

EMPIRE NUMISMATICS



US \$10 INDIAN HEAD FULL EAGLE 1907-1933

- **Diameter: 27 mm**
- **Composition: 90% gold, 10% copper (22-karat gold alloy)**
- **Weight: Approximately 16.72 grams (0.4838 troy ounces)**
- **Designer (Obverse): Augustus Saint-Gaudens**
- **Designer (Reverse): Bela Lyon Pratt**
- **Engraver (Die Preparation): Charles E. Barber**

The \$10 Indian Head Eagle serves as a testament to the convergence of artistry and history, encapsulating the spirit of a nation transitioning into a new century while paying homage to its diverse cultural heritage. Its incuse design, unique symbolism, and departure from conventional coinage aesthetics make it an enduring numismatic treasure, cherished not only for its intrinsic value but also for the artistic and cultural narratives it embodies.

The \$10 Indian Head Eagle, a captivating symbol of innovation and cultural homage, emerged at the dawn of the 20th century, embodying a fusion of artistic prowess and historical significance. Its creation represented a departure from traditional coinage design, reflecting a shift towards modernity and a celebration of Native American heritage.

In 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt's desire for a coin design that departed from the classical Greco-Roman motifs led to the introduction of the \$10 Indian Head Eagle, designed by sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, with collaboration from Boston artist Bela Lyon Pratt. This groundbreaking design featured a Native American chieftain on the obverse, adorned with a feathered headdress, paying homage to the indigenous cultures of the Americas.

The reverse of the coin showcased a striking depiction of a majestic eagle, perched upon a bundle of arrows and an olive branch, symbolizing both the strength and desire for peace that characterized the nation during that time. Notably, the \$10 Indian Head Eagle was minted with an incuse design, meaning the design elements were sunken into the surface of the coin—a unique and innovative approach that set it apart from its contemporaries.

Beyond its artistic significance, the \$10 Indian Head Eagle also carried historical weight. Its introduction aligned with a period of renewed appreciation for American heritage and a burgeoning interest in the nation's diverse cultural roots.

