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230 Country Lane Dr. • Lumberton, TX 77657

409-892-2553 • 409-892-2554 (Fax)

844-218-7103 (Toll-Free)

UNITED STATES *Gold American Eagles*



Personal
GOLD GUIDE



Why You Should Buy Gold



Most of us have toyed with the idea of owning gold. Gold is one of the most precious commodities since biblical times. The yellow metal's rarity has provided a safe haven in the face of inflation and economic uncertainty. Today, Americans are faced with government trade wars, inflation, global uncertainty, and fiscal irresponsibility. The idea and unknowns of a recession is scary, but most of all, it is imminent. In 2008, the United States was faced with extraordinary debts as the U.S. banking system was on the verge of collapsing. The government chose to bail out the irresponsible executives of the major banks who put their own ambitions in front, leaving the responsibility and tremendous burden to the taxpayers, with an already insurmountable debt. The national debt has reached beyond 20 trillion in a very short period of time. Since George W. Bush left office, The U.S. national debt has more than quadrupled. Yes, that's right, in less than 10 years, we have spent more than 4 times the money of all preceding presidents have cumulatively. The idea of recession is gut wrenching, but it's only a matter of time before it takes hold once again. Owning gold is the only thing that protects and has the unparalleled ability to hedge economic uncertainty and a crumbling monetary system. Ronald Reagan once said, "The worst mistake the United States has made, is being taken off the Gold Standard." After all, the dollar bill we use for day to day commerce is merely leveraged by the faith of the people, that's it. On a world scale, the United States is in grave danger of losing its reserve status due to the mounting debt. In June 2018, China held 19% of the 6.2 trillion of foreign debt in Treasury bills, notes, and bonds. The remaining 21 trillion is owned by the American people or the government itself. China has been adding truck loads of gold to their stock piles for the last several years preparing for what is to come. We should be doing the same! Are you prepared?

History of United States Gold Coinage

It was in 1795 that the United States struck its first gold coins with the \$5 Liberty Small Eagle. Soon after, the U.S. introduced the \$2.5 Quarter Eagle and the \$10 Eagle. In 1849, the U.S. government introduced its largest gold coin, the popular \$20 Double Eagle, along with its smallest denomination, the One Dollar Gold Princess. From 1795- 1933, the U.S. would produce the four major denominations, \$2.5, \$5, \$10, and \$20 from various mints across the country. Over the course of that time, there were many design changes accommodating the current culture, and of course, the coin's weight, as gold became more valuable. The Coronet Liberty design is the longest running series of all U.S. Coinage (1838- 1907). In 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt sought to beautify American coinage once again, proposing a long overdue design change. He was an avid hunter and marveled at the different cultures that imbedded our country. It wasn't until 1907 that President Roosevelt commissioned the sculptor Augustus St. Gauden to design the new face of United

States Coinage with the \$20 Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle and the \$10 Indian Head gold coins.

The following year, the \$2.5 and \$5 Indian Head gold coins were in production.

The designs were intended to combine the modern American culture along with the Native American culture, in an attempt to bring our country together as one. The new



series of coinage began and continued up through 1929 and 1933, until it came to an abrupt stop due to the Great Depression. Commerce was conducted day to day using gold as a means of payment for the past 138 years since the commencement of the Gold Standard. On April 5, 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Executive Order of 1933. It read as follows, "All persons are required to deliver ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 1933, all GOLD COIN, GOLD BULLION, AND GOLD CERTIFICATES now owned by them to a Federal Reserve Bank, branch or agency, or to any member bank of the Federal Reserve System. CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER is \$10,000 fine or 10 years imprisonment, or both." Shortly after, the largest gold melt down took place in world history, banning U.S. citizens of private ownership of gold coins. On August 14, 1974, President Gerald Ford signed a bill legalizing the private ownership of gold coins by an act of Congress. The bill went into effect December 31, 1974,

lifting the gold ban, allowing U.S. citizens to own gold coinage for the first time in over 41 years. Unfortunately, at that time, the U.S. did not produce any legal tender gold coinage of its own. Most gold coinage bought during that time was of foreign decent, mainly consisting of South African Krugerrands, which were most attainable.



