

# PENNY-WISE

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## INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR: BEGINNINGS

Harry E. Salyards

Philadelphia, 1792. The Seat of Government. A new kind of government in the world, figuring it out as we go along. And let “a Mint for the purpose of a national coinage be established.” That Mint, too, shall figure it out as it goes along.

On July 18 of that year, Mr. Frederick Hailer is paid \$4266.67 for two lots, 99 feet deep, on North Seventh Street, and a 17-foot frontage on Filbert Street (A/K/A “Sugar Alley”) at the rear of the property. The insistent ‘two thirds of two thirds’ in that figure suggests that he was paid in either English gold Guineas (\$4.667 in Federal value) or French gold Pistoles (\$3.667). In either case, there is also annual ground rent to be paid on the property—in Spanish dollars.

And so the ground on which our national coinage is to be created, is paid for in coin imaged with fat foreign kings, smug in their assumed Divine Right to rule. But Section 10 of the Act creating our Mint makes it explicit: there will be no “G. Washington. President. I.” on our coin, as Peter Getz of Lancaster had proposed, but “an impression emblematic of liberty, with an inscription of the word Liberty, and the year of the coinage.” Simplicity itself. No Latinate grandiosity; no religious clutter. Just an emblem of a new kind of government. In the very year George Washington is returned to the Presidency for a second term, by an Electoral College of practical purpose. Washington, who will astound those fat foreign kings in March 1797, when he voluntarily surrenders the reins of power to John Adams. Washington, too, is figuring it out as he goes along, balancing the need to *look* like a Governor, presiding over levees in ruffled shirts and silver shoe buckles, with more practical demands: as when he takes to his saddle and heads off to awe the Western Pennsylvania “Whiskey Rebels” into submission, in the Fall of 1794. In fact, when the first silver dollars are delivered from the chief coiner, on October 15 of that year, far from his being present at some legendary first-striking ceremony, he is one day away from Fort Cumberland, Maryland on horseback, ready to take personal command of 13,000 volunteer troops. Figuring it out as he goes along. The extent of “majesty” afforded him in the Philadelphia city directory is to have his name capitalized, alphabetically between two humbler citizens:

Wartman Adam, merchant, 169, No. Third St.

WASHINGTON GEORGE, *President of the United States*, 190 High St.

Wassern Christopher, labourer, 23 Vernon St.

On the preceding page of that directory we find

Ward John, labourer, 80 No. Fifth St.

John Ward is one of that group of otherwise-anonymous workmen who signs the first set of mint rules and regulations, toward the end of 1792. A few pages earlier, we note

Voight Henry, Chief Coiner of the mint, 29, No. Seventh St.

So Voight’s residence is just a few doors south on Seventh from his place of employment. Note that his occupation is coiner, not engraver. And yet, he too is figuring it out as he goes along. Forced into the engraver’s role when Thomas Jefferson fails to persuade Jean Pierre Droz to leave England, he literally ‘cuts his engraver’s teeth’ on the reverse intaglio dies for the Chain cents. But—still figuring it out as he goes—by the next month, he is experimenting with partial hubs, in making the dies for the half cents and Wreath cents. (The details are revealed in a groundbreaking piece of research by Bill Eckberg, in this issue of *Penny-Wise*.) Recognizing that the search for a Chief Engraver is ongoing—the appointment of Robert Scot to that position is still months away—Voight and his crew improvise. After all, they have an assignment: to produce a truly “national coinage.” And, blissfully unaware of the later canard, “Good Enough for Government Work,” they will do their *best*. In the Beginning, “Government Work” did *not* mean something second-rate. At least, not by casual acceptance. These mint workers, right down to the lowly John Ward, are manu-facturers in the original sense of the word: artisans creating practical objects *by hand*: dies, and the coins struck by those dies. With our romantic attachment to the resultant objects, it’s hard—but necessary—to remember that this First Philadelphia Mint is nothing but a factory. And from the perspective of the President and his Cabinet, the *less* attention that factory demands, the *better* it is doing its job.

Within two years, that factory *does* come under scrutiny—by a *Congress* less than impressed with the product it has produced, or the costs of that production. Never mind that that very Congress has made no provision for a bullion fund, so that the Mint must bear the cost of bringing whatever precious metal deposits it receives up to Standard. Nor to forget their insistent questioning *Why*, when we have perfectly acceptable Dollars in circulation—albeit *Spanish-American* dollars—we should be sending them to Philadelphia to be recoined into United States dollars? Clearly, some members of Congress don't fully comprehend this New Beginning.

In November 1793, Robert Scot is hired as Chief Engraver. He not only implements a routine, three-step die making process, but soon finds himself answering questions about this and other working procedures, for the benefit of the Congressional Committee investigating the Mint operation—chaired by Congressman (soon to be Mint Director) Elias Boudinot. Fortunately for us, his responses to Congress survive, and David Finkelstein explores them in this issue of *P-W*.

Boudinot, as it turns out, lends a sympathetic ear. When he reports back to the whole House of Representatives in February 1795, he tells his fellow-lawmakers that the Mint's early difficulties are simply inherent in any new institution, requiring "experiments to be made in every step of the process." Even before his appointment as Mint Director is confirmed by the Senate, however, Boudinot *publishes* a thirty-six page listing of "Orders and Directions for Conducting the Mint of the United States." This publication, dated November 2, 1795, marks the beginning of the formal bureaucratization of the Mint. (Boudinot had been in Congress, after all.)

But I like to think of this milestone in a somewhat more positive light: in less than four full years, those improvisers on North Seventh Street *had* figured it out. Charged with creating a "national coinage," their "experiments in every step of the process" had made a solid start. Two hundred twenty-five years of United States coinage have been built on their foundation. And the legacy of their manu-factory remains, in those coined survivors of that era, which we so passionately seek.

\* \* \* \* \*



## HUBBED 1793 OBVERSE DIES

Bill Eckberg

Coins are struck from dies that have the finished coin's image incuse and reversed from what will appear on the coin in relief. Dies can either be engraved or hubbed. In modern terminology, a reducing lathe creates a master hub which is used to make master dies. The latter are then used to create working hubs that are finally used to create working dies. The Mint did not have reducing lathes in the early days, so master hubs were not produced. In the usage here, a hub differs from a punch in that a punch creates something small, such as a leaf, letter, number, dot, chain link, *etc.* A hub creates a larger image such as an entire wreath or head.

The received wisdom on the subject tells us that the 1793 Liberty Cap cents were the first coins produced by the U.S. Mint that were created from a hub, and the hub that produced them was created by Joseph Wright. The Chain and Wreath cent and 1793 half cent dies were directly engraved<sup>1,2,3</sup>. This is certainly true of the Chain cents, as both the reverses and obverses differ significantly<sup>4</sup>. Chain cent dies are all in very low relief. They were used from late February to the middle of March<sup>5</sup>.

Nobody knows when the 1793 half cent dies were created. The planchets were ready by the middle of May, but the coins were not struck until late July<sup>6</sup>. They were

coined alternately with the Liberty Cap cents. Two obverse dies were used (Figure 1). They can be easily distinguished even in very low grades, as the bust line of obverse 1 shows a very smooth curve, and obverse 2 appears noticeably "hooked." Other obvious differences can be found between the liberty caps, pole position and the position on the forehead of the first hair lock. The cap is noticeably larger, the pole farther from the bust and the hair lock at the forehead higher on obverse 1. In higher grades, it is clear that the hair is quite differently engraved. All of this has been taken by both Cohen and Breen as evidence that the busts were hand engraved.



**Figure 1. 1793 half cent obverses 1 (Cohen-1 and 2) and 2 (C-3 and 4). Only these two dies were used. Obverse 2, on the right, is Cohen's "hooked bust." Careful examination shows that the "hook" is actually an extra lock of hair.**

- 1 Cohen, Roger S. 1982. *American Half Cents: the "Little Half Sisters,"* Second Edition. Wigglesworth & Ghatt Co., Arlington, VA.
- 2 Breen, Walter. 1983. *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents 1793-1857.* American Institute of Numismatic Research. South Gate, CA.
- 3 Breen, Walter. 2000. *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of Early United States Cents 1793-1814.* Bowers and Merena Galleries, Wolfeboro, NH.
- 4 Eckberg, Bill. 2016. Die Production in 1793. *Penny-Wise* L, 197.
- 5 Dalton, Tristram. 1793. *Treasurer's Receipt Book for Copper Coins.* Autographic. US Archives.
- 6 Eckberg, Bill. 2010. Coinage of the 1793 Wreath and Liberty Cap cents. *Penny-Wise* XLIV, 240.

Nevertheless, Liberty's profiles are very similar on the two dies, and close examination of the "hook" shows that it is not part of the bust line, but rather an extra lock of hair. I produced overlays in Photoshop<sup>®</sup> to compare coins from the two dies. The overlays were created in the cyan and yellow channels to compare the two obverses, because these colors are quite easy for most people to differentiate. Accurate photographic overlay requires images of exactly the same size that were photographed in the same lighting and from the same angle. I used images from the Goldbergs' Missouri Cabinet sale taken by Lyle Engleson. As the positions of the busts on the two coins differ slightly, I moved one until the tips of the noses matched and rotated it until the chins also matched. My expectation was that there would be plenty of difference between the profiles to confirm direct engraving of the two dies. To my sur-



**Figure 2. Overlay of obverse 2 (cyan) on obverse 1 (yellow). Areas of identity between the obverses include the entire face and bust and appear green. The paired arrows show major differences between the dies. White arrows indicate positions on obverse 1; black arrows on obverse 2. They represent, clockwise from 11:00, Liberty’s forelock, the back edge of the cap, the lowest curl and the pole. The single black arrow above the date indicates the hair making up the obverse 2 “hook.” Note the obvious blue and yellow hair locks demonstrating that they were not included in the hub.**

prise, the entire profile from the forehead to the bust tip and even the bust line matched perfectly, as did the eyes, noses, lips, earlobes, jaw lines and cheeks (Figure 2). By contrast, the caps, poles and all of the hair differed substantially. What you see in yellow is from obverse 1 and what you see in cyan is from obverse 2. What appears green is the same on both dies.

There can only be two explanations for such perfect matching. Either the diesinker was extraordinarily skilled at copying his template, or the face of Liberty was created from a hub. We consider these coins to be very beautiful, but they are also primitive; it seems highly unlikely that the engraver was skilled enough to engrave the bust *exactly* the same twice in all of its three-dimensional nuance. That leaves us with the conclusion that the busts were produced from a hub.

What did this hub contain? It certainly contained Liberty’s profile from the forehead to the bust tip and back to the hair. It also contained her eye, nose, lips, cheek, earlobe and jawline. It did not include the cap or pole. The position of the lowest hair curl clearly differs

between them, and the positions of the back of the head differ slightly so the hub probably did not include much hair (Figure 3); whether it included any of the hair is unclear, but if it did, all of the hair was heavily edited on both dies. As the hair at the forehead is lower on obverse 2, that part of the hair was engraved directly into the die, as was the hair that makes up the “hook.”



**Figure 3. Author’s illustration of what the 1793 obverse hub might have looked like. Areas behind Liberty’s ear, other than the bustline, are softened as they are conjectural.**

Why not include all of the hair in Liberty’s profile? The face is the deepest area of the die and requires the most sensitive engraving. Therefore, the faces would take the longest to engrave if they weren’t hubbed. The hair, by contrast, could be cut quickly and with much less precision. We know from both 18<sup>th</sup> century and modern engravers that it would take several days to hand-engage a bust. Thus, production of a hub must have taken at least 3-4 days. After it was hardened and impressed into die steel, the die in process would have to be softened again, after which the hair and lettering could be engraved and punched in. All of this took time, but the use of even an incomplete hub must have saved several days of valuable engraving time and improved the consistency of the series.

The surprising discovery that half cent dies were hubbed suggested that it would be worthwhile to in-



**Figure 4. Overlay of Sheldon-9 (red), -10 (green) and -11 (blue). As on the half cents, Liberty's entire face and bust match, but the hair does not. Other overlays showed the same correspondence between S-5, -6 and -7. Like the half cent, the Wreath cent bust was hubbed.**

investigate the Wreaths. Most, if not all, Wreath cent dies were produced before the half cent dies. Wreath cent coinage began on April 4, just 3 weeks after the Chains went out of production. The obverses were created in much higher relief than the Chains. Seven obverse dies were created. While all of the Wreath obverses are easily distinguishable by the hair and the leaves below the bust, the profiles of Liberty are very similar and superficially similar to the half cent, except that the bust faces the opposite direction. I created similar overlays as for the half cents except that I used images from the Holmes I sale for S-5, -6 and -7 and images from the Reynolds sale for S-8/9, -10 and -11 (Figure 4). Overlaying 3 obverses resulted in Liberty's hair having a rainbow of colors as the fine engraving of the hair differed, though the basic masses of hair were common to all the dies. As the photos for the two sales were taken at different times, we could not get ideal data by overlaying images from the different photographic series. Nevertheless, I did overlay S-5 and the other dies (Figure 5), and the match was very close. It is very likely that all Wreath dies were produced from the same hub.

As for the half cents, each of the overlays showed conclusively that the profiles, eye, ear and bust lines match perfectly, but the individual hairs do not. This strongly indicates that a hub was used to produce Ms. Liberty, but her hair was strengthened in each die. In-

terestingly, the short curls below the bustline matched up on all dies, though they were weaker on the later dies (e.g., S-11) indicating that the hub wore down during use. This is not surprising, as it was being impressed into die steel.

Production of the Wreath cent dies must have begun very soon after the last Chains were struck. The hub for Liberty's face would have to have been the first thing made for Wreath obverse production. It therefore must have been completed by the third week in March.

Who was responsible for this important innovation? The only person making dies at the Mint in March of 1793 was Henry Voigt, so it is all but certain that Voigt was the engraver of the Wreaths. It is, of course, possible that someone not on the payroll made the hub for free or was paid informally by Rittenhouse to do it. Joseph Wright's estate was well-compensated for the engraving he did for the Mint in 1792. Although we cannot definitively exclude the possibility that Wright cut one or both hubs, all of the evidence points to Voigt.

Many have scoffed at the notion that Voigt could have produced both the Chain and the Wreath designs, because they are so different in execution. My discovery



**Figure 5. Author's illustration, produced from S-5, -9, -10 and -11, of what the Wreath cent hub might have looked like. Like the half cent, the face and bust back to the ear are identical in all dies. Unlike the half cent, the major masses of hair are also found in all dies, though each was worked substantially with a graver to show individual hairs.**

that a hub was used for the Wreaths shows that much of the difference could be due to the dies' different methods of manufacture. Voigt may have been more comfortable or careful cutting the hub in cameo relief than in cutting multiple Chain obverses incuse.

