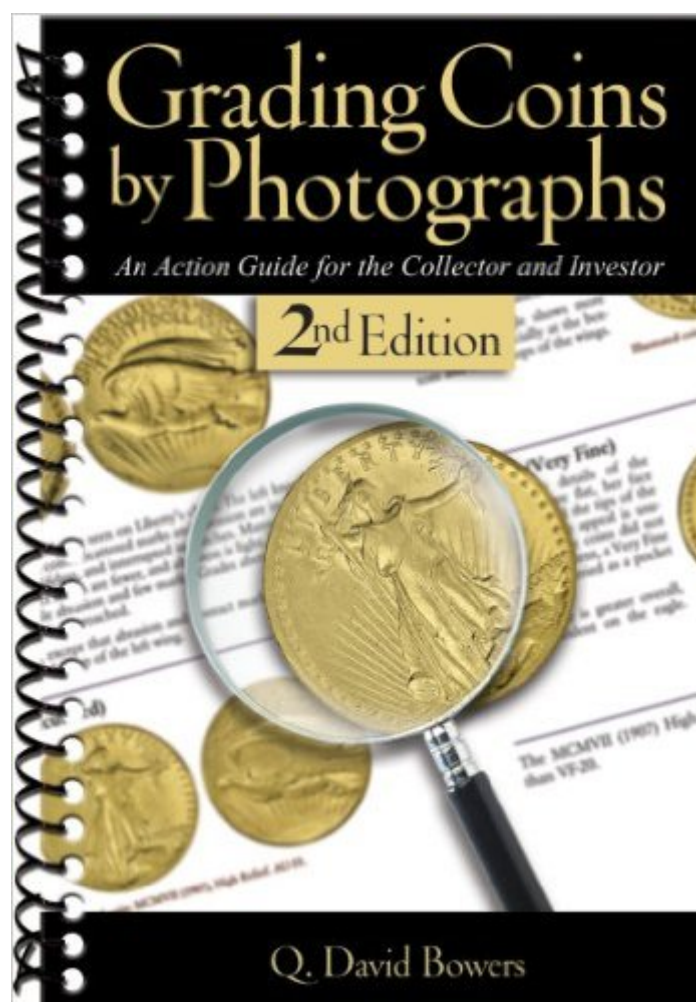


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Grading Coins By Photographs



Synopsis

In the best-selling *Grading Coins by Photographs*, Q. David Bowers has crafted a unique combination of step-by-step grading instructions for every federal coinage series from half cents to double eagles, plus information on the history and importance of grading; expert grading techniques; understanding the surfaces of coins; and smart grading and buying. His insightful text is combined with enlarged high-resolution color photographs for each grade, plus Proofs. The updated 2nd edition includes new photographs and fresh insight on today's grading standards.

Book Information

Spiral-bound: 384 pages

Publisher: Whitman Publishing; 2nd Edition edition (August 14, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0794836879

ISBN-13: 978-0794836870

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 0.9 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (67 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #403,326 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #228 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Coins & Medals](#) #328 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Antiques Care & Reference > Reference](#) #746 in [Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Antiques & Collectibles](#)

Customer Reviews

Grading Coins by Photographs by Q. David Bowers fills some voids left by other coin grading books, but due to photo selection and quality control issues, it falls short as a stand-alone grading guide.

There are some nice features that make it a great companion to other grading guides, especially the cherrypicking advice in some of the introductory sections for each coin type. With some improvements, a third edition could be the best coin grading guide published. All the coin photos are in color, and most of them are very nice. As seen in all coin grading guides, the clarity of the photos varies from sharp to blurry. Unfortunately, there are five pixelated images; on pages 153 (two images), 168, 169 and 182 that render them useless. If it were not for these pixelated images, I would rate the overall image quality better than the ANA Grading Standards book. To be fair, the ANA Grading Standards book has its share of blurry photos, but no pixelated ones. Interestingly, black and white photos, which offer higher contrast (in print), likely would have brought out more

details critical to grading for many of the images in the book. Given the choice between the two, I would have chosen black and white for the grading photos, and color for special features sections. The color photos generally worked well in this book for the uncirculated coins, the copper coins, and the lower grade and toned silver and gold coins. The color photography is especially problematic for mid-grade gold coins since they don't tone as much and they are more reflective. The poor contrast of the VF Classic Head Half Eagle, for example, makes this image very difficult to use.

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