

SMALL CENTS

BY: *Mike Stanley*



Its one thing to build a small cents collection, but once complete where do you go? You begin upgrading the collection. The more money you have available the better the collection becomes.

The **Flying Eagles** 1856 was a pattern piece, estimated between 2,000-3,000 struck, I never owned one and have had one in my hand on two separate occasions. While working the microphone for the American Numismatic Association, a lady walked up to the message center and handed me a coin purse, wanting to know where she could go to get an appraisal for her coins. I looked in the purse, poured the coins on the table and the first coin to catch my eye was an 1856 flying eagle. The next time I saw this date was at a Sacramento mid winter A. N. A. show when a dealer from New York wanted to visit the Sacramento Valley Coin Club meeting, I drove him to the meeting and his show and tell item for the meeting was an 1856 Flying Eagle in Proof condition, probably with a value of \$17,000.

The **Indian Cents**: minted from 1859-1909. a few key coins in this series are the 1877, 1908-s, 1909-s

A few other dates in the 60's and 70's are scarce but attainable. This is a beautiful coin when upgrading, look for full feather tips on the Indians head dress and look for the diamonds on the ribbon at the neck.

The Brilliant uncirculated pieces or Proof issues really highlight a collection.

The **Lincoln Wheat Cents**: If you collected these cents during the 1940's or 1950's you could probably assemble a complete collection from circulation. Today you have to buy the ones your missing, at the local coin shop, monthly coin show, or EBAY. The key dates are the 1909-s, 1909-s VDB, 1914-D, 1922 no D, and the 1931-s, Look for wear on the cheek and jaw bone of Lincoln and look for full wheat ears on the reverse. 1955 Has a double die and is another sought after coin in this series.

The Memorial **cents 1959-2008**. On occasion you can still find forty year old coins in circulation with full mint luster.

The **Lincoln bicentennial cents 2009**, four different reverse designs were minted and rarely seen in circulation.

The **Shield cents 2010-Date**: No rarities yet to be reported.

