

The Gansu Collection of Chinese Panda Coinage



The following special section of Chinese Panda Coinage is the personal collection of a seasoned numismatist who has collected them since the concept of bullion Pandas was first started by the China Mint in 1982 and continues to this day, each year showing a different representation of Chinese panda bears in various-sized pieces struck in several different precious metals. Immediate interest in these coins upon release waxed and waned over the years, but third-party grading (NGC, PCGS, etc.) created a renaissance in the collector field, which has recognized that most Pandas were put into jewelry, perhaps inadvertently creating a “numbers game” for very high-grade pieces (MS or PF 69 and 70, in most cases). Many of the following are “top pop” and/or rare key pieces (reflecting current census data as of this writing in mid-September 2022, as well as current bullion prices). As a special section with special features, our catalog presentation here strays from our usual conventions. For one, the order follows a smaller-to-larger denomination order, but still with gold first, then other metals (platinum, palladium and silver, also bimetallic issues in gold and silver), followed by non-denominated pieces, all within a chronological order of dates of issue. Since these are all beautiful and flawless items (or virtually so, in some cases), gleaming with luster and lacking any

wear, the descriptions generally do not describe the condition of the coins themselves. Instead, we offer information about mintage and survival estimates, all figures from the acknowledged Panda guru, Peter Anthony, whose book *Gold & Silver Panda Coin Buyer's Guide* (2016) is considered the main reference on the topic (noted in references here as “PAN-”), as well as interesting and relevant tidbits from Anthony concerning individual rarity or importance (from the NGC site if not from the book). In some cases Anthony does not have actual mintage figures, as the China Mint often did not release those numbers (at least not right away), and large-scale meltage or jewelry use often decimated large mintages anyway; suffice to say the more important figures are Anthony's estimates of pieces extant. Also, since these pieces are more sensitive to precious metals prices, the estimates are not what you usually see in our auctions, and in many cases we are starting well below the current bullion value, in fact typically 30% to 40% below the low estimates, which also reflect rarity and numismatic value. One last point: Not all these pieces are considered coins, even though they are all struck in coin sizes with coin axis, as there were several non-denominated issues made specifically for trade shows, which Anthony calls “medals” but NGC and most others (including us) refer to as “official Panda issues” instead. For clarity we provide the weights of each metal in troy ounces for each piece. We hope this is taken not only as an investment opportunity for those who seek diversification of their assets but also as a unique and valuable presentation of information rarely seen in catalogs to help start or build up your collection. Enjoy!