Business Strike Gold American Eagle

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan signed The Gold Act of 1985, ushering in the production of United States legal tender gold coins for the first time in over a half a century. The following year, 1986, The Gold American Eagle coins were born. The excitement ensued throughout the country along with major foreign interests. The Gold American Eagle coins were the first gold coins produced in 53 years and represented the purest United States legal tender gold coins in the nation's history. The new Gold American Eagles were issued in 4 different weights (Troy ounces) and denominations, and are as follows: \$5- 1/10oz, \$10- 1/4oz, \$25- 1/2oz, and \$50- 1oz. The artistic design was unsurpassed, adopting the obverse of the infamous \$20 St. Gaudens Double, known as America's most beautiful coin ever produced by the U.S. Mint. The coveted obverse depicts the stunning scene of Lady Liberty holding a torch in her right hand and an olive branch in her left hand. The sun is setting behind her as she appears to be walking toward the edge of the coin. The reverse of the Gold American Eagle was designed by modern-day sculptor, Miley Tucker Frost. Her work is extraordinary, depicting an image of the father eagle holding an olive branch flying into the nest where the mother eagle is holding her baby eaglets tightly under her wing. The reverse gained notoriety quickly as it beautifully portrays the strength and unity of the American family.

The Gold American Eagles continue to be issued today, with only two design changes throughout the entire series. At the introduction of the program in 1986, the date was formatted using the Roman Numeral dating method, mirroring the dating method used on the infamous Saint Gauden \$20 High Relief Double Eagle, and continued up through 1991. The coveted \$20 High Relief was struck for only one year in 1907, not to be resurrected until 1986. In 1992, the Gold American Eagles design was changed merely by the date alone using the traditional dating method, Arabic Numerals, and continue to do so today.





The first six years of the series, (1986-1991), are known to most as the Generation I Series. They represent the years using the Roman Numeral dating method. The Generation I Gold American Eagles comprise the most important issues of the series, not only for its Roman Numeral dating, but contain the lowest minted Gold American Eagles in the series. Unlike most Pre-1933 U.S. issued gold coins, quantities were very limited. Buying Gold American Eagles have been one of the hottest areas for collectors and investors alike as a handful of years have performed very well due to their very low mintages. In the series, there are only 10 years that the \$25 Gold American Eagle had a small mintage of only 50,000 pieces or less. Those years are as follows: 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2014, 2017, 2018, and 2019. In 1988, only 45,000 \$25 Gold American Eagles were produced. The value the following year was amazing, as it literally became twice as valuable from the previous year of its release. The following three years followed suit, making them some of the most valuable United States issued gold coins today, setting the bench mark on what is considered rare for modern day Gold American Eagles. The 1991 uncirculated Gold Eagles are the most important issue marking the last year design using the Roman Numeral dating method. Above all, it's the rarest modern issued Gold American Eagle set today, with a tiny mintage of only 24,100 possible sets. It wasn't until the latter part of the series that offered collectors and investors opportunities to own some of the rarest issues of the series. It is well known that the Gold American Eagles have picked up steam, not just domestically, but around the world. The years 2014, 2017, 2018, and 2019 issues have surpassed what is considered very rare. Each date, based on the \$25 American Gold Eagle, have mintages less than 40,000, breaking the barrier of what was considered rare. Each of those four dates comprise very rare issues in denominations other than just the \$25 gold piece making the four-piece set challenging

