

GNA Journal

VOLUME 55, ISSUE 3

JANUARY 2020

National Money Show Comes to Atlanta!

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Join us as the Georgia Numismatic Association co-hosts the 2020 National Money Show, and our own GNA president Greg Ison will be Host Organization Chairman.



Come see \$100 million of historic rare coins in Atlanta; the convention will be Thursday, February 27th through Saturday, February 29th in Hall D of the Cobb Galleria Centre. The 3-day show offers access to hundreds of dealers with some of the best numismatic inventory available. Kagin's Auction is hosting 2 nights of auctions beginning at 6pm on both Thursday and Friday. There will also be a variety of seminars, a dozen educational presentations, and many more spectacular exhibits. The ANA's signature Museum Showcase will present rare and historically significant numismatic treasures from the Edward C. Rochette Money Museum, The "Auraria" Collection of Dahlonega Mint Gold, Comitia Americana Medals, paper currency collection Bebee Error Notes, and a 1913 Liberty Head nickel. Many coin dealers in attendance will provide free, informal evaluations of your coins and paper money. This is a great opportunity to be part of ANA's premier annual event, come out and see amazing coins and collections.

The Cobb Galleria is at 2 Galleria Pkwy SE, Atlanta, Georgia 30339, which is immediately off of I-285 and less than 1 mile from I-75. Show hours are 10am to 6pm on Thursday and Friday, February 27th & 28th, and 10am to 4pm on Saturday, February 29th. ANA members can enter the show 30 minutes before the public; last admission is 30 minutes prior to closing. Public admission is \$8 for adults, while ANA members and children 12 and under are always free.

ANA members can bypass the admission lines by registering for the show online at <https://www.money.org/NationalMoneyShow#register> or calling 800-514-2646.

“Meet Your GNA Board Member”

The on-going series of meeting GNA Board members. This edition is about Chip Cutcliff, our GNA Show Bourse Manager and GNA Governor.

Born in Atlanta in 1958, and raised in Marietta Georgia where I attended Sprayberry High School and graduated from Kennesaw College in 1986 with a B.S. in Biology and minor in U.S. History and Anthropology. Have worked for High Country Inc. in some capacity since 1997 to present. Went to work as an Aquatic Biologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in 1991, retiring in 2018 with 28+ years of credited service. Have worked part time for Robinson's Coins on the Marietta Square since 2007 and went to work there full time after my retirement from the State in 2018. Married in 1988 to my wife Donna and we have two recently married adult girls, Hannah, 29, and Sarah, 26.

I have a more unusual story for how one gets into coin collecting. My father and his business partner broke off from Dunaway Drugs in 1964 and opened C&C Drugs in the first shopping mall built in Georgia and the first mall drug store in Georgia at North DeKalb Mall in Decatur. The 10,500 square foot store had an entrance on the parking lot and an entrance onto the Mall, at both entrances were a group of gum ball machines, maybe 8 at each door. From the time I was about 10 years old my father would take me to work on Sunday once-a-month and have an employee empty the monthly receipts from the 16 gum ball machines in a glass enclosed corner of the store onto my Dad's desk. It was my job to sort the change. I got to keep all of the wheat cents and Dad kept the Buffalo nickels and silver dimes. For my time and effort I got a chili dog and coke at the soda fountain for lunch. For some reason now forgotten, I decided that I wanted to collect a million wheat cents.

Like most guys I collected pretty seriously as a kid, learning early on that if I shined my copper cents with an eraser and painted them with mom's clear nail polish they would stay shiny forever (going on 50 years now and still counting). I don't remember collecting during my high school years, though my Senior year book states I was part of the school coin club. I got my first management job with a salary in 1986 and spent my whole check at the local coin shop on the key coins I had never been able to find: the 4 wheats – 09S, 09S VDB, 14D, 31S; 16D dime and 32D and 32S quarter. I completed my oldest albums with the purchase (and still have these coins today).

