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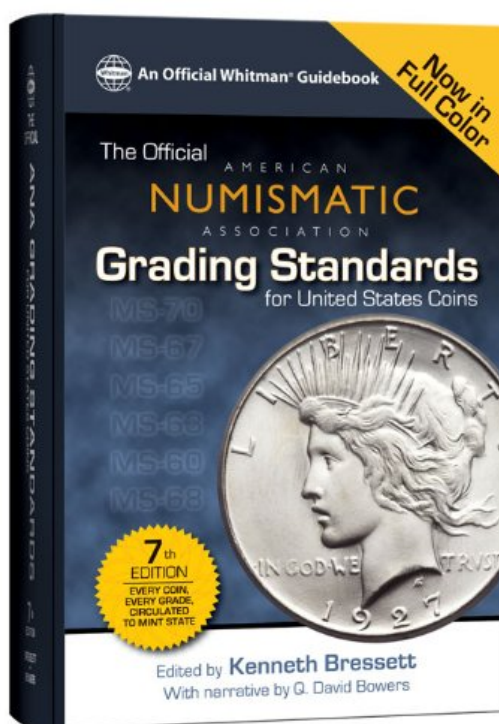
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Kenneth Bressett : Official ANA Grading Standards for United States Coins (Official American Numismatic Association Grading Standards for United States Coins) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Official ANA Grading Standards for United States Coins (Official American Numismatic Association Grading Standards for United States Coins):

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A book that can save you money and heartache but still needs improvement. By Robert Crim This is a difficult book to review. The fundamental positive is that this book just might save you several hundred dollars (or more!) by keeping you from falling into a phony, TPG overgrading trap. The ANA's standards clearly are stated, and anyone determined to enter the rare-coin market absolutely needs to learn them. The bad news is that there is a lot of rote in this book -- what is said about Liberty quarter eagles is pretty much what is said about Buffalo nickels, c. Photos of the different coins, their grades, and where one should look for wear do help; but, dozens of pages telling me that MS70 is a perfect coin with no wear or marks, and that MS69 is slightly

impaired and MS67 slightly more so really does not explain critical nuances of grading. I would have preferred to see more information re what to expect in the real world of real coins -- what exactly IS the difference between a Philadelphia half eagle that is worn to VF and a Dahlonega half eagle that looks about the same but properly grades AU. Perhaps this is asking too much from a general book; however, this would have been more helpful than endless repetition of the ANA standards mindlessly applied to each type of U.S. mint issue. The Commemorative section also is wanting -- principal commemoratives are listed with a description of where wear typically first appears; however, there are no photos, so the information is not much more than one might find in a Red Book. Finally, there is no mention of Territorial (private) gold, and since I recently came across an Augustus Humboldt eagle, it would have been nice to know what to look for (especially since a private mint well might suffer from the kinds of deficiencies which can lead to weak strikes vis-a-vis worn features). Bottom line here is that one needs to know how, himself, to grade coins, and this book definitely is a step in the right direction, especially for novice collectors and coin "investors" who become the principal marks for overgraded offerings. Those people NEED to buy this book! If, however, you are more specialized and are looking for detailed information beyond application of ANA standards to regular issues, then you probably need to look elsewhere.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.
Unacceptable Binding Spoils This Coin Grading Book
By Musicman49I ordered this book and also Grading Coins By Photographs at the same time. They are both published by Whitman and many coin photographs are shared in both books. Unfortunately, like other reviewers, I find the binding on this book unacceptable. It has a very stiff over-size wire binding and 3 of the tabs on the 1st page were broken on a brand-new book. I also spent 30 minutes going through the entire book separating the individual pages that were stuck together. In contrast, the other grading book has similar photographs, but no problems with the correct-sized binding. Do yourself a favor and don't waste your time with the ANA Grading Guide, get the superior Grading Coins By Photographs and you will be happy.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. but it also has photos for visual reference to make grading very easy. Now I have the book to use for ...
By Robert James Cairns
Now I have a book that not only gives a description of what the appearance should be for each condition, but it also has photos for visual reference to make grading very easy. Now I have the book to use for reference when someone questions my grading on a coin that they are interested in, that way they know I haven't graded the coin higher than it should be and therefore I am not trying to overcharge them for that coin.

This comprehensive grading guide, now in its seventh, spells out the official American Numismatic Association Grading Standards for each United States coinage series. Every coin minted since 1793, from half cents to gold double eagles to commemoratives is studied in 384 pages of easy-to-follow text and photographs. Every standard grade is illustrated and described in detail. Text descriptions of 30 levels and pinpoint grades from Poor to Mint State. High-resolution photographs illustrate exactly what to look for. All eleven Mint State levels are discussed in detail. Now in full color, from cover to cover. The only grading guide sponsored and endorsed by the American Numismatic Association. The Official American Numismatic Association Grading Standards for United States Coins, 7th edition, is an indispensable aid to properly grading U.S. coins - the very foundation of smart buying, selling, and collecting.