

Liberty's Outlook

Volume 20 Issue 2 Liberty Coin Service's Monthly Review of Precious Metals and Numismatics February 5, 2014

New Signs That US Government Is Losing Control Over Gold And Silver Prices!

Over the past few weeks, trading patterns and breaking news have flashed several warning signals that gold and silver prices have some prospect of near term major increases.

While there were a number of such indications over the course of 2013 that never resulted in soaring prices, this year things just might be different. Let's review some of what has been happening.

Will COMEX Soon Deplete Its Registered Gold Inventories?

The COMEX "registered" inventories of gold have fallen all the way down to about 375,000 ounces from 2.6 million ounces in early 2013! Registered inventories are the only ones that may be used to make delivery of physical metal upon maturity of a COMEX futures contract.

As of today's preliminary report, there were about 36.8 ounces of open gold contracts for all future months on the COMEX. Out of this, the amount represented by maturing February 2014 contracts is far more than the registered inventories in the COMEX bonded warehouses.

For the February 2013 futures contract maturity, about 1.25-1.3 million ounces of physical gold were demanded for delivery by the COMEX. If the same scenario plays out again in the next few weeks, where is the COMEX going to come up with enough physical gold or cash to settle such contracts?

COMEX warehouses hold much more gold inventory than has been registered by dealers to be available to fulfill maturing contract deliveries. The COMEX warehouses reports these other holdings as "eligible" inventory, of which there are currently more than 6 million ounces.

Eligible inventories are not available to fulfill delivery needs for maturing COMEX contracts unless the owner agrees to convert their holdings into the

2014 Year To Date Results

As of February 4, 2014

Precious Metals

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| Gold | +4.1% |
| Platinum | +0.7% |
| Silver | +0.3% |
| Palladium | -1.4% |

Numismatics

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| US MS-65 Morgan Dollar, Pre-1961 | +1.1% |
| US MS-63 \$20 St Gaudens | -1.7% |
| US MS-63 \$20 Liberty | -3.6% |

US Dollar vs Foreign Currencies

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| South Africa Rand | +5.8% |
| Canada Dollar | +4.3% |
| South Korea Won | +2.5% |
| Mexico Peso | +2.1% |
| Brazil Real | +1.8% |
| Euro | +1.7% |
| Great Britain Pound | +1.4% |
| Switzerland Franc | +1.2% |
| India Rupee | +0.8% |
| Singapore Dollar | +0.5% |
| Hong Kong Dollar | +0.2% |
| China Yuan | +0.1% |
| Australia Dollar | -0.1% |

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| New Zealand Dollar | -0.3% |
| Japan Yen | -3.5% |
| U.S. Dollar Index | 81.12 +1.20% |

US And World Stock Market Indices

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| NASDAQ | -3.5% |
| Shanghai Composite | -3.9% |
| Frankfurt Xetra DAX | -4.4% |
| London FT 100 | -4.4% |
| Australia S&P/ASX 200 | -4.8% |
| S&P 500 | -5.0% |
| Russell 2000 | -5.2% |
| Dow Jones World (excluding US) | -6.4% |
| Dow Jones Industrial Average | -6.8% |
| Sao Paulo Bovespa | -8.8% |
| Nikkei 225 | -14.0% |

| | |
|--|---------------|
| 10 Year US Treasury Note interest rate | 2.622% -13.5% |
|--|---------------|

Intrinsic Metal Value Of U.S. Coins

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Lincoln cent, 1959-1982 | 2.13¢ |
| Lincoln cent, 1982-date | 0.52¢ |
| Jefferson nickel, non-silver | 4.40¢ |
| Roosevelt dime, 1965-date | 2.00¢ |
| Washington quarter, 1965-date | 4.99¢ |
| Kennedy half dollar, 1971-date | 9.97¢ |

registered category. It is likely that some eligible inventories might be purchased by commodity brokers to reclassify as registered inventory to deliver against February contracts called for physical delivery.

However, I do not expect that enough owners of eligible gold inventory will part with their holdings unless they are paid a premium above the current spot price. So, expect that there will be a combination of physical gold delivered, cash payments, and perhaps delivery of ETF shares for those who have sold February contracts to muddle through.

Just because you own a COMEX gold futures contract does not mean you own physical gold. What you own is a paper contract. Even if you try to redeem it for physical metal at maturity, you are not guaranteed to receive

settlement in this form.

At the rate of depletion of COMEX registered gold inventories, there is a significant prospect that remaining supplies could come close to zero in the next few weeks. If not, there are far more than 10 million ounces of COMEX gold futures contracts that mature in April that may well finish off the COMEX as a practical venue for trading gold.

