Listing from the April Holabird Auction

Major collection of Utah mining collector Geff Pollock. This collection took more than forty years to assemble and is comprised of 2,086 pieces. There are about 2,000 stocks, the rest is mining ephemera that goes along with specific company stocks. There are about 1,500-plus different companies, date between 1864 and 1990. An Excel list has been compiled. The collection population closely follows Utah mining history. Few public mining companies existed in Utah before the Comstock boom period of 1860-1864. While Mormon miners spent time in California gold mining (resulting in the production of the Mormon gold pieces), mine prospecting was not taking place in general in Utah until after 1864. P.E. Conner, who had been appointed by Lincoln to "help" with the issues between Mormons and Gentiles, got caught up in the fact that there appeared to be plenty of mineral prospects, but no mining. He was one of the first to form a company to exploit precious metal ores. The best piece in the Pollock Collection is the Conner signed certificate for the Jordan Company, 1864. This was a discovery piece by dealer Warren Anderson back in the 1980s, offered to and quickly accepted by Pollock. Through time, mining became more accepted by Mormons. Many of the early certificates are even signed by Mormon Church dignitaries. During the 1860's many of the mining districts were set up. Few certificates survive, well-illustrated by the fact that there are only four in the Pollock Collection. A rough breakdown of the collection follows: 1860s -4; 1870-1879 - 40. This period marks massive western prospecting, with exploration efforts driven by the Comstock, Leadville and other important districts. 1880-1885 - 55. This period saw a lull in silver prices caused by an overproduction of silver; 1886-1889 - 22; 1890-1895 - 54. These last 2 periods were in the face of low silver prices, plus heavy political fighting about the 16:1 gold to silver price ratio, and whether the metals prices should be fixed. It became a part of the Presidential campaign battle, with Bryan losing the silver battle; 1896-1899 - 117, this is a period of relative economic recession; 1900-1905 - 203, this explosion in number of companies marks the beginning of the "electrical age." Copper production in the West began to match and exceed gold and silver as we began to "electrify" America. ; 1906-1909 - 242; 1910-1916 -307. These periods mark an exceptionally important part of Utah's mining history, when copper production ruled the day controlled by New York financiers. Mining claims were consolidated into larger companies who had the ability for mass production, instead of single small mines; 1917-1919 - 144. Things slowed down tremendously during WWI; 1920-1928 - 295. Mining regained activity until the 1929 market crash; 1929-1935 - 179; 1936-1940 -60. Leading into WWII, we had an industrial lull, caused by rising labor prices with relatively fixed metal prices. Inflation outstripped metal prices. 1941-1945 - 28. The WW2 years are self-explanatory. Everyone was at war.; 1946-1968 - 175; 1969 -up 75+ this was the new era of the open pit mines and ultra-low cost mining. It also marked a new period of big company mining, with companies that owned large claim blocks controlled by single companies, rather than small mines with limited claim holdings. This is a major institutional quality collection, placed here only because a number of serious collectors found out about it over the past year and have expressed an interest.