Robert Scot, the second Mint Engraver, was hired in November, 1793. He produced his first cent hub in January, 1794. According to a 1795 report to Congress [see the following article], his procedure was first to cut a steel die incuse and used it to raise steel hubs in relief. The hubs were then used to impress the steel working dies. It is apparent from the results presented here that the approach in early 1793 was to engrave a hub in relief, like a cameo, and use it to impress working dies that were finished by extensive hand-engraving. Later in 1793 a complete hub for the portrait of the Liberty Cap cent head was produced, probably by Wright, and used directly to impress working dies. Thus, the technology for die production evolved rapidly at the Mint from direct engraving in February and early March, to partial hubbing later in March, to hubbing the entire portrait for the cent in July, and finally to producing hubs from

a die in 1794. Each of Voigt's and Scot's technological changes added a step to the process of die making and by doing so allowed more closely matched dies to be produced more quickly.

Why has nobody noticed something as fundamental as this before? The information has always been there in front of anyone who wished to look. I can only speculate, but it seems that the simplest explanation is that numismatists are more interested in looking for *differences* between dies to establish different (and newly-discovered) die varieties. The similarities are what we expect based on our knowledge of modern coins, and they *seem* less important to us, though that is clearly not the case. We don't think in terms of the more primitive procedures and methods used by the early Mint. Consequently, the fact and significance of similarities between dies can be easily overlooked.

Thanks to Craig Sholley for helpful comments and insights and Lyle Engleson of Ira and Larry Goldberg Auctioneers for the high-resolution images.

\* \* \* \* \*

## ROBERT SCOT'S THREE-STEP DIE MAKING PROCESS, PART ONE

David Finkelstein

### *Introduction*

Based on a four-page document written by Mint Engraver Robert Scot in December 1794, we know that there were three steps to creating coin dies. The circumstances surrounding the creation of Scot's document are just as fascinating (to me) as the contents of the document.

### ***Robert Scot Commissioned as Engraver on November 23, 1793***

On September 15, 1793, Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson wrote President George Washington. In his letter, Jefferson updated the President on the state of the Yellow Fever epidemic. Over 4,000 Philadelphians (approximately 10% of the population) died during the epidemic of 1793. In his letter, Jefferson stated:

*The fever here, is still diffusing itself. It is not quite as fatal. Colo. Hamilton and Mrs. Hamilton are recovered. The Consul Dupont is dead of it. So is Wright.*

The "Wright" referred to in Jefferson's letter was Joseph Wright, Engraver of the Mint. On October 3,

1793, in a letter to Washington, Jefferson wrote:

*The death of Wright will require a new nomination of an engraver. If it be left to mister Rittenhouse, I think he would prefer Scott.*

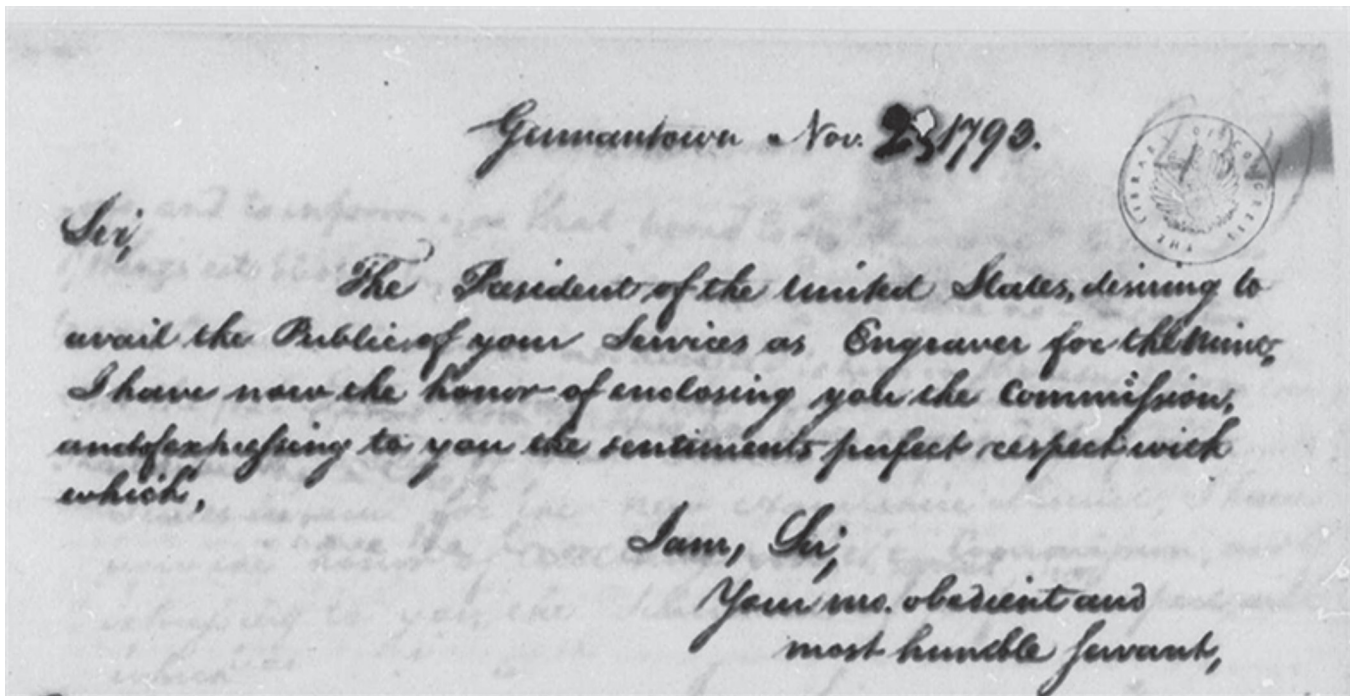
On October 11, 1793, in a letter to Jefferson, Washington replied:

*I have no objection to the Director of the Mint, with your concurrence, chusing [sic] an Engraver in place of mister Wright.*

On November 6, 1793, Jefferson wrote to David Rittenhouse, Director of the Mint:

*It has been understood that Mr. Wright our engraver is dead. If this be the fact, will you be so good as to recommend for the office such person as you think best qualified to execute it?*

Per Thomas Jefferson's *Summary Journal of Letters*, David Rittenhouse responded on November 14, 1793, however a copy of that letter is currently unknown. On November 23, 1793, Jefferson informed Robert Scot that he was commissioned as Engraver of the Mint by



**Figure 1 – Thomas Jefferson to Robert Scot: November 23, 1793**

President Washington. See Figure 1. The text of Jefferson’s letter was as follows:

*The President of the United States desiring to avail the public of your services as Engraver for the Mint, I have now the honor of enclosing you the commission, and of expressing to you the sentiments of perfect respect, with which,*

*I am, Sir, your mo. obedient and most humble servant.*

Although Robert Scot received his commission on November 23, 1793, his nomination was not officially made to the Senate by President Washington until December 27, 1793. On December 30<sup>th</sup>, the Senate approved Scot’s nomination. Scot’s salary was \$1,200.00 per year. As an officer of the Mint, he was paid quarterly; \$300.00 at the end of March, June, September and December. On January 3, 1794, Scot was paid \$125.00 for “his salary in full to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1793”. Since the Mint work week was Monday through Saturday, there were 79 work days between October 1, 1793 and December 31, 1793. That equates to a pay of \$300.00/79 or \$3.80 per day. Robert Scot was paid \$125.00 for working \$125.00/\$3.80 or 33 days. This indicates that he was paid from the date of his commission; November 23, 1793.

***The 1794 Congressional Committee To Examine The Mint***

During President Washington’s 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Address to Congress on November 19, 1794, he stated:

*“Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:*

*The Mint of the United States has entered upon the coinage of the precious metals, and considerable sums of defective coins and bullion have been lodged with the Director by individuals. There is a pleasing prospect that the institution will at no remote day realize the expectation which was originally formed of its utility.”*

Per the Journal of the House of Representatives for November, 20, 1794:

*“A message was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. Dandridge, his Secretary, who delivered in sundry documents referred to in the President’s speech to both Houses, from No. 1, to No. 8, inclusive, ... together with a letter from the Director of the Mint. And then he withdrew.”*

The letter from Director of the Mint David Rittenhouse was presented to both houses of Congress on November 20, 1794. It was originally addressed to Secretary of State Edmund Randolph, and the text of the letter was as follows:

*Mint of the United States,  
28<sup>th</sup> October, 1794*

*Sir:*

*The expenses of the mint have hitherto been chiefly applied only preparatory towards carrying on the business of the establishment; in erecting the nec-*

*essary buildings, furnaces for melting, refining, and assaying, &c. (for which purpose it has been found necessary to purchase an additional lot of ground) and the very extensive machinery used in the different operations of coining; nearly one million of cents have, however, been coined, and paid into the treasury of the United States, and a beginning has been made in coining the precious metals; near 120,000 ounces of bullion have already been deposited in the mint for coinage, a considerable quantity of which, being too base for the standard of the United States, has, in part, been successfully refined by the assayer, who is still going on with that process. A large parcel of blank dollars is ready for coining, waiting for a more powerful press to be finished, in order to complete them for currency.*

*A large quantity of copper still remains on hand, part of it not yet refined. This will be wrought occasionally, so as not to interfere with the silver coinage.*

*I am, with the most perfect esteem, sir, yours, &c*

DAVID RITTENHOUSE

On December 9, 1794, after three weeks of discussion and debate over Washington's entire annual address, the House of Representatives appointed congressmen Elias Boudinot (New Jersey), Jonathan Trumbull, Jr. (Connecticut), and John Hunter (South Carolina) to a committee of three to "*examine and report on the state of the Mint, and what further measures may be necessary to render the institution more beneficial*".

Over the next month, the committee interviewed the officers of the Mint in an attempt to understand their roles and responsibilities, the workflow within the Mint, the expenses required to operate the Mint, the security measures implemented to prevent embezzlement, the coinage output capacity of the equipment, and the bullion that was on hand.

On February 9, 1795, Elias Boudinot read the committee's report before Congress. Per the Journal of the House of Representatives for that date:

*"Mr. Boudinot, from the committee appointed to examine and report on the state of the Mint, and what further measures are necessary to render the institution more beneficial, made a report; which was read, and ordered to be committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next."*

On February 23, 1795, the House of Representatives reviewed and discussed the committee's recommendations, then voted on and approved seven resolutions. The 7<sup>th</sup> resolution ordered Elias Boudinot, Jonathan Trumbull, Jr, and John Hunter to prepare a bill. The bill was approved by the House of Representatives on February 27, 1795. On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Senate approved the bill with amendments. The bill then went back to the House of Representatives, was approved by the House on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, then signed into law by President Washington, also on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The bill's official name was the "*Act supplementary to the act, entitled 'An act establishing a Mint, and regulating the coins of the United States'*", or The Supplementation of the Mint Act of March 3, 1795.

The Supplementation of the Mint Act created the position of Melter & Refiner, cleared up some ambiguities within the Mint & Coinage Act of April 2, 1792 and the Alteration of the Mint Act of March 3, 1794, and gave the President the authority to reduce the weight of the copper coins.

### ***Robert Scot's Responses To Congressional Committee Questions***

In order for the Congressional Committee to understand how the Mint operated, they posed written questions to Treasurer of the Mint Dr. Nicholas Way, Assayer Albion Cox, Engraver Robert Scot, and most likely, Chief Coiner Henry Voigt. Dr. Nicholas Way's and Robert Scot's responses are in the Mint's Miscellaneous Letters files that are stored at the National Archives and Records Administration in Northeast Philadelphia. There is a letter from Albion Cox to the Committee that references his responses, but a copy of his responses has not yet been located. Likewise, Henry Voigt's responses have also not yet been located.

William Nyberg published a 12 page article titled "*Robert Scot's Engraving Report to the Congressional Committee on the Mint*" in the August, 2012 *John Reich Journal* (the journal of the John Reich Collectors Society). Although Robert Scot's replies and remarks were transcribed in the article, images of the document were not included. Refer to Figures 2 through 5 for images of Robert Scot's four-page response.

Scot's replies and remarks to the Congressional Committee were numbered 1 through 4. Unfortunately, the Congressional Committee's questions were not included, so we do not know how many questions were actually posed to Robert Scot (although four is the odds-on favorite), and what specifically those questions were.

### **Robert Scot's Three Step Die Making Process**

In the 4<sup>th</sup> section of Scot's document (see Figures 3 and 4), Robert Scot explains his three-step die making process and some of the issues of the process:

*Before a die to strike money can be made, the previous step is to Engrave an Original one first. The execution of that of the head of the Cent, will take four or five days, and if hardened with success, Hubb is struck out of it [that is an impression in steel] but if otherways, which is not unfrequent; it is to begin de novo. The Original Die being compleat, and Hubb struck; by failure in hardening it, it becomes useless immediately, or very soon so. On the success of these processes and that of a good clear and distinct impression in striking the Hubb, depends on the celerity with which the Dies that strike the money can be finished, for they are struck with the Hubb previous thereto. With a compleat success in the preceding processes which has hardly ever happened, a head Die as above may be finished in a day. The same may be reckoned on the half Cent head Die, and the same length of time for the Dies of their respective reverses. All other dies are subject to foregoing preparations and incidental circumstances.*

...

*It is always to be understood, that the same difficulties are incidental to all Dies throughout their progress, and 'till they are ready to strike money.*

Robert Scot's three step die making process was as follows:

1. First, an Original Die (as Robert Scot called it) or Master Die (as we call it today) was engraved reversed intaglio in softened steel. The Original Die was then hardened. Many times the Original Die fractured during the hardening process, so Scot had to start all over again. Robert Scot referred to two different dies; the Head Die (what we now refer to as the Obverse Die) and the Reverse Die.
2. Assuming the Original Die hardened without fracturing, a Hubb (as Robert Scot spelled it) or Hub (as we spell it today) was created by impressing the hardened Original Die into softened steel. Some authors have referred to this process as "raising the Hub," as the Hubb was in relief (or the same orientation as a coin). The Hubb was then touched up and/or engraved (if required) and hardened. Many times the Hubb fractured during the hardening process, so Scot had to start the Hubb step from the beginning again.

3. Assuming the Hubb hardened without fracturing, a Die to Strike Money (as Scot called it) or Working Die (as we call it today) was created by impressing the hardened Hubb into softened steel. The Die to Strike Money was then engraved reversed intaglio and hardened. Many times the Die to Strike Money fractured during the hardening process, so Scot had to start the Die to Strike Money step from the beginning again.

