

— THE —  
**GREATEST TREASURE  
EVER FOUND**

— LIFE Magazine | March 1992



*a catalogue of  
treasure from the  
S.S. Central America*



Presented by  
**Finest Known**



2001



2022

ADAM J. CRUM, President Finest Known, LLC  
pictured here with "The Eureka Bar."

Dear Friend,

Welcome to our exclusive catalogue showcasing truly unique and extraordinary Gold Rush artifacts recovered from the legendary 1857 shipwreck of the S.S. *Central America*, the famed "*Ship of Gold*."

Within these pages, you'll discover a remarkable collection of treasure—from gold dust and nuggets to rare gold and silver coins from the United States, the California Territory, and South America. You'll also find exquisite California Assayer Monetary Gold Ingots, bestselling books, and much more.

Please note that this catalogue represents only a portion of the incredible artifacts and services offered by **Finest Known**. However, there has never been a better opportunity to acquire a piece of **America's greatest numismatic discovery**. Thanks to my long-standing and intimate involvement in curating these treasures, my company and dedicated team are uniquely positioned to help you secure these historic artifacts.

I designed this publication to guide collectors and investors in navigating market trends and understanding the fundamentals of supply and demand for these rare and valuable pieces. With an insider's expertise, I have handled more of these treasures than all other market makers combined—continuously leading the market since these artifacts first became available in 1999. No one offers the depth of knowledge and access that **Finest Known** does when it comes to treasures from the deep, whether from the S.S. *Central America*, S.S. *Republic*, S.S. *Brother Jonathan*, or other historic shipwrecks.

While the coins and artifacts from the S.S. *Central America* are becoming increasingly scarce in the marketplace, Finest Known remains the premier source for acquiring these rare treasures. Our extensive network of collectors and investors allows us to provide unparalleled access to these historic pieces.

I invite you to explore this catalogue and then contact **Finest Known** at **1-888-751-1933** to speak with one of our knowledgeable Account Representatives. Together, we will help you select the "*Ship of Gold*" artifacts that best complement your collection or investment portfolio.

Thank you, and I look forward to assisting you.

Sincerely,

**Adam J. Crum**  
**President**

P.S. In addition to the magnificent artifacts from the S.S. *Central America*, Finest Known also buys and sells a wide range of U.S. rarities and ancient coins—far too many to include here. Call us today at **1-888-751-1933**, and we'll be happy to share more about the exceptional treasures available.

## ABOUT FINEST KNOWN, “THE SHIP OF GOLD,” AND OUR GUARANTEE

For decades, Finest Known, LLC has been a trusted source for numismatic and precious metals investors and collectors. As a recognized leader in the field, we offer an extensive selection of investment-grade coins and collectibles. While our inventory is impressive, we believe exceptional service is the heart of our business. Our knowledgeable account representatives—passionate numismatists like you—are always available to help you find the perfect piece or assist with selling and trading your collectibles when the time is right.

Finest Known is the premier authority on S.S. *Central America* gold monetary ingots and has been an exclusive source for many rare “*Ship of Gold*” treasure items. We have sold hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth of coins, ingots, nuggets, gold dust, and other artifacts recovered from the legendary S.S. *Central America*. To educate the public and spark interest in rare collectibles, Finest Known and its founder, Adam Crum, sponsor a traveling “*Ship of Gold*” exhibit that has captivated audiences across the United States.

Although all original gold coins and assayer ingots from the treasure have been sold to primary buyers, Finest Known actively maintains a secondary market, making these rarities available to collectors and investors as they resurface. If you own coins or artifacts recovered from the S.S. *Central America* and are considering selling, contact us—we’d love to make you an offer!

### OUR GUARANTEE

At Finest Known, your satisfaction is our priority. We stand by our “ironclad” guarantee—if you are not completely satisfied with your purchase of a premier rare coin or ingot within 10 days, we will either refund your full purchase price or help you find a replacement of equal or greater value. Additionally, we will match any advertised price for comparable rare coins we offer.

This catalogue features a remarkable selection of rare treasures from the S.S. *Central America*, along with new offerings crafted from California gold recovered from the depths of the Atlantic. Don’t miss your chance to own a piece of history—call us today at **888-751-1933** and speak with an account representative about these extraordinary “*Ship of Gold*” artifacts before they’re gone!

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Short Introduction.....	2
Map .....	3
S.S. <i>Central America</i> Related Literature.....	4-5
1849 \$20 S.S. <i>Central America</i> Gold Commemorative .....	6
The Horseman Coin .....	7
Humbert Commemorative .....	8
Kellogg “Quintuple Eagle” .....	9
Type I Double Eagles .....	10
1857-S Double Eagles .....	11
Other Coins from S.S. <i>Central America</i> .....	12-13
California Territorials.....	14-15
S.S. <i>Central America</i> Eureka Bar .....	16
Introduction to Assayers.....	17
Blake & Co. ....	18
Harris, Marchand & Co. ....	19
Henry Hentsch .....	20
Justh & Hunter .....	21
Kellogg & Humbert .....	22-23
S.S. <i>Central America</i> Recovered Gold Coins .....	24-25
Federal Coinage & Foreign Gold Coins .....	26-27
1715 Fleet Shipwrecks.....	28
S.S. <i>Republic</i> Shipwreck .....	29
S.S. <i>Brother Jobmathan</i> Shipwreck	30
S.S. <i>New York</i> Shipwreck.....	31
Silver_Laden Shipwrecks.....	32
1622 Tortugas Dry Shipwreck.....	33

# A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO THE *S.S. Central America* TREASURE

## The Ship of Gold

In September 1857, the elegant side-wheel steamer S.S. *Central America* was bound for New York carrying 578 hearty souls and more than two tons of gold dust, nuggets, coins and ingots from the California Gold Rush. The “*Ship of Gold*” never made port, sinking off the coast of the Carolinas in 7,200 feet of deep blue sea. The loss has been described as the greatest loss of life and economic catastrophe in all of U.S. maritime history, triggering the Panic of 1857, a severe recession and a deep depression.



## Pacific Ocean

### San Francisco

Day 1 of the Treasure Voyage  
Thursday, August 20, 1857  
Gold treasure leaves San Francisco on the S.S. *Sonora* in the Pacific Ocean en route to Panama

Day 2—At sea  
August 21, 1857

Day 3—At sea  
August 22, 1857

Day 4—At sea  
August 23, 1857

Day 5—At sea  
August 24, 1857

Day 6—At sea  
August 25, 1857

Day 7—At sea  
August 26, 1857

Day 8—At sea  
August 27, 1857

Day 9—At sea  
August 28, 1857

Day 10—At sea  
August 29, 1857

Day 11—At sea  
August 30, 1857

Day 12—At sea  
August 31, 1857



## The Treasure Voyage

AUGUST 20-SEPTEMBER 12, 1857

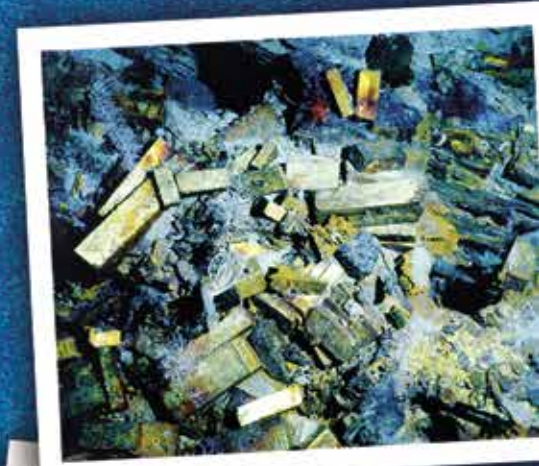
S.S. SONORA/PANAMA RAILROAD/S.S. CENTRAL AMERICA

## Garden of Gold

One hundred thirty one years later, famed scientist and explorer Tommy Thompson, along with the Columbus America Discovery Group, located the sunken S.S. *Central America*. Beneath the sea, debris, sand and marine life was found an unparalleled treasure trove – thousands of gold coins minted by the then-new San Francisco Mint . . . over 500 unique assayer gold ingots, bars and “bricks” . . . and a precious few pounds of solid gold nuggets. Those who first witnessed this treasure lying at the bottom of the sea called the scene a “Garden of Gold.”

## America’s Crown Jewels

A representative of the famed Christie’s auction house called the S.S. *Central America* treasure “America’s crown jewels.” The treasure and its fascinating story have been featured in LIFE Magazine, scores of national, regional and local newspapers, on NBC’s Dateline program, on the History Channel’s “History’s Mysteries” series, and in a number of popular and best-selling books. The greatest treasure ever lost has now been found, and is now available for acquisition by those who can appreciate this historic opportunity.



## S.S. *Central America* RELATED LITERATURE

The recovery of the treasure from the S.S. *Central America* is the most significant numismatic find in history. This fascinating story has inspired a wide variety of books, documentaries, and video presentations, which Finest Known is proud to offer as part of our “Ship of Gold” inventory.

### *America's Lost Treasure*

By Tommy Thompson

*America's Lost Treasure* is a beautiful coffee-table book depicting the tragic voyage and exciting discovery of the ill-fated S.S. *Central America*.

Written by Tommy Thompson, *America's Lost Treasure* uses more than 250 stunning photographs and illustrations to help tell the amazing “*Ship of Gold*” story.



**PRICE: \$49.00**

### *A Guidebook Of United States Coins*

(Redbook), 55th Edition, 2002

Autographed by  
Bob Evans!

By R.S. Yeoman

Never has the Guidebook of United States Coins published a Limited Edition featuring a specific find or commemorating a special event. For the first time ever, A Guidebook of United States Coins has published a special, limited edition highlighting the coins, ingots, and treasure recovered from the S.S. *Central America*. A very limited supply of this special 2002 edition is available, which is sure to be a collector's item in the future.

