

Sale Name: \$1 1798 DRAPED DOLLAR, KEY DATE MORGAN SILVER DOLLARS AND PEACE, PCGS OLD GREEN HOLDERS, SILVER BULLION, UNITED STATES TYPE COINS, CURRENCY. JUNE 9TH

LOT 4a - MONSTER KEY DATE 1916-D MERCURY DIME



Description

1916-D Mercury Dime: A Treasured Key Date for Collectors

The 1916-D Mercury dime holds a special place in the hearts of American coin collectors. Minted in the first year of the Mercury dime series (1916-1945), it stands out as a coveted "key date" due to its extreme rarity. Let's delve deeper into the history, intrigue, and collecting strategies surrounding this remarkable dime.

A Legacy Minted in Silver

The brainchild of sculptor Adolph A. Weinman, the Mercury dime series introduced Winged Liberty to the obverse (front) of the coin. The reverse featured a fasces, a bundle of rods symbolizing unity and authority. The year 1916 marked the series'

debut, and the Denver mint (indicated by the "D" mintmark) produced the 1916-D along with other branch mints.

The Enigma of Low Mintage

Unlike its counterparts minted in millions that same year, the 1916-D boasts a meager mintage of just 264,000 coins. This dramatic difference in numbers is the primary factor behind its key date status and exceptional value. Theories abound to explain this anomaly. Some suggest that the Denver mint prioritized silver dollar production at the time, leaving less capacity for dimes. Others speculate that wartime demands shifted resources away from regular coin production. Regardless of the exact reason, the low mintage has ensured the 1916-D's enduring appeal to collectors.

A Numismatic Prize: Value and Grading

The scarcity of the 1916-D Mercury dime translates directly to its worth. Depending on the coin's condition, its value can range from around \$800 for a coin in poor condition to tens of thousands of dollars for a pristine specimen. A coin's condition is a crucial factor affecting its price. Numismatic grading services like PCGS or NGC meticulously examine and assign a grade based on wear, scratches, and overall preservation. A professionally graded and authenticated coin ensures its legitimacy and protects your investment.

Tips for the Astute Collector

The pursuit of a 1916-D Mercury dime requires a strategic approach. Here are some valuable pointers to guide you:

- **Seek Out Reputable Dealers:** Partner with a trustworthy coin dealer specializing in rare coins. Their expertise can be invaluable in navigating the complexities of the coin market and ensuring the authenticity of your purchase.
- **Authentication and Grading:** Authentication by a reputable grading service is paramount. This impartial assessment verifies the coin's genuineness and assigns a grade, establishing its condition and significantly impacting its value.
- **Prepare for a Premium:** Be aware that acquiring a key date coin like the 1916-D often commands a premium price tag. Understanding the market value beforehand will help you make informed decisions.

A Noteworthy Discovery: Beyond the Numbers

Owning a 1916-D Mercury dime transcends simply possessing a valuable coin. It's about holding a piece of American history. The exquisite design, coupled with the enigmatic story behind its mintage, makes this dime a remarkable collectible. With a keen eye, informed strategy, and a touch of luck, you too can become the custodian of this treasured numismatic relic.

Quantity: 1