

# ARISTOTLE'S VAULT

## FORUM GUIDE

### FORUM

Advanced U.S. Coin Grading  
and Problem Coins

### EPISODE 7

Grading with Jeff Garrett:  
Professor Insight



## JEFF'S BIO

### JEFF GARRETT

- Rare coin dealer and author from Lexington, KY
- 4th year teaching Advanced U.S. Coin Grading and Problem Coins
- Started collecting around 8 years old
- First involved with the ANA in 1974, when he won a YN scholarship
- As a teenager, worked at local coin shops
- Finished high school in 1976 and officially began his professional career
- He found his calling in his ability to grade
- Currently maintains 40-50 years of experience

## KEY TOPICS

In this episode, Jeff discusses some very specific topics that may arise when dealing with advanced grading. In his discussion with students, he takes the time to explore the fine details.

### CAC STICKERS

Jeff discusses the significance in accuracy and value when a green CAC sticker is present on a 3rd party graded coin. CAC stickers began appearing in 2007 to validate grades given on previously certified coins. (Courtesy of CAC grading)

### HISTORY OF COIN GRADING

Jeff explores the history of coin grading and the recruitment and use of graders. Initially graders were not full-time and started by working in rotations. The companies wanted top graders and eventually sought to hire full-time graders. Dealers were often faced with making the choice of becoming a dealer or a grader. Many top graders chose one path or the other.

## DIPPING AND CLEANING RISKS

Jeff uses his own experiences to emphasize the risks of dipping, cleaning, or trying to fix artificial toning on coins. Jeff's key takeaway is that artificially toned coins are often hiding something much worse and that anyone who chooses to dip the coin should be prepared for a decline in value. He encourages collectors and graders to watch out for coins with original toning that are covered with artificial toning and gold coins that have been putted over.

### COINS OF THE & EPISODE

#### ***Jeff examines an 1811 Half Dollar and an 1812 Half Dollar***

He describes the 1811 as having good detail, pretty good luster, some blue toning, and well-defined feathers. It grades as AU Details/Cleaned with artificial toning.



He describes the 1812 as having less of a sharpness in the strike, a little wear, good feather detail on the reverse. In his initial examination, he encourages watchers to focus on the colors. It grades as AU 55.



Explore. **STUDY.** Connect.