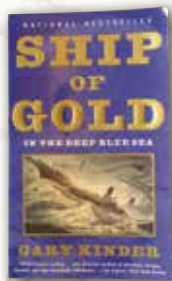


**PRICE: \$25.00**

### *Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea*

By Gary Kinder

This *N.Y. Times* bestseller tells the tale of the ill-fated S.S. *Central America*, and the heroic efforts of Tommy Thompson and the Columbus-America Discovery Group to find and recover the treasure more than 1.5 miles deep in the Atlantic Ocean. This fascinating story by Gary Kinder is sure to be a major motion picture someday.



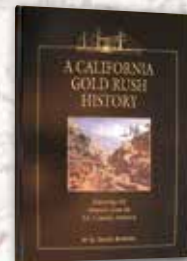
**PRICE: \$15.00**

### *A California Gold Rush History - Featuring the Treasure from the S.S. Central America*

By Q. David Bowers

This 1,055-page award-winning book provides exhaustive information on the California Gold Rush.

Thoroughly researched, this book contains hundreds of newspaper accounts, diary entries, letters, and drawings from the gold rush era. A California Gold Rush History covers the early years of the California territory, the discovery of gold in 1848, statehood in 1849, and the ill-fated loss of tons of California gold in 1857.

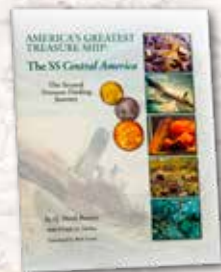


**PRICE: \$250.00**

### *America's Greatest Treasure Ship: The S.S. Central America. The Second Treasure-Finding Journey*

By Q. David Bowers

This award-winning book chronicles the return to the site by salvors in 2014. The second recovery yielded over \$50 million dollars in passenger specie and another 45 Gold Rush Monetary Ingots. This and the predecessor *A California Gold Rush History* are the most comprehensive studies ever published. Both books are a must have for any collector of rare United States gold coins and ingots.



**PRICE: \$100.00**

### *Christie's Auction Catalogue: Gold Rush Treasures from the S.S. Central America*

By Christie's, New York

A fascinating look at selected items recovered from the “*Ship of Gold*.” Published in conjunction with Christie's December 1999 auction of the recovered treasure, this book is sure to be a keepsake for numismatists and collectors of California gold rush memorabilia.



**PRICE: \$50.00**

### *An Insider's Guide to Collecting Type I Double Eagles*

By Adam Crum

Special Contributions by Bob Evans, curator of the treasure coins recovered from the S.S. *Central America*.

Because of the number of Type 1 Double Eagles recovered from the S.S. *Central America*, a thoroughly researched collectors guide was needed to help numismatists understand and enjoy the amazing treasure discovery.

This award winning "how-to" book on acquiring America's first \$20 gold coins is filled with historical intrigue and a year-by-year mint and date analysis. This guidebook is a must for collectors and investors.

**PRICE: \$49.00**

### *America's First Double Eagles*

By Adam Crum

This new expanded edition will feature a tremendous amount of new data, from major varieties, rare proof issues, Top 20 specimens, die variety studies, and new data on treasure coins that has never been published. Undoubtedly this new reference book will stimulate both collector and investor interest in these historical and popular pre-1866 rarities.

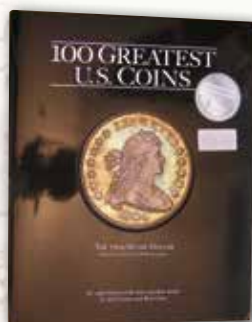
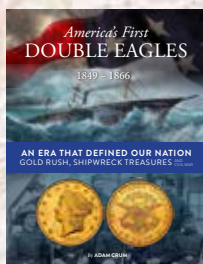
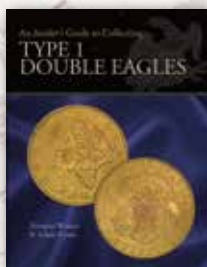
**PRICE: \$49.00**

### *100 Greatest U.S. Coins*

By Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth

This beautiful coffee table book contains stunning pictures and detailed information on the 100 greatest U.S. coins, as voted on by the Professional Numismatists Guild. Information is included on the history, popularity, quality, and rarity of each coin, as well as actual or estimated prices dating from 1960 to today. This outstanding book contains detailed photos of each coin and should be in every numismatist's library. (The 1857-S Double Eagle, recovered from the S.S. *Central America*, is listed among these great rarities.)

**PRICE: \$29.95**



### *A California Gold Rush History*

Ltd. Edition by Q. David Bowers

Discover a numismatic treasure: A California Gold Rush History by Q. David Bowers. This stunning, limited-edition red leather volume celebrates the California Gold Rush and the treasures of the S.S. *Central America*.

Published in 2002, this oversized, gilt-edged book (14-1/4" x 11-1/2", nearly 15 lbs) chronicles the journey of Gold Rush riches, featuring 1,055 pages of breathtaking color plates and historical narratives. Each copy includes 1.5 grams of S.S. *Central America* placer gold, encased in a miner's pan design inside the cover.

***With only 400 copies produced, this sought-after edition has commanded prices up to \$6,000. Housed in a protective slipcase, it's a must-have for Gold Rush enthusiasts and collectors alike. Secure your piece of history today!***

**PRICE: \$2,250**



## **SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

### *Subscribe to the Industry-Leading Rare Coin & Precious Metals Insider E-Newsletter*

Since 1990, Adam Crum has provided expert market insights through the Rare Coin & Precious Metals Insider. His team's deep knowledge of the wholesale market and numismatic history makes this newsletter essential for collectors and investors.

Get in-depth articles, market updates, and exclusive insights. Your free subscription includes Finest Known's e-Flash service and SMS alerts for breaking news, special coin availability, and pricing updates.

Signing up is quick and easy, with no obligation. Refer a friend for a chance to win a FREE gold dust package and a copy of America's Greatest Treasure Ship: The S.S. *Central America*!

***"Mr. Crum, your newsletter is by far the finest I have ever received. I have subscribed to most of the top newsletters in this field, and none compare to yours. I cannot recommend it highly enough."***

R.P., Bakersfield, CA

## 1849 \$20 LIBERTY – Modern S.S. *Central America* Gold Rush Commemorative

Own a piece of history with this stunning modern restrike of the legendary 1849 \$20 Liberty gold coin—the very first \$20 gold piece ever struck. Designed by James B. Longacre and originally minted from California Gold, the historic coin was born from the Gold Rush of 1848 in the hills surrounding what is today San Francisco, leading to the iconic Type I \$20 Liberty series 1849-1866.

The unique 1849 Double Eagle resides in the Smithsonian Institution, widely considered the world's most valuable coin—unattainable for private collectors. While proof issues from 1859–1865 exist, they are exceedingly rare, with gem-quality examples selling for over \$1,000,000 in recent years, a testament of their immense popularity.

Now, thanks to the incredible recovery of the S.S. *Central America* Gold Rush-era gold, you can own an instant classic—a meticulously crafted commemorative. **Only 625 Specimen Strikes, and 100 Gem Proof Ultra Cameo coins were minted.** These modern classics were struck from .9999 pure gold sourced from two S.S. *Central America* shipwreck ingots: Justh & Hunter #4051 and Kellogg & Humbert #855—the very same California Gold Rush provenanced gold that fueled the production of the original 1849 \$20 gold coin.

Each coin was struck using hand-engraved dies by legendary engraver **Ron Landis**, in what is likely his final masterpiece. Don't miss this rare opportunity to own a part of numismatic, shipwreck, and Gold Rush history. **Secure yours today!**

**PRICE: \$6,250 - \$9,250**

*Original Ensconced in the Smithsonian Institute National Numismatic Collection*



*Ron Landis, Master Engraver  
Engraving Dies for the SS *Central America*  
Commemorative Restrike*



*SS *Central America*  
Commemorative Restrike*

## THE HORSEMAN COIN FROM THE S.S. *Central America*

In the early 1850's, Thomas Baldwin (of Baldwin & Co.) hired engraver Albert Kuhner to create a stunning \$10 gold piece. This coin, known as "El Vaquero" or "The Horseman," is engraved with the image of a cowboy on horseback and is considered one of the preeminent coins of the California Gold Rush era and a numismatic masterpiece. Horseman coins are considered such a treasure that an original "El Vaquero" is the only privately minted territorial California gold coin that Texas billionaire Harry Bass cared to place in his own personal collection. These coins continue to hold their value today, with a MS63+ specimen selling for 1.2 million dollars in November 2024.

One hundred fifty years after the S.S. *Central America* set off on her fateful voyage, production began on the historically significant Forty-Niner Horsemen commemorative gold coin. Gallery Mint Museum director Ron Landis was commissioned to reproduce the original Horseman coin using the same engraving techniques used by Albert Kuhner in the 1850's. Landis painstakingly recreated the intricate detail of the original coin using hand-held chisels, just as it was done 150 years ago.

To make the coin even more valuable, over 15 grams of original California gold rush gold, or .54 ounces, was used to make each Horseman Coin. Gold ingots, assayed in 1857 by Justh & Hunter and recovered from the S.S. *Central America* treasure, were pressed into service to create these exquisite coins. Each coin has a beautiful, mirror-like finish on the field and wonderfully detailed frosted devices and is PCGS-certified to be Gem Proof Cameo and each is struck from authentic S.S. *Central America* gold. A counterstamp on the reverse was added after striking to designate the exact Justh & Hunter ingot from which the coin was struck.

**PRICE: \$1,750.00**



*Coin enlarged to show detail.*



These beautiful coins were struck in "Ultra Deep Cameo" which explains the extreme contrast of the mirrored fields surrounding frosted sharply struck devices. They are truly works of art that will impress the most astute collector.

## S.S. CENTRAL AMERICA OCTAGONAL HUMBERT \$50 GOLD COMMEMORATIVE

One of the most dramatic rarities recovered from the S.S. *Central America* shipwreck -- and a coin that Q. David Bowers called “the signature coin of the California Gold Rush” -- was the 1851 and 1852 Augustus Humbert \$50 Gold Octagonal “Slug.” These impressive and hefty gold rarities define the California Gold Rush and were actually gold ingots according to Augustus Humbert’s notes. However, they have been called by many different names, the most common of which is a “slug.”