I have warned in the past, if you want to make sure you own gold, only buy it in physical form. With people having difficulty redeeming their shares of gold ETFs for physical gold and the imminent depletion of COMEX gold inventories, you especially need to take prompt action to protect yourself.

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Other Near Term Risks For The US Dollar And US Economy

The prices of gold and silver are now up more than 6% since the low point during intraday trading on December 31, 2013. On that day, gold dipped close to \$1,180 at one point and silver fell as far as about \$18.60. This could be a major sign that we are past the bottom of the 15-month slide in precious metals prices, with the markets more likely to rise than continue to decline.

By late January, the price of gold had risen five consecutive Fridays, which has not happened for a few years. However, as I expected, that did not happen last week to make gold close at higher levels for the sixth consecutive Friday.

Here's why I expected that result.

The price of gold is effectively a report card on the US dollar and the US economy. If the price of gold is rising, the dollar must be falling in value and the US economy doesn't look as strong. Also, if metals are going up when COMEX options and futures contracts mature, that would increase demand for physical delivery of the metals, which could push up prices even higher.

Among the typical times when the prices of gold and silver are suppressed are when a major US politician or bureaucrat gives and address or announcement (think President, Secretary of Treasury, Chair of the Federal Reserve, Federal Open Market Committee, for example), expiration day of COMEX options, day of first notice of delivery on maturing COMEX contracts, and last trading day of the month.

All of these events occurred last week.

To set the stage for last week's gold and silver trading, the end of the previous week saw significant drops in several currencies, including those of Argentina, Russia, South Africa, and Turkey. There was also the problem with a possible collapse of an investment trust in China that financed major infrastructure construction projects. (See more details on page 3)

As a result of these international troubles, US stock markets declined. Foreigners became more active at getting out of other currencies and replacing

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them with US Treasury debt and precious metals. The interest rate on US Treasury debt fell so far that 30-day Treasury Bills were trading at a negative interest rate at one point on January 23 (meaning you get back *less* than you initially pay!).

Naturally, rising gold and silver prices and falling US stock markets would not look good when President Obama delivered his State of the Union address on January 28, or when the FOMC delivered their pronouncement the following afternoon. The price of gold also needed to be knocked below \$1,250 to minimize the numbers of expiring COMEX options contracts that would be called for physical delivery.

It was clear to me that the price of gold would be driven down below \$1,250 last week, with a corresponding drop in the price of silver. These events came to pass, with silver at one point trading just below \$19. So, the price suppression occurred as expected.

However, there was one surprise.

For whatever reason, the US government, its trading partners, and allies did not adequately prepare to prop up the stock markets and to hold down gold and silver prices last Wednesday. That the stock markets declined and precious metals rose made it appear that the President's address was a flop (which I how I evaluate the event). Later, when the FOMC announced that, as anticipated, it was officially trimming the inflation of the money supply—called quantitative easing—by another 13% (but in reality might actually not be declining at all), there was no goosing of stock prices just before US markets closed. I'm not sure why the US government failed to cap or reverse these financial reactions last Wednesday.

Last Wednesday's financial media coverage focused on how poorly matters looked. Obviously, the politicians and bureaucrats in Washington could not let that stand. Last Thursday, gold and silver prices were clobbered with a vengeance. It was as though the US government was making a stand, even if it was a day late.

When gold and silver prices dropped last Thursday morning, buyers came out in droves. My company experienced the highest daily demand for physical precious metals in several months.

Prices settled little changed last Friday, then started to rise this Monday.

After a small round of price suppression yesterday, prices came back up today, with silver closing at a 12-day high.

The number one question is why did the US government not do its usual suppression of gold and silver prices last Wednesday? I can only speculate. Here are some possibilities.

The US government may be running out gold and other assets to achieve price suppression on the scale or for as long as it used to do. If this is true, that is a huge signal for higher prices in the coming months. The reports I saw indicated that the gold manipulation last Thursday was coordinated by the Federal Reserve and the Bank for International Settlements. Normally in the past

Patrick A. Heller's Upcoming Speeches

February 28, Atlanta, Georgia, American Numismatic Association National Money Show, "Create Fun-Filled Numismatic Presentations For The General Public." 1:00 PM in Room 102 in the Cobb Galleria Centre, 2 Galleria Parkway. No charge to attend the program but people who are not members of the ANA must pay \$6.00 admission to gain access, if desired, to the adjacent bourse floor. Go to <http://www.nationalmoneyshow.com/schedule.aspx> for details.