Robert Scot died on November 1, 1823. He was replaced by William Kneass. William Kneass, who was Engraver of the Mint until his death on August 27, 1840, continued to use Robert Scot's three step die making process. How do we know this?

To be continued...

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9. "Robert Scot's Engraving Report to the Congressional Committee on the Mint", William Nyberg, John Reich Journal, Volume 22 / Issue 2, August 2012.
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To Questions put to the Engraver by the Committee  
of the Mint, he submits the following replies and  
remarks for their Information.

1.<sup>d</sup> The actual Duties of the Engraver he conceives to be  
The Engraving or sinking all the Dies necessarily requir-  
ed for the Coinage in the Mint.

Though the actual Duties of my Office may require my  
furnishing all the Dies necessarily demanded for <sup>the</sup> Coinage  
in the Mint, that demand may be greater than 'tis possi-  
ble for me to supply with my own industry; and no  
doubt it will sometimes be the case, which makes it  
necessary in such occasions to be allowed an Assistant.

It may be necessary in this remark to enumerate  
(to the Committee of the Mint,) what I think the actual  
Duties of my Office viz. Engraving and sinking all  
Original Dies, raising and finishing all Hubs that  
are struck out of them, and raising and finishing all  
Punches that may be requisite to the completion  
of Dies or Hubs; letter punches excepted. These may  
be imported or procured from those of that profession.

2. At present there is an Assistant Engraver, whose  
Duty is to assist (if capable) in all the actual Duties  
of the Engraver. His Compensation is One Dollar  
Stately (wks every day he works.

3. I have not hitherto experienced in the execution of  
my Duty, any inconvenience from the Law as it now  
stands, yet nevertheless, the Duties of the Office may  
be subjected to inconveniences therefrom, by that  
particular clause which respects the preparing of  
Dies.

Figure 2 – Robert Scot's Replies and Remarks – Page 1

The Chief Coiner who has at his command a number of Artists, has hitherto furnished me with Dies ready prepared to Engrave on, but as that is no part of his Official Duty, that favor may be withheld at his pleasure. As a remedy for this small inconvenience it might be eligible for the Director to order an Artist on the same footing with the others in the Chief Coiners department, who shall be capable in Forging, Filing and Turning, Hardening and Tempering all Dies Hubs, and punches, necessary for the use of the Engraver; and when not employed therein [for there will not be a constancy of employment in that line] to assist the Chief Coiner.

<sup>4<sup>th</sup></sup> The time it takes to Engrave Dies for the different Coins of the United States, has not as yet been precisely ascertained, as it has hitherto depended on a combination of previous circumstances, every various in their issues. Neither can the time they <sup>will</sup> be determined; as this left rests on as uncertain criteria as the former position.

Before a Die to strike money can be made, the previous step is to Engrave an Original one first: the execution of that of the head of the Cent, will take four or five days, and if it is executed with success, a Hubb is struck out of it [that is an impression in steel] but if otherwise, which is not unfrequent; it is to begin de novo. The Original Die being completed, and Hubb struck; by a failure in hardening it, it becomes useless immediately, or very soon so. On the success of these processes and that of a good clear and distinct impression in striking the Hubb, depends the celerity with which the

Figure 3 – Robert Scot's Replies and Remarks – Page 2

Dies that strike the money can be finished, for they are struck with the Hubbs previous thro'ts. With a complete success in the preceding processes which has hardly ever hapen'd, a head Die as above may be finished in a day. The same may be reckon'd of the half Cent head Die, and the same length of time for the Dies of their respective reverses. All other Dies are subject to the foregoing preparations and incidental circumstances. The Dollar Original Die for the head, will take six or eight days. The same Die for its reverse, nearly the same time; and after their Hubbs are completed, a head <sup>Die</sup> for striking money may be finished in two days, and the same Die of the reverse in the same time nearly. The half Dollar Dies, Original and others in all their various processes may take nearly the same time with the Dollar Dies under the same circumstances. The half Disme Original Die for the head, may take about five days, and its reverse Die of the same kind, six. A day for the former and a day and a half for the latter in finishing the Coining Dies may be sufficient.

The other Dies not enumerated, experience has given us information as to the times they may take respectively; for none of them have been executed yet. But suppose the Eagle to be equal to the half Dollar, the half Eagle and quarter Dollar to the Cent, and quarter Eagle and Disme, somewhat more than the half Disme.

It is always to be understood, that the same difficulties are incidental to all Dies throughout their progress, and till they are ready to strike money.

Figure 4 – Robert Scot's Replies and Remarks – Page 3

From the same source of uncertain decision whereby  
the time of excavating the Dies cannot be ascertained, arises  
the same difficulty of determining how long they will last.  
Namely, the precariousness and uncertainty of hardening  
and tempering the Dies, whereby they are often lost  
without striking a single Coin; and in proportion as  
these processes (perhaps combined with that of forging)  
have been more or less successful, Cents at a mean  
have been struck from the same Dies, <sup>to the amount</sup> ~~to the amount~~  
of about Twenty thousand; Half Cents, Twelve thousand.  
None of the other Coins have been struck as yet  
in such abundance as to furnish sufficient data  
wherby to estimate how many <sup>they</sup> respective Dies will  
strike.

Robert Scot

No date

74

Dr. J. J. ...  
Robert Scot

Figure 5 – Robert Scot's Replies and Remarks – Page 4

## THE LARGE CENT CORRESPONDENCE OF JOHN W. ADAMS

### PART TWELVE: 1981

Harry E. Salyards

On New Year's Day, Dorothy Paschal writes,

"Happy New Year to you and the family. I have missed our Cent and Book sessions and hope your finds continue to prosper and thrive.

I have rented an apartment in a house belonging to a Providence cousin of mine in Wickford, R. I. just for the winter until I have a chance to find something more permanent. It is a very pleasant spot looking out on Narragansett Bay on a peninsula surrounded by water, lots of bird life and boats—it is in a former artist's house—only 3 apartments, one of which is my cousin's and quite informal and comfortable – I wanted to let you know where I have perched for the time being. I spent the summer in the old Sheldon family house built in 1740 in Pawtuxet where he grew up. It now belongs to his nephew, Hazard Knowles and family – William turned the house over to him some years ago. . ."

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, John replies to Jess Patrick's letter of late December:

"As to S-24, I own the Wurtzbach-Mathewson piece and can vouch that it is the Beckwith piece as well. Mathewson was a postman down Providence way and, at one time, he had almost as many gem red pennies as Dr. B. . .

Came across your friend Collins again. He organized and gave the opening address at the 1895 A.N.A. Convention.

P.S. The reason I bought the Mathewson S-24 was, of course, because it was the Beckwith plate coin. Subsequently, I bought the other Beckwith '94 and thus now possess Boardwalk and Park Place."

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, Dick Punchard writes,

"Shortly after seeing you at A.N.A., Bob Shalowitz informed me that his 1793 S-15 and S-16 were available for purchase, and since I had shown an interest at the E.A.C. meeting earlier he'd give me first chance. The result is that I now own them, thus completing the '93 Cap series. The S-15 is AG3 (nice) ex-Kagin's & DL. The S-16 is G6 ex-Stack's Dupont #24. Am very pleased to have both.

Anyway, the cost has put a serious dent in my budget as you may understand. However, if you would set aside [the group of early auction catalogs we'd dis-

cussed] I definitely will pay for them ASAP at the prices you state. . ."

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, John writes a letter of apology to Warren Lapp:

"I suddenly woke up and realized that I had written nothing for [*Penny-Wise*] in 1980. My apologies. The excuse is several articles for other periodicals and, more importantly, *United States Numismatic Literature*, Volume I. The latter, about which I am quite excited, just went to the publishers after two-plus years in the making. It covers 19<sup>th</sup> Century auction catalogs by cataloguer (complete with all bibliophilic features) and by content, in detail. Succeeding volumes will cover reference books and periodicals before picking up the auction catalogs of a later date.

I am still not out of the woods for time. However, enclosed is a short piece on Steigerwalt and, perhaps of more use, copies of a couple of very interesting letters. There are many more where these come from if you think your readers would be curious about this sort of thing."

All four items were published in the May 15, 1981 *Penny-Wise* (Volume XV, No. 3): a short essay celebrating Charles Steigerwalt as sole sustainer of the large cent tradition following the deaths of Hays, Maris, and Frossard in 1899-1900, until his own untimely demise at age 53 in 1912; and three letters, two from George Clapp to Homer Downing, and one from B. Max Mehl to Oscar Pearl. Readers are encouraged to seek these out. They appear between pages 133 and 144 of that issue.

While not specifically related to large cents, a February 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to A.N.S. librarian Frank Campbell speaks volumes on the issue of volunteers with special expertise *vs.* entrenched institutional bureaucracies:

"You asked me whether I would have any interest in helping the Society to sort, preserve and bind certain auction catalogs. The answer is 'Yes, if.' As my soon-to-be-published book will demonstrate, I have detailed knowledge of the rarity, value, and ordering of the various U.S. catalog series. I have a modest but practical knowledge of the binding and preservation alternatives, as well as some feel for the costs thereof. These qualifications are at your service if the Society, through direct funding and/or sale of duplicates is willing to spend

the money that the work on the books will require. My worry would be that I sink a lot of time into preparing a proposal only to find that the money needed to execute is not available.

I remain interested in donating material that will help the Society to fill existing gaps. However, having in mind the Beckwith fiasco (in 1978 your appraiser credited me \$300 for a catalog worth \$1000 and which has since sold for \$2500), I will not do so unless it is possible for you to locate someone more in touch with the market.

As always, I am indebted to the Society for the use of its Library. My thanks to you in particular for help on my last visit.”

On February 8<sup>th</sup>, Del Bland writes,

“After over five weeks on the road I finally returned home yesterday. Your letter was waiting in a pile of mail and Coin Worlds.

Had a good trip and purchased from Kagin’s the T. J. Clarke sale S-24. This is listed in the CC as a 60 but it’s only a nice AU-55. The coin is a med[ium] olive brown and can be identified by a very small planchet pit just touching the left top of B. If I hadn’t stumbled past Kagin’s table at the F.U.N. convention while they were deciding whether or not to sell it, I would have missed the deal. I just happened to overhear the conversation and I said, ‘Let me see it.’ Know anything about its pedigree? I haven’t had time to check.

Picked up a few other coins along the way including the REN sale S-181, MS-65 and a superb cent. Traded it to CDS. . .

As far as 1794’s go, I didn’t do too well in 1980 either. If I pick up two coins a year to keep, even if they are duplicates, I’m happy. The cancellation of the Carnegie sale was disappointing and I don’t know of anything coming out.

I’d love to have the MS-65? S-63 even if the color is questionable. But if I trade off my S-42 and/or my S-35, I’ll never get other copies I’d be happy with. I can’t even find any of the four varieties I’m missing. I’m really enjoying my 1794’s, even the duplicates, and putting another hole in the set leaves me with the feeling of an empty spot in my stomach. And I already have one in my head.”

John’s reply is lost; there *was* one, because in Del’s letter of February 24<sup>th</sup> (q.v.), he thanks John for answering his pedigree question on his new S-24. Before that, however, Del writes again (February 17<sup>th</sup>):

“I’ve fairly well caught up on my work, so for the last couple of days I’ve been checking out some pedigrees. There are many errors in the early dates. I can’t put my finger on the exact reason or reasons for this. A month and a half ago I sent DWL a full page of corrections and additions and I feel as though I’ve only scratched the surface.

There is one 1794 that has me stumped and I’m hoping you can shed some light on it. I’ve looked and looked but can find no pedigree on this cent either after or prior to the Zabriskie sale. The coin is the S-63 in that sale. The coin appears to be AU-55 at least and maybe MS-60 as Chapman calls it. Can you help me out?

Is your next project a book on the 1794’s? I thought you were working on one. Talk about a best seller! A new book on that series with your knowledge and writing ability would sell more copies than the Bible has.”

Then on February 24<sup>th</sup>, Del writes yet again,

“Yes, my new S-24 is ex-Jackman: 696 and I have [it going] to Brand at the sale. Thanks, I haven’t had time to check it out. It’s a lovely coin but really only AU-55. The only problem is that the coin will be cursed forever with Kagin’s name in the pedigree.

I’ll keep an eye out for the AU-50± S-24 with the weak milling. And believe me, there won’t be any problem of me letting you have it should the piece drop into my hands. Because it’s you making the request, I feel bad about holding onto the S-42 and S-50 or anything else in my collection you might want. Why don’t you think of them as just being on loan to me for a period of time and that they really are a part of your collection? I know that’s as satisfying as eating the hole in the donut but presently it’s the best I can do.

The going rate for 1794’s VF-20 and up, that’s a difficult question. Many dealers take VF-20’s, call them EF and sell them based on the grey sheet price. At auctions, the grey sheet price is a riot for fairly graded pieces with both dealers and collectors paying much more for asthetically [sic] desirable [sic] coins (1794’s). You bought the MacFarland S-60 cheaply because it was a problem coin. The MS-60+ S-71, ex-you and Morley, brought \$13,500—and I paid \$4000 for my S-24 from Kagin’s graded, would you believe, AU-55? A coin like that they usually sell for ‘Gem Unc.-65, probably a specimen strike.’ You can price 1794’s as well as I can or anybody else for that matter of fact. Just put a price on a coin that you feel comfortable with and see if it sells. I sent my AU-50 S-24 out at \$4000—and it sold. That was the WCB example. The only true way to find out values are [sic] to consign for auction. Then you’ll get

probably a price the coin is worth at the particular time it's sold. But prices have backed off on the higher grade stuff. [In retrospect, it's obvious that John was working on pricing his set for sale.—Ed.]

Please let me know of any and all duplicate 1794s you're going to part with. I'm definitely interested. . . Back to my cutting and pasting project."

John responds on February 27<sup>th</sup>,

"What a treat to get two letters from you in one week! You express nuances so fluently that I nominate you to write the book on 1794's. If you wait for me to finish up U. S. Num. Lit. II and III, we can do it together.

Thanks for your help on current pricing. I must say I am confused when an Oswald will sell for \$25,000 plus and then plunge to \$13,500. Poor Morley! He has the worst luck of anyone going.

Zabriskie S-63: I have it going to Jackman, then to Williams and Bareford. How does this sound? Bareford grades his coin a nice AU-50. Speaking of Jackman, did I tell you about discovering his MS-67 catalog, complete with plates and in the original mailing box? It is so nice I don't dare use it.