After I married in 1988 I had a little extra money again and got back into the hobby seriously. I can remember pushing my one year old daughter around in a baby stroller at coin shows in 1990. I was seriously hooked and tried to learn everything I could about coins. I started using the free classified ads in Numismatic News and sold hundreds of 1995 unopened cent bags to collectors looking for the new double die. Then there was the start of the State Quarter program in

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Show Calendar

Greater Atlanta Coin Shows
2/9, 3/8, 4/5, 5/3, 6/14, 7/12, 8/9, 9/13, 10/11, 11/8 and 12/13
Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Hotel/Conf. Center
500 Powder Springs Street, Marietta, GA
Bob O'Brien: (770) 772-4359
atlcoin@hotmail.com, www.atlcoins.com

GNA 57th Annual Coin Show

April 16-18, 2020
Dalton Convention Center
2211 Dug Gap Battle Road, Dalton, GA
Show information: www.gamoney.org
Tom Youngblood: (770) 815-4042

Low Country Winter Coin Show

January 31—February 2, 2020
Exchange Park Fairgrounds
9850 Hwy 78, Ladson, SC 29456
Richard Smith: (843) 797-1245

50th Upstate Coin Show

February 14-16, 2020
Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium
385 N.Church St., Spartanburg, SC 29303
David Burzinski: (864) 293-8416

ANA's National Money Show

February 27-29, 2020
Cobb Galleria Centre, Hall D
2 Galleria Pkwy SE, Atlanta, GA 30339
<https://www.money.org/>
NationalMoneyShow#events

Tennessee State Show

March 6-8, 2020
Camp Jordan Arena
323 Camp Jordan Pkwy, East Ridge, TN
Bob Hurst: (321) 427-6474

Augusta Coin Show

May 15-16, 2020
Columbia County Exhibition Center
212 Partnership Drive, Grovetown, GA
David Chism: (706) 541-4143

Blue Ridge Numismatic Assoc. 61st Annual Convention

August 21-23, 2020
Dalton Convention Center
2211 Dug Gap Battle Road, Dalton, GA
Ron Blackman : (321) 258-0325

Georgia Numismatic Association Application and Membership Details Are Available at GNAMoney.org

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Continuation of Meet Your Board Member from page 2

1999, and I sold hundreds of rolls of each issue for \$13/roll plus shipping. This is about the time that I joined the Metropolitan Coin Club of Atlanta (MCCA) and the Georgia Numismatic Association (GNA).

The coin clubs provided a great educational opportunity and my two daughters usually attended as part of a very active Young Numismatist program at MCCA, where we all made some great friends and were exposed to many advanced collectors. I became VP of MCCA in 2000, and President in 2002, a position that I held for 12 years.

The GNA reorganized on 1999 and we held our first Dalton Coin show under new management in 2000. I acted as assistant Bourse Manager for the first 5 years and took over as Bourse Manager in 2006 when David Crenshaw left that position with GNA and took a job with Whitman Publishing. I've been bourse manager ever since. I changed part time jobs, moving from High Country to Robinson's Coins in February of 2007, as previously mentioned. I've worked for Robinson's since then, which has been in business on the Marietta Square for 53 years. I went to work full time for the coin shop in 2018 when I retired from the State.

Before I worked for a coin shop, I used to tell people that I specialized in U.S. Copper, type Gold and Large Currency. After working for 13 years at Robinson's that's no longer true. I now chase Dahlongega gold, First National Bank notes from Marietta Georgia and anything especially nice or unusual. I am a Life Member of the ANA, GNA and FUN, and a regular member of MCCA, the Rockdale Coin Club, BRNA, SPMC and TNN. I plan to sell most of my collection at auction in the next 3 or 4 years (retirement can make you do crazy things), but a nucleus of the better pieces will be kept to hand down to my girls. They both collect – Hannah is currently working on her 12 Caesars and Sarah collects...anything she can spend. You can still find me at Robinsons every day of the week, unless there is a UGA home game (GO DAWGS). The hobby is highly educational and can be lots of fun. I hope you find the time and interest to get involved and it becomes a major part of your life, as it has been mine.

“Toned Coins”

By Trey Jones

On the topic of toned coins, some collectors love their coins to be "blast white" while others like their coins to come in an array of hues from faint yellows to orange and then ocean blues. Some collectors will pay a significant premium for vividly toned coins over their "blast white" counterparts.

