	1,800
1888	S	1,750
1889	S	1,800
1890		1,750
1890	S	1,600
1891	S	1,600
1892	S	1,525
1893		1,525
1893	S	1,650
1894		1,525
1894	S	1,525
1895		1,525
1895	S	1,525
1896		1,525
1896	S	1,525

1897		1,525
1897	S	1,525
1898		2,000
1898	S	1,525
1899		1,525
1899	S	1,525
1900		1,525
1900	S	1,525
1901		1,525
1901	S	1,525
1902	S	1,525
1903		1,525
1903	S	1,525
1904		1,525
1904	S	1,525
1905	S	1,525
1906		1,800
1906	D	1,525
1906	S	1,525
1907		1,525
1907	D	1,525
1907	S	1,525
1907		1,850
1908		1,875
1908	D	1,400
	N/M	
1908	D	1,600
1908	N/M	1,400
1909		1,550
1909	S	1,400
1909		2,000
1910		1,400
1910	D	1,400
1910	S	1,400
1911		1,500
1911	D	1,400
1911	S	1,400
1912		1,500
1913		1,550
1913	D	1,450
1914		1,500
1914	D	1,400
1914	S	1,400
1915		1,500
1915	S	1,400
1916	S	1,400
1920		1,400
1922		1,400
1923		1,400
1923	D	1,400

1924	1,400
1925	1,400
1926	1,400
1927	1,400
1928	1,400

As has been mentioned many times in my articles, when collecting it is usually best to purchase coins in the highest condition you can afford. This holds true for double eagles, but there are several factors to consider. U.S. double eagles are a large and heavy coin; therefore many are heavily bag-marked. Also, many of the early issues saw extensive circulation and are usually found well worn. With the exception of about 10 different dates, double eagles soar in price based on condition. Some may trade for \$1400 in MS60 and \$25,000 in MS65. By contrast, some dates are known in huge numbers and can be purchased for reasonable prices in Gem condition.

Two of the most common date double eagles in Gem condition are:

1904 Liberty double eagles and 1908 No Motto Saint Gaudens double eagles. Large groups of both issues have surfaced over the years, and can be readily found in the highest conditions for the Type.

U.S. double eagles are a fascinating series. Liberty double eagles start with the unique 1849 and continue thru 1907. Saint Gaudens double eagles start with the 1907 High Relief and ends with the enigmatic 1933 double eagle. Both series are full of major rarities and interesting issues, such as Carson City or New Orleans productions. Collectors can and have spent millions assembling sets of U.S. double eagles.

For those less interested in spending a major fortune, the series offer an amazing array of date and mint mark combinations that would be fun to collect, and hopefully a good long term investment.