What is your cutting and pasting project?"

Del replies on March 7<sup>th</sup>,

"You must be kidding. Me write the book on the 1794's. Thanks for the compliment of saying I could do it. But honestly, John, I can hardly write my name, much less a book. But when you get around to the project I'll be glad to help in any way I can.

Wish I could have been more helpful for you in pricing the 1794's. Like it has [sic] in the past, prices have dropped considerably on the high-powered coins. The year 1980 was absolutely the top of the market. If you plan to buy at Garrett IV you might find prices relatively less than in the past three sales. Dealers have been trying to unload a lot of the coins they are buried in so as they can gobble up the bargains which are appearing for sale now.

And thanks for the pedigree on the Zabriskie S-63. It says in Jackman that the S-63 came from the Zabriskie sale but I couldn't get a definite comparison on the plates and there have been errors in Chapman's pedigrees. My problem is that my plate of the S-63 in Jackman is faded and I couldn't find the minute nick in the denticle directly below the 9 in the date. This shows plainly in Zabriskie. And I didn't know it was Williams-Bareford.

An MS-67 Jackman, incredible. That's the only plated Chapman, large or small, I've ever heard of in the

original mailing box.

My cutting and pasting project consists of cutting up catalogs with plates and pasting the better half cents and large cents on notebook paper with pedigrees written in below, plus grades of the coins I've actually seen. The catalogs being cut up are only late ones. In other words, I haven't cut up my Zabriskie, Jackman, Beckwith, *etc.* Then this can be used as a reference with everything in one place. The project is made possible because now almost all the better copper coins are plated in catalogs. Of course, it's very time consuming but I've found some very interesting things such as erroneous pedigrees, lost pedigrees, duplication of listing in CC coins, *etc.* Jeff Peck had the same type of project going but his was set up in a different way. I purchased all of his work and the acquisition of his cut up plates will save many catalogs from the scissors. If I didn't have this project I would die of boredom here in BROTHELL."

John also had a letter from Darwin Palmer dated March 7<sup>th</sup>:

"Thanks for writing. Sorry you will miss the EAC annual in Dallas. I had wanted to write you after reading your 1794 article in [*The*] *Numismatist*. What I wanted to say is that I hope you will publish photos of the edge lettering (painting) used so that collectors can see it. I feel that very few readers (even of *P-W*) have ever seen the product you describe. Glad it got in *The Numismatist*.

An interesting sidelight. I was showing my daughter DeAnne the pressing collection I maintain of 1794's to get her opinion of the most attractive die variety. First I showed her *Penny Whimsy*. She is nine and should have an unbiased opinion. When I showed her the pressing of the S-32 ex-REN and now JA she said, 'Why did you sell that pretty one?' I had to answer, 'I really don't know.'

Should you get a free minute to reflect on your favorite 1794 varieties and most interesting pedigrees I would be very much interested in reading your thoughts. Very few people really know very much about 1794. My guess is that perhaps 20 people can recognize varieties easily and also have an appreciation for their past history and elusiveness.

P.S. I like 1794 so much I even purchased a high hair 94 half cent! Beautiful coins."

Warren Lapp belatedly acknowledges John's January 24<sup>th</sup> mailing on April 11<sup>th</sup>:

"Thank your for your note regarding the items mailed in February [sic]. . . I opened my filing cabinet

and found your article and the other letters in my *P-W* drawer. It was then that I recalled that I had received the items just as I was packing up, getting ready to move to North Carolina. I stuck them in the filing cabinet so that I would be able to get them when I arrived here, and then promptly forgot about them. As usual, your contributions are superb, and they will appear in the May *P-W*. Sorry about the delay, but thanks very much for sending them and the reminder notice. . .

Although we miss New York and our friends there, Raleigh is delightful, the weather has been grand, and it's nice to be near our older son again. He practices internal medicine and pediatrics here. I've even been able to get out and play some golf – something I couldn't do for 35 years as a practicing obstetrician and gynecologist."

A May 7<sup>th</sup> letter to Dr. John Harper of San Antonio speaks to the continued travels of the Garrett Jefferson Head:

"Tom Morley bought your S-80 at Garrett I, after which it went on that famous cab ride. Enclosed is the only documentation he gave me, as well as my envelope for the coin. I acquired the coin as part of a larger trade but, as I collect 1794's only, the S-80 was superfluous on a longer-term basis. I'm delighted it ended up in appreciative hands."

Another letter from Del Bland is dated May 6<sup>th</sup>:

"The 1981 EAC Convention is now history. I had a marvelous time, having spent nine days in Dallas and six of those with George Ewing. He's a fine fellow as is his new wife, Martha. I don't mean that Martha is a fellow, just a wonderful girl. George and I laughed and ate our way through several 1794 deals, mostly involving the Chicago gangster's cast off pieces and the pieces which Bert Cohen showed up with. I met Bert and his wife, Nina, for the first time. We had several short talks and I really like him. George purchased the Auction '79—REN—[JWA] S-63 and absolutely loves it. This coin has bugged me for a long time as to whether or not it had been recolored. I studied it briefly at Auction '79 and again at REN's home and never could determine to my satisfaction if the color was original. However, I now have the coin in my possession as George wanted me to brush it. After doing so I now definitely think the color is artificial. It does look much better though, and I don't want George to know of my opinion. By the way, only Bert, George, you and myself know who owns the coin and this is as far as the information will go. . . No new 1794's turned up anywhere on the trip."

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, Doug McHenry writes to John,

"As you might recall, I bought your 1810 S-281 cent thru Denis Loring in 1973. I am now in the process of developing all available pedigree information on the choice early cents I own. Denis once told me where the S-281 originated but I forgot to jot it down. So I appreciate any information you can provide me on it."

Though no reply appears in the file, this is the CC3 coin, MS62, listed on page 796 in the Breen Large Cent Encyclopedia.

The following week (June 12<sup>th</sup>), the aforementioned George Ewing sends John a one- page excerpt from an article he was writing:

"I am now putting the finishing touches on my latest article for *Penny-Wise*. The article is entitled 'Edge Lettering.' One of the parts concerns the white ink descriptions written by W. W. Hays and refers to your article 'A Numismatic Whodunit.' Enclosed you will find part of the article concerning the edge lettering by W. W. Hays. Would you please read this page for validity and authenticity?"

At the present time I have the S-59 and the S-69 with the unique lettering mentioned. Am I safe in assuming the 'PH' stands for Phelps followed by a prefix and the 'H' stands for Hays followed by a Maris number?"

John annotated the solitary page provided with some rather pithy comments, to say the least! To Ewing's statement, "It must be kept in mind that the following collectors and dealers were associated with Mr. Hay's [sic] lettering code: Charles Steigerwalt, Henry Phelps, Charles Zug, Lyman Low, George Rice, Dr. Thomas Hall, Virgil Bland [sic], and B. H. Collins," John has written, "**Not all of them.**" Where Ewing writes, "Six pieces, including the S-37 discovered by Charles Steigerwalt, have no markings at all. My only explanation to these six coins is the Steigerwalt piece was a well know single discovery and thus had no need for lettering," John has responded, "**It is not my only explanation. You assume that S. did the marking because H. was dead with S. found the coin.**" And to Ewing's "The other five 1794s had no marking because Mr. Hays did not have time to mark these coins," John has appended an emphatic "**No!**"

Even more striking is John's comment on Ewing's actual letter. John did *not* keep the original—a distinctly unusual situation—but rather photocopied it and returned it, with the following note in a rather uncharacteristic scrawl at the bottom: "**George Attached are some quick and [illegible] comments. Perhaps I could be more helpful if I knew what you were getting at.**"

Ouch!

A much more cordial exchange occurs between John and Larry Knee. Larry writes on June 10<sup>th</sup>,

“I own only one large cent with a famous pedigree. It’s an 1803 S-248 F15 which was once in the condition census. The coin was lot 603 in the Ruby I Sale of 1974. Its previous listing was lot 1937 in the ANA 1952 Convention Sale, ex-Hines Collection. My question is, do you know any history on this coin prior to its 1952 listing?”

As I believe you may know where Henry Hines obtained many of his coins, I thought that I might ask you for this help. Any help or ideas would be greatly appreciated.

I sure enjoyed your article on Charles Steigerwalt and the old time letters. I sure hope to see more of those in letters in future *P-W* issues.”

John replies on June 25<sup>th</sup>,

“I don’t have any earlier listing for the S-248 which you mention. Hines bought a lot of coins from the Chapman sales in the 1905-1927 time period. I bet that, if you went to the ANS and looked at their Chapman bid books, you would succeed in locating an earlier provenance.”

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, John writes the first of several letters aimed at ‘repatriating’ a pair of missing coins to the Carnegie Collection. Other than questions on the part of Del Bland, in a pair of followup letters dated August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 11<sup>th</sup>, below, there are no ‘incoming’ letters in the file; for example, “your request for information” in the July 1 letter to John Ford does not refer to anything extant in written form. Perhaps nothing of the sort ever existed. Adams writes to John Ford, in his role as “Chairman, Committee on Ethics and Professional Behavior, Professional Numismatic Guide,” as follows:

“This letter is in response to your request for information on Lot #1508 in ‘Auction ’81.’ As you know, lot #1508 is a mint state example of a 1794 large cent, Sheldon variety #24.

“Large cent collectors in this country are a very enthusiastic lot. They have amassed a considerable amount of detail on their specialty including a condition census. The census, first launched by Dr. Sheldon in 1949, includes a rarity rating for each of the 301 ‘collectible’ varieties as well as a listing of the top six to ten specimens of each variety, their grade and provenance. The coin in question, Lot #1508 in Auction ’81, is included in the official census as compiled by Mr. Dennis [sic] Loring of Needham, Massachusetts.”

This certainly reads like a case of ‘putting something into the written record’ that John Ford would have been perfectly familiar with as an individual. Adams continues,

“The coin was first reported to the census by me, after I had seen it in the collection of the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I visited the Museum at the behest of its Business Manager and Numismatic Curator, William W. Woodside (since deceased). I made an inventory of Carnegie’s large cents, supplying a copy to Mr. Woodside and retaining one for myself. My entry under H-17 (the Hays equivalent of Sheldon #24) reads as follows: ‘AU 55 or better. Rough neck, date. Planchet flaw at 4 o’clock reverse. Hair flattish over ear, up on forehead. Ex. Wilson, Ellsworth 3/23.

“There are two points that demonstrate, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the piece I saw in Carnegie and Lot #1508 in Auction ’81 are identical. First, there is the planchet flaw on the reverse. I have maintained detailed records on the auction appearances of 1794 large cents going back to the beginning of the hobby in 1858. No other mint state specimen of S-24 (of which there are 15-20, if one stretches the grade down to AU 50) has the reverse planchet flaw. Indeed, I can recall no other mint state specimen of any of the 62 varieties of 1794 that is similarly marked.

“The second identifying feature is the pedigree. George Clapp, the donor of Carnegie’s large cent collection, kept meticulous records on pedigree and he had noted the Wilson-Ellsworth provenance on the envelope which contained the coin. If one refers to Thomas Elder’s catalog of the James Wilson collection, dated October 5<sup>th</sup>, 1908, one will find the coin in question described under Lot #982. Fortunately, Lot #982 is also plated in the catalog and, while the plates are not up to the standards of the Chapman brothers, the unique features of the piece are unmistakable.

“I have no information on how the coin in question got from Carnegie Museum to Auction ’81. However, that Lot #1508 came from Carnegie Museum, there can be no doubt.”

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, John writes Ford a followup letter, detailing another missing Carnegie cent:

“In an earlier letter, I described a visit to Carnegie Museum made by me on March 14, 1972. Enclosed are copies of my inventory of Carnegie’s large cent collection; the inventory was made at the time of my 1972 visit.

“It may be of interest to you that George Hubbard

Clapp donated coins to two institutions: his first and second line cents went to the American Numismatic Society; a tertiary set of cents went to Carnegie. My inventory of the Carnegie large cents shows a number of rare varieties in lower grades. However, listed thereon, are only two coins of significant value and/or general interest. The two coins are 1) the Sheldon #24 described to you in a previous letter and 2) the coin that will be the subject of this letter.

“In the summer of 1974, a local large cent collector, Dennis [sic] Loring, acquired an extraordinary Jefferson Head. (The ‘Jefferson Head’ is an easily recognized large cent, dated 1795, which is of particular importance due to its non-mint origin). Within a short period of time, Mr. Loring showed the coin to me and, at once, I identified the piece as being the one I saw at Carnegie in 1972. I could be certain of my identification because:

- 1) there are only some 20 Jefferson Heads in total;
- 2) this piece had a series of scratches in the right obverse field, the only one so known;
- 3) this piece when seen in Pittsburgh had the Wilharm provenance marked on its envelope (see JA notes) and lot #1343 of the 1921 Wilharm sale makes note of the scratches;
- 4) the Carnegie piece just happens to be the sharpest of all specimens known; after deducting for the scratches it grades out at VF25;
- 5) the official condition census (35-25-25-15-15-15) lists just three pieces in VF condition out of the known universe of 20 coins; the other two VF specimens are impounded in well known collections.

“At any rate, with the thought that Carnegie was now de-accessing its large cents, I wrote to Mr. Woodside, the museum’s numismatic curator, and proposed a trade for a large cent that appealed to me. In my letter (dated September 30, 1974, copies enclosed), I also mentioned my sighting of Carnegie’s Jefferson Head in local hands. Mr. Woodside wrote back (letter dated October 9, 1974, copies enclosed) stating that the museum sold duplicates only and that the Jefferson Head, if ever owned by Carnegie, must have been de-accessed as a duplicate.

“I then made an urgent phone call to Mr. Woodside emphasizing that there was no doubt in my mind that Carnegie had possessed a Jefferson Head in March, 1972, and that the Loring piece was that coin. Further,

after investigation, I informed Mr. Woodside how Loring had made his acquisition – specifically how he had bought it from the dealer Jack Beymer, who had bought it from Del Bland, who had bought it from Ray Byrne of Pittsburgh. Loring, Beymer and Bland are all alive today and can attest to that chain of events.

“In a later visit to Pittsburgh, I discussed the matter once again with Mr. Woodside and, from that discussion, it was clear to me that the matter was closed. Mr. Woodside, I should emphasize, was one of the most upright, honorable men it has ever been my privilege to meet. Possessing such integrity himself, he simply could not believe that anyone associated with a museum, much less a friend, could stoop to common thievery. May the world be populated with Bill Woodside’s. May it be free of those who would prey on a good man’s trust.”