For more information on any event or to arrange for a presentation by Patrick A. Heller, call 800-933-4720 or email path@libertycoinservice.com.

such efforts would be done through other parties to make the US government's involvement invisible.

There is a slight possibility that those in Washington somehow thought that the President's speech might actually be received as positive news, therefore not needing precious metals and stock market manipulations. Further, by telegraphing the FOMC announcement in advance, the government probably hoped that the reaction to the actual statement of officially reduced quantitative easing would be muted.

The combination of the poor effort to suppress precious metals prices last week and the fact that demand quickly soared when prices finally (and temporarily) dropped makes me more optimistic for much higher gold and silver prices in the next few months. We will see.

Looking to the future, there are several other near term risks to the US Dollar and US economy.

If any one of them erupts, that could lead to a domino effect of other financial crises. Just one of these needs to occur for gold and silver to experience a huge increase in demand for physical metals, with prices likely to skyrocket.

Here are some matters to monitor.

1. Late last week, much news coverage was given to predictions of a slowdown in the Chinese economy. The greatest concern is that trust products distributed through branches of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (China's largest bank) may default. Overall, the trust lending industry has provided \$1.2 trillion of loans, of which a significant percentage have funded infrastructure projects that supported economic growth.

2. This fear for China's economy is being blamed in part for the sudden decline in several currencies last Thursday and Friday. The Argentine peso fell about 12% last Thursday. The Turkish lira fell to an all-time low against the US dollar. The

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South Africa rand fell to a 6-year low and the Ukraine hryvnia to a 4-year low against the dollar. Even the Brazil real dropped to a five-month low against the US dollar. While these countries each have their own reasons for the current weaknesses in their currencies, the news of an expected Chinese slowdown heightened public attention on global finances.

3. Last Friday, it was reported that JPMorgan Chase saw a 10 ton (321,500 ounces) withdrawal from its “eligible” inventories from COMEX warehouses that tied for the largest daily withdrawal in the bank’s history. The largest gold exchange traded fund (GLD) saw its holdings drop below 25.5 million ounces, which is less than half of what was withdrawn from the fund during 2013! One article claimed that all the “weak hands” gold speculators have now abandoned positions in GLD, leaving the remainder owned by those who are holding gold for its long-term appreciation prospects.

4. An immediate concern of investors is possible sovereign debt defaults in a growing number of nations. This time around, the list of shaky nations that may default includes such developed countries as France, Italy, Portugal, and Spain.

The risk of sovereign defaults puts extra pressure on JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Goldman Sachs, and Citibank. According to the most recent report from the US Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (<http://www.occ.gov/topics/capital-markets/financial-markets/trading/derivatives/dq313.pdf>), these four banks are on the hook for more than 90% of all open derivatives contracts—more than \$220 billion—that could be triggered if sovereign defaults occur.

5. By the way, these four banks are also long on derivatives contracts for about 65 million ounces of gold, which is near to annual global gold mine output. Should there be a sudden need for these banks to reclaim this much gold in order to fulfill their obligations on their short positions in the futures markets, where are the inventories that could be delivered to these banks? The truth is that these gold derivatives contracts are only fictitious proof that these banks have an overall balanced gold position (derivatives are a complex subject; please excuse this overly simple summary).

While these banks have long had huge derivatives positions, throwing off tens of billions of dollars of trading profits annually, they have not faced as

high a risk of a systemic crisis as they do now and in the coming months.

6. You also have significant fallout from all the investigations into market rigging in the mortgage markets, LIBOR interest rate market, foreign currency trading, and now even the manipulation of the London market gold and silver price fixes.

US, British and German regulators are now looking the actions of Barclays plc, Deutsche Bank AG, Bank of Nova Scotia, HSBC Holdings plc, and Societe General SA on how they set the twice daily gold and once daily silver fixes in London.

In December, the German agency Bafin demanded documents from Deutsche Bank as part of its investigation of suspected gold and silver price manipulation by banks. In mid-January Deutsche Bank suspended several foreign exchange traders from its New York offices. The bank then announced that it would exit its involvement in the London gold price fixing and sell its seat to another member of the London Bullion Market Association.

7. On January 26, a recently retired top executive of Deutsche Bank, William Broeksmit, was found dead in his home from hanging. Broeksmit’s death came one day before former Deutsche Bank risk analyst Eric Ben-Artzi was scheduled to speak about his allegations that the banks’ top executives knew about efforts to hide \$12 billion in losses the bank sustained during the latest financial crisis. Coincidence?

