



R E I Coins

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"The finest in modern proof coinage"

Dear Fellow Numismatist,

I sincerely hope you enjoy the book. No expense was spared in its publication, simply because I, and many cameo collectors, understand that the 1950 to 1970 cameo proof series deserves no less. After you have read the book, you may begin to understand why. Certainly, if you never owned a superb cameo from this era, I would strongly recommend that you see one close up!

Since the publication of this book, the cameo proof market has enjoyed dynamic growth in collector appeal. In recognition of the tremendous interest in this series, one of the largest coin certification services in the nation, the Professional Coin Grading Service (commonly referred to as PCGS), has adopted a two-tier standard for the grading of cameo proofs of the 1950-1970 era - "CAMEO" for those cameo proofs with "Heavy+" cameo contrast on both obverse and reverse, and "DEEP CAMEO" for those cameo proofs with the heaviest possible "Ultra-heavy" cameo contrast. They now join ANACS, which also has a two-tier standard, and NGC (Numismatic Guaranty Corporation of America), which currently has a single-tier standard.

It is important for you to note that the cameo grading standards of these services are very strict. As a general rule, any coin graded "CAMEO" by PCGS, NGC, or ANACS will have more cameo contrast than the "HEAVY" cameo standard used in the book, and "DEEP CAMEO" graded PCGS proofs will have more contrast than the "ULTRA HEAVY" standard used in the book. What this means to you is that the evolving PCGS and NGC population numbers will be far lower than the conservative cameo population estimates in the book!

To illustrate my point, witness the very low number of cameos graded by PCGS as of July, 1993 in the following tables. PCGS has now been grading cameos for 1 1/2 years. The following low evolving PCGS numbers exist despite the efforts of countless dealers and collectors searching through literally hundreds of thousands of proof sets. At every major coin show, there is not a single proof set that goes unsearched. If a local coin shop happens to acquire an old collection of proof coins, you can bet that some astute buyer will be checking those coins out for the "needles in the haystack" - the *cameos*!

	Population estimate in book in PROOF 65 U.H. Cameo	Number graded by PCGS in PR65DCAM to date
1953 Franklin	150-300	0
1955 Franklin	200-400	1
1960 Franklin	200-400	4
1954 Washington	250-500	1
1961 Lincoln	250-500	2

	Population estimate in book in PROOF 67-68 U.H. Cameo	Number graded by PCGS in PR67-68DCAM to date
1962 Franklin	750-1500	28
1964 Kennedy	500-1000	20
1958 Washington	125-250	1
1953 Roosevelt	50-100	0
1959 Lincoln	75-150	5

	Population estimate in book in PROOF 65 HEAVY CAMEO	Number graded by PCGS in PR65CAMEO to date
1952 Franklin	200-400	6
1959 Franklin	600-1200	11
1958 Washington	300-600	9
1950 Roosevelt	300-600	3
1951 Jefferson	300-600	2

Therefore, if you do purchase a "CAMEO" designated PCGS or NGC proof, you will be getting a cameo superior in contrast to the "HEAVY CAMEO" listed in my population tables. In some cases, these "CAMEO" designated proofs may even approach "ULTRA HEAVY" quality. Of course, if you acquire a PCGS "DEEP CAMEO" designated proof, you are generally getting a coin with truly spectacular cameo contrast. As with any other numismatic item, coins of superior quality and eye-appeal for a given grade always command premiums on the marketplace.

1950-1970 cameo proofs truly represent the last frontier for collectors of U.S. coinage. They represent an opportunity for those who aspire to own some ultimate quality U.S. coins that even millionaires can only hope to acquire through a good deal of luck, for finding a top-quality cameo means being at the *right place* at the *right time*!

With the growth and dynamic changes taking place in the cameo proof market, we have already begun initial plans for a second edition of "CAMEO AND BRILLIANT PROOF COINAGE OF THE 1950 TO 1970 ERA". This second edition will incorporate the evolving population data from PCGS and NGC, with prices reflecting the standards adopted by these services. In the meantime, enjoy your first edition!

I have enclosed the latest edition of my monthly newsletter, which lists some cameo proofs in my current inventory. If you think you might be interested in acquiring one of these coins, feel free to give me a call. The nice thing about this series is that you do not necessarily have to invest a large sum of money to own a beautiful, high-quality, and scarce cameo from this era. If you do make a selection from the enclosed price-list, please remember there is no obligation to keep the coin - I have a 15 day return privilege if you are not 100% satisfied. Collector tastes are personal, and are respected by this dealer.

Kindest regards,

Rick Tomaska