Their octagonal shape has made them some of the most desirable “oddities” in the numismatic marketplace. They have earned a place in the famed book by Jeff Garrett, “*The 100 Greatest United States Coins*” and, without a doubt, they are the most asked-about single item from the S.S. *Central America* treasure. Unfortunately, there were only 14 original “slugs” recovered from the shipwreck site and those were in average quality of AU (about uncirculated) and they sold out immediately. Today the starting price for one of those 14 originals would be in the neighborhood of \$75,000 or more. The “S.S. *Central America* Octagonal Humbert \$50 Gold Commemorative” pictured here was created the old-fashioned way, with master coin dies hand-engraved by noted engraver Ron Landis. Every ounce of gold used to create these beautiful commemoratives was recovered from the shipwreck of the S.S. *Central America*. Two large gold bricks from that treasure, Kellogg & Humbert ingots #555 and #830, were used to create just 375 examples of this commemorative numismatic masterpiece.

Each S.S. *Central America* Octagonal Humbert \$50 Gold Commemorative contains 2.5 ounces of authentic California Gold Rush gold, assayed in the offices of Kellogg & Humbert at 104 Montgomery St. in San Francisco. Each numbered Commemorative is certified and graded “Gem-Proof” by Numismatic Guaranty Corporation.

**PRICE: MARKET**



## KELLOGG \$50.00 “QUINTUPLE EAGLE” COMMEMORATIVE RESTRIKE

In 1855, Kellogg & Co. produced a very small number of impressive 2½ ounce \$50 gold coins. Only about a dozen of these are known to exist today, and each are worth \$200,000+ (if you can even *find* one for sale). To commemorate the beauty and scarcity of these Gold Rush rarities, as well as to celebrate the final voyage of the S.S. *Central America*, the California Historical Society authorized the minting of no more than 5,000 Kellogg \$50 “Quintuple Eagle” Commemorative gold coins. Carefully struck at the Presidio in San Francisco from gold recovered from the S.S. *Central America*, and using transfer dies created from original Kellogg minting dies, these commemorative restrikes are absolutely stunning in every way. Every coin is counter-stamped on the reverse with its exact date of striking, corresponding to one of the days of the S.S. *Central America* treasure’s voyage. Each coin is PCGS-certified to be Gem Proof quality and struck from authentic S.S. *Central America* gold. And each comes superbly presented, the coin nested in a beautiful hand-hammered copper display case with accompanying packaging and a Certificate of Authenticity personally signed by Tommy Thompson.

Each Kellogg “Quintuple Eagle” commemorative restrrike coin is hand counter-stamped with its exact date of striking, corresponding to one of the days of the treasure’s voyage (see map on page 2 and 3).

### YOURS FREE WITH PURCHASE:

Receive the 2002 *Special Edition Guide Book of United States Coins* – the famed “Red Book” – when you purchase the Kellogg “Quintuple Eagle” commemorative restrrike coin.



PRICE: MARKET



COINS ENLARGED TO SHOW DETAIL

## S.S. *Central America* U.S. \$20 GOLD “DOUBLE-EAGLES”



SAMPLE PHOTO

**PRICE RANGE:**  
**APPROX. \$7,500 TO \$300,000**

Minting of the Liberty Type I \$20 gold “Double Eagle” was authorized by the U.S. government in response to greatly increased gold production brought about by the California Gold Rush. Over 7,000 gold coins, mostly \$20 gold “Double Eagles” produced by the then-new San Francisco mint, were recovered from the S.S. *Central America* shipwreck. Most of these coins were quickly acquired by numismatists and private collectors when the coins were first brought to market in early 2000. Finest Known has a limited number of these SSCA-certified coins in a wide range of dates and conditions and is now making them available to interested collectors and investors.

These S.S. *Central America* \$20 gold “Double Eagles” are graded and certified by two of the nation’s leading independent coin certification firms.



## 1857-S \$20 DOUBLE EAGLES

Before the discovery of the legendary “*Ship of Gold*” treasure, finding an 1850s Double Eagle in pristine condition was nearly impossible. Today, thanks to this historic recovery, you have the opportunity to own a tangible piece of American history—a testament to the values, hard work, and ambition that built our great nation.

The majority of Double Eagles recovered from the **S.S. *Central America*** were remarkably well-preserved, and most have already found their way into the hands of astute collectors, investors, and wealth preservationists. The 1857-S Double Eagle holds a prestigious place in numismatic history, ranked #75 in the book “*100 Greatest U.S. Coins*” by Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth, a publication endorsed by the Professional Numismatists Guild.

Don't miss your chance to own this remarkable coin. Contact your Finest Known account representative today for more details.

### *America's First Double Eagles & An Insider's Guide to Collecting Type I Double Eagles*

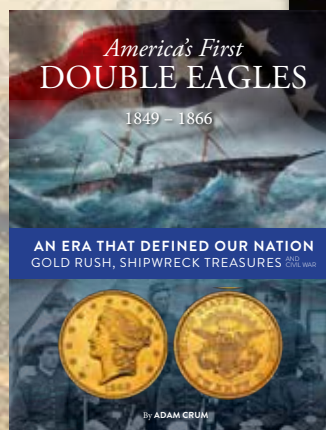
By **Adam Crum**

Contributions by **Bob Evans**, curator of the S.S. *Central America* treasure

The discovery of the S.S. *Central America* unearthed a significant number of Type I Double Eagles, prompting the need for a well-researched collector's guide. Published in 2002, *An Insider's Guide to Collecting Type I Double Eagles* has since become the definitive resource for enthusiasts of these historic coins.

The companion book, *America's First Double Eagles*, dives even deeper—offering extensive research on major die varieties, ultra-rare proof issues, and three significant treasure finds containing California Gold Rush and Civil War-era coins. Autographed by the author, this award-winning guide provides essential insight and a detailed year-by-year analysis of these extraordinary \$20 gold pieces.

Get your copy FREE with the purchase of any Double Eagle from Finest Known. It is a must have for collectors and investors.



## ASSORTED COINS RECOVERED FROM THE S.S. *Central America*

When the S.S. *Central America* steamed out of Panama, her freight included over 500 gold ingots and well over 7,000 freshly minted coins from the San Francisco Mint. She was also carrying 578 passengers, many of whom were quite wealthy and were transporting their own wealth from Panama to New York.

According to historian Normand Klare, when the women and children began to abandon the S.S. *Central America*, they left behind their unnecessary baggage. Many of these bags contained thousands of dollars worth of gold coins. Mrs. Jane Badger, a passenger on the ill fated ship, had a carpetbag filled with \$16,500 in \$20 gold pieces that was too heavy to remove from the ship. Her husband, Capt. Thomas Badger, dumped the glittering coins from the bag on to the floor of the captain's stateroom. Several other men spread their coins about the ship, most likely worth several hundred thousand dollars, but no one cared. Two ladies threw more than \$10,000 worth of \$20 gold pieces on the floor, but amidst the panic of the sinking ship, the passengers were more concerned about saving their own lives than saving their gold coins.

No one knows who owned the remarkable number of assorted coins recovered as part of the S.S. *Central America* treasure. These coins are dated from 1796 through 1857, and are in a wide variety of denominations. Many of these coins are in near perfect condition, and each has an exciting history and story that can be told. These pages contain only a few examples of the assorted coins recovered from the S.S. *Central America*. A complete listing of the recovered coins can be found on pages 24 through 27 of this catalogue. For availability and information on individual coins, contact Finest Known Rare Coin, at 888-751-1933.

**\$5 GOLD PIECES**



**\$20 GOLD PIECES**



*These coins are not shown at actual size.  
They have been enlarged to show detail.*



\$2½ GOLD PIECES

\$50 GOLD PIECES



\$3 GOLD PIECES



\$10 GOLD PIECES

These pages contain only a few examples of the assorted coins recovered from the S.S. *Central America*. A complete listing of the recovered coins can be found on pages 24-27 of this catalogue. For availability and information on individual coins, contact **Finest Known**.

## S.S. CENTRAL AMERICA ASSAYER & TERRITORIAL GOLD COINS

Due to a coin shortage in early Gold Rush-era California – and because trade conducted in questionable grades of gold dust and nuggets left much to be desired – a number of respected gold processors and assayers began producing privately-minted gold coins which became widely trusted, accepted and circulated throughout the territory. From mid-1849 through 1855 when the new San Francisco mint was operating, firms such as Moffat and Company . . . Wass, Molitor & Co. . . . and Kellogg & Co. produced thousands of these coins – from tiny gold 1/4 dollars to huge octagonal 2-1/2 ounce gold \$50 “slugs.” While most of these “territorials” have long since vanished, a significant number were recovered from the S.S. *Central America* shipwreck.

PRICE RANGE: APPROX. \$7,500 TO \$250,000

MOFFAT & Co. \$10 GOLD PIECE



The 1852 Moffat \$10 gold pieces were struck as a result of over 50 San Francisco merchants' pleas to the company to mint \$300,000 worth of smaller denomination gold coins. But not until a competitive threat by respected company Wass, Molitor & Co. to mint them did Moffat & Co. respond to these outcries. The decision to delay relief for the local merchants effectively ended the monopoly held by Moffat in the coining of acceptable coins in the bay area.

AUGUSTUS HUMBERT \$10 GOLD PIECE



The Humbert \$10 gold pieces were authorized by the direct authority of the U.S. Treasury in an effort to eliminate the extreme shortage of coinage throughout the golden state. By March 1852 enough coins were struck to alleviate the shortage and for the first time since the “gold rush” began, coins were plentiful in circulation.