Copies of this letter were sent to Dr. Craig Black [Director of the Carnegie Museum] and to Lester Merkin.

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, Craig Black writes John,

“It was a pleasure talking with you today and I want to thank you for all the assistance you have given to Carnegie Museum of Natural History – not just now but over the years in regards to our collection of U.S. large cents.

“Copies of the Woodside/Mooney inventory and the reconciliation sheet, which indicates that there was no Jefferson Head but that ten large cents cannot be accounted for, are enclosed. The 1795 large cent CN-2 is also sent for your evaluation. If it is not the coin you saw in 1972, a substitution had to have been made before August of 1975.”

John replies on July 21<sup>st</sup>,

“You are entirely welcome to any help I have been able to give you. The Museum and Mr. Woodside, in particular, have been of great help to me in one research project or another.

“On my original (1972) inventory, I labeled the Jefferson Head as ‘CN-2,’ rather than its proper designation ‘CNX-2.’ From this mislabeling derives Mr. Mooney’s laborious attempt to rationalize the disappearance of the coin. Suffice to say (1) that no one, not even a novice, who has seen a Jefferson Head can mistake it for a regular issue and (2) the CN-2 which you sent me (herein enclosed) is not the ‘Jefferson Head’ which I observed in your collection in 1972.

“Regarding the balance of Mr. Mooney’s inventory, it would seem to indicate that there are more coins missing that just the Jefferson Head and the S-24. However,

none can compare with these two in terms of monetary value. One additional comment: Mr. Mooney cites two coins (S-51 and S-65) as 'Adams missed mismarking.' I am fallible and certainly could make such a mistake. However, Mr. Clapp, who labeled the boxes, was (virtually) infallible so that you can be certain that, at one time, the boxes contained the pieces which he (Clapp) listed. The fact that the boxes do not now contain the designated coins is further evidence of chicanery."

The "CN-2" and "CNX-2" in these letters refer to the numbering scheme in *The United States Cents of the Years 1795-1796-1797-1800*, by George H. Clapp and Howard Newcomb (New York: American Numismatic Society, 1947). CN 2 is S-74, CN X-2 is the S-80 Jefferson Head. The pedigree chain on the particular coin which had disappeared from the Carnegie, per the Breen Large Cent Encyclopedia, pp. 265-266, reads: "Dr. G. F. Wilharm—B. Max Mehl #59 2/1921:1343 \$26—Robert D. Book, 5/1930—George H. Clapp, 3/31/1949—Carnegie Institute—Ray Byrne (Pittsburgh) \$6500—Del Bland \$7500—Jack H. Beymer 8/13/1974—Denis W. Loring, 3/1976—Dr. William E. Rubin—**Auction '80 (Paramount International Sales Corp.): 556 \$10,500**—Ed Hipps (Ed Hipps Gallery)—Carnegie Institute. *When informed by Del Bland that this coin had been illegally removed from the Carnegie Institute, Hipps turned it over to the authorities who returned it to the Carnegie Institute.*" The last name on this list explains a letter on which John was copied, the next in his file, under date of August 11, 1981:

Mr. Dave Akers  
Paramount Rare Coin Corp.  
One Paramount Plaza  
Englewood, OH 45322

Dear Dave,

I have talked to John Adams from Boston and also John Ford. They have informed me that the 1795 Jefferson Head I purchased out of your portion of the [1980] auction lot #556 was stolen from the Carnegi [sic] Museum in Pittsburgh, PA. This was determined by an appraisal done on the collection in 1972 by John Adams. John Ford advised me the Federal Bureau of Investigation had been informed of this, therefore it would be better if the coin is returned down the line of owners before they get involved. I am requesting a refund of the auction price of \$10,500.

If I can be of any further assistance to you in this mater [sic] please give me a call. You might want to talk to John Ford who can give you a better picture

on this.

Sincerely,

Ed Hipps

A few days later, Del Bland is still trying to get his mind around what has happened. In a letter dated August 19<sup>th</sup>, he writes,

"My ANA driving trip is over, my three boys have returned to New Jersey and I'm trying to recover from it all. I picked up four of Myles Gerson's 1794's and a VG-7 S-66 for my collection from Dick Punchard. Would like a better example, but I'm desperate. Also I bought Myles' library, a few catalogs of which I needed. It was a good trip until hot, humid New Orleans where I heard about the F.B.I. seizure of the S-24. Now I think the S-80 has been picked up. REN and Jack Beymer called me yesterday saying among other things that some correspondence exists between you, John Ford, and other parties regarding the coins. Since I am involved with the S-80, would you send me photostats so I can find out what's going on with all this. I find it difficult to believe such a prominent numismatist such as Ray Byrne would pocket any coins. And there are other ways he could have gotten them legally. Please let me know what's the story."

On August 30<sup>th</sup>, Del is still struggling:

"All the new information I have on the Carnegie coins is that Jack Beymer refused to refund money on the S-80 until someone could prove the coin is stolen. So far no one has done that. I guess Carnegie told the feds to pick up the coins that's what happened. With the minimal amount of information I have, I think Carnegie is out of line unless they have proof of some kind. Now the curator of the museum at the time is dead and so is Ray Byrne. [Ray Byrne died June 1, 1981—Ed.] If and when anything further develops I'll let you know."

John replies on September 6<sup>th</sup>,

"Enclosed are copies of my letters to Ford which explain the identification of the S-24 and the S-80. Given the unusual characteristics of each, there is not much room for doubt. (Ford OK'd my sending these.)

Not much to report on 1794's. They come tough when the focus is as narrow as mine has come to be. I have added some esoteric library material and, at a local show last week, I found a pile of 'junk' which included all five oval peace medals plus the round Harrison. This would be like finding S-33 to S-39, all in the same showcase."

Del's reply of September 11<sup>th</sup> conveys a note of res-

ignation:

“Thank you for the copies of letters sent to John Ford. I haven’t heard from him but still hope to. The information contained in your letters at least opens my eyes slightly as to how the chain of events began.

Congratulations on finding the peace medals and the Harrison. Are you doing research in this field? Nothing going on out here in large cents, much less 1794’s.”

The “five oval peace medals” were those struck for the administrations of Presidents Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland, and Harrison. The “round Harrison” was struck in response to complaints about the oval medals to the Bureau of Indian Affairs by a group of Otoe Indians. Very few were struck of this, the last in the series. See Bob Julian’s *Medals of the United States Mint, the First Century, 1792-1892*, pp. 63-68.

To catch up with a couple of additional trains of correspondence over the summer of 1981, on June 24<sup>th</sup>, John writes to Mr. Guy Paschal, Jr. of Purchase, New York:

“Roland Elderkin passed along to me the sad news of your mother’s death. Very few gracious ladies collect coins but she did and it brightened up the hobby for me more than I have words to express. At regular intervals, you mother and Doc Sheldon regaled me with stories from the numismatic past. In addition, ‘Dr. Dorothy’ sold me many of her favorite coins. Between stories and coins, I have a great deal to remember her by and even more for which to be grateful.

Mr. Elderkin mentioned that you have your mother’s ‘color set’ and he further suggested that I might be helpful in providing advice as to its disposition. The set is not worth a lot of money but it does speak eloquently as to your mother’s tastes. Thus, my first suggestion would be to keep it in the family. If you did choose to dispose of it, the best means of so doing would be via the annual auction of the Early American Coppers Club. I would be happy to discuss the reasons for my opinion as well as other possible alternatives.

Your mother did not owe me anything. Quite the contrary, she did me more kindnesses than I can ever repay. However, I would like to request one more favor – specifically, the opportunity to purchase Dr. Sheldon’s copies of *Early American Cents* and *Penny Whimsy*, assuming they are not destined for someone in his family. Indeed, as the unofficial historian for the hobby, I would be interested in any books and correspondence pertaining to the subject.

The copper cent enthusiasts have an excellent pe-

riodical called *Penny-Wise*. With your permission (and some biographical help), I will compose a piece on your mother for the July issue. Hers was an important and honored name among us; it would be most fitting, in my opinion, to take some formal note of her contributions.

Please accept my sympathy for your great loss. Accept also the fact that your mother will be mourned and missed by a large group of people you have never met.”

Guy Paschal responds on July 3<sup>rd</sup>,

“Thank you for your kind letter about my mother’s death, and the advice about the ‘color set.’ It may very well be that we would like to keep the set to remember her interest.

I would appreciate your writing on my mother for an issue of *Penny-Wise*, and would be glad to furnish whatever biographical information you need. Since I am not sure what you will need, perhaps you could give me a call. . . I will keep in mind your interest in Sheldon’s copies of the penny books. Right now, I don’t know what she or Dr. Sheldon had in mind. . .”

John’s tribute, “In Memoriam Dorothy Paschal,” appeared in the September 15, 1981 issue of *Penny-Wise*, page 228.

A pair of letters from Ted Naftzger—likewise, without copies of any ‘outgoing’ letters in the file—offer the first confirmation of John’s plans to sell his 1794 collection, *and* the fact that Ted Naftzger passed on an opportunity to purchase the collection *en masse*. The first of these—actually two notes, as the postscript came in a separate envelope—is dated August 26<sup>th</sup>:

“Re: Eastern ‘94’s

A most impressive, thought-provoking, exciting, tear-stained Xerox list. I had not expected to see such, especially in as dead a market for copper as seems to be with us at present. I’m sorry you are going to disperse it. Better it should be properly displayed at a couple of major events! It is unique in its historical significance and condition. Don’t see ‘S. S. Forrest’s’ Hays 8 listed--?? You know, when I sell my cattle I always price them; never place nor accept ‘sealed bids,’ never like to price another man’s goods. Care to put a number on the list, John?

P.S. OK—found the Hays 8; I had called it S. S. Forrest rather than England—Stack’s, and had it a notch higher than a 40. Makes for horse races.”

Ted’s followup letter is dated September 9<sup>th</sup>:

“Study the list and exceptional—no, spectacular—provenance, and one cannot be blasé in the least. You

have done it all, incredibly so in the light of the strongest of hands all around you: ANS, Evergreen House, WHS, DIP, REN to name a few nearly raid-proof bastions of copper. Wonder where the JJM S-31 has got to?? Maybe it is in the bottom of the jarful of MS or near-so 1821's recently unearthed. Lotsa good stuff is or has been in Boston; I recall a certain Doctor—Hall, wasn't it? Ever get together a list of Thos. Hall, M.D.'s inventory? What was the Hall—Brand (Wurtzbach) exact progression? And when? And was it total, or partial? Please forgive me if I failed to remember an erudite piece you have already done on this.

To the Nitty: **W O W**. I can't handle it just now at the figure mentioned, and might never; but at least now I know where you are coming from, as they say. Conditions are far too soft in Numismatics for that, and even in the best of times we've had, it looks 1/3 hi even for a top specialist's longest reach, someone who 'has to have it.' Today's market would be hard put to net you 1/2 the figure, no matter how well-planned your marketing effort. The liquidity just isn't around.

Selfishly I hope you will hold it all together for some months or even a couple of years if necessary while we await better times and more optimistic attitudes to prevail. I am most seriously interested. Our communications shall remain totally private, at least on my end; I hope on yours too."

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, John writes Bill Bareford,

"I have derived an immense amount of pleasure from reading the latest Stack's catalog. Between the coins themselves and your eloquent contribution, it adds up to the classiest piece of work they have ever done. Congratulations!" [The late Harold Bareford's silver coins were sold by Stack's on October 22-23, 1981. John refers to the reminiscence, "A Son Writes About His Father," by William J. Bareford, which appears on pages 4-5 of that sale catalog.—Ed.]

"Consistent with the Indian blood that courses through my veins, I have become interested in peace medals. Acquisitions on this front have been fairly vigorous. So too with items for the library. I have not had any luck on large cents which, given my degree of specialization, should not be surprising. However, the inactivity is getting to me such that I plan to sell the set once I succeed in enticing Carlson or Collins to come to Boston to photograph it."

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, he addresses one final letter on the missing Carnegie cents, this to Mrs. Ray Byrne:

"It is unlikely that you will recognize my name.

Nonetheless, I am a serious numismatist, specializing in large cents and literature. Dave Bowers of Bowers & Ruddy, Charles Wormser at New Netherlands and Harvey Stack of Stack's are three gentlemen who might be willing to attest that I have been involved in the hobby for a few years and that I have begun to learn something about it.

A couple of months ago, I was contacted by John Ford, Jr., who is Chairman of the Committee on Ethics and Professional Behavior of the Professional Numismatists' Guild. He asked me to identify two large cents both of which, in my opinion, had been part of the Carnegie Museum's collection when I studied it in 1972. Dr. Black, Curator of Carnegie, has stated that the coins had never been authorized for de-accession. He has taken steps to have them returned; he has either succeeded in so doing or they are being held by the F.B.I., I'm not sure which.

Both coins – a 1794 large cent and a 1795 large cent – have passed through a series of owners since 1972. As the affair has unraveled, A (the most recent owner) has gotten his money back from B (who sold it to A) who has gotten his money back from C (who sold it to B), *etc.* The 1794 cent has been refunded back to Lester Merkin, who states that he purchased the coin from your late husband. The 1795 cent has been refunded back to Del Bland, who likewise states that he purchased it from your husband.

Doubtless, both Mr. Merkin and Mr. Bland will get in touch with you in due course. Your first reaction would probably be one of skepticism and/or shock. My purpose in writing you is straightforward. As the person who identified the coins as belonging to Carnegie, I stand ready to explain to you or to whomever you designate why I believe as I do. Quite incidental to this purpose, I will also state that Messrs. Merkin and Bland are known to me as numismatists of considerable competence and complete integrity. I should add that I have no financial interest in the matter whatsoever.

I don't relish the task of broaching a sensitive subject to you but, if I can help the parties involved in any way possible, I am eager to do so."

On a happier note, on September 21<sup>st</sup>, Oscar Pearl's widow, Mary, had sent John "a copy of the Master Copy as promised," along with the promise to forward (*via* George Kolbe) a "somewhat ancient" bottle of brandy, after "resealing the possibly porous cork with old fashioned sealing wax." On October 26<sup>th</sup>, John thanks her:

"Many thanks for the Xerox of the Pearl Sale master copy. Hopefully, your husband's cost data will permit

me to rebuild some of the pedigree chains which, unfortunately, are missing. The brandy has not yet arrived. Possibly George Kolbe thought discretion the better part of valor or possibly the contents are now scattered around the U. S. postal system.”