On January 28, Gabriel Magee, a JPMorgan vice president in London fell to his death from the roof of the 33-story JPMorgan Chase European headquarters in London. On January 29, Michael Duecker, the Chief Economist at Russell Investments and a former long-time Federal Reserve official died from a fall in Washington state. All three of these men were being investigated for manipulating commodity markets. Can this all be a coincidence?

8. The Affordable Health Care Act is in more dire straits than ever. The consultant Accenture has been contracted to fix the defective Healthcare.gov website. By mid-March it is required to fix or add roughly 500 million lines of code on the website. One government document states that if this is not done that the “healthcare law will be jeopardized.”

Already, Moody’s is downgrading the outlook for the entire health insurance industry. In a statement, the credit rating agency said, “if these things don’t work, it may have a longer and more detrimental effect on the industry” The risk exists that if Obamacare collapses, major US insurance companies could go bankrupt and possibly drag the entire US economy down with it.

To make matters even more worrisome, the Congressional Budget Office just released a report that stated that the impact of Obamacare will result in the decline of more than the equivalent

Summary Of Current LCS Recommendations For Precious Metals and Rare Coins

How much of your total net worth should be in precious metals and rare coins?

| | <u>Conservative</u> | <u>Moderate</u> | <u>Aggressive</u> |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | 10% | 20% | 25-33% |

*How much to allocate for each category of precious metals and rare coins?**

| | <u>Conservative</u> | <u>Moderate</u> | <u>Aggressive</u> |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Gold | 40% | 35% | 25% |
| Silver | 60% | 55% | 50% |
| Rare Coins | 0% | 10% | 25% |
| TOTAL | 100% | 100% | 100% |

*Platinum and palladium both have volatile markets with long-term supply/demand fundamentals that are not as attractive as those for gold, silver or rare coins. While either or both might outperform gold, silver, or rare coins in the short- to long-term, to be conservative we have omitted them from our allocation.

of 2 million full-time jobs within the next decade.

9. International finance and health care are not the only areas for possible near term crises. The so-called peace talks over the civil war in Syria have deteriorated to posturing and name calling. The US minimum requirement that Syrian president Assad should be removed from office has been flatly rejected by Russia and Iran. Despite the so-called talks, the war is almost certain to continue.

10. As for Iran, even the network CNN has called the deal over Iran’s nuclear program a “train wreck.” The Iranian president told CNN that it would “not under any circumstances” destroy key parts of its nuclear program. Both Saudi Arabia and Israel have threatened Iran. Two weeks ago, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, “Iran’s military nuclear program must be stopped, and Iran’s military nuclear program will be stopped.”

If any one or more of these matters deteriorates into a full blown crisis, it may be too late to be able to acquire an insurance position of physical gold and silver. Don’t wait to acquire yours. Stay tuned for developments.

Silver and Silver Coins

Silver closed in US markets today at \$19.78, a modest decline of 32 cents (1.6%) from mid-January.

Since the last issue, the US Mint has started selling US 2014 Silver Eagles. Even though the Mint is rationing supplies, demand is less frenzied that it was at this time last year. As a result, premi-

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ums are holding steady

Liquidations and purchases by the retail public have been relatively quiet over the past three weeks, with the exception of a surge in demand on the morning of January 30, after the spot price had fallen 2% from the prior day close.

As I noted last month, I don't expect to see much excitement in the silver market until it closes at \$20.60 or higher for three consecutive days. Once it establishes a base at that level, prices could quickly jump.

A factor in favor of higher silver prices is the incredibly high demand for the metal from India. The Indian government has put such high taxes and restrictions on the import of gold that the public has shifted from buying gold to purchasing silver.

Virtually all bullion-priced silver products are still available for immediate or short-term delivery—even the 2014 Silver Eagles. Premium levels are virtually unchanged other than the increase in **Pre-1936 US Silver Dollars in Very Good or better condition.**

Therefore, once again I recommend acquiring the **100, 10, and 1 Ounce Ingots** (5.3-6.3%) to get more silver for your money. Be sure to pick up at least some quantity of the smaller pieces as the 100 Ounce ingots are not all that divisible.

I recommend not waiting until the last possible moment, even if the major surge does not occur in 2014. When demand surged in the second half of April 2013, delivery times quickly backed up as long as one month after payment was made.

There have been some interesting developments involving **US Morgan and Peace Silver Dollars**. While the premium for circulated common-date dollars rose, the prices of the Common-Date Mint State Dollar Rolls (including the 1921-P Morgan, and 1922-, 1923, 1924-, and 1925-P Peace Dollars) fell significantly, to levels that I now think represent excellent value. The Mint State Pre-1921 Morgan Dollar have been stable. Prices for Gem Mint State-65 and nicer Dollars are steady to slightly up.

