

# Trash or Treasure? How do you determine the value of a coin?

The **Sentimental Value** of a coin is priceless if it was a cherished gift from a loved one that you wear around your neck close to your heart.

The **Numerical Value** is face value. The numerical value of penny is one cent.

The **Perceived Value** - A novice may wishfully think their 1965 penny is worth a fortune because it is old, but in fact may be only worth its numerical value.

The **Intrinsic Value** or "bullion" is the scrap value of the metal used to make it.

The **Numismatic Value** - Coins that are valued due to either rareness or condition, or a combination of both, are considered numismatic coins. Most modern coins have no intrinsic value.

A coin collector is someone who has the knowledge to purchase coins as an investment.

A coin hoarder is someone who has no knowledge of value yet purchases coins because they are shiny and pretty and doesn't care that they are a poor investment.

If you are interested in buying or selling coins you need to connect with an expert. Locally I know only three that I would trust.

"A good reputation is more valuable than money." Pubillius Syrus

These three coin dealers are all respected bondable members of the South Florida community, and have been for many years:

**Bill Wiggins** is the co-owner and managing partner of Coral Financial Jewelry and Pawn and Vice President of Kabil Investments. Wiggins has been collecting currency since 1960 and buying and selling since 2000. Coral Financial is located at MM 102, oceanside (across from the government center) in Key Largo. "We try to have a good assortment of affordable coins with some intrinsic

value and leave the really high end stuff to the larger markets." says Wiggins. Wiggins does sell currency, but hates to part with his collection. He absolutely loves to buy and pays top dollar. 305-453-5300

**Art Smith** is a retired professional coin dealer/ numismatist who began his career in 1965 with his father. Smith's expertise is respected worldwide. He has specialized in treasure coins, Spanish America and was was the prime U.S. Tax Appraiser for Mel Fisher's find of the Atocha. He is a lifetime member of the American Numismatic Association and a former consultant to their certification service as well as a former member of the prestigious Professional Numismatist Guild. Smith disposes of his inventory

through retail dealers including the Bahamian coins featured by local jewelry dealers. You can purchase them locally. See his ad on page 3. Smith is usually available for consultation services (305) 987-5777. When it comes to knowledge, this guy is worth his weight in gold!

**John Albright** is the owner of Gables Coin & Stamp at 82 Miracle Mile in Coral Gables 305-445-7561 or 305-446-0032. He has been a full-time coin dealer since 1966 and is considered a legend in his field. He has been in business in the same location for 44 years and his shop is the ultimate hangout for coin enthusiasts. People come from all over to mingle, swap stories and drool over Albright's amazing collection. The reason for his success is probably not just

his vast knowledge, but because he is laid back and a really nice guy. The shop has a staff of four who are ready and able to answer your questions.

"For investment purposes it is best to stay away from collectable coins," says Albright, "bullion is preferable," he adds.

All US pennies have inscribed on them "In God We Trust".

All three coin dealers agree that the Home Shopping Network is the worst place to buy coins for investment. If you think about the high cost of television media, thousands of dollars per minute, you realize that they have to make an enormous profit. Unless the coins are gold or silver there is no intrinsic value. "Most people who buy currency from television will not live long



John Albright - owner of Gables Coin.



Bill Wiggins at Coral Financial, local treasure coin expert.



Art Smith, retired coin dealer/ numismatist.

## The Spiritual Value

I found a penny today  
just laying on the ground  
But it's not just a penny  
this little coin I've found  
"Found" pennies come from heaven  
that's what my Grandpa told me  
He said angels toss them down  
oh, how I loved that story!  
He said when an angel misses you  
they toss a penny down  
Sometimes just to cheer you up  
make a smile out of your frown  
So don't pass by that penny  
when you're feeling blue  
It may be a penny from heaven  
that an angel tossed to you.

- author unknown

enough to see a return on their investment" says Wiggins. Most are just cheap baubles. You also should not trust companies that run expensive commercials offering you high prices to sell to them.

"A fool and his money are soon parted" Thomas Tusser

What about selling coins on Ebay? Of course you can, if you have: an Ebay account, bank account, Pay Pal account or if you accept credit cards for payment... plus the knowledge of a true collector, the time to

spend on the computer researching, photographing and categorizing each coin, and you realize you have to pay Ebay 11% or more plus the listing fee, take the time to insure, pack and drive to the Post Office to mail your coin. That's a full time job!

Coin collecting can be very rewarding, as with antiques. Sometimes the joy is not so much in the value of the item as it is in the find.

"Whoever said money can't buy happiness simply didn't know where to go shopping." Bo Derek



Gables Coin Shop is a busy place.

# Craft Beer Festival April 6th



Key Largo Rotary Club presents **Brew on the Bay**, Key Largo's only craft brew festival, on Saturday, April 6 from 1-5 pm. Sample over 100 unique regional and international craft and specialty beers. Meet brewery representatives who will explain the brews' subtleties while you're tasting. Relax and take in the sights overlooking the Bay at Rowell's Marina at MM104.5 bayside.

Beer quaffing will be accompanied by live music from Coral Rock Jam Band. A Bar-BREW-Que corner will

offer gourmet burgers and so much more.

A homebrew competition has been added this year; a chance for homebrewers to showcase their brews and it's open to the public. This event will be at Doc's Diner, MM99 bayside on Thursday, April 4 from 6-8 pm. A limited number of tickets to sample beer, eat hors d'oeuvres and vote on your favorites will be available for a \$15 donation.

Prizes and full competition details can be found at [www.keylargobrewonthebay.com](http://www.keylargobrewonthebay.com).

**Bayside Blues Concerts & Beach Parties**  
Concert Showtime: 6:30pm  
*Bayside Grille brings you the greatest music schedule ever presented in Key Largo!*

WED APR 3

**Victor Wainwright & Wild Roots**  
Power-house blues, Memphis soul, and roots rock'n'roll.

SAT APR 13

**Peter Karp & Sue Foley**  
High voltage, plank spankin', piano boogyn', slide guitar stompin' blues!

WED APR 17

**Chris Duarte Group**  
Guitar Player Mag's 4th "Best Blues Guitarist" behind Eric Clapton, Buddy Guy and B.B. King.

**CAPTAIN MORGAN BEACH PARTY**  
LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH ON THE FULL MOON  
Sat., April 27, 8pm-Midnight  
CAPTAIN MORGAN SPECIALS AT THE BEACH BAR  
CIROC VODKA SPECIALS AT THE BAYVIEW BAR  
CAPTAIN MORGAN GIRLS (MORGANETTES)  
CAPTAIN MORGAN BBQ FOOD SPECIALS  
CIROC VODKA INSPIRED FOOD SPECIALS  
MUSIC BY "THE BARSTOOL SAILORS" CIROC  
CAPTAIN MORGAN & CIROC SPECIALS AT BAYSIDE GRILLE  
CAFE LARGO & BAYSIDE SUNSET BAR FROM OPEN TO CLOSE

305-451-3380  
[www.keylargoblues.com](http://www.keylargoblues.com)

And, coming up...  
Wed, Thurs, Fri May 8, 9 & 10 Mac Arnold & Plate Full of Blues  
Thurs, May 23 Kelly Ritchey [www.kellyritchey.com](http://www.kellyritchey.com)  
Sat, May 25 Captain Morgan Beach Party with Albert Castiglia

**MM 99.5 Bayside, behind Cafe Largo**

# The Art Box

100650 Overseas

With

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**Key Largo Pack & Ship**

**SUMMER SALE!**  
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