The Gold American Eagle

across the board. The 2019 Gold American eagles are among the favorite and of course the most troubling to complete. The 2019 \$25 Gold Eagle boast an extremely low mintage of just 30,000 pieces, now ranking second lowest issued coin in the series. The 2019 \$5 and \$10 Gold Eagles both rank third in rarity respectfully, while the large \$50 Gold Eagle is now ranked first in rarity with only a mere 108,000 pieces. Collecting the series can be very challenging due to availability issues. Acquiring these gems in higher grades, such as MS69 or even in perfect MS70, can take years to assemble. Most people have a misconception of the Gold American Eagles as being new and perfect, which is the furthest from the truth. Unfortunately, for the first several years of the series, condition was not widely recognized. Therefore, preserving the coin's original mint state at the time of production was not important as it is today. It's important to remember, the higher the grade, the rarer it becomes, thus the more valuable it is. Compounding a low mintage along with a higher grade becomes very challenging and, in some cases, unattainable.

2001 World Trade Center

GROUND ZERO RECOVERY GOLD AMERICAN EAGLE SET





Paramount Rare Coin
has specialized in assembling
Gold American Eagle collections
spanning the last two decades. We have the
resources to locate even some of the toughest dates
that are seemingly uncollectible. Whether you want to collect
certain years or the entire series, we can help locate the coins you need.
Collecting coins is methodical and requires patience. With economic uncertainty
and recession looming, now is the time. Let us help you protect the money you worked
hard for and build the legacy your loved ones will enjoy for years to come.



Burnished Gold American Eagle

It wasn't until the 20th anniversary of the American Gold Eagle coin series in 2006 that the United States Mint expanded the program to include a special burnished coin. Aimed directly at numismatists who collect and display or exhibit their beloved American Gold Eagles, the Burnished American Gold Eagle (also referred to as an uncirculated Gold Eagle) is struck using a special coining process that is similar to the one used in the production of proof coins.

The United States Mint begins the coining process for burnished Gold Eagles by loading all the blanks, known as planchets, into a spinning drum. In the past, this step in the process used wet sand as a friction agent that served as a polishing media to give the blanks a unique finish before even being struck. Today, the US Mint uses countless 6mm balls to create a smooth, matte-like finish on the surface of the blanks.

Once each blank has been sent through the spinning drum, the individual blanks are taken out one at a time by mint employees wearing white gloves. The blanks are then transferred by hand, again using white cotton gloves, to the coining press in order to avoid contaminating the finish of the blanks with oil and dirt from human skin, unlike the traditional process used in producing the "business strikes." Each blank is then hand loaded into the coining press for striking. All blanks are struck under greater pressure than business strike coins and regular circulation currency, creating a striking finish.

Although the Burnished American Gold Eagle undergoes a similar coining process to proof coins, the appearance of these coins is often compared more closely to that of the business strike coins in the series. The polishing process the coins go through before striking, along with the higher-pressure coining process, leaves each coin with a softly frosted appearance. The process also creates a more detailed





appearance to the design features, such as Lady Liberty and the bald eagles on the reverse.

The design's frosted finish gives it the appearance of floating above the background field of the coin, which is deeply mirrored. The major distinguishing characteristic for the casual observer is the presence of a mint mark on the Burnished American Gold Eagle. While the business strike coins do not feature a mint mark, all Burnished Gold Eagles have a "W" mint mark to identify the West Point Mint as the production facility.

Burnished Gold Eagles were originally available in all four weights with high demand, but following the 2009 halt in proof and burnished production, the Burnished American Gold Eagle returned with only the 1 oz coin available and mintage figures that were much lower. The most recent figure is 5,800 coins for the 2017 release of the Burnished American Gold Eagle, which is down considerably from post-2009 highs set in 2011 and 2014.

The Burnished Gold Eagles have become extremely popular among collectors and investors alike. The Burnished Gold Eagles are considered the collector's version of the uncirculated Gold Eagle, known for their "W" mintmark displayed on the obverse. Unlike their business strike counterparts, they boast extremely low mintages resulting in availability issues, thus enjoying value increases year after year. For some dates, like the 2019-W \$50 Burnished Gold Eagle that are extremely rare, owning one is considered a blessing.



*West Point
Mint Mark*



