



Grading United States Coins EPISODE 5

Change in Your Hands:

Key Aspects of Circulated Grading

INTRODUCTION

This episode focuses on wear as the major factor that is considered when grading circulated coins.

Wear

- The removal of metal from a coin's surface due to circulation
- Often shows up as a change in luster or color on the high points of the coin
- Usually accompanied by flatness, not to be confused with weak strike
- Also shows up in open areas in the field

Sliders

Some coins sit on the boundary of Mint State or circulated classifications. These coins are called sliders, because they have qualities of both classifications. The market recognizes the quality and attractiveness of coins that look uncirculated but have a little bit of wear, especially those that suffered from cabinet friction.

Wear vs Weak Strike

- A coin that has a weak strike will still be rounded with no color change (the color and/or luster will be even)
- A coin that has wear will have flat surfaces on the high points or in the open areas where the coin has been touched during circulation

COIN OF THE EPISODE

1930 Standing Liberty Quarter

- Great luster
- Some graying on the high points
- Some wear on the leg of Liberty

Graded as AU 58



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