What I found most surprising is the strong underlying demand for **Better-Date Morgan and Peace Silver Dollars**. While at the huge Long Beach Expo last week, there was surprisingly strong demand from dealers for the circulated and lower Mint State Better-Date Dollars. Many of these coins have moved up in price over the past few months to where dealers are willing to pay as much or more as the retail price guides list the coins for retail sale. I sold at least a half dozen pieces to dealers for 5-10% more than the wholesale guides indicate.

The Month

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|------|
| Gold Range | 26.50 | 2.1% |
| Net Change | +19.25 | |
| Silver Range | 1.00 | 5.0% |
| Net Change | -0.32 | |
| Gold/Silver Ratio | 63.6 | |
| Net change | +2.0 | |
| Platinum Range | 91.00 | 6.4% |
| Net Change | -49.00 | |
| Platinum/Gold Ratio | 1.10 | |

| Date | Gold | Silver | Platinum |
|--------|----------|--------|----------|
| Jan 15 | 1,238.00 | 20.10 | 1,428.00 |
| Jan 16 | 1,240.00 | 20.03 | 1,432.00 |
| Jan 17 | 1,251.75 | 20.27 | 1,454.00 |
| Jan 20 | 1,254.00 | 20.27 | 1,464.00 |
| Jan 21 | 1,242.25 | 19.84 | 1,453.00 |
| Jan 22 | 1,239.00 | 19.81 | 1,462.00 |
| Jan 23 | 1,262.50 | 19.98 | 1,463.00 |
| Jan 24 | 1,264.50 | 19.74 | 1,428.00 |
| Jan 27 | 1,263.50 | 19.77 | 1,421.00 |
| Jan 28 | 1,251.00 | 19.48 | 1,409.00 |
| Jan 29 | 1,262.25 | 19.53 | 1,408.00 |
| Jan 30 | 1,242.25 | 19.11 | 1,382.00 |
| Jan 31 | 1,240.00 | 19.10 | 1,376.00 |
| Feb 03 | 1,260.50 | 19.39 | 1,386.00 |
| Feb 04 | 1,251.75 | 19.40 | 1,373.00 |
| Feb 05 | 1,257.25 | 19.78 | 1,379.00 |

London Silver Market Premium To New York Silver Market = 2¢

Gold, silver and platinum quotes are work-in spots at 1:45 EST/EDT each day, quoted in U.S. dollars per troy ounce.

This information tells me that there is a surge in demand by collectors for these Better-Date Dollars. I had noticed that they were getting more difficult to purchase. However, I did make an exciting purchase at the Florida United Numismatists Show in Orlando four weeks ago.

In my analyses of the Morgan Silver Dollars with the best appreciation potential, the **Superb Gem Mint State-66 1896 Morgan Dollar** is near the top of the list. They are rare enough that it seems like the most we had ever been able to accumulate was five pieces over the course of a year. At the FUN show, I purchased the largest lot of this very coin that I have ever heard about. I just happened to be in the right place at the right time. Once this lot sells out, I doubt that we'll ever see another such hoard.

During the 1980s and 1990s, an incredible quantity of Mint State Rolls of various US coins were taken off the market by "strong-hands" collectors. Rolls that were available in the 1970s are now difficult to locate. LCS

Chief Numismatist Allan Beegle helped a dealer friend purchase a moderate hoard of **Choice Mint State-63+ (average quality) 1955 Franklin Half Dollar Rolls**. These are the lowest mintage US half dollars struck for circulation between 1939 and 2002!

See our enclosed offers on these two opportunities.

Gold And Gold Coins

Gold closed today at \$1,257.25, up \$19.25 (1.6%) from three weeks ago. Thus far in 2014, gold is up more than 4% year to date.

As with silver, activity has been muted over the past few weeks, with the exception of the morning of January 30. Pretty much all bullion-priced gold coins and bars are readily available and premiums are stable.

As I stated last month, my low premium favorites for physical gold continue to be the **US American Arts Medallions** (2.3%), the **Austria 100 Corona** (2.1%), and the **Mexico 50 Pesos** (2.4%).

Many **Common-Date Pre-1934 US Gold Coins** fell further in price over the past few weeks, even as the price of gold rose. However, I must warn you that supplies from Europe have largely dried up in the past couple of months. To me that is a sign that prices (and premiums) are likely to recover in the near future. I'd recommend many of these issues except that, if you can find them, I like **Better-Date US Gold Coins** that sell relatively close to the prices of common-date coins even more.

