

The Last Four “CC” Half Eagles Minted

By Weimar W. White

#CM-0008

Collecting the last four half eagles in Uncirculated condition that were minted at Carson City would be a very desirable set to own. But why has the writer picked the 1890-CC, the 1891-CC, the 1892-CC and the 1893-CC half eagles? It is because in Mint State condition, these coins are still affordable by many collectors.

Below are my current estimates of these coins extant in Mint State and their price in three different grades.

Back in February 1997, I published an article in *COINage* magazine on these four “CC” coins in Mint State. However, in the last eleven years, more of these coins have surfaced and they have been submitted to the grading services for encapsulation. I now feel that the number extant in Uncirculated condition as presented in this article, are closer to the truth. These data more closely agree with Rusty Goe’s estimates published in his book, *The Mint On Carson Street*.

As one moves to higher Mint State grades of these coins, they become significantly rarer. For example, I would classify only the 1892-CC half eagle, out of the four coins, as rare in MS-62, with seventy-five or fewer specimens in this grade or higher grades known. In MS-63 or higher grades, the 1890-CC and 1893-CC specimens become rare with seventy-five or fewer coins extant. However, each of the four coins become extremely rare in MS-65, with fewer than ten specimens of each known.

The 1893-CC half eagle pictured in this article is certified as an MS-62 specimen. I regard it as a high-end MS-62 coin. Grading is not an exact science and the grading services do make mistakes. This



1893-CC half eagle in Choice Uncirculated condition.

is why so many coins are resubmitted for regrading each year. For example, I own a 1908 No Motto twenty-dollar gold piece that was once certified as an AU-58. This bothered me for years, until one day I cracked it out of its case and submitted the coin to another grading service. The coin was returned to me in a new case graded MS-64! I agree with the new grade 100%.

Lots of collectors will buy, say a high-end MS-63 coin, and resubmit it to a grading service. Often, it will be returned in a new case with an MS-64 grade. In some cases, this can amount to a considerable increase in the value of a coin as evidenced in the price data given in this article. This is why it is so important to become an expert coin grader yourself.

Approximate Values In Mint State				
Date	Est. Pop. Extant	MS-60	MS-62	MS-63
1890-CC	280-330	\$1,300	\$2,500	\$7,500
1891-CC	950-1400	1,100	2,000	4,000
1892-CC	140-190	1,700	3,500	8,000
1893-CC	160-250	1,700	4,000	8,000

(Images Courtesy Weimar W. White)