A member of the Metropolitan Coin Club of Atlanta, of which I too am a member, had a 1938-D Buffalo Nickel on display during a recent meeting. I distinctly remember that coin because the toning it exhibited. The “target toning” effect is when the toning colors form in



sequential rings leading to a target-like effect; many find the look of this to be very fascinating, myself included. The member has plans to send the coin off to Certified Acceptance Corporation (CAC) hoping for the “green bean” sticker indicating the coin is exceptional

for the grade. In the market place, desirable toning like this 1938-D Buffalo nickel can sell for a great deal more than “normal coins” because of the rarity of pieces like this! Oftentimes, I see similar coins realize very high prices at auction. All the attendees at the club meeting

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NOTICE OF STANDARD POLICY

The Georgia Numismatic Association (GNA) hereby establishes a policy regarding lost or mislaid property which is subsequently found and turned in at any GNA-sponsored event. The policy is as follows:

A statement that property has been found will be made in the next GNA newsletter.

GNA will hold the property for 60 days from the date of the newsletter's publication.

Anyone who believes that he or she has lost property at a GNA event must write to the Association at the following address:

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If the person who writes GNA is able to sufficiently identify the property, it will be returned. If, within the 60-day period, no one claims the property or is able to identify it sufficiently to assure GNA of rightful ownership, GNA will, at the discretion of its Board of Directors, either (1) donate the property to an appropriate charity, or (2) put it to a use consistent with the Association's purposes or in a manner otherwise beneficial to GNA's membership.

GNA assumes no liability for any lost or mislaid property left unclaimed for more than 60 days, or for any other property brought to a GNA sponsored event.

Lady Liberty: America's Enduring Numismatic Motif

By Louis Golino

This article was originally published by *PAN* and has been provided by them for reprinting.

Most Americans and people around the world are aware that the United States was founded on the ideal of liberty (or freedom) and typically associate the idea concretely with the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor.



The Statue of Liberty, a gift from France that opened in 1886 to mark the centennial of American independence, represents not only our enduring commitment to those ideals and our friendship with France but is also symbol of the American melting pot. Millions of people from other countries, mainly in Europe, arrived there by ship in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and their first glimpse of the country was the imposing, majestic neo-classical statue designed by French artist Auguste Bartholdi and built by Gustaf Eiffel.

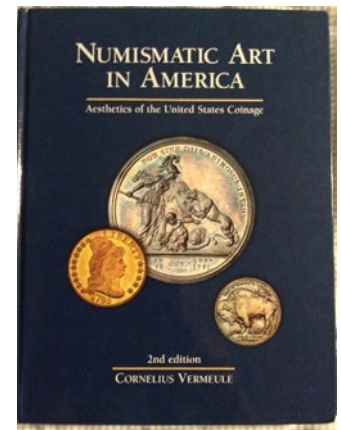
But many people likely have no idea of the historic roots of the idea of Liberty, or why it is usually depicted as a female in classical art and on most of American coinage. Lady Liberty is an allegorical, or symbolic, representation of the democratic and republican ideal of freedom depicted as a female figure or goddess. The idea dates to ancient Greece and Rome, where she was known respectively as goddesses named Eleutheria, who appeared briefly on the coins of Alexandria, and Libertas, who was honored with temples and statutes built in her honor as well as on coinage.

Lady Liberty is by far the most frequently used American numismatic motif and “has been an integral part of American numismatic art” since the time of the original 13 colonies, according to Cornelius Vermeule’s *Numismatic Art in America*. And the artwork of classic American Lady Liberty designs remains very popular with most collectors, especially older ones, which is why the U.S. Mint continues to issue coins that reuse those designs.

British and French influences

Lady Liberty is the most well-known numismatic goddess in this country, but many other cultures have their own versions of the concept. In particular, there are France’s Marianne and the United Kingdom’s Britannia, which have appeared for hundreds of years on the coins of those countries and are still used today with clever designs that blend classic and modern artistic styles.

In fact, some of the Lady Liberty designs that have appeared on our coinage were strongly influenced by their French and British counterparts, especially Britannia, which dates to Roman times. For example, colonial coinage included many designs that are clearly inspired by



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Britannia coins in which the goddess Liberty is shown seated.

Moreover, other countries have had success issuing coins with modern interpretations of their own classic designs, but in the United States, the process of moving towards a modern Liberty has been much less smooth, producing sometimes divisive discussions about what it means for Liberty to be represented by different races and ethnicities.