**These pages contain only a few examples of the assorted coins recovered from the S.S. *Central America*. A complete listing of the recovered coins can be found on page 25 of this catalogue.**

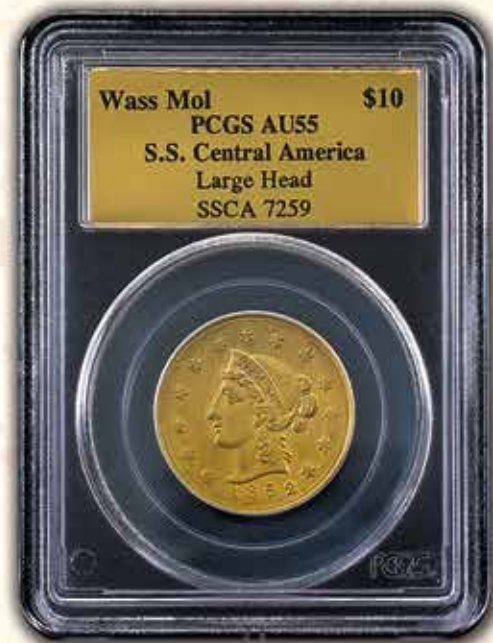
**For availability and information on individual coins, contact *Finest Known*.**

### U.S. ASSAY \$10 GOLD PIECE



The Assay \$10 coins were minted under the direction of Augustus Humbert, a highly respected assayer in the bay area. They share much of the same design as the Humbert \$10 with just minor variations on the reverse. Collectors covet both, and neither has ever been presented to the market in any significant quantity. These incredibly preserved examples recovered from the S.S. *Central America* represent some of the finest known to exist today.

### WASS, MOLITOR & Co. \$10 GOLD PIECE



Wass, Molitor was among the most important private issuers of gold coins in San Francisco. Hungarians, Count S.C. Wass and A.P. Molitor were engaged in the refining and assaying of gold and were quick to respond to the outcry by local merchants for quality and reputable coinage. Their rapid response caused a chain reaction, led by Moffat & Co., petitioning the Treasury for the minting of \$100,000's worth of coins, thus alleviating the shortage of coins in the west.

### KELLOGG & Co. \$20 GOLD PIECE



The latest major entry to the minting of coins in San Francisco was John Glover Kellogg. He worked with Moffat & Co. until the closing down of the U.S. Assay Office in December 1853, at which time he went into business with G.F. Richter of the US Assay office. Because of the rapidly growing economy and populace, coins had once again begun to be in short supply. Local merchants petitioned Kellogg to mint coins and in 1854 they released a \$20 gold piece that is prized by numismatists today.

### HUMBERT \$50 "SLUG"



Slug, adobe or ingot...a classic numismatic treasure indeed. Whether from the S.S. *Central America* or not, these are some of the most sought after coins in all numismatics. Minted in 1852, under the direction of Augustus Humbert, these coins were as prized then as they are now. Much folklore surround these fascinating coins only adding to the demand of these western heritage treasures.



## A PRICELESS NATIONAL TREASURE: THE EURECKA BAR

### The Most Valuable California Gold Rush Artifact

Experience the grandeur of the Gold Rush era with the iconic and mammoth Eureka Bar, a monetary gold ingot that epitomizes the wealth, adventure, and history of 1857 San Francisco. Created by the esteemed Kellogg & Humbert Assayers, this colossal artifact stands as the world’s largest surviving California Gold Rush relic, boasting unparalleled historical and monetary significance.

### Unearthing History: Recovered from the Legendary “Ship of Gold”

The Eureka Bar’s journey began in the heart of the California Gold Rush and met an untimely pause with the sinking of the S.S. *Central America* on September 12, 1857. Buried beneath the ocean for over a century, this treasure was rediscovered during one of the most remarkable salvage operations of modern times, hailed by *Life Magazine* as the “Greatest Treasure Ever Found.” Its survival and recovery make it a beacon of American resilience and a window into one of history’s most transformative eras.

### A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

The Eureka Bar’s upcoming international tour marks its first public exhibition in over two decades, offering collectors, investors, and history enthusiasts a rare chance to witness this monumental artifact. Its unmatched provenance and historical narrative position it as a treasure of unparalleled significance.

### THE VALUE OF INTRINSIC AND HISTORICAL WEALTH

Unlike many collectibles, the Eureka Bar is composed entirely of solid gold, a universally recognized symbol of wealth for thousands of years. Its value transcends its physical composition, standing as a document made of gold and represents California’s economic and cultural explosion during the Gold Rush. In 2002, the *Eureka Bar set a numismatic record when it sold for \$8 million*. Today, its estimated value ranges between \$10 million and \$15 million (currently insured for \$10m), underscoring its growing significance in both numismatic and historical circles.

#### KEY FEATURES OF THE EUREKA BAR:

##### MANUFACTURER:

Kellogg & Humbert Assayers

Serial Number: 1003

**WEIGHT:** 933.34 Troy oz of pure California Gold Rush gold

##### FACE VALUE (1857):

\$17,433.57

##### HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

A unique monetary document made of gold and a testament to Gold Rush ingenuity

### COMPARABLE NUMISMATIC TREASURES

The Eureka Bar’s worth is further highlighted by comparing it to other highly coveted numismatic artifacts such as these:

1804 U.S. Silver Dollar (Childs Specimen): *Sold for \$7.68 million in 2021*

1861 \$20 Type I Liberty (King Farouk Specimen):

*Sold for \$7.2 million in 2021*

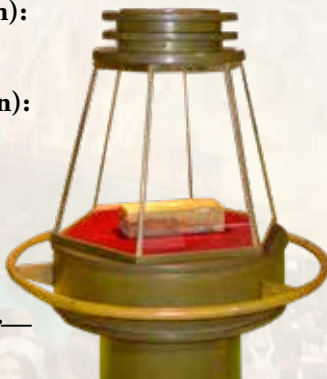
1933 \$20 Saint Gaudens (King Farouk Specimen):

*Sold for \$18.9 million in 2021*

1794 Silver Dollar (Specimen Proof):

*Sold for \$12 million in 2022*

Each of these items, like the Eureka Bar *owes its value to rarity, provenance, and historical significance—all qualities the Eureka Bar possesses in abundance.*



### PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE:

#### CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Eureka Bar or to inquire about its exhibition schedule and acquisition opportunities, please contact:

**Adam J. Crum**

888-751-1933, ext. 4900

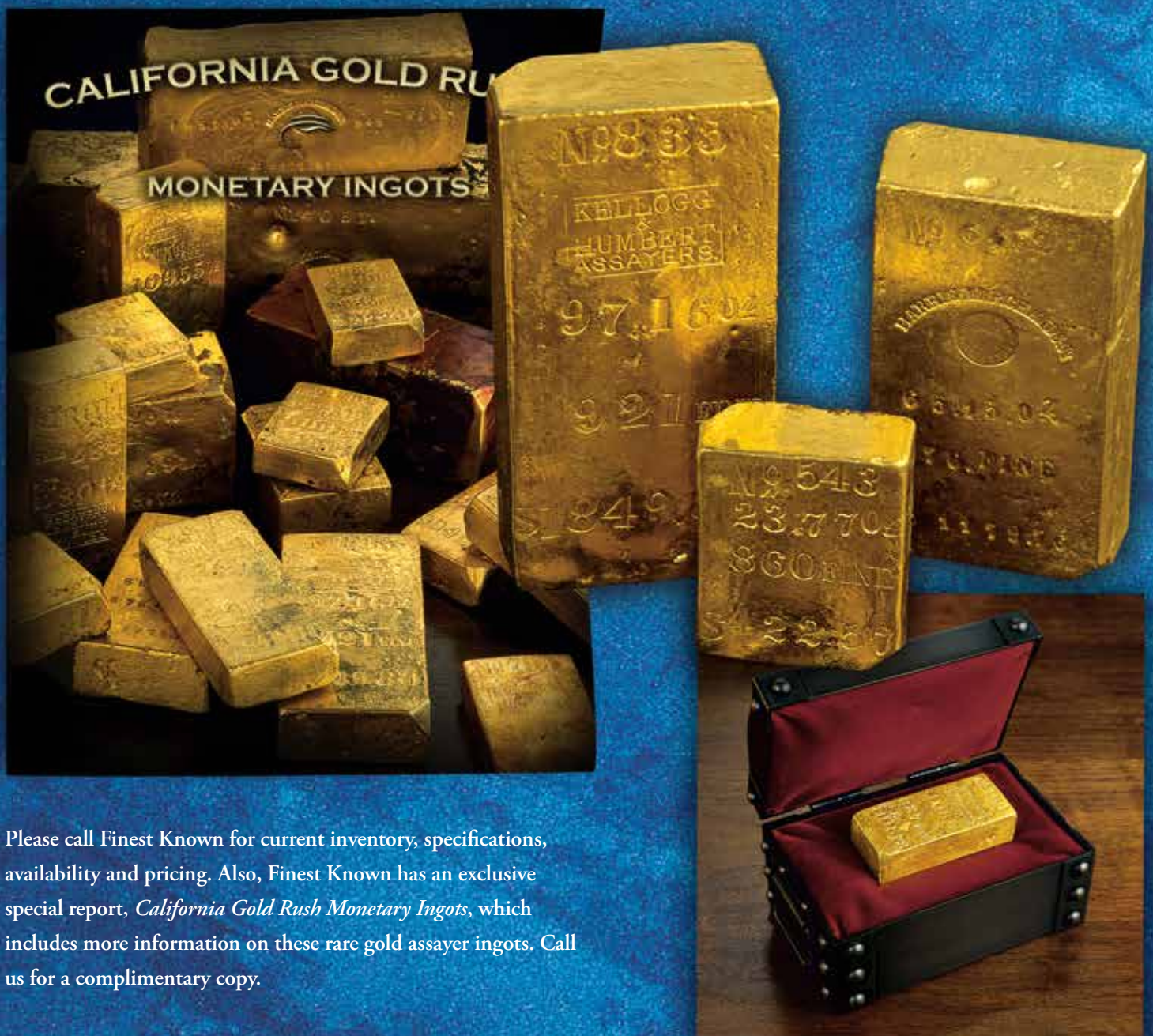
Info@FinestKnown.com

Discover the allure and legacy of the California Gold Rush through the **Eureka Bar—an irreplaceable and unique National Treasure.**

## THE IMPORTANCE OF ASSAYERS

Evaluating raw gold and determining its fineness (percentage of purity, expressed in thousandths, such as 930 fine), weight, and other characteristics involved considerable expertise, expensive equipment, security arrangements, and other considerations. Further, the changing of the raw gold into “convenient shapes,” i.e., coins or bars, had to be done by an individual or company whose integrity was such that the imprint on the gold ingots would be accepted without question in New York or London. Any assayer who proposed to set up a business would be subject to close scrutiny and criticism for the slightest mistake.

