

My Quest for a Complete Carson City Coin Set

By Tony Arnold

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There are 111 regular issues from the Carson City Mint. This total doesn't include mint errors, varieties, or coins such as the 1875-S/CC Trade dollar and 1900-O/CC Morgan dollar. That means we're talking about 54 silver coins and 57 gold coins—and I want them all. I know what you're thinking. Get a grip Tony! You can't possibly be serious. Please note: I said I *wanted* them all, but I didn't say it would be easy or even probable for me to get all of them. However, I'm not going to let all of that get in my way. Like Parsifal in his quest for the Holy Grail, I will adapt, overcome, and drive on toward my goal.

My friend and mentor, Rusty Goe, and I have discussed this matter on numerous occasions, and he has pointed out the generally accepted truth that of the 111 regular issue Carson City coins, only 107 are reasonably available. The four *uncollectable* coins are the 1870-CC double eagle, 1873-CC *No Arrows* quarter, 1876-CC twenty-cent piece, and the Unique 1873-CC *No Arrows* dime. I intellectually accept these points, but the romantic side of my character rejects any limitations on my quest.

Now let's get to it. What's my plan? If I were as wealthy as king Midas, I would simply command my minions to make it happen. That option dear friends is a non-starter. What if I became a close, personal friend of Mr. "Battle Born," and he gifted me his superb, complete Carson City coin collection, after I saved him from an assault by rampaging alien invaders? Not likely. I've got it! Tom DeFina, Michael Parrott, and I stumble upon a sealed chest at a Gold Hill garage sale, and it contains three complete, pristine sets of Carson City coins. One set for each of us—what a thought. I really

like this option, especially after I've consumed a couple of adult beverages.

The real Tony Arnold is going to continue plugging away at his goal until he achieves it, or runs out of time. I have fumbled, stumbled, and regrouped numerous times on my Carson City coin journey. Some of my Carson City coins are simply adequate and some are excellent to outstanding, but I treasure them all. I have been tempted to lower my sights and purchase problem coins, because of the "Oh my God" factor involved in the more difficult dates, but my guiding light and friend Rusty Goe admonished me severely for that lapse of faith.

You probably want to know where I stand in my quest for the Carson City *III*. My answer is, I'm still striving to achieve my goal within my limited means, as I approach the century mark, having a lot of fun and making lots of friends along the way. My learning curve continues to expand and my bride Mary Ann is still supportive of my excellent adventure.

Happy hunting everyone.

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