Lady Liberty's historic roots lie with the American and French revolutions, when Liberty was favored for use on coinage as a conscious alternative to portraits of the monarchies those revolutions were aimed against. In 1782 Benjamin Franklin proposed the issuance of a medal honoring the American victories at Yorktown and Saratoga, which is known as the *Libertas Americana* medal designed by Augustin Dupres, whose obverse features a head of Liberty with locks of hair flowing behind her, an approach seen on many coins issued later. The medal's reverse depicts the United States represented by an infant Hercules, while France is depicted as a Roman goddess, Minerva, warding off an attacking lion (England).



Following the ratification of the Articles of Confederation in 1789, the new country set about the task of designing its own coinage. As Douglas Mudd explained in his April 2016 article, "Lady Liberty," in *The Numismatist*, the original proposal was for coins with busts of American presidents, but President Washington immediately objected to this because he believed that any portrait on a coin was monarchical. He was determined that the new republic would be ruled by the people rather than a dictator of king, and our coinage had to reflect that.

Classic Liberty

In 1792, the young American republic that started its own mint that year passed a law that required coins to carry an image of Liberty on their obverse and one of an American eagle on their reverse. From that time until 1946, when the last Walking Liberty half dollars were struck, most American coins carried an image of Lady Liberty. Exceptions to this trend include "the



Fugio cent of 1787, the Flying Eagle cent of 1856, and the two-, three-, and five-cent pieces of the mid-1800s" and a few others, especially some classic and most modern commemoratives, as noted in *Numismatic News Express'* "Coin Clinic" in the April 11, 2017 issue.

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In addition, there are some U.S. coins in which Liberty is shown as a male figure, including most notably as a Native American chieftain on the Buffalo nickel of James Earle Fraser, the \$10 Indian gold coin of Augustus Saint Gaudens, and the \$2.50 and \$5 Indian gold coins designed by Bela Pratt Lyon, and there is also the Barber coinage of 1892 to 1916, designed by U.S. Mint Chief Engraver Charles Barber, which has been called androgynous.

While the Barber coins have never been especially admired for the artwork, coins with Native American designs, including the modern-day Sacagawea and Native American \$1 coins, are some of the most cherished in our history, which is why for example the Buffalo nickel design continues to be used on American Buffalo Gold coins issued since 2006. There is an interesting historical irony, though, which is that at the very time Americans Indians were being exterminated, they were selected to represent Liberty.



Over the years, the way Lady Liberty has been depicted has changed substantially in terms of dress, hairstyle, and pose, and to a much lesser degree, in terms of ethnicity or race. These differences are more than simply a matter of style or appearance since different versions each have their own symbolic meaning.

On some coins, she appears as a woman whose hair was not brushed, such as on the wreath cents of 1793, or wearing a bonnet or cap of some kind. While on others she is portrayed as a grown woman and in a more fashionable manner in the style of the era.

Perhaps the single most common element of the way Liberty appears on classic U.S. coins other than being dressed in a gown is that she is often shown wearing a Phrygian cap, which represents Liberty. These caps were first used in ancient Greece and were later worn by freed slaves to represent their emancipation, while on early U.S. coinage they represented freedom from the oppressive English monarchy. They also appear on France's Marianne.

Sometimes only Liberty's head is shown on coins such as on the Peace dollar, where she has rays in her head similar to those of the Statue of Liberty, while other times she is depicted standing such as on the Standing Liberty quarter, where she is dressed in a gown and holds both olive branches symbolizing peace and a shield to show she is ready to defend the nation.

On other coins, she is seated such as on the extensive range of Seated Liberty half dimes, dimes, quarters, half dollars, and dollars (which were inspired by the ancient Greek silver tetradrachms and by Britannia coinage) and the Trade dollar, or striding confidently toward the viewer as on the Saint Gaudens \$20 gold double eagle and Adolph Weinman's Walking Liberty half dollar, arguably the two

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Continuation of Lady Liberty: America's Enduring Numismatic Motif from page 8



most popular and influential classic designs.

Weinman's Liberty Half Dollar, one of three Liberty-themed coins introduced in 1916 (along with the Liberty Head dime and Standing Liberty quarter), was released the year when the United States joined its allies Britain, France, and Russia to fight Imperial Germany in World War I. A July 1916 arti-

cle in *The Numismatist* magazine noted: "The goddess [Lady Liberty] is striding toward the dawn of a new day, carrying laurel and oak branches, symbolic of civic and military glory. The reverse shows an eagle perched high up on a mountain crag, wings unfolded. The pine growing out of the rock symbolizes America."