LCS Senior Numismatist Tom Coulson came up with some intriguing research. Chinese Gold and Silver Pandas have been marketed as slightly higher premium bullion coins since they debuted in 1982. Most have increased in price much more than the change in bullion value as Chinese citizens became prosperous enough to afford them and the Chinese government removed restrictions against private citizens owning gold a little over ten years ago.

Tom noticed that the 1/10 Oz Gold issues have done particularly well. The 2002 issue, for example, is now selling for about 50 times its original issue price!

The Chinese market overheated and peaked about two years ago. With what is probably a temporary decline in demand, we suspect that recent Panda issues may have smaller mintages than in the preceding years. Allan was able to acquire several hundred **China 2014 1/10 Oz Gold Pandas** that we offer at prices significantly lower than we see other dealers charging. There is a good prospect that these coins will appreciate both from rising gold prices and also from collector demand. See our flyer for details.

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Liberty Coin Service Computer Quotes 2PM EST 2.5.14

Spot Prices

| Item | Qty | Fine Wt | Price | Cost/Oz | Premium |
|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------------|---------|---------|
| *U.S. 1 Oz Gold Eagle | 10 | 1.0000 | 1,321.00 | 1321.00 | 5.0% |
| *U.S. 1/2 Oz Gold Eagle | 10 | 0.5000 | 678.75 | 1357.50 | 7.9% |
| *U.S. 1/4 Oz Gold Eagle | 10 | 0.2500 | 352.00 | 1408.00 | 11.9% |
| *U.S. 1/10 Oz Gold Eagle | 10 | 0.1000 | 143.70 | 1437.00 | 14.2% |
| *U.S. 1 Oz Gold Buffalo | 10 | 1.0000 | 1,322.25 | 1322.25 | 5.1% |
| *Australia 1 Oz Kangaroo | 10 | 1.0000 | 1,327.25 | 1327.25 | 5.5% |
| *Austria 100 Corona | 10 | 0.9802 | 1,259.00 | 1284.43 | 2.1% |
| *Austria 1 Oz Philharmonic | 10 | 1.0000 | 1,319.75 | 1319.75 | 4.9% |
| *Canada 1 Oz Maple Leaf | 10 | 1.0000 | 1,307.00 | 1307.00 | 3.9% |
| *China 1 Oz Panda | 10 | 1.0000 | 1,361.25 | 1361.25 | 8.2% |
| *Mexico 50 Peso | 10 | 1.2057 | 1,553.25 | 1288.26 | 2.4% |
| *S. Africa Krugerrand | 10 | 1.0000 | 1,310.75 | 1310.75 | 4.2% |
| *U.S. Medallion | 10 | 1.0000 | 1,287.00 | 1287.00 | 2.3% |
| *1 Oz Ingot | 10 | 1.0000 | 1,293.25 | 1293.25 | 2.8% |
| *Austria 1 Ducat | 10 | 0.1107 | 151.80 | 1371.27 | 9.0% |
| *Austria 4 Ducat | 10 | 0.4428 | 618.25 | 1396.23 | 11.0% |
| *British Sovereign | 10 | 0.2354 | 321.25 | 1364.70 | 8.5% |
| *British Sovereign, BU | 10 | 0.2354 | 333.25 | 1415.68 | 12.5% |
| *France 20 Franc | 10 | 0.1867 | 258.50 | 1384.57 | 10.1% |
| *Germany 20 Mark | 10 | 0.2304 | 345.00 | 1497.40 | 19.0% |
| *Swiss 20 Franc | 10 | 0.1867 | 259.25 | 1388.59 | 10.4% |
| \$20 Liberty BU | 10 | 0.9675 | 1,425.00 | 1472.87 | 17.1% |
| \$20 St Gaudens BU | 10 | 0.9675 | 1,435.00 | 1483.20 | 17.9% |
| \$20 Liberty Extremely Fine | 10 | 0.9675 | 1,390.00 | 1436.69 | 14.2% |
| \$10 Liberty Extremely Fine | 10 | 0.4838 | 700.00 | 1446.88 | 15.0% |
| \$5 Liberty Extremely Fine | 10 | 0.2419 | 360.00 | 1488.22 | 18.3% |
| *U.S. 90% Silver Coin | 1,000 | 715 | 15,600.00 | 21.82 | 10.0% |
| *U.S. 40% Silver Coin | 1,000 | 295 | 6,150.00 | 20.85 | 5.1% |
| *U.S. Circulated Dollars | 1,000 | 760 | 22,850.00 | 30.07 | 51.6% |
| *U.S. Silver Eagle-2014 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 23,830.00 | 23.83 | 20.2% |
| *Canada Silver Maple Leaf | 1,000 | 1,000 | 22,330.00 | 22.33 | 12.6% |
| *100 Oz Silver Ingot | 10 | 100 | 2,088.00 | 20.88 | 5.3% |
| *10 Oz Silver Ingot | 100 | 10 | 210.80 | 21.08 | 6.3% |
| *1 Oz Silver Ingot | 1,000 | 1 | 21.08 | 21.08 | 6.3% |
| *1 Oz Platinum Ingot | 10 | 1.0000 | 1,449.00 | 1449.00 | 4.7% |
| *U.S. 1 Oz Platinum Eagle | 10 | 1.0000 | 1,554.00 | 1554.00 | 12.3% |
| *U.S. 1/2 Oz Plat Eagle | 10 | 0.5000 | Not available | | |
| *U.S. 1/4 Oz Plat Eagle | 10 | 0.2500 | Not available | | |
| *U.S. 1/10 Oz Plat Eagle | 10 | 0.1000 | Not available | | |
| *Other 1 Oz Plat Coins | 10 | 1.0000 | Not available | | |
| *Canada Palladium ML | 10 | 1.0000 | 756.00 | 756.00 | 6.0% |

