

ARISTOTLE'S VAULT

FORUM GUIDE

FORUM

Advanced U.S. Coin Grading and Problem Coins

EPISODE 4

To Be or Not to Be: Counterfeit Awareness

COUNTERFEITS NEW AND OLD

In the past, many collectors and dealers examined coins to determine authenticity. Today, counterfeit detection has grown more difficult, as buyers and sellers must consider if the holder is also counterfeit. Coin holders are exceptionally tricky, because many buyers assume that if it is in a holder, it is authentic and has been graded by a 3rd party. In reality, one or both items may be counterfeit.

JEFF'S STORY

Even prominent dealers and numismatists with years of experience can be fooled. Jeff gives the example of an 1893 S Silver Dollar he purchased in his store for \$4,000-\$5000 dollars. It was in a PCGS holder and graded VF-20. The coin was eventually sold on his website.

A few years later, the buyer was researching the certification number and noticed the number did not match the coin in his holder. Upon further examination of the coin, it became clear that it was a counterfeit, as the "T" in Liberty should have a die clash. Because of the fake holder, it made both Jeff and the buyer more susceptible to purchase.



KEY TIPS

- Remember that holders can also be counterfeit.
- Research certification numbers and barcodes to make sure the coin in the holder matches the graded coin.
- The major coin services provide images on their website to demonstrate the coin that was actually graded.

Explore. **STUDY.** Connect.

MONEY.ORG

COINS OF THE & EPISODE

LOOKING AT \$2.50 INDIANS

These coins can be difficult, because they are incused.

- Incused means the design is lower than the field of the coin and the highest points are the fields.

First coin-1915 \$2.50 Indian

Overall it is dull, a few marks on the reverse, and a little staining on the reverse.

Final grade is MS 61.



Second coin- 1929 \$2.50 Indian

Overall it has more luster, radiates, and is nicely struck with a few marks on the reverse.

Final grade is MS 63.