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, Darwin Palmer writes,

“I have been thinking about you and the history of 1794’s. Several questions I have had about the heads of ’93 still need answering. One is the claim that some S-17’s are elliptical. Certain specimens look to be but has anyone taken a population and made measurements? I propose that S-17’s and a representative number of [Sheldon] 18, 19, [and] 20 be measured by micrometer or calipers [in at least four different diameters] to quantify the claim. I don’t know the statistics of proving it. The planchets could also be weighed to determine if those elliptical weighed more or less. One could also go into the cents related (supposedly) due to streaked or striated planchets (i.e., S-15 [and] maybe [S-]12’s) to check similarities which may be found. I have no S-17’s to perform the measurements upon. So I am writing to those collectors who have specimens and also the inclination to become involved in the project. Not many ‘scientific’ studies have been done on cents. Of course Sheldon worked on the 3% rule, the grading scale, *etc.*

On a similar project, I am trying to locate an S-17 in the FINE range which might become available. I tried to follow up on the Ruby, Schuman, Gerson, -via Nielsen, Ralls specimen but found that Del Bland has first shot when and if the specimen is released. So I felt you are the correct S-17 or Hays 4 fan to contact in regards to obtaining one. I am fairly certain that you own several specimens. Also I realize you would never part with ‘the most pedigreed early cent’ but feel I should ask you to consider me for one of the less famous specimens. I await results of your deliberations on this matter.

Will you also, as time permits, make the necessary measurements on the heads of ’93 please?”

John’s response is unfortunately lost. But on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Darwin acknowledges it:

“I can send you a measuring device for planchet diameter. . . a VERNIER CALIPERS dial type. . .

You sure do have a nice supply of the often elusive heads of ’93. Do you know anyone in the Boston area to excel at B & W or color slide photography and would you be willing to have them photograph your specimens? The only person I know who is superb is Jules Reiver but I cannot see how you would ever let certain coins (you have) out of your sight. . .

I agree with you that the Neggen S-17 can be called no lower than VG10 and had it independently listed as such in my notes. Collins is too tough on grading. Although I appreciate much your offer of the above specimen I am caught up with the surface and color of a cent as well as sharpness. I need a more aesthetic (to me) looking specimen. I was hoping that you might still have the Sheldon, C. D. Smith, Loring, Adams piece with its unusual ancient patina. That was the first S-17 that I ever saw and one which I always regretted not getting! And also hoping on the ‘patinated anciently’ coin you might have sufficient superior specimens to deem it extra. In the meantime I will hope for release of one of the known F-12 (other than yours) coins or a new discovery. Also need a decent VG10-F12 S-20! Who doesn’t?”

The year closes out with a flurry of planning regarding the sale of John’s collection of 1794 cents. Two letters dated November 16<sup>th</sup> crossed in the mail, the first from Rick Bagg of Bowers and Ruddy:

“It was a pleasure to finally meet you the other day and have the opportunity to view your wonderful coins. I certainly hope that David and I have the chance to work on your very fine collection. I’m sure you will be pleased with the results. Thank you for the nice lunch and the tip on the Attinelli catalogue. If you know the whereabouts of the Gilmore sale (1849), please drop me a line.”

The same day, John writes to Dave Bowers:

“It was a great pleasure (and honor) to have you and Richard as my guests in Boston. Hopefully, you can make it all the way out to Dedham on another trip.

I think there is much good sense to our striking a deal as follows: - Bowers and Ruddy to prepare a fixed price catalog of my 1794 large cents. - Individual prices to be as mutually agreed upon; I believe it is reasonable to project that the 60-70 pieces will total \$400,000 and perhaps a bit more. - Bowers and Ruddy to assume all costs associated with the preparation of the catalog, the promotion of the contents, and the transactions that result. - Bowers and Ruddy to charge a fee of 20% of the price of the coins sold for these services. - John Adams to have approval of the final text and format of the catalog. - John Adams to have some say in the selection of buyers given two or more orders for the same lot. - John Adams to furnish suitable photographs (and their publishing rights) plus certain historic and descriptive material. . .

As is true of any transaction, there is no good way to formalize some of the most important elements we discussed. I am depending on you personally to do the

cataloging, as well as to be the life and spirit of the project. We are embarked on a novel enterprise and, in my opinion, there is nobody in your profession nearly as well suited to lead it as you. Lack of effective leadership will expose the enterprise to failure.

For my part, I realize that my priority cooperation can not only save money but it can also provide you with information and perspectives that might not otherwise be attainable. You have my enthusiastic promise of any support that is in my power to give. I think that this project can, in its way, stand the numismatic world on its ear and be a landmark for years to come. I want to be part of something like that and know you do too. What do you think?"

Dave Bowers' reply is unfortunately lost. On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, John replies,

"I got your letter of November 20 and have had a chance to read through it. The modifications as suggested by you appear satisfactory. However, there remains an ambiguity concerning the 'sunset' date. Why don't we make it June 30, 1983 with the proviso, expressed or implicit, that it be extended if you run into delays beyond your control?"

Dave Bowers responds on December 9<sup>th</sup>:

"Thank you for your letter of December 2<sup>nd</sup>. This present letter will constitute the acceptance by Bowers and Ruddy Galleries of our agreement – as outlined in our exchange of correspondence.

I have always believed that an agreement is only as good as the people making it, so I feel in this instance that the agreement can certainly hold together on the basis of our conversations and letters (if we did not know each other better, then perhaps a more formal document would be necessary).

Our firm agrees to be responsible for the group of coins to the extent of \$400,000 at the time they are picked up by our representative, Dr. Richard Bagg. After that time we will be responsible for the coins to the extent of the mutually-agreed upon individual values, less our 20% commission. This is just for your records.

John, after Rick picks up the coins and meets with you I look forward to talking with you again as I really get into the project! It is a rare pleasure to be able to work with such an illustrious group of coins, and I assure you of my best interest and greatest enthusiasm."

John's reply is dated December 14<sup>th</sup>:

"Thank you for your letter of December 9<sup>th</sup>. I agree wholeheartedly with its contents with one possible exception. My coins are presumed to be worth \$400,000 today; after you sell them, I should net \$320,000. However, in addition to \$320,000 – to continue my example – I will also 'receive' a catalog written by you. Thus, until that catalog is printed, I would want to be insured for some number closer to \$400,000 than \$320,000. Is this not a reasonable clarification?"

Jack Collins duly photographed the coins 10 days ago. (The proofs look terrific.) Not knowing of our arrangement, he volunteered to publish a book, after the Breen half-cent opus is out, using his photographs and my descriptions. He sounds like a possible volunteer for work on the special edition, if you should want him. I put him off and he continues to know nothing of the pending sale.

I have set aside some time between Christmas and New Year's to do a little writing for you."

This "little writing" consists of two pieces: A general introduction to the collection, which appeared as page 13 in John's sale catalog as published, and a two-page essay entitled "The Discovery of 1794 Varieties." While the latter includes a couple of additions to pedigree information for Dave Bowers, which were incorporated into the lot descriptions, the bulk of the essay remains unpublished to this day.

*Additional Dramatis Personae*

Craig Black, 1932 - 1998

Ray Byrne, 1913 - 1981

George Ewing, 1943 - 1993

Doug McHenry, 1938 - 2010

Larry Knee, 1932 -

Additional biographical information on Ewing and Knee appear on Al Boka's web site, [1794largecents.com](http://1794largecents.com). McHenry was EAC member #356 until his death in 2010; a brief obituary notice was located by Googling "Doug McHenry San Diego." Craig Black moved on from the Carnegie to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, where he served from 1982 to 1994. His December 11, 1998 obituary in the L.A. Times stressed his fundraising expertise, as well as his "stormy" relations with longtime staffers over "budget cuts and plans to shift the museum's direction." (Some administrative behaviors never change.) Ray Byrne was never an EAC member, though he was very active in the Numismatic Literary Guild in the 1970s.

To be continued. . .

\* \* \* \* \*

## DIE CRUMBLING SEQUENCES OF THE 1849 N-2 and N-3 LARGE CENT VARIETIES

Herb Brunhofer

I was eight years old when introduced to coin collecting in the 1960s. In the mid-1970s, I started collecting large cents by date. Shortly after joining EAC in 1997, I began collecting large cent varieties. At that time, I became acquainted with Bob Grellman's and Jules Reiver's second edition of "Attribution Guide for the United States Large Cents 1840-1857," which facilitated collecting late date varieties and die states. The third edition of this Guide, published in 2001, helped me better understand the die states within each variety. While collecting 1849 N-2 and N-3 large cent varieties, I purchased coins with die states that did not appear to follow the sequence in the Guide, so I sent these coins to Bob Grellman for his insight. Through our correspondence over the years, it became apparent that minor revision of the die state sequencing in the Guide was warranted. This article summarizes a new view of the die state sequencing for the 1849 N-2 and N-3 varieties. I am thankful to the forerunners, whose research on large cents paved the way for completing this seven-year project in March 2015.

The master hubs that were used to produce the dies for the Petite Head and Mature Head late date large cents had all the features needed for minting except for the date, which was punched into the dies separately. With the various die lines and points, which were created by the tools and wire brushes that prepared the dies, as well as the varying date positions, 644 different obverse and reverse dies have been identified. These dies produced 386 unique die marriages.

The 1849 varieties N-2 (rarity 2; 601-2,000 estimated survivors) and N-3 (rarity 4; 76-200 estimated survivors) exhibit severe interior crumbling on the reverse. The reverse dies for these varieties deteriorated relatively quickly; by my count there are 73 and 70 different die states for the N-2 and N-3 varieties, respectively. In contrast, the single obverse die for both N-2 and N-3 was essentially unchanged throughout these two die marriages. This obverse die, which was also later used to mint N-24 (rarity 3; 201-600 estimated survivors) exhibited three die states on N-24 before it was retired.

The listings at the end of this article identify the 143 different die states of the N-2 and N-3 varieties. The basic structure of the listings remains unchanged from the 2001 Guide; however, a few previously identified die states have been relocated in the sequence based on assessing newly discovered die states. The listings now in-

clude several previously unidentified smaller crumbled areas and progressions from earlier listed die states. It should be noted that in some cases, debris in the die (either grease or fragments of the die crumbling) may have partially filled prior voids in the die, causing the cuds to change shape slightly. This phenomenon occurred mainly in the later states.

Finally, the sequencing of the terminal die state for N-3 presented at the end of this article is hypothetical and needs to be confirmed. The terminal die states are represented by a single coin I acquired in 2012. This coin has two previously undiscovered cuds. I believe it is unlikely that the die deterioration that produced each of these new cuds occurred simultaneously, so two new die states are presented in an arbitrary order in the listing.

I hope these updated die crumbling sequences for the 1849 N-2 and N-3 varieties can benefit interested collectors in distinguishing the differences in the numerous die states. I also hope that they promote future advancement of the chronologies as coins with differing attributes are discovered.

I would like to thank the following: Bob Grellman for his expertise, correspondence, and time. Fred Borchardt for loaning specimens, inspiring conversations, and endless knowledge. Howard Newcomb and Jules Reiver for all their work to separate the varieties. Dan Argyro for his work on the 1849 N-2 and N-3 die states. The following dealers and friends for supplying specimens and allowing me to view their stock: Doug Bird, Steve Ellsworth, Chris McCawley, Tom Reynolds, Chris Young, and especially Rod Burrell, Jim Long, and Lou Pearlman. Also, several EAC'ers on eBay for their quality photos. Brother-in-law, Bill Burnick, a fellow coin collector/confidant who is no longer with us, for accompanying me to shows. My two sons for their extra sets of eyes at the shops and shows, and my wife for her support and patience. My apologies to anyone missed; thanks to all for making this endeavor possible. I also enjoyed the time spent with my second family, the copper people.

### 1849 N-2

When determining a single die state, one may encounter very slight variations to the crumbling. Intermediate die states do exist. Crumbling sequences on the

berries and leaves are described as if the stems are pointing to the K-6 position.

- a. Lines at NITE sharp. Without crumbling inside top of N in ONE. (Very Rare)
- b. Crumbling inside top of N in ONE.
- c. Crumbling joins tops of C & E in CENT.
- d-1. Round lump under first S in STATES.
- d-2. Crumbling inside bottom of E in CENT.
- d-3. Crumbling on right side of berry 3 joining to base of leaf 6.
- e. Crumbling on left side of berry 3 joining to tip of leaf 4.
- f. Crumbling on left upright of N in ONE under serif.
- g. Crumbling connects C in CENT to leaf 3. Lines at NITE weak but visible.
- h. Crumbling connects C in CENT to the bottom right of berry 2.
- i-1. Crumbling on left side of berry 4 joining to leaf 10.
- i-2. Crumbling extends slightly above berry 2 on its left side.



- j-1. Crumbling connects leaves 12 & 14.
- j-2. Crumbling on top of berry 4 joining to tip of leaf 7.
- k-1. Crumbling inside top of E in CENT.
- k-2. Crumbling envelops berry 4 but does not fill vee at leaves 7 & 9.
- l. Crumbling on right side of berry 11 joining to leaf 21.
- m-1. Crumbling connects tops of O & N in ONE.
- m-2. Crumbling under berry 4 fills vee joining leaves 7 & 9.

- n. Crumbling on left bottom of berry 6 joining to leaf 13.
- o-1. Round lump under first S in STATES gone. Crumbling connects ME to wreath.
- o-2. Minor crumbling starts to connect leaves 24 & 25.
- p. Minor crumbling inside bottom of second A in AMERICA.
- q-1. Crumbling on left top of leaf 25.
- q-2. Heavier crumbling connecting leaves 24 & 25.
- r. Crumbling on right side of berry 10 connecting to leaf 19.
- s-1. Crumbling on the left side of berry 2.
- s-2. Crumbling connects E in UNITED to wreath.
- s-3. Horizontal line connects O & F.
- s-4. Crumbling envelops berry 6.
- t. Crumbling on the top inner bottom serif of N in CENT.
- u-1. Crumbling joins leaves 7 & 9 over vine and berry 4.
- u-2. Heavy crumbling in bottom of second A in AMERICA.
- v. V- shaped crumple in field connects tops of N & T in CENT.
- w-1. Crumbling on bottom right of O in ONE.
- w-2. Crumbling at base of berry 12.
- w-3. Crumbling connects leaves 23 & 25.
- w-4. Crumbling covering over bottom right serif of M in AMERICA.
- x. Crumbling connects leaves 2 & 4.
- y. Crumbling connects leaves 11, 12 & 14.
- z-1. Crumbling near stem on right side of leaf 21.
- z-2. Crumbling envelops berry 2.
- z-3. Crumbling over surface of the right upright of M in AMERICA.
- aa-1. Crumbling at base of berry 7.
- aa-2. Crumbling at the left base of leaf 25 connects leaves 23, 24 & 25.
- bb-1. Crumbling under base of T in CENT that does not touch the base.
- bb-2. Crumbling on the left side of leaf 6.
- bb-3. Crumbling on the left side of leaf 19.
- bb-4. Crumbling connects leaves 10, 11 & 12.
- bb-5. Crumbling connects leaves 21 & 22.
- bb-6. Crumbling under upper left serif and top of outer upright of E in CENT.
- bb-7. Crumbling covering the surface of the upright of E in AMERICA to the center crossbar and over base under the center serif.
- cc-1. Crumbling under base of T in CENT connects with base of that letter.
- cc-2. Crumbling fills lower inside left of N in CENT.
- cc-3. Crumbling on the right bottom of N in ONE.