The assayers on the following pages were well known during the California gold rush days. Until the recovery of the S.S. *Central America* treasure, very few assayer bars remain from the mid 1800’s. Each of the assayer bars listed would be welcomed in any museum, but are now available to individual collectors. Contact Finest Known today to determine the availability of the ingots listed on the following pages.



Please call Finest Known for current inventory, specifications, availability and pricing. Also, Finest Known has an exclusive special report, *California Gold Rush Monetary Ingots*, which includes more information on these rare gold assayer ingots. Call us for a complimentary copy.

## BLAKE & CO.

Gorham Blake arrived in San Francisco on May 22, 1852, and gained employment as an express agent for Adams & Co., and later as a buyer of raw gold for Wells, Fargo & Co. In October 1853, he became an assayer. In late 1855, the partnership of Blake & Agrell, refiners and assayers, was established in Sacramento. As a part of Blake & Agrell, Gorham Blake assayed between 19,000 and 20,000 ounces of gold in six weeks, and became known for his assurances to pay the difference between his own assays and those of the San Francisco Mint.

On December 28, 1855, 26-year-old Gorham Blake, now an experienced assayer, founded Blake & Co. His reputation and previous success helped him establish his new enterprise and, by the end of 1856, Blake & Co. had assayed 200,000 ounces of gold and had become one of the primary assayers in that district of California.

**PRICE: BEGINS AT \$150,000+** *Subject to availability*

Legend: M = Melted

### BLAKE & CO. GOLD INGOTS

*Recovered from the S.S. Central America*

Serial#	Wt.	Fineness	1857 Value	Expedition
5190	4.95	795	\$81.34	SSCA-1
5217	5.8	851	\$102.03	SSCA-1
5221	7.16	791	\$117.07	SSCA-1
5220	7.16	835	\$123.58	SSCA-1
5219	8.25	860	\$146.66	SSCA-1
5280	9.56	817	\$161.45	SSCA-1
5189	11.04	860	\$196.26	SSCA-1
5228	12.09	867	\$216.68	SSCA-1
5225	13.35	791	\$218.28	SSCA-1
5216	14.07	915	\$266.12	SSCA-1
5229	14.31	604	\$178.67	SSCA-1
5213	16.75	722	\$249.99	SSCA-1
5223	16.78	935	\$306.93	SSCA-1
5186	17.13	847	\$299.92	SSCA-1
5226	17.78	951	\$349.53	SSCA-1M
5211	18.95	917	\$359.21	SSCA-1
5195	19.15	892	\$353.11	SSCA-1
5215	19.19	866	\$343.53	SSCA-1
5196	19.3	746	\$297.62	SSCA-1
5222	21.46	580	\$257.29	SSCA-1
5191	23.06	752	\$358.47	SSCA-1
5187	29.72	842	\$517.29	SSCA-1
5192	30.32	665	\$416.80	SSCA-1
5232	30.41	817	\$513.59	SSCA-1
5197	32.08	816	\$541.13	SSCA-1
5185	33.1	586	\$400.94	SSCA-1
2531	37.74	819	\$638.94	SSCA-1
5198	42.19	817	\$712.54	SSCA-1
5224	54.67	798	\$901.83	SSCA-1
5183	63.77	875	\$1,153.46	SSCA-1
5194	64.19	805	\$1,068.17	SSCA-1
5212	96.62	899	\$1,795.58	SSCA-1
5214	103.5	914	\$1,955.53	SSCA-1
5233	157.4	816	\$2,655.05	SSCA-1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1073</b>		<b>\$18,254.59</b>	

**Call Finest Known today for information on monetary ingot availability and acquisition terms. Arrangements can be made to suit many financial requirements. For qualified customers, current inventory status and comparable prices realized are available upon request.**

## HARRIS, MARCHAND & Co.

The firm of Harris, Marchand & Company was established on October 3, 1855, and was located on 107 J Street in Sacramento, California. On October 4, 1855, the *Sacramento Union* announced: "An assay office, the likes of which in this city has long been a source of delay and expense to our citizens-has been established by Harris, Marchand & Co., on J Street, between 4th and 5th Streets. We visited their establishment yesterday-the first of active operations-and were shown specimens of their labor, ingots Nos. 1 and 2." On January 1, 1856, the *Sacramento Union* commented on the success of the firm: "...they have 381 deposits, representing 16,899 1/2 ounces. The lowest pay per ounce was \$12.65, the highest \$20.11."

The firm opened another office in Marysville, California on January 9, 1856. Their office was located on E Street, and the principles were listed as H. Harris, melter and refiner; D. Marchand, assayer; and I.M. Merrill, treasurer and business agent. By December 31, 1856, the firm had assayed 72,105 ounces of gold.

### HARRIS, MARCHAND & Co. INGOTS

Recovered from the S.S. *Central America*

Legend: M = Melted

PRICE: BEGINS AT \$125,000

Subject to availability

Serial#	Wt.	Fineness	1857 Value	Expedition
6522	9.87	777	\$158.53	SSCA-1
6472	10.07	847	\$176.31	SSCA-1
6506	11.22	763	\$177.43	SSCA-1
6490	11.43	897	\$211.94	SSCA-1
6512	11.53	835	\$199.01	SSCA-1
6486	12.64	950	\$245.00	SSCA-1
6488	13.52	807	\$225.54	SSCA-1
6528	13.78	914	\$260.35	SSCA-1
6538	14.52	682	\$204.70	SSCA-2
6536	14.7	731	\$222.13	SSCA-2
6466	17.02	813	\$286.04	SSCA-1
6508	17.48	885	\$319.78	SSCA-1
6456	17.57	847	\$307.63	SSCA-1
6510	18.41	712	\$270.96	SSCA-1
6474	19.2	727	\$288.54	SSCA-1
6278	19.6	742	\$300.63	SSCA-1
6460	21.93	721	\$326.85	SSCA-1
6524	25.52	878	\$408.73	SSCA-1
6496	22.66	845	\$395.81	SSCA-1
6478	22.85	829	\$391.58	SSCA-1
6470	22.92	917	\$434.37	SSCA-1
6446	23.35	897	\$432.96	SSCA-1
6542	25.18	893	\$470.02	SSCA-2
6502	32.45	907	\$608.41	SSCA-1
6480	32.54	917	\$616.83	SSCA-1
6492	32.72	900	\$608.74	SSCA-1
6514	35.33	807	\$589.38	SSCA-1
6484	43.95	932	\$846.35	SSCA-1
6468	51	880	\$927.75	SSCA-1
6526	55.05	875	\$995.73	SSCA-1
6520	55.48	928	\$1,064.30	SSCA-1
6476	56.65	856	\$1,002.42	SSCA-1
6462	65.15	876	\$1,179.76	SSCA-1
6494	77.95	878	\$1,414.78	SSCA-1
6516	112.1	878	\$2,034.60	SSCA-1
6518	129.3	884	\$2,362.81	SSCA-1M
6500	149.35	890	\$2,747.72	SSCA-1
7095	174.04	942	\$3,389.06	SSCA-1
6504	195.7	945	\$3,822.97	SSCA-1
6458	295.2	877	\$5,351.73	SSCA-1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1990.93</b>		<b>\$36,278.18</b>	



Please note that all of the gold assayer ingots from the original treasure have now been sold to primary buyers. However, Finest Known continues to maintain an active secondary market in these rarities and makes them available to collectors and investors as these items become available. If you have assayer ingots or other treasure items recovered from the S.S. *Central America* and may be interested in selling them, please contact Finest Known . . . we want to make you an offer!

## ASSAY OFFICE OF HENRY HENTSC

In 1856, 21-year-old Henry Hentsch set up a banking office in San Francisco. In its February 2, 1856 edition, the *Alta California* announced, "ASSAY OFFICE OF HENRY HENTSC. Northwest corner of Montgomery and Jackson Streets. I have this day annexed to my Banking Establishment an Assay Office, and am prepared to carry on this business in all its branches. All orders confided to my care will be executed with promptness, and I will guarantee my assays. H. Hentsch. San Francisco."

Hentsch listed sundry international references that included prominent banking firms such as Morris, Prevost & Co., London; Melly, Romilly & Co., Liverpool; Mathieu Hentsch & Co., Paris; and Hentsch & Co., Geneva, Switzerland. At the time, European banks were major destinations for California gold ingots and bars, and these international endorsements no doubt attracted depositors with such customers in mind. The Hentsch bars that were part of the S.S. *Central America* shipment were most likely bound for the Hentsch family banks in London, Paris, or Geneva. Although most of the ingots never made it to their final destination, amazingly one did. Benedict Hentsch participated in the Christie's S.S. *Central America* Auction in December 2000 and acquired a Hentsch ingot for display in the Darier Hentsch Banks in Geneva, which have been in business since 1796.

