



Grading United States Coins EPISODE 8

Something's Not Right: Reasons Coins Don't Grade, Part I

INTRODUCTION

In this episode, Don and Jim take a deep dive into some of the reasons coins don't grade with grading companies. Specifically, they look at artificial toning, improper cleaning, and altered surfaces.

Grading companies will assign non-numeric grades to coins that have been damaged and/or altered. Coins can be labeled as Improperly Cleaned, Harshly Cleaned, Altered Surfaces, Tooled, Environmental Damage, Whizzed, etc.

Artificial Toning

Artificial toning is anything that accelerates the oxidation process on a coin's surface, resulting in atypical colors. Natural toning can be detected by even and natural progressions of color (think about the rainbow).

Cleaning

People typically clean coins in an attempt to make a coin shinier or remove something from the surface. Cleaning can be chemical or mechanical. Chemical cleaning involves dipping a coin in a mild acidic solution. Mechanical cleaning often leaves lines on the surface. Cleaning usually causes a loss in value.

Altered Surfaces

Altered surfaces result when something is done to the coin's surface to change its appearance. Whizzing (using a rotating wire brush) is an example of an action that creates altered surfaces (moves metal and disturbs natural luster).

COIN OF THE EPISODE

1912 Barber Half Dollar

- Lots of detail
- Unnatural luster

Graded UNC Details-Whizzed



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