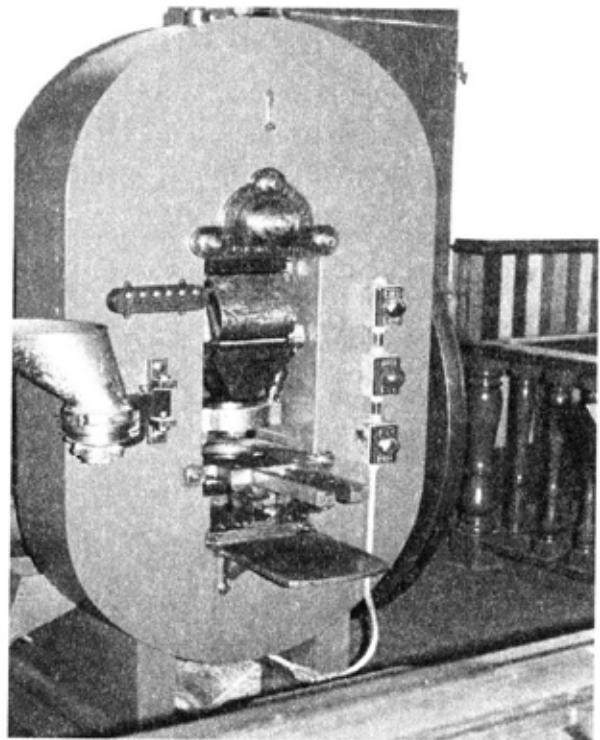


Ultra Deep Mirror Prooflike
1882-CC and 1883-CC Morgan Dollars
Are Scarce to Rare
By Weimar W. White
#CM-0008

Ultra Deep Mirror Prooflike (UDMPL) Carson City dollars in Mint State are very difficult to locate. However, those dollars classified as prooflike (PL) or Deep Mirror Prooflike (DMPL), by contrast, are relatively easy to find and purchase.

This is because for a Morgan dollar to be classified as an UDMPL, the surfaces must show at least 12 inches of clear, reflected newspaper print in its fields when the coin is held at a 90-degree angle to the printed image. By contrast, a DMPL will be designated by PCGS if it clearly reflects 6 inches of print in its fields. ANACS is the only grading service that classifies Morgan dollars as UDMPL specimens, and as we know, there is a huge difference between a coin that reflects 6 inches of newspaper print compared to one that clearly reflects 12 or more inches in terms of its availability or rarity.

It has been estimated that the first 500 Morgan dollars struck from polished planchets and/or dies are the most reflective Prooflike specimens. However, as the dies begin to wear, the depth of the mirror surfaces starts to diminish. Therefore, after 2,500 or so coins are struck,



Coin Press #1 From Carson Mint

the surfaces tend to be more textured rather than reflective. This helps to explain why very reflective Morgan dollars made for commerce are difficult to acquire, especially in grades of 65 or higher.

Additionally, if collectors do not keep hydrogen sulfide or other volatile sulfur gases away from their mirror reflective coins, their surfaces become colored and/or dull from the formation of silver sulfide. Sulfur can significantly diminish the reflectivity of UDMPL coins and therefore, it is very important to keep one's specimens protected from sulfur contamination.

Showcased in this article is an 1883-CC Morgan dollar certified by ANACS as an UDMPL specimen and graded MS-65. The author estimates that there are less than 350 UDMPL Carson City specimens of this date known in Mint State. In MS-65, however, these special coins become rare with less than 75 known.

The 1882-CC showcased in this article is also an UDMPL that I



1883-CC Morgan dollar graded MS-65UDMPL by ANACS.

would grade as an MS-63 specimen. I estimate that less than 165 are known in Mint State having UDMPL reflective surfaces and less than 150 known in MS-63 or higher grade.

An MS-65 UDMPL Carson City Morgan dollar is in a class by itself. If the devices of the coin show a Cameo effect, this makes the coin even more desirable.



1882-CC Morgan dollar graded MS-65UDMPL by ANACS.

Also pictured in this article is a canvas bag used to hold 1,000 Carson City Morgan dollars and a balance used to weigh individual coins at the old Carson City Mint to make sure they met specifications. Additionally, there is a photo of the famous coin press No. 1 used to strike Carson City silver dollars.



Original canvas coin bag from Carson City Mint.

More information on Prooflike Morgan dollars can be obtained from the ANA in an article that I wrote in October 1994 which appeared in the *Numismatist*. The article gives the criteria used by ANACS, NGC, and PCGS to measure the degree of reflectivity on Morgan dollars as well as statistical data.

Disclaimer: (from Weimar White) The actual extant numbers of these two “CC” dollars in Mint State with UDMPL surfaces, are most difficult to determine since ANACS is the only grading service that reports such data. Those who have UDMPL examples of these dates, as well as others, may be inclined to submit them to ANACS to get the higher reflectivity classification since they are significantly scarcer than DMPL examples in the same grade.

Images courtesy of Weimar White.