

Famous Finest Known Collectors

Many notable collectors have prided themselves in owning the finest known specimens as the keystone coins in their collections. Here are a few famous collectors of finest known U.S. coins:



Virgil M. Brand 1862-1926

Virgil Brand excelled in numismatics. He became one of the most active rare coin buyers in America, eventually amassing one of the greatest private collections of all time, with well over 350,000 coins, many of them being the finest known examples of U.S. coins.



Colonel EHR Green 1868-1936

Colonel Green had a passion to own the finest known rare coins. He had an incredible collection of coins and was known to buy entire dealer inventories, as he was as much a hoarder as a collector. At his death in 1936, his coin collection was estimated at \$5 million, a staggering sum at the time.



Josiah K. Lilly, Jr. 1893-1966

Josiah K. Lilly was responsible for many of the coins in the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. His collection of over 6,000 gold coins was formed over a period of 17 years. It was truly a landmark collection as it contained many finest known coins and several unique specimens.



Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. 1896-1976

Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. was an American financier and numismatist from the mid-1920s until the late 1970s. Early on he set a goal to own every Federal issued U.S. coin. Eliasberg had reached his goal within a decade. He had completed a coin collection containing a specimen of every U.S. coin with date, metal, denomination and mint mark ever struck, many which were the finest known examples.



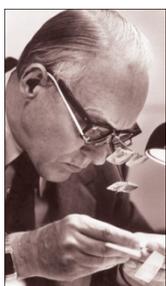
John J. Ford, Jr. 1924-2005

John Ford was one of the most knowledgeable numismatists of all time. He was a dealer, collector and numismatic researcher extraordinaire. Ford had an eye for rarity and quality, acquiring many of the finest known coins over his 70 years of collecting. His famous collection included pioneer gold pieces, pattern coins and early American copper coins.



Eric P. Newman 1911 - Present

Eric Newman is a living legend who has made outstanding contributions to numismatics, achieving many important discoveries, and published major works on a variety of subjects, primarily in Early American studies. He has amassed one of the finest private collections of American coins and currency, with many of the finest known examples of these icons of Americana.



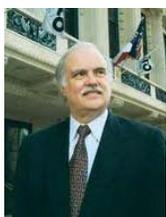
Harry W. Bass, Jr. 1927-1998

Harry Bass became interested in rare coins as an adult and formed the most comprehensive, finest known gold collection in the history of numismatics, which is now on display at the ANA Money Museum, in Colorado Springs. Bass started collecting at 38 years old, when a friend who asked him for some low mintage 1955-D Washington quarters from a bank where Bass worked. Ten years later he found out those quarters were worth 10 times their face value. That captured Bass' attention, as he saw numismatics being an investment vehicle, and began collecting the finest coins known.



Jerry Buss 1933 - 2013

Buss was best known as the owner of the LA Lakers Basketball team, but he was also a serious numismatic collector. He said that he didn't really "invest" in coins, he just "collected" them since he was 10 years old. Over the years he purchased many of the finest known specimens available and loved extreme rarities like the 1913 Liberty "V" nickel, 1894-S Dime, and 1804 bust silver dollar. He considered himself "a pure collector."



Bob R. Simpson 1949 to Present

Bob Simpson, co-chairman of the Texas Rangers baseball club is a well-known coin collector. He has been collecting coins since he was a child, when he thought he'd found a 1943 copper cent in circulation, but it wasn't authentic. Since then he has amassed one of the finest known numismatic collections. He was the first collector to ever assemble a complete P-D-S set of bronze-planchet 1943 Lincoln cents, including the finest known 1943-S bronze cent for which he paid \$1 million for in 2012.



D. Brent Pogue 1965 - Present

In 1974, when Brent Pogue was 9 years old, his father, Dallas real estate developer Mack Pogue, brought home a sack of old pennies and a price guide to give the boy a hobby. He told his son he had paid \$100 for the bag, and Brent had a seven-day option to purchase it for \$110. Brent picked out a 1915 cent that he appraised at \$80 because it was so shiny and exercised his option within 20 minutes. The rest is history. As Pogue's knowledge broadened and his connoisseurship deepened, he collected many of the finest known rarities in a relatively short amount of time. In 2015, the \$200 million collection came up for auction setting many numismatic sales records.