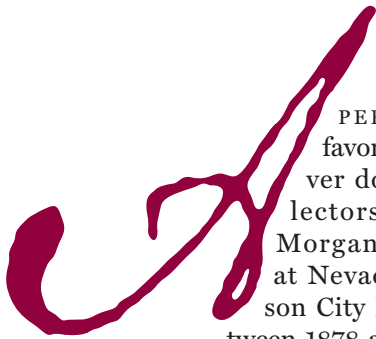


Carson City Coins

This Nevada mint struck Morgan dollars for only 13 years, making the series popular and decidedly collectable.



PERENNIAL favorite of silver dollar collectors are the Morgans struck at Nevada's Carson City Mint between 1878 and 1893.

If you include the major overdate varieties, only 15 issues comprise the entire series, which makes this short set very popular and very collectable.

No dates or major varieties are certified absolute rarities because ample quantities exist of 10 of the dates. In fact, of the total mintage of 13.75 million coins, 2.85 million (21 percent, or 77 tons) were part of the Great Treasury Hoard discovered in 1964 at the Carson City Mint or at the United States Treasury and sold by the General Services Administration (GSA) in 1971.

At a price, all dates are available in Mint State (MS)-60 to MS-63. Half the dates can be had in uncirculated condition. On the other hand, the remaining 50 percent can't be found in higher, certified grades, even if you have the money and the time to search for them.

Following is a list of CC-mintmark coins and their certified condition rarity, based on reports produced by the major, independent grading services. The figures in parentheses denote the approximate number known to have been certified in each grade.

1878-CC: With a mintage of 2.2 million, this Carson City dollar has the second-highest mintage of the series; 61,000 were in the Treasury Hoard. As far as rarity is concerned (see the adjacent "Sheldon/Breen Rarity Scale"), this date is R-1 in MS-65

(1,300), R-3 in MS-66 (350) and Low R-7 in MS-67 (11). Currently, no coins have been certified higher.

1879-CC: This date has the sixth-smallest mintage, with a total production of 756,000, including 4,000 in the Treasury Hoard and another 1,000, more or less, in the LaVerre Redfield Hoard. All coins have overmintmarks in one of two styles. This date is R-2 in MS-65 (800) and High R-7 in MS-66 (2), with none certified higher.

1880-CC: With 591,000 minted, all are overdates (80/79, with the reverse of 1878 or 1879). A quarter of the reported mintage, or 156,000 coins, was in the Treasury Hoard. This date is R-1 in MS-65 (3,200), R-2 in MS-66 (725) and R-5 in MS-67 (37). No finer coins are known.

1881-CC: This date has the second-lowest mintage of Morgan dollars from this facility (296,000), of which 147,000 were in the Treasury Hoard. Because nearly half the coins were never issued, this date is R-1 in MS-65; in fact, it is tied with the 1882 for most common MS-65 CC dollar. It also is R-1 in MS-66 (6,000+) and MS-67 (2,100+), and High R-7 in MS-68 (3).

1882-CC: The Carson City Mint struck 1.1 million, half of which were represented in the Treasury Hoard.

Sheldon/Breen Rarity Scale

R-1	Over 1,250 known	Common
R-2	501 to 1,250 known	Not Common
R-3	201 to 500 known	Scarce
R-4	76 to 200 known	Very Scarce
R-5	31 to 75 known	Rare
R-6	13 to 30 known	Very Rare
R-7 (low)	4 to 12 known	Extremely Rare
R-7 (high)	2 to 3 known	Excessively Rare
R-8	1 known	Unique

▲ 1880 Carson City dollar.

This date is R-1 in MS-65 (8,500+), R-2 in MS-66 (625) and R-5 in MS-67 (40). None have been certified higher.

1883-CC: With 1.2 million struck, of which about 60 percent (or 755,000 coins) were in the Treasury Hoard, this is hands-down the most common CC dollar in MS-65. It is R-1 in MS-65 (20,000+) and MS-66 (1,600+), and R-4 in MS-67 (117). No better specimens are known.

1884-CC: The Treasury Hoard contained about 84 percent (962,000) of this coin's total mintage of 1.1 million. It is the second, most common date of the series. The 1884-CC is R-1 in MS-65 (17,000+) and MS-66 (2,000+), and R-4 in MS-67 (85). The coin is R-8 in MS-68 (1).

1885-CC: The lowest mintage in the series with only 228,000 coins, the 1885-CC was well represented in the Treasury Hoard with 145,000 specimens. It is R-1 in MS-65 (6,100+) and MS-66 (1,400), R-5 in MS-67 (84+) and Low R-7 in MS-68 (6). Fakes are known.

1889-CC: With 350,000 struck, this dollar has the third-lowest mintage and is the second rarest date. It is one of only three dates that were not represented in the ☉

Treasury Hoard, although at one time some were rumored to be held by the Stack brothers or later part of the Redfield Hoard. The 1889-CC is R-5 in MS-65 (51), Low R-7 in MS-66 (5) and R-8 in MS-68 (1).

1890-CC: Although it has the highest mintage (2.3 million), this is the third-rarest date; only an insignificant 3,950 coins were in the Treasury Hoard. It is R-3 in MS-65 (275) and Low R-7 in MS-66 (11); none are known any finer.

1891-CC: Approximately 1.6 million were struck, the third-highest production for this mint; only 5,700 were included in the Treasury Hoard. It is R-2 in MS-65 (525) and R-5 in MS-66 (32). One specimen is known in MS-68.

1892-CC: No dollars of this date were represented in the Treasury Hoard, though 1.35 million were struck (the fourth-highest mintage). The 1892-CC is R-3 in MS-65 (360), R-5 in MS-66 (45) and High R-7 in MS-67 (3), with none finer.



▲ Carson City Mint building, c. 1940.

1893-CC: The last date of the series has a recorded mintage of 677,000, none of which was preserved in the Treasury Hoard. This is the toughest date to obtain from the Carson City Mint. It is R-6 in MS-65 (18) and R-8 in MS-66 (1), with no uncirculated specimens grading better; 12 proofs have been documented.

Happy hunting! Next month I'll consider the elusive 1921-D proof.

berman@money.org