**PRICE: BEGINS AT \$150,000+** *Subject to availability*

*Please note that all of the gold assayer ingots from the original treasure have now been sold to primary buyers. However, Finest Known continues to maintain an active secondary market in these rarities and makes them available to collectors and investors as these items become available. If you have assayer ingots or other treasure items recovered from the S.S. Central America and may be interested in selling them, please contact Finest Known...we want to make you an offer!*



### HENRY HENTSC GOLD INGOTS

Recovered from the S.S. *Central America*

Legend: M = Melted

Serial#	Wt.	Fineness	1857 Value	Expedition
3068	12.52	973	\$251.82	SSCA-1
3229	22.6	862	\$402.71	SSCA-1
3160	22.88	854	\$403.91	SSCA-1
3246	24.17	938	\$468.66	SSCA-2
3130	26.96	890	\$496.00	SSCA-1
3228	28.27	874	\$510.75	SSCA-1
3227	31.72	911	\$597.35	SSCA-1
3129	33.93	875	\$613.72	SSCA-1
3230	38.45	846	\$672.42	SSCA-1
3067	43.5	850	\$790.25	SSCA-1
3212	45	914	\$850.28	SSCA-1
3072	51.19	849	\$898.40	SSCA-1
3119	57.53	865	\$1,029.59	SSCA-1
3127	58.56	920	\$1,113.69	SSCA-2
3112	59.75	878	\$1,084.45	SSCA-1
3120	61.93	886	\$1,134.26	SSCA-1
3220	63.3	873	\$1,142.34	SSCA-1
3215	64.28	889	\$1,181.29	SSCA-1
3124	66.78	880	\$1,214.80	SSCA-1
3095	67.91	891	\$1,250.80	SSCA-1
3211	67.07	843	\$1,168.78	SSCA-1
3161	71.88	912	\$1,355.13	SSCA-1
3099	72.12	898	\$1,338.78	SSCA-1
3113	83.54	849	\$1,466.16	SSCA-1
3128	88.15	815	\$1,485.10	SSCA-2
3114	93.15	831	\$1,600.15	SSCA-1
3214	110	904	\$1,931.71	SSCA-1
3144	118.17	812	\$1,983.54	SSCA-1
3115	118.19	863	\$2,108.48	SSCA-1
3225	119.45	873	\$2,155.65	SSCA-2
3218	145.2	886	\$2,659.36	SSCA-1M
3125	154.23	893	\$2,847.07	SSCA-1
3066	172.6	900	\$3,211.15	SSCA-1
3213	176.25	894	\$3,257.20	SSCA-1
3219	181.7	912	\$3,425.53	SSCA-1
3244	218.68	891	\$4,027.77	SSCA-1
3123	238.84	903	\$4,458.35	SSCA-1
3243	319.22	892	\$5,886.19	SSCA-2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3429.67</b>		<b>\$62,473.59</b>	

## JUSTH & HUNTER

Emanuel Justh, a lithographer by trade, started work in 1854 with the newly formed San Francisco Mint. In May 1855, five days after leaving the Mint, Justh and his partner Solomon Hunter formed an assaying partnership on Montgomery Street in San Francisco. The business was announced in the May 15, 1855 edition of the *Alta California* with a letter of recommendation from San Francisco Mint Superintendent Louis Birdsall and U.S. Assayer Agoston Haraszthy. Birdsall and Haraszthy cited Justh as a “competent and faithful assayer;” although prior to his year’s experience at the Mint, Justh had never had any metalwork or chemistry on his resume.

The Justh & Hunter enterprise was very successful; the partners assayed millions of dollars worth of gold in just over two years, and opened a Marysville office in May 1856. Justh & Hunter took on another partner in 1857, but the new partnership didn’t work out and the two men reformed their partnership on August 15, 1857. Justh & Hunter attracted business by paying out freshly minted San Francisco double eagles, no doubt acquired through Justh’s former associates at the Mint.

There were two distinct groups of Justh & Hunter bars aboard the S.S. *Central America*; those with serial numbers in the 4000 range and those in the 9000 range. The possibility that one set of serial numbers represents the first Justh & Hunter partnership and the second set of serial numbers represents the second partnership is speculated but not confirmed. Little known among numismatists until the discovery of the S.S. *Central America* treasure, Justh & Hunter was obviously a well-respected and well-connected enterprise despite their comparative lack of experience. It is interesting to note that four of the five largest bars discovered on board the S.S. *Central America* were assayed by Justh & Hunter, which is a tribute to their reputation among major depositors.

**PRICE: BEGINS AT \$100,000**

*Subject to availability*

### JUSTH & HUNTER GOLD INGOTS

Recovered from the S.S. *Central America*

Legend: M = Melted

Serial#	Wt.	Fineness	1857 Value	Expedition
4216	5.24	851	\$92.18	SSCA-1
4270	5.56	854	\$98.15	SSCA-1
4208	5.76	860	\$102.40	SSCA-1
4338	7.54	741	\$115.49	SSCA-2
4285	7.67	797	\$126.36	SSCA-1
4267	15.31	876	\$277.21	SSCA-1
4251	16.83	864	\$300.59	SSCA-1
4346	18.6	893	\$343.35	SSCA-1
4351	19.87	889	\$365.15	SSCA-1
4242	20.35	892	\$375.20	SSCA-1
4280	20.93	907	\$392.42	SSCA-1
4268	22.28	871	\$401.16	SSCA-1
4343	22.83	883	\$416.72	SSCA-1
4341	23	890	\$423.15	SSCA-1
4288	25.55	926	\$489.08	SSCA-1
4259	27.63	948	\$541.46	SSCA-1
4329	27.9	894	\$515.61	SSCA-1
4271	30.26	838	\$524.19	SSCA-1
4333	30.7	885	\$561.64	SSCA-1
4322	30.83	839	\$534.70	SSCA-2
4339	34.4	893	\$635.02	SSCA-1
4302	35.17	942	\$684.86	SSCA-1
4209	36.61	820	\$620.57	SSCA-2
4262	42.06	836	\$726.86	SSCA-1
4331	48.39	870	\$870.26	SSCA-1
4312	49.59	916	\$939.00	SSCA-1
4335	50.5	883	\$921.78	SSCA-1
4317	51.32	828	\$878.40	SSCA-1
4215	51.43	870	\$924.94	SSCA-1
4307	51.78	889	\$951.57	SSCA-2
4243	51.98	916	\$984.26	SSCA-1
4277	52.73	950	\$1,035.52	SSCA-1
4276	55.45	933	\$1,069.45	SSCA-1
4202	56.56	888	\$1,038.24	SSCA-1
4340	56.52	869	\$1,015.31	SSCA-1
4347	60.15	925	\$1,150.12	SSCA-1
4273	66.43	887	\$1,218.05	SSCA-1

Serial#	Wt.	Fineness	1857 Value	Expedition
4345	75.27	891	\$1,386.36	SSCA-1
4342	85.45	896	\$1,582.70	SSCA-1
4200	85.49	886	\$1,565.76	SSCA-1
4278	90.95	888	\$1,669.53	SSCA-1
4336	94.39	894	\$1,744.38	SSCA-1
4311	96	773	\$1,539.13	SSCA-1
4332	99.6	896	\$1,844.79	SSCA-1M
4185	109.18	884	\$1,995.14	SSCA-1
4281	112.38	912	\$2,118.60	SSCA-1
4279	113.55	924	\$2,168.89	SSCA-2
4272	118.86	878	\$2,157.29	SSCA-1
4274	142.7	868	\$2,560.49	SSCA-2
4244	144.25	886	\$2,641.96	SSCA-1
None	150	N/A		SSCA-1
4257	160.04	891	\$2,958.76	SSCA-1
4250	179.5	886	\$3,287.57	SSCA-1
4146	185.21	876	\$3,353.87	SSCA-1
4254	568.07	917	\$10,768.39	SSCA-1
4255	598.08	897	\$11,089.95	SSCA-1
4253	649.15	875	\$11,741.76	SSCA-1
4252	652.84	896	\$12,091.90	SSCA-1
4221	866.19	892	\$15,971.93	SSCA-1
Totals	7367.81		\$132,945.11	

### Ingots Coined into SSSA Commemorative

Serial#	Wt.	Fineness	1857 Value	Expedition	Status
4293	106.08	887	\$1,945.07	SSCA-1	Coined
4330	185.88	931	\$3,577.35	SSCA-1	Coined
4258	197.56	898	\$3,661.79	SSCA-1	Coined
4328	255.25	943	\$4,975.71	SSCA-1	Coined
4282	266.88	935	\$5,158.30	SSCA-1	Coined
4220	676.22	913	\$12,762.57	SSCA-1	Coined
4050	715.85	906	\$13,406.93	SSCA-1	Coined
4051	754.95	900	\$14,045.54	SSCA-1	Coined

### MARYSVILLE OFFICE

Serial#	Wt.	Fineness	1857 Value	Expedition
9522	19.34	891	\$356.21	SSCA-1
9523	24.63	893	\$454.66	SSCA-1
9524	26.02	884	\$475.48	SSCA-1
9497	28.13	922	\$536.14	SSCA-1M
9498	29.83	895	\$551.89	SSCA-1
9520	36.08	914	\$681.69	SSCA-1
9494	41.47	889	\$762.10	SSCA-1
9440	41.79	881	\$761.07	SSCA-1
9435	52.33	911	\$985.47	SSCA-1
9487	58.07	891	\$1,069.56	SSCA-1
9485	60	891	\$1,061.27	SSCA-1
9484	83.85	900	\$1,550.69	SSCA-1
9501	97.53	883	\$1,780.23	SSCA-1
9442	106.15	915	\$2,007.79	SSCA-1
9436	126.53	876	\$2,291.26	SSCA-1
9439	133.23	912	\$2,511.74	SSCA-1
9489	159.23	932	\$3,067.74	SSCA-1
9526	195.76	885	\$3,381.35	SSCA-1
9437	242.87	886	\$4,448.21	SSCA-1
9438	243.77	883	\$4,449.58	SSCA-1
9510	253.13	906	\$4,740.80	SSCA-1
9434	266.97	906	\$5,000.00	SSCA-1
9483	313.54	890	\$5,774.96	SSCA-2
9496	327.97	909	\$6,162.78	SSCA-1
9521	464.65	912	\$8,759.90	SSCA-1
Totals	3432.87		\$63,622.57	





## GOLD COINS RECOVERED FROM THE TREASURE OF THE S.S. CENTRAL AMERICA

The following list details all the gold and silver coins recovered from the treasure of the S.S. *Central America* and certified thus far, according to the California Gold Marketing Group LLC. Also found but not listed in the chart were 300-400 double eagles, six eagles, and two quarter eagles that are clustered together.

