

The Story Behind the World's Most Valuable Rare Coins

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Most common pennies are worth just a penny, but **the most valuable coins can be worth thousands or even millions of dollars.** There's something special about every coin on this list. Some, like the 1792 Birch Cent, are almost as old as the country itself. Others are in impeccable condition, despite being minted decades or even centuries ago. The 1958 Double Die Lincoln Cent represents a major error at the mint where it was made. Their story almost makes them worth it.

List of 10 most valuable coins in the world

Coin	Value
1792 Birch	\$2.6 million
1943 Bronze Lincoln	\$1.7 million
1793 Strawberry Leaf	\$863,000
1793 Liberty Cap Wreath	\$391,000
1944 Steel Lincoln	\$375,000
1958 Double Die Lincoln	\$336,000
1909 VDB Proof Lincoln	\$269,000

Coin	Value
1856 Flying Eagle	\$173,000
1864 Indian Head with L	\$161,000
1914-D Lincoln	\$159,000

The story behind the 5 most expensive coins in the world

1792 Birch Cent - Approximately \$2.6 Million



Although the United States did not officially begin minting pennies until 1793, there were several prototypes produced before that time. One of these is the famous 1792 Birch Cent, named after engraver Robert Birch. This coin is the most valuable of all pennies ever produced. It is a 'large cent,' the size of a quarter, and only 10 are known. A beautiful 'gem' coin sold in 2015 for an astonishing \$2.6 million.

The 1792 Birch Cent featured the Statue of Liberty on the obverse, which was a rather controversial choice at the time. Remember, the country was trying to distance itself from monarchies that had kings and queens stamped on their coins. However, the first president, George Washington, was such a popular figure that many people wanted his image on the first penny. The Statue of Liberty supporters won out, but of course, George Washington has graced many coins since then, including the current quarter.

1943 Bronze Lincoln Cent - Approximately \$1.7 Million



When World War II broke out in 1943, the United States Mint switched to making pennies from steel to save money for the war effort. When they made the change, some copper was accidentally left in the hopper. This resulted in steel mixed with copper in the first few pennies produced that year. No one noticed the mistake, so they were circulated. The United States Mint estimates that 40 of these pennies still exist. In 2010, one of the bronze Lincoln cents sold for \$1.7 million, much more than the value of the 1943 steel cent.

People considered this a rare coin, even when it was newly minted. There was a rumor that Henry Ford offered a car to anyone who could find it, and while that rumor was completely unfounded, the craze for it was real. Collectors began clamoring for it in the 1940s, and demand has never waned.

1793 Strawberry Leaf Cent - Approximately \$863,000



One of the most valuable 'big cents,' the 1793 Strawberry Leaf, sold at auction for nearly \$863,000 in 2009. Named after the faint strawberry leaves on the coin's date, the Strawberry Leaf is valuable because it is so rare. What's also interesting is that it remains in circulation, but the most valuable coins may only be passed from person to person for about 50 years before being put away. From there, they have been passed down through the centuries to delight collectors today.

1793 Liberty Cap Wreath Dime - Approx \$391,000



In 2004, a pristine example of the 1793 Liberty Cap wreath design sold at auction for about \$391,000. The coin has sharp details and shows Lady Liberty wearing a modest cap. On the reverse, there is a wreath.

There's a sad reason why the Liberty Cap Wreath is so valuable. In addition to being the first full mintage year and one of the oldest coins you'll find, it also represents historical events from the era. While the coin was being minted, a yellow fever epidemic swept through Washington, shutting down the mint. That meant very few were minted.

1944 Steel Lincoln Penny - Approx \$375,000



Remember the confusion over the 1943 penny that was supposed to be made of steel but was actually copper? Well, in 1944, the mint switched to copper and got it all wrong. An error at the San Francisco Mint left about 30 pennies made of steel left over from the 1943 penny. According to Coin Trackers, these rare coins could fetch up to \$375,000 if they're in excellent condition.

This is a standard Lincoln penny design with a wheat wreath on the reverse, but the steel coloring is very noticeable. If you find a nearly new penny, it is certainly valuable. Look closely at coins from the war years for errors like this.

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