

A Couple of Carson City Coins Found in Unusual Slabs

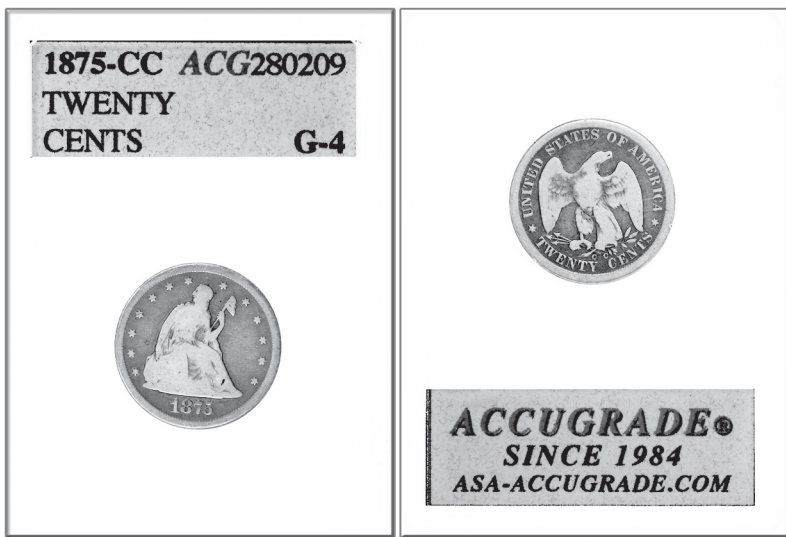
By Lane J. Brunner

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In the winter 2009 issue of *Curry's Chronicle*, member Belay Off shared recollections of the C4OA's regional meeting at the Nevada State Museum coin show. I was amused to read about the presentation of Mike Wagner as the "Crazy Slab Man," as it was reassuring to know that I was not the only one out there chasing coins in bizarre plastic holders. Over the past few years, I have seen a few "CC" coins, generally Morgan dollars, in holders from "self-slabbers," or companies promoting their own coins as "certified." But rarely have I come across "CC" coins in older slabs from "legitimate" companies, because many were removed and placed into holders from more mainstream third-party grading companies, in order to make the coins more marketable. I wish I would have been able to see Mike Wagner's presentation as I am sure it was fascinating.

While my interest in oddball slabs is not refined to only "CC" coins, I have managed to pick up a couple of "CC" coins in unusual holders from actual third-party grading companies—whether or not they are still in business. I do collect twenty-cent pieces in as many different kinds of holders as possible, but most of those coins were struck at the branch mint in San Francisco.

The first coin presented in this article is from a company that some C4OA members have likely heard about before. The coin was graded and encapsulated by ACG (Accugrade) around the year 2000 or so. It is an 1875-CC twenty-cent piece and is housed in one of ACG's small, non-photo holders. While certainly not a rare holder, it is uncommon to see original "CC" coins remaining in lesser-traded slabs, due to the perceived decrease in value because of the plastic encapsulating them.



An 1875-CC twenty-cent piece graded G-4 by ACCUGRADE.

The second coin is from a company named Compugrade, which was only in business for a few months in 1991. The concept of the company was intriguing: use computer software to grade coins. The purported advantage was that the same coin would be graded consistently, regardless of the number of times it was “cracked out” and resubmitted for grading. Unfortunately, theory did not do well in practice, and the company was not able to sustain the promise of consistent grading.

To date, I have only seen a few dozen coins graded by Compugrade, with all being Morgan dollars except for one lone Peace dollar. (Note: Compugrade did produce sample slabs containing Kennedy half dollars.) In addition, I have not seen a Compugrade coin that was *not* in Mint State. Pictured on page 13 is the only “CC” Morgan dollar I have seen in a Compugrade holder, but that does not mean that many more are not still waiting to be discovered.

Another innovative idea with Compugrade coins was fractional

grading. Since the computer software was assigning an exact grade, why not be as precise as possible? Thus the use of *101 grades* in Mint State, from MS-60.0 to MS-70.0! And we thought 11 Mint State grades were too many!



An 1883-CC Morgan dollar graded MS-62.9 by COMPUGRADE.

My Compugrade “CC” Morgan dollar was assigned a grade of MS-62.9; thus, not quite an MS-63 according to the software. By today’s grading standards, the coin would likely grade MS-64. Later Compugrade slabs did not have the decimal grade so prominent on the label, but instead it was relegated to a place next to the serial number (See the “62.9” above the bar code on the coin imaged). Although buying the plastic instead of the coin seems to be an odd way of collecting coins, it does add some variety and fun to the hobby. Happy hunting everyone!

(Images courtesy of Lane Brunner)