FEDERAL MINT COINAGE																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
<p><b>\$20 GOLD PIECES</b></p> <p><b>SAN FRANCISCO</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>1857-S</td><td style="text-align: right;">6359</td></tr> <tr><td>1856-S</td><td style="text-align: right;">1412</td></tr> <tr><td>1855-S</td><td style="text-align: right;">420</td></tr> <tr><td>1854-S</td><td style="text-align: right;">25</td></tr> <tr><td><b>Total</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>8,218</b></td></tr> </table> <p><b>PHILADELPHIA</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>1850</td><td style="text-align: right;">41</td></tr> <tr><td>1851</td><td style="text-align: right;">41</td></tr> <tr><td>1852</td><td style="text-align: right;">56</td></tr> <tr><td>1853</td><td style="text-align: right;">39</td></tr> <tr><td>1854</td><td style="text-align: right;">30</td></tr> <tr><td>1855</td><td style="text-align: right;">11</td></tr> <tr><td>1856</td><td style="text-align: right;">6</td></tr> <tr><td>1857</td><td style="text-align: right;">3</td></tr> <tr><td><b>Total</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>227</b></td></tr> </table> <p><b>NEW ORLEANS</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; 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Please note that all of the gold assayer ingots from the original treasure have now been sold to primary buyers. However, Finest Known continues to maintain an active secondary market in these rarities and makes them available to collectors and investors as these items become available. If you have assayer ingots or other treasure items recovered from the S.S. Central America and may be interested in selling them, please contact Finest Known . . . we want to make you an offer!

FEDERAL MINT COINAGE	
<b>CHARLOTTE</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	1849-C Close Wreath 1
1843-C 1	1849-O 4
1844-C 1	1850 4
1847-C 2	1851 75
1848-C 1	1851-C 1
	1851-O 7
<b>Total</b> 5	1852 37
	1852-O 3
	1853 74
<b>DAHLONEGA</b>	1854 17
<b>Date:</b>	1854-S 5
1839-D 1	1854 TY. II 6
1842-D 1	1855 16
1843-D 3	1855-O 2
1846-D 2	1856-S TY. II 43
1847-D 2	1856 TY. III
1850-D 1	Upright 5 1
1851-D 1	1856 TY. III
<b>Total</b> 11	Slanting 5 7
	1857 1
	<b>Total</b> 321
<b>\$1 GOLD PIECES</b>	
<b>PHILADELPHIA</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	
1849 Open Wreath 14	
1849 Closed Wreath 3	

PIONEER GOLD COINS STRUCK AT PRIVATE MINT FACILITIES	
TYPE OF COIN	TOTAL
Augustus Humbert and Assay \$50	14
Wass Molitor \$50 Round	1
Kellogg & Co. \$20	56
Wass Molitor & Co. \$20	2
Humbert/US Assay \$20	20
Moffat & Co. \$20	4
Augustus Humbert \$10	82
1851 Baldwin & Co. \$10	1
Dubosq & Co. \$10	1
Moffat & Co. \$10	39
U.S. Assay \$10	103
Wass Molitor & Co. \$10	93
Wass Molitor & Co. \$5	2
Moffat & Co. \$5	14
CALIFORNIA FRACTIONAL GOLD	
Various Dates and Varieties *	116



FEDERAL COINAGE & FOREIGN GOLD COINS

**HALF-CENTS**

Unidentified Dates 3

**CENTS**

Unidentified dates 2

1845 1

1848 1

1851 2

1853 1

1857 Flying Cent 1

**THREE CENT SILVER**

Unidentified dates 4

**HALF DIMES**

Unidentified Dates 7

1834 1

1838 1

1839 1

1840 3

1842 1

1851-O 1

1853 Arrows 2

1854 Arrows 1

1855 Arrows 1

1856 4

1856-O 1

1857 2

**DIMES**

**Draped Bust**

Unidentified Dates 3

1796 1

1805 8

1807 2

**Capped Bust**

Unidentified Dates 187

1811/09 1

1814 33

1820 90

1821 102

1823/2 61

1824/2 17

1825 36

1827 157

1828 15

1829 46

1830 64

1831 49

1832 44

1833 57

1834 71

1835 151

1836 80

1837 41

**SEATED LIBERTY DIMES**

Unidentified Dates 24

1837 No Stars 92

1838 No Drapery 299

1838-O No Stars 61

1839 No Drapery 162

1839-O No Drapery 158

1840 No Drapery 186

1840 Drapery 26

1840-O No Drapery 113

1841 196

1841-O 300

1842 280

1842-O 140

1843 299

1843-O 18

1844 15

1845 294

1845-O 29

1846 6

1847 74

1848 162

1849 312

1849-O 141

1850 1395

1850-O 47

1851 688

1851-O 96

1852 632

1852-O 25

1853 No Arrows 2

1853 Arrows 372

1853-O Arrows 171

1854 Arrows 257

1854-O Arrows 230

1855 Arrows 64

1856 29

1856-O 96

1856-S 1

1857 26

**Totals 8834**

**QUARTERS**

1805 1

1807 1

1818 2

1820 1

1825 1

1828 1

1832 2

1833 1

1834 3

1835 3

1836 3

1837 1

Unidentified dates 5

1838 4

1839 3

1840-O 2

1841 2

1841-O 1

1842-O 6

1843 5

1843-O 7

1844 5

1844-O 3

1845 11

1846 2

1847 2

1847-O 2

1850-O 1

1853 Arrows & Rays 96

1853-O Arrows & Rays 9

1854 Arrows 106

1854-O Arrows 6

1855 Arrows 83

1855-O Arrows 3

1855-S 84

1856 55

1856-O 26

1856-S 28

1857 7

1857-S 4

**SSCA CATALOGUE SILVER FOREIGN COINS**

In 1857, foreign silver coins were widely used in the western U.S. due to a shortage of U.S. coinage and immigration from around the world. Merchants likely identified these coins by size rather than scales or conversion tables, as many closely resembled U.S. denominations, making them practical for transactions.

For this listing, only foreign gold coins are included, while silver coins are not listed. These coins traveled great distances before reaching California's West Coast and included pieces from Sardinia, Colombia, Costa Rica, France, Great Britain,

**FEDERAL COINAGE CONTINUED**
**HALF DOLLARS**

1808	1
1810	1
1811	1
1813	1
1820	1
1821	2
1822	1
1824	1
1825	1
1826	2
1827	3
1828	1
1829	2
1830	6
1831	2
1832	2
1833	1
1834	2
1835	2
1836	4
1837	2
1838	2
Unidentified dates	1
1840-O	3
1842-O	1
1843-O	3
1845-O	1
1846	1
1846-O	2
1847-O	2
1848	1
1848-O	3
1849-O	1
1850-O	2
1853 Arrows & Rays	16
1853-O Arrows & Rays	64
1855	6
1855-O Arrows	55
1855-S Arrows	30
1856	2
1856-O	47
1856-S	40
1857-S	4

**WORLD GOLD COINS**
**AUSTRALIAN**

1855 Sovereign	1
1856 Sovereign	1

**BOLIVIA**

1838 Scudo	1
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**COSTA RICA**

1841 Half Escudo	1
1855 Half Escudo	1

**CENTRAL AMERICA  
REPUBLIC**

1850 2 Escudo	1
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**FRANCE**

1824 20 Franc	1
1831 20 Franc	2
1839 20 Franc	1
1840 20 Franc	2
1848 20 Franc	1
1850 20 Franc	1
1851 20 Franc	2
1852 20 Franc	6
1853 20 Franc	1
1854 20 Franc	3
1855 20 Franc	1

**GERMAN**

1825 10 Thaler	1
Great Britian	
1823 Sovereign	1
1826 Sovereign	1
1827 Sovereign	1
1829 Sovereign	1
1837 Sovereign	1
1837 Sovereign	1

1842 Half Sovereign	3
1842 Sovereign	1
1846 Half Sovereign	2
1846 Sovereign	1
1847 Sovereign	1
1848 Sovereign	1
1849 Half Sovereign	4
1850 Half Sovereign	1
1850 Sovereign	2
1851 Sovereign	3
1852 Half Sovereign	5
1852 Sovereign	15
1853 Half Sovereign	1
1854 Sovereign	1
1855 Sovereign	1
1856 Sovereign	2

**MEXICO**

1837 8 Escudo - Genuine	1
1852 8 Escudo - Genuine	1
1853 8 Escudo -	
Contemporary Counterfiets	3

**NETHERLANDS**

1824 10 Gulden	3
1825 10 Gulden	1
1840 10 Gulden	1
1841 Ducat	1

**Peru**

1829 Escudo	1
1853 2 Escudo	1

**Spain**

1809 2 Escudo	1
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<b>Totals</b>	<b>92</b>
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Nueva Granada, Sweden, Mexico, Spain and its colonies, and Chile. Dating from the late 1700s to the 1850s, about 120 were found among the passenger piles in the shipwreck's debris field, ranging in size from half-dimes to silver dollars.

A remarkable discovery was a hoard of Chilean 50 centavos and pesos, likely belonging to Pascual Esquerria, a Chilean-Spanish businessman returning to Spain. Stored in a deteriorated trunk, the silver coins formed a massive pile. This hoard contained about 3,250 coins, totaling around 2,000 ounces of silver, making it a significant and exciting find.

## OTHER SIGNIFICANT TREASURE COINS, INGOTS, AND ARTIFACTS OFFERED BY FINEST KNOWN

Throughout history, shipwrecks and lost treasures have captivated collectors, historians, and investors alike. **Finest Known** specializes in offering some of the most extraordinary recovered artifacts, including rare coins, gold ingots, and historic relics from legendary shipwrecks. These treasures not only hold immense numismatic value but also serve as tangible links to the past, preserving stories of exploration, commerce, and maritime tragedy.