- cc-4. Crumbling on top right of berry 1.
- dd-1. Crumbling under the bottom right half of the left base of the N in CENT.
- dd-2. Crumbling covers over the top surface of the C in CENT but not the bottom of the serif.
- dd-3. Crumbling connects leaves 20, 21 & 22.
- dd-4. Crumbling connects the tops of leaves 25 & 26.
- dd-5. Crumbling connects the inside bottom seriph of N in CENT to its diagonal.
- ee-1. Crumbling on the left side of berry 9 joining to bottom of leaf 21.
- ee-2. Crumbling at the bottom left edge of leaf 9 the width of one dentil.
- ff. Crumbling connects bases of O & N in ONE.



- gg-1. Crumbling on the left upright of the first T in STATES.
- gg-2. Crumbling on the top left edge of leaf 11 under the right foot of A in STATES.
- gg-3. Crumbling on the bottom edge of ribbon loop the width of two dentils.
- gg-4. Crumbling covers over the top half surface of leaf 11.
- gg-5. Crumbling on the left edge of leaf 9 the width of two dentils connecting to the tip of leaf 8.
- gg-6. Crumbling on the left side of berry 11 joining to vine.
- gg-7. Crumbling on bottom edge of ribbon loop the width of three dentils.
- hh. Crumbling on the left outer curve of the first S in STATES.
- ii. Crumbling on the top left edge of leaf 8 the width of one dentil.

### 1849 N-3

When determining a single die state, one may encounter very slight variations to the crumbling. Intermediate die states do exist. Crumbling sequences on berries and leaves are described as if the stems are pointing to the K-6 position.

- a. Without crumbling inside top of N in ONE.
- b-1. Crumbling inside top of N in ONE.
- b-2. Crumbling connects tops of C & E in CENT.
- c-1. Crumbling below right foot of M.
- c-2. Crumbling below left seraph of E in AMERICA.
- d. Crumbling connects bottom of E in UNITED to leaf 6.
- e-1. Crumbling joins right foot of M to leaf 19.
- e-2. Crumbling joins bottom of E in AMERICA to leaf 20.
- e-3. Crumbling inside bottom of E in CENT.
- e-4. Crumbling connects C in CENT to leaf 3.
- e-5. Crumbling on bottom right side of berry 4.
- e-6. Crumbling on top right side of berry 11 to leaf 21.
- e-7. Crumbling connects leaves 24 & 25.
- e-8. Crumbling on the tip of leaf 25.
- e-9. Crumbling on right bottom of berry 1 along the bottom right edge of leaf 1.
- e-10. Crumbling on bottom left foot of M.



- f-1. Crumbling on bottom of D in UNITED.
- f-2. Crumbling on right top of O in ONE.
- f-3. Crumbling on bottom right side of berry 3 to leaf 6.
- f-4. Crumbling on left bottom of N in UNITED to leaf 2.
- f-5. Crumbling forms a point on the right top end of T

in CENT.

- g.** Crumbling connects C in CENT to berry 2.
- h.** Crumbling on O in ONE extends into field.
- i-1.** Crumbling connects left foot of N in UNITED to leaf 2.
- i-2.** Crumbling connects tops of leaves 25 & 26.
- j.** Crumbling on base of first T in STATES.
- k-1.** Crumbling on right tip of leaf 6.
- k-2.** Crumbling on left side of leaf 11 under the first T in STATES.
- l.** Crumbling connects leaves 7 & 9.
- m-1.** Crumbling on bottom of leaf 7 near stem.
- m-2.** Crumbling on left bottom of second A in AMERICA.
- m-3.** Crumbling on bottom right side of C in AMERICA.
- m-4.** Crumbling on left bottom of second A in AMERICA joins to leaf 24.
- n-1.** Crumbling connects top of leaf 25 at stem.
- n-2.** Crumbling under left foot of R in AMERICA.
- n-3.** Crumbling under right foot of second A in AMERICA.
- n-4.** Crumbling under left foot of A in STATES joins bases of T to A.
- n-5.** Crumbling on top right side of berry 6.
- o-1.** Crumbling connects base of D to leaf 8.
- o-2.** Crumbling on top left of berry 5 to leaf 9.
- p-1.** Crumbling connects leaves 1 & 2.
- p-2.** Crumbling connects leaves 8 & 9.
- p-3.** Crumbling connects leaves 12 & 14.
- p-4.** Crumbling connects leaves 10 & 12.
- p-5.** Crumbling connects right bottom of N in UNITED to leaf 5.
- p-6.** Crumbling joins left side of leaf 18 to stem of leaf 20 below berry 10.
- q-1.** Crumbling inside bottom of second A in AMERICA.
- q-2.** Crumbling on left bottom of I in UNITED.
- r-1.** Crumbling on O in ONE to leaf 7.
- r-2.** Crumbling connects leaves 2 & 5.
- r-3.** Crumbling connects bottoms of C & E in CENT.
- r-4.** Crumbling at bottom of C & E covers bottom of C and fills the field between C and leaf 3.

- r-5.** Crumbling connects tops of leaves 25 & 26 to stem.
- s-1.** Crumbling on base of berry 12 joining to leaf 22.
- s-2.** Crumbling connects base of first T in STATES to leaf 11.
- s-3.** Crumbling on bottom right foot of the first A in AMERICA.
- t-1.** Crumbling on tip of leaf 17 to berry 9.
- t-2.** Crumbling under right top of T in CENT.
- t-3.** Crumbling on stem above berry 2.
- t-4.** Crumbling on top of left bottom serif of E in CENT.
- t-5.** Crumbling on bottom right foot of A in STATES.
- u.** Crumbling inside bottom of A in STATES.



- v-1.** Crumbling forms V joining tops of N & T in CENT.
- v-2.** Crumbling progression fills vee at leaves 1&2.
- v-3.** Crumbling under left top of E in CENT.
- v-4.** Crumbling connects bottom left of R to leaf 22.
- v-5.** Crumbling progression totally fills area between berry 1 and ribbon.
- v-6.** Crumbling on entire left side of leaf 25.
- w-1.** Crumbling connects inside bottom serif to diagonal of N in ONE.
- w-2.** Crumbling under center crossbar of E in ONE.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 1816 N-1 DIE STATES

Jack Conour

After doing quite an extensive amount of study on 1816 Large Cents, I believe that the most interesting variety is the N1. I say this because it is scarce, but not as much so as N-3, and has not only easily identifiable die states, but several of them—up to and including a rather spectacular terminal die state. It also has another, rarer die state in the Very Early Die State, with no rim break. In fact it is the only N1, 2, or 3 die state without a rim break. This fact has interesting implications in emission sequences which will be taken up in another paper.

Before getting into the die states themselves, we will look at the possible mintage for the N-1 and also the possible population of the perfect die state (no rim break, VEDS) and the Terminal Die State (TDS). To estimate mintage for this variety, we need to start with the total mintage for 1816s. Here we do have different totals to discuss. The U. S. Mint records show 2,820,932 pieces manufactured. Manley and Reynolds have done work that estimates actual mintages of 2,355,482 and 2,110,000, respectively. In order to estimate the mintage of each variety, I will use data from eBay occurrences by percentage for each variety that were gathered during previous work. These data yield the following table of possible production figures for each variety:

Besides mintages, we also need to estimate survivorship, an even more tenuous

proposition. For this study, we will concentrate on the data proposed by Knee and Fuoss as to survivorship. Knee proposed a survival rate of 0.88% for Large Cents and Fuoss various percentages based on the date—0.26% for 1816. Then to gain some feel for these forecasts of pieces that might exist, marketplace data from various sales, dealers, and other sources (EAC records) were studied and are summarized in the following table.

Going through these various manipulations, it appears reasonable to conclude that N-1 is indeed an R4-, and Very Early and Terminal Die State pieces are of similar rarity to each other, most likely R7- to R7. Now, let's turn our attention to the various die states for this variety.

For N1, Roecker defined six die states. While we will use that framework, there are some interesting deviations and/or intermediates that are interesting as well. Obviously the initial one (Roeck-



**Estimated Production of 1816 Varieties**

	Rarity	All by Var	eBay	Heritage	Goldberg	U. S. Mint	Manley	Reynolds	Avg
<b>N1</b>	4	<b>4.48%</b>	<b>4.19%</b>	<b>4.46%</b>	<b>7.37%</b>	126,475	105,606	94,600	<b>108,894</b>
<b>N2</b>	1	<b>16.76%</b>	<b>15.30%</b>	<b>27.23%</b>	<b>11.58%</b>	472,905	394,876	353,723	<b>407,168</b>
<b>N3</b>	4	<b>2.92%</b>	<b>2.73%</b>	<b>2.97%</b>	<b>7.37%</b>	82,483	68,874	61,696	<b>71,018</b>
<b>N4</b>	2	<b>11.11%</b>	<b>9.29%</b>	<b>9.41%</b>	<b>8.42%</b>	313,437	261,720	234,444	<b>269,867</b>
<b>N5</b>	3	<b>10.72%</b>	<b>9.11%</b>	<b>11.39%</b>	<b>5.26%</b>	302,439	252,537	226,218	<b>260,398</b>
<b>N6</b>	2	<b>12.87%</b>	<b>12.02%</b>	<b>9.90%</b>	<b>8.42%</b>	362,927	303,044	271,462	<b>312,478</b>
<b>N7</b>	3	<b>12.28%</b>	<b>10.56%</b>	<b>13.37%</b>	<b>9.47%</b>	346,430	289,270	259,123	<b>298,274</b>
<b>N8</b>	3	<b>15.40%</b>	<b>13.30%</b>	<b>9.90%</b>	<b>12.63%</b>	434,413	362,735	324,932	<b>374,026</b>
<b>N9</b>	3	<b>13.45%</b>	<b>12.39%</b>	<b>10.40%</b>	<b>8.42%</b>	379,424	316,819	283,801	<b>326,681</b>
		100.00%				<b>2,820,932</b>	<b>2,355,482</b>	<b>2,110,000</b>	<b>2,428,805</b>

Projected N-1 Mintage					Observed Marketplace Data					
<b>U. S. Mint</b>										
<b>Mintage</b>	<b>Manley</b>	<b>Reynold</b>	<b>Avg</b>		<b>Source</b>	<b>Database</b>	<b>No. N-1's</b>	<b>No. VEDS</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>TDS</b>
126,475	105,606	94,600	108,894		Heritage	354	8	JFC	1/28/16	0
					G'berg	125	12	1	1/28/16	1
					Stacks-Bowers	15	1	0	2003-10	0
<b>N-1 Survival Rate</b>					<b>The List</b>	478	48		1/28/16	6
	<b>US Mint</b>	<b>Manley</b>	<b>Reynold</b>	<b>Avg</b>	<b>ebay</b>	8,778	37	past articles		0
<b>Fuoss</b>	329	275	246	283	<b>EAC</b>	3	1	3	2016-319	2
<b>0.26% survival rate</b>					<b>Frisco Mint</b>	40	2	0	1/28/16	0
					<b>Twin Leaf</b>	21	3	0	2016	0
<b>Sheldon N-1 Rarity</b>					<b>JFC</b>	80	12	4	1/28/16	0
	<b>Low</b>		<b>High</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>9,894</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>R3+</b>	186		322				1.25%	0.081%		0.091%
<b>R4-</b>	161		200		ebay data are projections based on past article statistics					
<b>R4</b>	116		160							
<b>Sheldon Rarities</b>					<b>How Many N-1's, VEDS, TDS</b>					
<b>R6+</b>	13		18				<b>N-1's</b>	<b>VEDS</b>	<b>TDS</b>	
<b>R7-</b>	10		12				1.25%	0.081%	0.091%	
<b>R7</b>	7		9		<b>US Mint</b>	2,820,932	35,354	2,285	2,566	
					<b>Knee 0.88%</b>	24,824	311	20	23	
					<b>Fuoss 0.26%</b>	7,334	92	6	7	
					<b>Avg</b>	16,079	202	13	15	
					<b>Manley</b>	2,355,482	29,521	1,908	2,143	
					<b>Knee 0.88%</b>	20,728	260	17	19	
					<b>Fuoss 0.26%</b>	6,124	77	5	6	
					<b>Avg</b>	13,426	168	11	12	
					<b>Reynolds</b>	2,110,000	26,444	1,709	1,919	
					<b>Knee 0.88%</b>	18,568	233	15	17	
					<b>Fuoss 0.26%</b>	5,486	69	4	5	
					<b>Avg</b>	12,027	151	10	11	
					<b>Avg</b>	2,428,805	30,440	1,967	2,209	
					<b>Knee 0.88%</b>	21,373	268	17	19	
					<b>Fuoss 0.26%</b>	6,315	79	5	6	
					<b>Avg</b>	13,844	174	11	13	

er State 1) is the perfect die state without the rim break. Thus far I have been able to locate eight examples of this die state, which range in grade from G5 to F15 EAC net. Of those eight, I have updated pedigrees on six. The F15 is the Warfield-Ramont specimen subsequently sold in the Jules Reiver Sale. I later purchased the coin from CVM at the EAC convention in 2011. Only one of the pieces would be classified as a cherrypick in recent time.

Two examples are shown below to reference the die state – the one immediately on the previous page is the Warfield-Ramont-Reiver coin, the next is an eBay purchase from an EAC member.

Before discussing other die states, it should



be noted that Twin Leaf II Lot 1001 illustrated a partial die break between states 1 and 2. This example is clearly an intermediate step from VEDS to State 2 and appears to show the first signs of die failure.