It is also worth noting that Weinman's half dollar design has long been considered to have been inspired by French medallist artist Oscar Roty's *La Semeuse* (or the Sower), his celebrated design of a French farmgirl walking barefoot as she sows seeds, which has been featured on countless French coins from the 19th century through the present time.

There are, however, differences in style since Weinman's classic design is "20th-century Art Deco, while Roty's is 19th-century French Realism," according to Eric Brothers's January 2017 piece in *The Numismatist*. Brothers also explained that when Weinman's son, Robert, was asked about the similarities, he said they seem to be "cousins" but that he could not say if his father was specifically inspired by Roty's design and that "the Walking Liberty is distinctly American in appearance."

The Saint Gaudens double eagle and Walking Liberty half obverse designs also appear on hundreds of millions of American Gold and Silver Eagle coins struck since 1986, and those coins have had an enormous impact on collectors in this country and around the world since American Eagle coins are so widely traded and collected.

Liberty except for Native American and Barber Liberty designs, until very recently Lady Liberty was always depicted as a Caucasian woman of European heritage, or a more allegorical figure inspired by Greco-Roman styles. However, the model that Augustus Saint Gaudens used for his amazing gold double eagle was allegedly a young African-American woman named Hettie Anderson. But on the finished gold coin she looks much more like a Greco-Roman goddess, which is not surprising since Saint Gaudens studied art in France, where he was in-



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fluenced by the Hellenistic traditions of ancient Greece.

In addition, apart from coins, Liberty has of course also appeared in various other forms, especially on sculptures and other works of art. The famous Freedom Statue of Thomas Crawford, for example, which rests at the top of the U.S. Capitol dome, depicts Liberty as an African-American woman wearing a crested helmet and a crown of stars.



But in terms of modern coinage when Lady Liberty has appeared, such as on the 2012 Star-Spangled Banner commemorative silver dollar once again with a Phrygian cap, she is usually shown as a Caucasian woman who would have lived in the 18th or 19th centuries.

The choice to depict her that way more than anything else reflected the ongoing influence of Neoclassicism, a revival of classic art forms between 1750 and 1850 which placed great value of the importance of antiquity (meaning Greco-Roman culture), which continued to exert an impact

even in the 20th century.

It should also be noted that the Liberty designs of some of the American Platinum Eagle \$100 proof coins, such as the popular 2016 issue, are also clearly influenced by Neoclassic artistic traditions.

Modern Liberty

In 2015, this approach of reproducing classic Liberty designs finally began to change due to an initiative from the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee, which suggested producing gold coins and silver medals that depict modern images of Liberty that embrace the ethnic diversity of contemporary America. As current CCAC member Donald Scarinci is fond of saying, “Weinman and Saint-Gaudens are dead; let’s get over it. We need to find Liberty in a new and modern way for the 21st century.”

The first truly modern Lady Liberty appears on the 2015 American Liberty \$100 high-relief gold coin and silver medals, where she is depicted not as having a specific ethnicity, or as multi-racial. Some collectors initially said they would have preferred her to remain the way she was in the past, but those coins and medals nonetheless sold out of their entire mintages.

Then this year the Mint decided to make this an ongoing biennial series in which Liberty would be represented with different ethnicities on each design, starting with the first coin where she is an African-American woman wearing a crown of stars (clearly a tribute to the Statue of Freedom on the U.S. Capitol), which is the 2017 \$100 high-relief gold coin released in April, and accompanying silver medals issued later



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in the year. In future years, she will appear as a Native-American, Asian-American, etc., provided the series is successful enough to continue.

When the 2017 coin's design was unveiled in January, the U.S. Mint's Chief of Staff, Elisa Basnight, said: "As we as a nation, continue to evolve, so does Liberty's representation." Former principal deputy director of the Mint, Rhett Jeppson, explained before he left the Mint in January 2017, that the idea was "wasn't just to put an African-American woman on a coin. The idea was to talk about Liberty and where we see it today as an American people."



When the 2017 American Liberty gold coin was launched on April 6, first day sales were only 14,285, which is much less than the first day sales for the 2015 coin of about 70% of its maximum mintage of 50,000 coins. (Sales did reach 24,225 coins by the end of August). The 2017 piece has an authorized maximum of 100,000 coins, which most modern coin watchers believe is much higher than the likely demand for the coin. In addition, though priced only slightly higher than other one-ounce proof gold coins from the U.S. Mint, the Liberty issue is considered too expensive by many people at its initial price of \$1690.