Gold: \$1,258.00
Silver: \$19.83
Platinum: \$1,384.00
Palladium: \$713.00

Notes from Liberty

by Allan Beegle
 LCS Chief Numismatist

January sales were much higher than the month before, though still subdued compared to a typical month over the past few years. The weather problems in our area and across the nation definitely diverted people's attentions from looking out for their finances.

Our featured offerings did not sell as well as they have for several months, with our Louis Napoleon III Gold 20 Francs being our fastest sellout. The 1899-S \$10.00 Liberties did not sell out, but that may be because we declined to offer them to other coin dealers while we gave our retail customers the first shot at them. I guarantee you that they will be gone by the end of this month.

Last week, LCS General Manager Pat Heller escaped cold Michigan to attend the huge Long Beach Expo in California. Unfortunately his time there was limited by multiple flight delays but he generated extensive sales and made some wonderful purchases while there.

Especially in demand last week were Better-Date Morgan and Peace Dollars. Pat sold several coins at eye-opening high prices to dealers in Long Beach. At the same time Pat was able to get in early to pick the best coins from two large Morgan and Peace Dollar deals—see our reference to the VAM-attributed Dollars later in this column.

At the Florida United Numismatists show in Orlando four weeks ago, Pat bumped into a dealer friend in the aisles of the show and negotiated to purchase the largest group of **Superb Gem Mint State-66 1896 Morgan Silver Dollars** that any of us had ever heard of. These were the finest coins from a multi-thousand piece discovery hoard that the friend had recently purchased. By quickly committing to purchase the lot, Pat was able to negotiate a reasonable price that allows us to pass along nice savings along to you.

I also struck paydirt a couple weeks ago. An East Coast dealer friend called

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Coins, Rolls and Sets

| | |
|--|----------|
| U.S. 10 pc Gold Medallion Set, 1980-1984, BU | \$11,150 |
| U.S. Morgan Dollar, 1921, Brilliant Uncirculated Roll/20 | \$740 |
| U.S. Morgan Dollar, Pre-1921, Brilliant Uncirculated Roll/20 | \$945 |
| U.S. Peace Dollar, Brilliant Uncirculated Roll/20 | \$675 |

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Gold: | \$1,258.00 |
| Silver: | \$19.83 |
| Platinum: | \$1,384.00 |
| Palladium: | \$713.00 |

Numismatic Coins (PCGS/NGC/ICG Graded)

| | MS-63 | MS-64 | MS-65 |
|---------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| U.S. \$20.00 St Gaudens | 1,485 | 1,575 | 2,060 |
| U.S. \$20.00 Liberty | 1,610 | 1,975 | 3,510 |
| U.S. \$10.00 Liberty | 960 | 1,370 | 3,250 |
| U.S. \$5.00 Liberty | 625 | 930 | 2,225 |
| U.S. 4 pc Indian Gold Type Set | 4,325 | 5,795 | 17,660 |
| U.S. 4 pc Liberty Gold Type Set | 3,750 | 4,915 | 10,000 |
| U.S. 8 pc Gold Type Set | 8,015 | 10,560 | 27,210 |
| U.S. Morgan Dollar (Pre-1921) | 75 | 94 | 185 |
| U.S. Peace Dollar | 62 | 79 | 157 |

