

# The BCCS

The purpose of the Society is to provide collectors a means to obtain and distribute valuable information and knowledge about Barber coins to its members. It also creates a means for people of similar interests to meet and share experiences and knowledge about Barber coinage.



Membership is \$20 per year, and includes 4 issues of our quarterly publication, the *Journal of the Barber Coin Collectors' Society*. A membership application is available on this leaflet, and also on our website:

[www.BarberCoins.org](http://www.BarberCoins.org)

## The Journal

Our full-color *Journal* is published four times a year, and includes research, varieties, and articles on anything related to Barbers. Project reports (such as survey results) are published here as well. Members can easily submit articles on our website, or by email.



Notes about upcoming auctions are sometimes included, and an anecdotal section called "*Barber Bits*" allows members to tell short stories or quips about prized finds, their ongoing searches for some elusive dates, or other items of interest.

## Projects

The Society has a number of projects. We concluded a multi-year program of conducting a Census and Rarity Survey for all of the Barber series. We are currently performing a four-phase Varieties Survey for all Barber series. These projects are intended to increase the knowledge we have about all four series.

## Meetings and Education

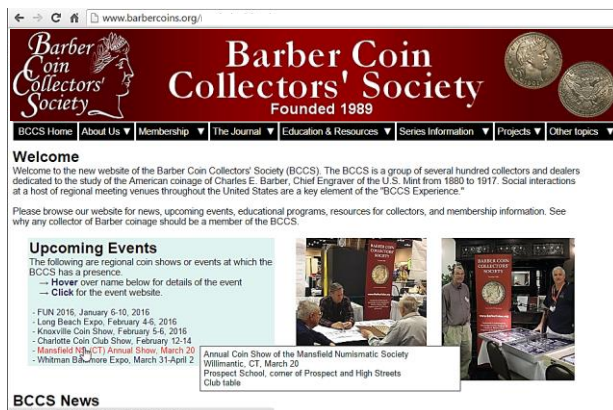
The Society has meetings and educational programs at more than 20 regional and national shows and events annually. Come join us. The schedule is always posted on our website.



## Website

Our website contains information on all four Barber series, including grading tips, rarity ratings, as well as News & Events (such as upcoming meetings, exhibits, etc.), and notes on authenticating the "Big 3" Barber Quarters.

[www.BarberCoins.org](http://www.BarberCoins.org)



# Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:

- Collector     Dealer  
 New BCCS member  
 Returning (former) BCCS member

Collecting interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you hear about us? (show location, Internet, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

**Check one:**

- One year -- \$20  
 Two years -- \$40  
 Three years -- \$60

Please detach and return with check for selected dues amount, payable to "**Barber Coin Collectors Society**" to:

**Dave Earp, BCCS Membership**  
**P.O. Box 1723**  
**Decatur, IL 62525**

Grading tips for all 4 series!



**Fine (F 12).** On the front, all of the letters of LIBERTY will be visible, but the bottoms of a couple letters may be very weak or missing. Laurel wreath has more detail. On the back, about half the feathers and most or all of E PLURIBUS UNUM will be visible.



**Very Fine (VF 20).** All of the letters of LIBERTY will be easily visible. Still more detail in laurel wreath. On many dates, the band under LIBERTY (see arrow) will be complete on VF30 coins (VF-EF). On the back, most of the feathers will be visible.

Rarity Ratings for all 4 series!

For the sake of this survey, the following rarity ratings were used:

- R1: Common date and grade, readily available
- R2: Less common - Better date and grade
- R3: Tough date - available, but may require some looking
- R4: Scarce - may or may not find at larger shows/auctions
- R5: Very scarce - only a few offered for sale each year
- R6: Extremely scarce - almost never seen, only one or two may be offered for sale in a year's time
- R7: Rare - a single specimen might, on average, be offered for sale once every few years
- R8: Unique, or nearly so

Date	AG	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	MS
1892	-	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2	R1	R1
1892-O	-	R3	R3	R4	R4	R3	R3	R2
1892-o	<b>R6</b>	<b>R3</b>	<b>R7</b>	<b>R7</b>	<b>R7</b>	<b>R7</b>	<b>R7</b>	<b>R7</b>
1892-S	-	R3	R3	R4	R5	R4	R3	R3
1893	-	R2	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R2
1893-O	-	R2	R3	R3	R3	R2	R3	R2
1893-S	-	R3	R3	R4	R5	R5	R5	R5
1904	-	R2	R2	R4	R4	R4	R4	R2

Authentication



Authenticating the 1901-S Barber Quarter

The 1901-S Barber Quarter is the key date of the set, and also the rarest 20th Century regular issue minor U.S. coin. It is very valuable in all grades, and fakes (mostly made by adding an "S" to a 1901) outnumber genuine specimens, especially in lower grades.

To make matters worse, the coin's rarity makes people do some unwise things: someone who has looked for this coin for many years and finally finds one really wants to believe the coin is genuine and sometimes does not scrutinize it carefully. This has always been a bad idea, and impressive increases in value over the past few years makes the appearance of still more fakes a likely occurrence. Luckily, the 1901-S Barber Quarter is fairly straightforward to authenticate.

Die Pair A



VF-XF coin

**Obverse A:** Both 1's are centered over a denticle, second 1 is close to the bust. **Reverse A:** S is somewhat tilted and closer to R than D. **Note:** A recently discovered 1901-P obverse die is a very close match to this die. Use careful attention when authenticating this coin. See "Sample fakes" below.

Die Pair B



Mint State coin

**Obverse B:** Both 1's are centered over the left side of denticles, second 1 is not close to the bust (much lower than Die A). **Reverse B:** S is more upright and nearly centered between R and D. **Note:** Use extra caution here, as there is also at least one 1901-P date position that is close to the 1901-S Obverse Die B, although not exactly the same.

Member's Gallery



Contemporary Counterfeits



Founded 1989



A non-profit collectors club dedicated to furthering the knowledge of coins designed by Charles E. Barber, Chief Engraver of the Mint from 1880 to 1917. He is best known for his design of the Liberty Head design on the dime, quarter, and half, as well as the Liberty Head (or "V") nickel.