While many shipwrecks have yielded fascinating discoveries, four stand out as the most significant and sought-after by collectors and enthusiasts. These treasures, recovered from the depths of the ocean, include gold and silver coins from the famed Spanish treasure fleets, Civil War-era shipwrecks, and lost fortunes from the California Gold Rush. Each coin and artifact tells a unique story, from the economic struggles of early America to the perilous voyages undertaken in search of wealth and prosperity.

Though there are many remarkable finds in the world of shipwreck numismatics, the seven listed on the following pages represent the pinnacle of historical significance and collector interest. Whether you are a seasoned investor, a history buff, or a treasure enthusiast, these artifacts offer an opportunity to own a piece of maritime legend and lost fortune.

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### FLORIDA THE TREASURE COAST: THE 1715 FLEET SHIPWRECKS

Beneath the sparkling waters off Florida's east coast lies one of the most famous shipwreck sites in history—the 1715 Spanish Treasure Fleet. Known as the “Treasure Coast,” this stretch of coastline holds the remains of 11 Spanish ships that met their fate in a powerful hurricane over 300 years ago.



#### A TRAGIC TALE OF WEALTH AND STORMS

In July 1715, a fleet of Spanish galleons departed from Havana, Cuba, carrying vast amounts of gold, silver, and jewels from the New World to Spain. However, just days into their journey, a fierce hurricane struck, driving the fleet into the shallow waters off present-day Florida. The storm claimed hundreds of lives, and the valuable cargo was lost to the sea.

Finest Known has placed hundreds of coins over the years and actively pursues the acquisition of coins and interesting artifacts from the site of the sinking of the 1715 Fleet.

## THE LEGENDARY WRECK OF THE *S.S. REPUBLIC*

Beneath the depths of the Atlantic Ocean lies one of the most remarkable shipwreck discoveries in American history—the *S.S. Republic*. This Civil War-era sidewheel steamship, laden with treasure, met its tragic fate in 1865 when it sank off the coast of Georgia during a violent hurricane. Today, its wreckage has become a goldmine of history, offering a glimpse into 19th-century maritime commerce and life.

### A SHIP WITH A STORY

The *S.S. Republic* was originally launched as the Tennessee in 1853 and served in both commercial and military roles, including as a Union transport vessel during the Civil War. After the war, it was repurposed for passenger and cargo transport, setting sail from New York to New Orleans in October 1865. However, just days into its journey, a powerful hurricane struck, causing the ship to sink to the ocean floor. All passengers and crew managed to escape, but the ship's valuable cargo was lost beneath the waves.

### A TREASURE TROVE OF ARTIFACTS

Discovered by Odyssey Marine Exploration in 2003, the *S.S. Republic* yielded a stunning collection of artifacts that had been preserved for over a century. Among the treasures were thousands of gold and silver coins, including rare 1865 Double Eagles, Seated Liberty dollars, and half dollars. In addition to the coins, salvagers recovered everyday items such as glass bottles, ceramic dishes, tools, and even personal belongings, offering insight into post-Civil War trade and daily life. Finest Known has placed more of the coins and artifacts from this treasure trove of Civil War history than all other companies combined and continues to make a two-way market. This places us in the drivers seat for access to these exciting coins.



## THE TRAGIC WRECK OF THE *S.S. Brother Jonathan*

Deep beneath the cold waters off the coast of Northern California lies the legendary wreck of the *S.S. Brother Jonathan*, a sidewheel steamship lost to the sea in 1865. Carrying passengers, crew, and a fortune in gold, the ship met its tragic fate when it struck an uncharted reef near Crescent City during a violent storm. Only 19 of the 244 people aboard survived, making it one of the deadliest maritime disasters on the West Coast.

### A VOYAGE OF WEALTH AND TRAGEDY

Originally launched in 1851, the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* was a premier passenger steamer during the California Gold Rush, ferrying travelers and cargo between San Francisco and the Pacific Northwest. On July 30, 1865, the ship left San Francisco, heavily loaded with supplies, gold coins, and treasure intended for trade. Battling rough seas, the vessel struck St. George Reef and quickly sank, taking with it millions in gold and other valuable cargo.

### THE LOST TREASURE REDISCOVERED

For over a century, the shipwreck remained hidden beneath the waves. In 1993, a team of divers and researchers finally located the wreck and began an extensive recovery operation. Among the incredible discoveries were thousands of gold coins, including rare 1865 Double Eagles, gold bars, and artifacts such as porcelain dishes, bottles, and personal belongings. The gold coins, some in pristine condition, provided a fascinating glimpse into 19th-century commerce and wealth.



### A LEGACY PRESERVED

Today, many of the *S.S. Brother Jonathan's* artifacts and treasures are displayed in museums, including the Del Norte County Historical Society Museum. This historic shipwreck continues to captivate historians and treasure hunters alike, offering a haunting reminder of the sea's power and the fortunes lost to its depths.

Finest Known has been intimately involved in the pursuit and placement of the coins recovered from this treasure trove of rare Type I Double Eagles of the Civil War dates.



## THE 1845 SHIPWRECK OF THE S.S. NEW YORK

The **S.S. *New York***, a sidewheel steamship, met its tragic fate in 1845 when it sank off the coast of Texas during a violent hurricane. The ship was en route from Galveston to New Orleans, carrying passengers, cargo, and a fortune in gold and silver coins. As the storm intensified, the vessel was overwhelmed by the rough seas and sank, taking dozens of lives and scattering its valuable cargo across the ocean floor.

For over 150 years, the **S.S. *New York*** remained hidden beneath the Gulf of Mexico. In the 1990s, divers and researchers finally located the wreck and began an extensive recovery operation. Among the most significant finds were thousands of gold and silver coins, including early U.S. and Mexican currency from the mid-19th century. Other recovered artifacts included personal belongings, tools, glass bottles, and remnants of the ship itself, offering a glimpse into life during that era.

Today, many of the ship's recovered treasures are displayed in museums and private collections, preserving the legacy of this historic shipwreck. The **S.S. *New York*** remains an important discovery for maritime history, numismatics, and treasure enthusiasts alike.

Although the coins and artifacts are very rare due to the small size of the recovery, Finest Known is well positioned in the treasure trade and can assist in finding a special piece of this historic shipwreck.



*Artifacts & coins from the 1845 shipwreck of the S.S. New York – a glimpse into history.*

## THE SILVER-LADEN SHIPWRECKS: S.S. GAIRSOPPA & S.S. TILAWA



Two of the most famous silver treasure shipwrecks of the 20th century, the **S.S. Gairsoppa** and the **S.S. Tilawa**, were both merchant vessels carrying tons of silver bars when they met their tragic fates during World War II.

The **S.S. Gairsoppa**, a British cargo ship, was torpedoed by a German U-boat in 1941 while transporting nearly 7 million ounces of silver from India to the United Kingdom. The ship sank to a depth of over 15,000 feet in the North Atlantic, where it remained undiscovered for decades. In 2011, an expedition led by Odyssey Marine Exploration successfully recovered over 48 tons of silver bars, making it one of the most significant deep-sea salvage operations in history.



*A selection of the unique .999 fine silver ingots from the Gairsoppa shipwreck and close-up of the Bombay mint hallmark.*

Similarly, the **S.S. Tilawa**, an Indian passenger and cargo liner, was sunk by a Japanese submarine in 1942 while carrying over 60 tons of silver bars. The ship went down in the Indian Ocean with many passengers on board, making it both a tragic disaster and a lost treasure.

Today, the silver recovered from these wrecks remains highly sought after by collectors and investors, preserving a tangible link to wartime history and maritime commerce. Finest Known remains active traders of the silver bars recovered from these World War II era shipwrecks.

## THE 1622 SHIPWRECK OF THE TORTUGAS DRY: A TREASURE OF GOLD AND HISTORY

The Tortugas Dry shipwreck site, located off the Florida Keys, is part of the famed 1622 Spanish treasure fleet, which included the *Nuestra Señora de Atocha* and *Santa Margarita*. These ships, loaded with gold, silver, and precious cargo, sank in a hurricane near the Tortugas Dry, scattering their treasures across the ocean floor.

Discovered in the late 20th century, the site has yielded gold bars, silver ingots, and thousands of Spanish coins, including gold escudos and silver reales from mints in Peru, Mexico, and Colombia. Many coins remain in excellent condition, showcasing intricate designs from Spain's colonial empire.

Beyond coins and bullion, divers have recovered emerald-studded jewelry, cannons, navigational instruments, and pottery offering insight into 17th-century maritime history. Some artifacts are displayed in museums, while treasure hunters continue searching for undiscovered riches.

The Tortugas Dry shipwreck site remains a fascinating link to Spain's Golden Age, captivating historians, collectors, and adventurers seeking the lost treasures of the past.



*6,838 pearls were recovered and seventy-six Spanish intact olive jars.*



*Gold bars extracted from the shipwreck.*

# A CATALOG OF TREASURE

— FROM THE —

*S.S. Central America*



Bob Evans is the chief scientist and co-discoverer of the S.S. *Central America* expedition. Since 1983, he has been the driving force behind the treasure's recovery. For the first time, Bob will share his fascinating untold stories and unique insights in this dedicated platform. His deep knowledge and captivating narrative promise an unforgettable experience for all enthusiasts at <https://finestknown.com/treasure-talk-with-bob-evans/>

Inside: A wide range of treasure items available for immediate acquisition, each made or recovered from the S.S. *Central America* – the “*Ship of Gold*.” Gold dust and nuggets . . . rare gold coins of many shapes, sizes and denominations . . . exquisite assayer monetary gold ingots . . . books and videotapes.

*For more information, contact:*



FINEST KNOWN, LLC. | P.O. Box 2580  
PALOS VERDES PENI, CA 90274-8580  
TOLL-FREE: 1-888-900-9948 | [WWW.FINESTKNOWN.COM](http://WWW.FINESTKNOWN.COM)