Prices quoted are for quantities indicated, and are actual selling prices at today's closes. Smaller lots are available at slightly higher prices. No Michigan Sales Tax on rare coins or precious metals bullion. Numismatic purchases have a 15 day return period. Orders for bullion-priced items (marked with *) are not returnable and, after confirmation, cannot be cancelled.

me for assistance in purchasing a nice fresh deal of **Choice Mint State-63+ 1955 Franklin Half Dollar Rolls**. These were not the kind of product he normally handled, so he needed help with pricing and to then sell the coins after he bought them. This is the lowest mintage issue of circulating half dollars since 1939! They used to be available in the wholesale market, but it has been more than a decade since we were able to pick up nice lot of them

LCS Senior Numismatist Tom Coulson also shined this month. When he was scrutinizing the prices of the Chinese Gold and Silver Pandas that have been issued since 1982, he realized that most of them have been significantly profitable to those who purchased them as they were released. In particular, he judged that the 1/10 Oz Gold Pandas were especially lucrative, with one bullion issue now retailing for about 50 times its original issue price! Pat and I concur that acquiring some **China 2014 1/10 Oz Gold Pandas** today at bullion-related prices could appreciate for both the gold value and possible collector premium.

Although our supply of the MS-66 Morgan Dollars is the largest we have ever seen, the quantity of 1955 Franklin rolls is more than we have handled over the entire past decade, and we have hundreds of the China 2014 1/10 Oz Gold Pandas, our supplies are lim-

ited. There is a good prospect that one or maybe even all of them will sell out. Shop early for best selection.

Please call our **Trading Desk toll-free at 800-527-2375** to check availability and price (of the 1/10 Oz Gold Pandas) and to lock in your order today.

As usual, here are some other desirable treasures we recently picked up:

Morgan And Peace Dollars Attributed By Die Variety: One option for collecting Morgan and Peace Silver Dollars is to seek all the different die varieties for each date and mintmark. Most varieties sell for the same basic price, so it is a collection that can be a lot of fun without spending a lot.

When a sizeable collection was sold at the Long Beach Expo last week, Pat Heller happened to be at the right place at the right time to pick up dozens of specimens. The coins range from Extremely Fine to Mint State-62. Most are certified by ANACS, a grading service that identifies the coins by VAM die variety (as listed in the die variety reference catalog authored by Leroy Van Allen and George Mallis). Prices range from \$45 to \$79 per coin.

Pat purchased so many coins in Long Beach, including these dollars, that he shipped a package back to the office. It has not arrived yet, so you will have to call for information on dates, mintmarks, and die

varieties. These will be extremely popular, so first come, first served.

Gorgeous 1723 Hibernia 1/2

Penny: Englishman William Wood obtained a patent from King George I to strike copper tokens for circulation in Ireland (Hibernia). The Halfpennies he struck for Ireland were underweight. As a result, the Irish population largely rejected them.

No matter, the Hibernia tokens were then simply shipped to the British colonies in the New World. These tokens easily circulated as they helped fill a shortage of circulating coinage. Over the past 28 years, PCGS and NGC together have certified fewer than 200 specimens equal to or nicer than the NGC-certified MS-62 Brown specimen. This piece has needle-sharp details and a nice even chocolate patina. The is the finest we have ever handled. \$950.

1888 Mint State-61 \$20.00 Liberty:

The 1888 \$20.00 Liberty has a modest mintage of 226,161. Unfortunately, almost all of them entered circulation. This NGC-certified Mint State-61 is the first uncirculated specimen any of us can ever remember handling. PCGS and NGC combined have certified barely 1,000 specimens in MS-61 and all higher grades. The coin is solid for quality but does have some discoloration on the obverse.

Coin Values catalogs this date at \$1,900 in Mint State-60 and \$3,250 in Mint State-62. Because of a bargain purchase in Long Beach last week, you can own this rarity for \$1,875. In recent auctions these coins have sold for \$1,880 to \$2,056, but ours is a better deal.

Mint State-62 1909 \$10.00 Indians:

We have handled hundreds of Mint State-62 \$10.00 Indians over the past few years, but don't recall ever seeing this date among them. Common-date MS-62 \$10.00 Indians are now selling for a multi-year low price, which also means that the tougher dates are more affordable.

The 1909 \$10.00 Indian has an attractive low mintage of just 184,089. Pat was fortunate to bring back two NGC-certified MS-62 specimens from Long Beach. These beautiful coins list in *Coin Values* at \$2,500 but Pat acquired them for a nice discount. \$1,595 each.