

# ARISTOTLE'S VAULT

## FORUM GUIDE

### FORUM

Advanced U.S. Coin Grading and Problem Coins

### EPISODE 9

Let the Games Begin: Competition Day

In this episode, the instructors led the class in a competition to test their skills from the week. Broken into three groups, the students graded 21 coins to check their accuracy and growth as graders. This process allowed the students to grasp their growth over a four-day period.

## CONSENSUS GRADING

Consensus grading has been used throughout the class as a way to replicate the processes of a 3rd party grading service. On day one, students take a test to determine their skills. This test is used to divide the class into three equal groups, with each group having a finalizer. The finalizer is considered the highest level grader in the group. Each student grades individually, shares with the group and the finalizer makes the determination of the group grade. In the end, group B emerged the winner with 10 out of 21 coins correct, demonstrating that there is always room to grow in advanced grading.

## GROUP DYNAMICS

As the competition runs its course, and each group finalizes a grade for each of the 21 coins presented, a few characteristics emerge as important to successful consensus grading. Those traits are:

- Trust
- Consistency
- Communication
- Experience



## COINS OF THE EPISODE

**Jeff examines two Bechtler gold coins**, minted in NC between 1842-1850. The first coin grades as an AU 58.



The second coin grades as AU Details, as it has been cleaned.

Explore. **STUDY**. Connect.