

THE STEP-BROTHER TO THE 1909s VDB

Thoughts by Robert E. Luna

1909 VDB Lincoln Cents	
Total 1909 VDB Mintage	27,995,000
Total NGC/PCGS 1909 VDB MS RD	25,026
Approximately 1 in 1,118 Graded RD	
Total NGC/PCGS MS65 RD	9,476
Total NGC/PCGS MS66 RD	3,992
Total NGC/PCGS MS67 RD	388
Total NGC/PCGS MS68 RD	3

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Most of us got our start in coin collecting with the Lincoln Wheat Back Cent when we were kids. I did, along with my brother. We used to search through our coins from collecting monthly paper route receipts as well as by making numerous trips to the local Bank of America in search of Lincoln Cents which we were still needing for our Whitman cent albums. We never found a 1909s VDB....but we tried.

The step-brother to the 1909s VDB is the 1909 VDB which over the decades never got the attention of its much rarer and more valuable brother.

There are many coin shows on television these days but the one I watch is “Rick’s Coin TV” who recently did a program on the 1909 VDB Lincoln Cent. I like this television show on coins because he doesn’t just want to sell you something, he also does a mini-program on the coin series he is presenting. Buy or not you will gradually learn something about many U.S. Coinage issues over time.

I have included with this article for the “Die Break” a TV screen shot on the 1909 VDB cent he was presenting on a recent evening. This study lists the 1909 VDB with a total mintage of 27,995,000 cents and the 1909s VDB as 484,000 cents minted (from the Red Book) which is truly a vast quantity difference....and thereby rarity.

Let’s look at the numbers graded a little closer and we find that there were only 13,857 cents graded by NGC/PCGS in grades MS65, 66, 67, and 68 in RED. This is a very low number for these higher grades and if you add in the 25,026 of other cents graded by NGC/PCGS in RED for a total of 38,883 cents....this is still a low number for a 110 year old coin in mint RED graded condition!

I think many collectors have overlooked this coin in favor of the remarkably rare 1909s VDB and are missing out on a truly rare coin after looking a bit closer. I ask you now, is the 1909 VDB a step-brother to the 1909s VDB? I think not!

Hopefully, we don’t now have a run on the 1909 VDB so the prices go up.