

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Coins & Characters shown in the Movie



Marty McFly puts clad coins and a guitar pick on the counter in 1955 to pay for coffee (no “Pepsi Free” or “Tab”). Clad coins from 1980s not noticed by server. The 10, 25 & 50 cent coins of the 1950s were made of silver.



1954 circulating set: Wheat cent (not Lincoln Memorial), nickel, dime & quarter – same design of 1980s, half dollar: JFK in 1980’s but didn’t circulate much; Benjamin Franklin in 1950s (and maybe Walking Liberty designs). Dime, quarter and half dollar were made of 90% silver.

1980s circulating set:



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Back to the Future: Movie, 1985

Used Real Coins from the 1980s in 1955

MONEY Used in Back to the Future:

The money I saw in the movie “Back to the Future” include cents, nickel, dimes and quarters. Even though half dollars were around in the 1980s and 1955, the half was not used much in the 1980s. Marty put change down on the counter from his pocket when he arrived in 1955. The coinage would be from Philadelphia or Denver mints.

The money used would be real clad coins. I could not see the date(s) but would expect the coinage to be from the 1970s & 1980s. The coinage would be from Philadelphia or Denver mints. I do not see a reason to use studio props for the 4 or 5 coins on the counter, so I think they are real. In 1955, the coins in circulation would be from the following mints: San Francisco, Philadelphia and Denver.

Since the money is real in the 1980s and have the same designs in the 1950s, it is plausible (likely) that no one would notice the difference right away. However, that would be a great side plot if the FBI were called to “Hill Valley” due to the discovery of counterfeit coins!

The value of the coins during the show in the 1950’s and 1980’s would be “Face Value”. A dime is worth a dime, etc. However, today the coins in the 1950s would be valued at silver melt value or more (dime, quarter, half dollar). The cent would be a wheat cent and would be valued about 3-20 cents:

| Denomination | Year show value 80s | 1980 P Mintage | Year 1955 | Value today 1980’s | Value today 1955 |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---|----------------------|
| Cent* (1 cent) | Face value | 7,414,705,000 | Face Value | Face Value | 3-20 cents |
| Nickel (5 cents) | Face value | 593,004,000 | Face Value | Face Value | 5 – 50 cents |
| Dime (10 cents) | Face Value | 735,170,000 | Face Value | Face Value | Silver melt - \$1.50 |
| Quarter (25 cents) | Face Value | 635,832,000 | Face Value | Face Value | Silver melt - \$6.00 |
| *1955 Cent Double die | n/a | Est 24,000 in circulation | Less Than \$1.00 | (value of 1955 double die cent 1980s) ~\$350.00 | \$700-\$16,000 |



- Real vs Fake: **5** points (5/5 real money)
- Money importance to show: **1** point (1/5 used in show as prop)
- Did you like the show or did it hold your interest: **5** points (5/5 loved it)
- Did the show have numismatic interest: **1** point: (1/5 none/little)
- Would you recommend this show’s “money” to fellow nummatist: **2** points (2/5 not used much, but has accurate costs/values of items in the 1950s).

Total Points: **14** out of 25

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