



# The Demise of Coin Cleaning

By RoloW June 23, 2023

## The End Of An Era

*The widespread practice of coin cleaning lasted until the invention of certified and encapsulated grading in the early 1980s.* [1]

What happened? Sometimes a coin just looks better if it is clean. Of course, you should always use caution when cleaning rare and special coins. And there are many times, when you should not clean a coin at all. However, to bluntly frown upon and even belittle those who have chosen to clean their coins is a disgrace.

## The Big 3

Historically, you can find that several of the still popular coin grading services began around the same time that coin cleaning started becoming a tabu practice.

1985 Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS) founded [2]

1987 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) founded [3]

To be followed later by certification services to support the grading decisions for companies like PCGS and NGC.

2007 Certified Acceptance Corp (CAC) founded [4]

## Interconnected

There is no doubt that the big three frown upon coin cleaning and their origins seem to be directly connected to one another causing one to pause and start to think. Celebrated numismatist John Albanese appears to have been either the founder or cofounder to all three of the big grading and certification services (PCGS, NGC, and CAC). [5] We found this to be quite interesting, but do not want to draw any conclusions about the role he played in the demise of coin cleaning.

### REFERENCES:

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