

RICK SNOW

EAGLE EYE RARE COINS • FOUNDER AND OWNER

When it comes Flying Eagle and Indian cents, Rick Snow wrote the book on them ... literally.

The New Jersey native, who started in the hobby as a teenager, was employed at Allstate Coin Company in Tucson, Arizona, when the idea struck for the reference work. As senior numismatist there, Snow gained experience with all types of series, playing a key role in a client's Antelope Valley Collection of Morgan dollars.

His interest was strong in the Flying Eagle and Indian cents, which led to the formation of the Fly-In Club in 1990, assisted by fellow enthusiast Larry Steve. Snow had begun work on the book that

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would be published in 1992 called *Flying Eagle and Indian Cents*. With the success of the book and the club, Snow was able to start his own business, Eagle Eye Rare Coins in 1992, forming a partnership with Indian Head cent collector Brian Wagner a year later. "We both had felt that too many coin dealers conducted their business to the coin collectors' detriment," he explained. "We decided that we would do everything in our power to make our dealings with collectors fair to all involved. This meant fair pricing in both buying and selling, accurate grading, and maintaining a free flow of critical information." Since 2000, he has operated Eagle Eye as sole proprietor, bringing the business back to Tucson.

While in partnership with Wagner, they developed the Photo Seal concept. Started in 1995, Photo Seal was a way to make the collector of Flying Eagle and Indian



cents better able to grade consistently. "It is the only way we could make a market in coins graded by other people. We attach a label to the NGC and PCGS slabs and issue a laminated photo and signature card which states that Brian and I have looked at the coin and agree with the grade on the holder." Snow believes that Photo Seal slowed the amount of overgraded certified coins being generated

He received the American Numismatic Association Glenn Smedley Memorial Award in 2007. He was named ANA Numismatist of the Year in 2010. Snow holds memberships in a number of numismatic organizations, including the Professional Numismatists Guild since 2012. ©