Those who like the design but could not afford the gold coin were able to purchase a single proof silver medal from the Philadelphia Mint and a special four-medal set, with medals struck at four different mints in four different finishes.

Lady Liberty is clearly not going away as a key symbol and theme of our coinage. The form she takes and the artistic styles with which she is represented will continue to evolve as our country, society, and culture change, but the ideals she represents will remain enduring symbols of our nation.

¹ The Statue of Liberty in New York harbor, whose official name is "Liberty Enlightening the World," is probably the best known American national monument and is what many people associate with the idea of Liberty. It has appeared on many modern U.S. coins from commemoratives to the obverse of American Platinum Eagles and the reverse of Presidential \$1 coins.

² Antoninus Pius Roman Sestarius coin obverse and reverse. This Roman coin from 143-144 AD features an obverse with a bust of Antoninus Pius and carries a reverse with an image of Britannia seated left on a heap of rocks. Britannia, the Greek and Roman term for Britain and the female personification of Britain on art and coinage since Roman times, influenced both colonial and 18th and 19th century U.S. coin designs.

³ Libertas Americana silver medal issued in 1783 and dated July 4th, 1776, which was designed by Benjamin Franklin and sculpted and engraved by Augustin Dupres, honored the American victories at Yorktown and Saratoga. The obverse shows Liberty with flowing hair and a pole with a Phrygian cap that symbolized freedom from the British monarchy, a motif that appears on many classic U.S. coins

⁴ This 1935 Buffalo, or Indian Head, nickel was designed by James Earle Fraser, who created a composite image based on three different Native American chieftains for the obverse and an image of an American bison on the reverse, two iconic American symbols.

⁵ This Seated Liberty proof quarter from 1882 carries an obverse design of Liberty in a seated position that reflects the influence of ancient Greek coinage and Britannia coins that date to Roman times. It is also an example of the influence of neoclassic art on American coinage.

⁶ The 1916-S Walking Liberty half dollar, the first year of issue, was designed by Adolph Weinman and shows Liberty confidently striding towards the viewer's left with her right-hand gesturing towards the rising sun and holding laurel and oak branches in her left hand. The reverse shows an American eagle perched on a mountain. The design is perhaps the most popular ever to appear on U.S. coinage and has appeared in slightly modified form on hundreds of millions of American Silver Eagles.

Continuation of "Toned Coins" from page 5

admired that Buffalo nickel especially one who has collected Buffalo nickel since he was twelve years old.

Toning can add a lot of character to your coins, especially if you have an entire series of toned mint state coins! When I find myself at a coin show, I try to buy toned coins from the dealers that don't care if the coins they sell are toned or "blast white." Most seasoned collectors are willing to pay more for a coin with exceptional eye appeal, but the usual beginner collector does not yet know what exceptional eye appeal looks like. In *A Mercenary's Guide to The Rare Coin Market*, written by David Hall, Mr. Hall explains in chapter three that there are no bargains which I agree with but there are good deals occasionally. That statement made by Mr. Hall is very important to keep in mind when buying raw toned coins.

The topic of toned coins continues to be and most likely will always be very controversial, however almost all collectors agree on the difference between desirable versus undesirable toning. Typically, collectors brand new to the hobby enjoy "blast white" coins because they are "bright and shiny." Another thing collectors, like myself, find interesting is that toning is unique to the coin; no two coins have the same toning! I have seen groups of Morgan's that came out of the GSA hoards exhibiting similar colors and "patterns", but as I said no two coins will ever have the exact same toning which is amazing!! Toning can give silver coins a sense of originality which is attractive, especially when buying such a coin raw. Since toning takes years to develop, an original toned coin is a product of great care. Lead and other base metals used in counterfeits do not tone. Sometimes certain coin cleaning product, if not rinsed off the coin thoroughly, can make the coin tone overnight but that toning is very unnatural looking! You will know what I am talking about when you see it; if you are ever in doubt about a coin's originality it is best to walk away instead of completing the purchase.

In conclusion, toned coins can provide excellent values since toning plays a substantial role with the eye appeal of a coin, possibly only surpassed by the quality of its strike. Collectors of all ages and backgrounds appreciate coins with attractive eye appeal like this 1938-D Buffalo Nickel.

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