Die states 2-4 as defined by Roecker center on the development of the rim break. Roecker does attempt to define and delineate using the amount of crumbling by referencing position and development to the star posi-



**Twin Leaf II Lot 1001 (Photo Courtesy Stack's Bowers)**

tions. State 2 is probably the most cryptic due to being defined as "light crumbling." It should be noted that these examples appear to be struck slightly off-center toward the break (as are the majority of N-1's) and may account for some loss of break length. In any case, I would not categorize any of the breaks shown below as heavy.



State 4 is defined as the rim break from star 8 to 11 with the reverse finely cracked thru the tops of NITED and proceeding to the left of the first S in STATES. This die state is illustrated in the next example shown below. The obverse rim break will often be heavier for this die state than the one shown which was used primarily to illustrate the die break on the reverse.



**JFC**



**Rasmussen #3358**

Detailed views of breaks:



State 3 is defined as crumbling from star 8 through 10. There may also be the beginning of die cracking through the some letters in NITED on the reverse.



In actuality there are many variations in the extent of the crack for die state 3 progressing to die state 4. In my observation, the most common N-1 die state shows the obverse rim break between stars 8-11 with some form of this legend break on the reverse.

It is also worth noting an example of a die state that I will refer to as 4+: the development of the crack all the way from the rim to the top left of the right upright of N in UNITED to past the D. Examples of the well-developed crack are somewhat scarce but can be found. I believe that it should be listed as a separate die state not only because it sets the



**1816 N1 VF20/F12**  
**State 4: crack to rim**  
 Courtesy of Bruce Reinoehl

stage for the terminal die state, but is quite distinct in appearance from states 2-4 and 5. This further development of die deterioration is illustrated quite vividly in the following example.

State 5 has the crack from the right top of N through the tops of ITED in UNITED heavy and well-developed, generally considered the terminal die state. But there is a State 6 which is even later, with a die crack through the top of ST in STATES. This is the rarest die state, with just three examples known. I have not managed to located one to this point. The following coin courtesy of Terry Denman shows state 5 quite vividly:

The data provided above suggest that approximately 10 specimens of this die state are likely to exist. During my research, I have identified a total of at least nine and possibly ten pieces depending on the outcome of further pedigree studies. I have



seen photographs of seven of these, with grades ranging from About Good to EAC net Fine. At one point, four of the pieces were owned by two collectors but three have been distributed to other collections. One of the specimens was a holed piece found on eBay by the author and sold to a fellow EAC member who has repaired the coin. Currently, two specimens need further pedigree work.

Note: If anyone has either a VEDS or TDS or knowledge concerning such and have not been in contact with me, I would appreciate an email ([jrcon1799@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrcon1799@sbcglobal.net)) or phone call (419-410-6461).

E Larry Knee, "Towards the Science of Large Cent Survival", *Penny-Wise*, Volume **XV**, May, 1981, page 125

Tom Reynolds, Examining the Rarity Ratings, Part 6, *Penny-Wise*, Volume **XXIV**, January, 1990, page 12 (data for 1816-1819)

Jim Roecker, "Middle Date Die States Part One: 1816-1817", *Penny-Wise*, Volume **XXV**, Number 4, July, 1991, page 176

Ron Manley, "Original Mintage of Middle Date Cents, Part One: 1816-1822", *Penny-Wise*, Volume **XXXV**, Number 4, July, 15, 2001, page 239

Ron Manley, "The Low Survival of Middle Date Cents", *Penny-Wise*, Volume **XXXV**, Number 6, November, 15, 2001, page 375

Dennis Fuoss, "Large Cent Survival", *Penny-Wise*, Volume **XXXX**, March 2006, pp 52-63.

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# SURFACE HEIGHT MEASUREMENTS OF EARLY AMERICAN COPPER COINS

Robert L. Fagaly and Tony Lopez

Surface quality (*e.g.*, wear) has always been the key to grading. It has been, for the most part, a subjective analysis. First, the Mark I human eyeball was used, then low power magnifying glasses (*e.g.*,  $\leq 10\times$  loupes), followed in turn by stereomicroscopes, *etc.* With the advent of extremely high-resolution surface mapping instrumentation, it is now possible to determine surface heights with resolutions well below optical wavelengths. With this in mind, we decided to see if currently available instrumentation would be suitable for surface profile mapping. It should be noted that this technique also has the potential for counterfeit detection.

Surface images were obtained using a Filmetrics Profilm3D Profilometer<sup>1</sup> (see Appendix for details). To evaluate the profilometer's usefulness in measuring surface thicknesses, we used two 1804 Cohen-13 variety half cents (Figure 1). The first was graded<sup>2</sup> as VF-20 and the second as F-12.

We first imaged the VF-20 coin using three different Nikon interferometric objectives (Table II). Only a single scan was performed for the initial scan to determine which objective gave a reasonable scan time. For the  $\sim 150\ \mu\text{m}$  vertical range shown in Figure 2 with an 8 mm x 6.8 mm scan area, the scan time was  $\sim 40$  seconds.

The actual measurement technique can be seen at [https://youtu.be/6\\_sCLHxMHSU](https://youtu.be/6_sCLHxMHSU).

Figure 3: 5x scan (4 mm x 3.4 mm area) 10x scan (2 mm x 1.7 mm area) shows the respective images for the 5x and 10x scans with successively smaller scan areas.

From the results shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3: 5x scan (4 mm x 3.4 mm area) 10x scan (2 mm x 1.7 mm area), we determined that the optimum objective was the 10x (albeit requiring significantly longer scan times). The Profilm3D has the ability to scan over much larger areas (up to 100 mm x 100



Figure 1: VF-20 and F-12 coins

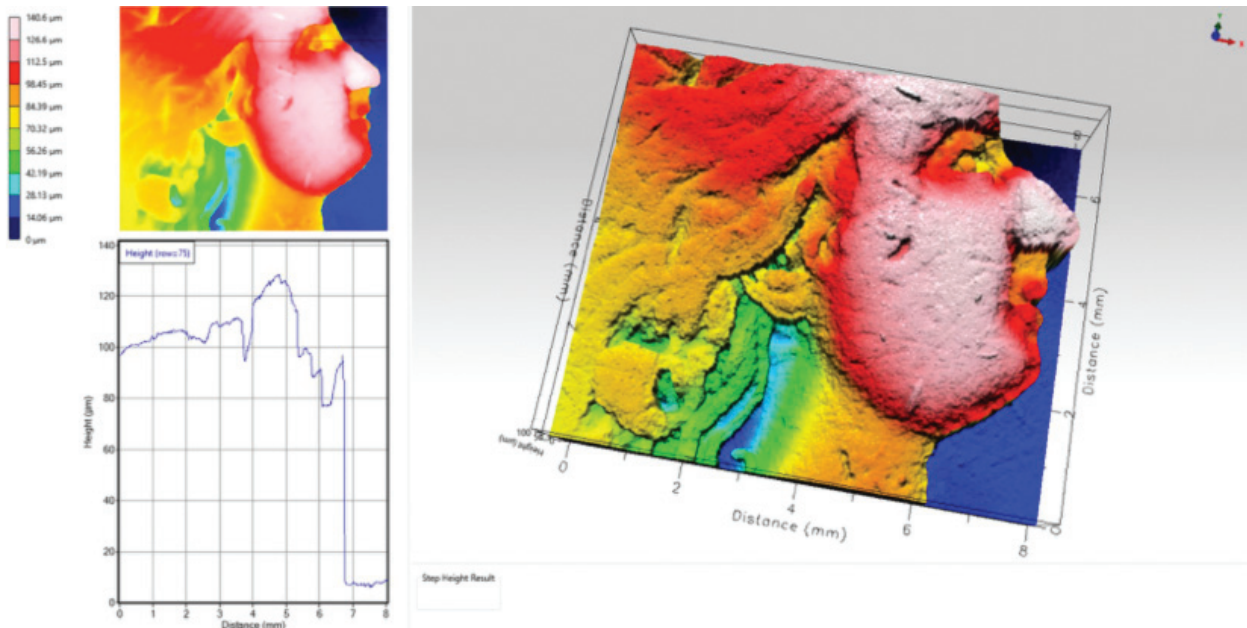
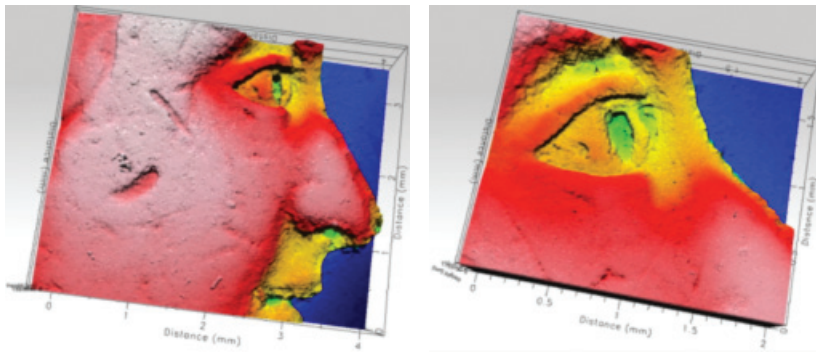


Figure 2: 2.5x objective results. The graph shows the relative vertical height of a horizontal scan through Liberty's eye.

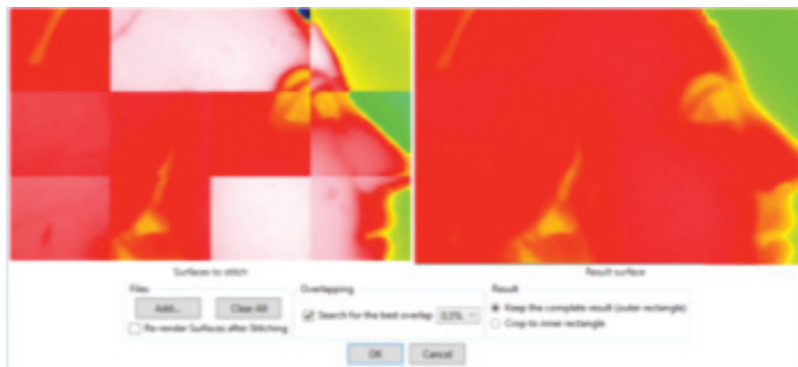
- 1 Filmetrics, Inc. San Diego, CA 92121 <http://www.filmetrics.com>
- 2 *Grading Guide for Early American Copper Coins*, W.R. Eckberg, R.L. Fagaly, D.E. Fuoss and R.J. Williams (EAC Press, 2014)



**Figure 3: 5x scan (4 mm x 3.4 mm area) 10x scan (2 mm x 1.7 mm area)**

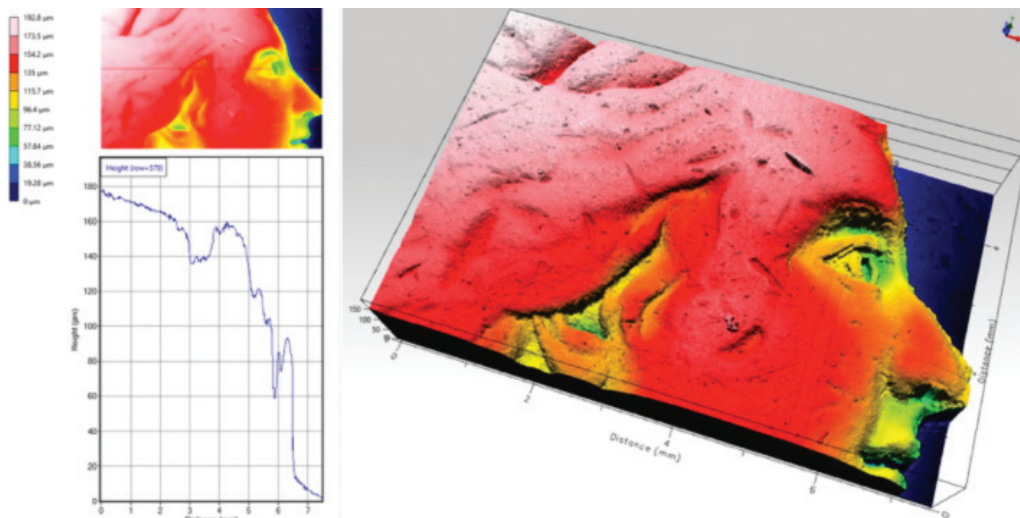
mm) by taking single scans at different locations and stitching the images together (Figure 4: image stitching process with a 15% overlap of individual images).

We then scanned the VF-20 coin overlaying 12 (4 x



**Figure 4: image stitching process with a 15% overlap of individual images**

3) images covering a 7.4 mm x 4.5 mm area (Figure 5), followed by a similar scan of the F-12 coin (Figure 6: Scan of 1804 C-13 F-12 half cent)..



**Figure 5: Scan of 1804 C-13 VF-20 half cent.**

It is obvious that there are identifiable differences between the two coins—primarily in the flatness (wear) of the hair. More importantly, the individual features can be positionally (XY) identified to sub- $\mu\text{m}$  locations. This should allow determination as to whether or not the same hub, die or punch was used during the minting process on different coin types and/or varieties.

This technique can be used to determine the amount of wear. The height plot in Figure 5 shows a  $\sim 20 \mu\text{m}$  change in height in the 1 – 2 mm region. Figure 6: Scan of 1804 C-13 F-12 half cent shows the hair portion of the lower grade (F-12) coin as being essentially flat over that same region. Figure 7a: superposition of vertical height scans through eye sections superimposes the two horizontal scans in Figure 5 and Figure 6: Scan of 1804 C-13 F-12 half cent through the eye (as indicated by the white line in Figure 7a: superposition of vertical height scans through eye sections).

Figure 7a: superposition of vertical height scans through eye sections shows the differences in wear between the two coins through the same horizontal section. The C13 F12 line (red) confirms the flatness in the hair behind Liberty's eye. Additionally, one can determine that there is a  $\sim 20 \mu\text{m}$  height difference immediately behind liberty's eye and  $\sim 50 \mu\text{m}$  at the end of the scan region (the 0 mm position is somewhat in the middle of Liberty's hair).

By scanning the entire coin and superposing the results, one could determine the relative wear between two different grades. By scanning a representative sampling of many grades, it might be possible to quantify relative wear as a function of grade. This technique could also make it easier to determine if the same punch was used when making new dies, etc.

While techniques such as X-ray fluores-

cence and electron microscopy can determine the metallic composition of a coin, they can't tell anything about the dies used to manufacture the coin or medal. The ease of creating precise die copies using Computer Aided Design and laser scanning technologies has resulted in the infusion of high quality counterfeits into the marketplace. These coins are being struck with precise copy dies in the same composition as the originals, and have fooled the experts as well as the third-

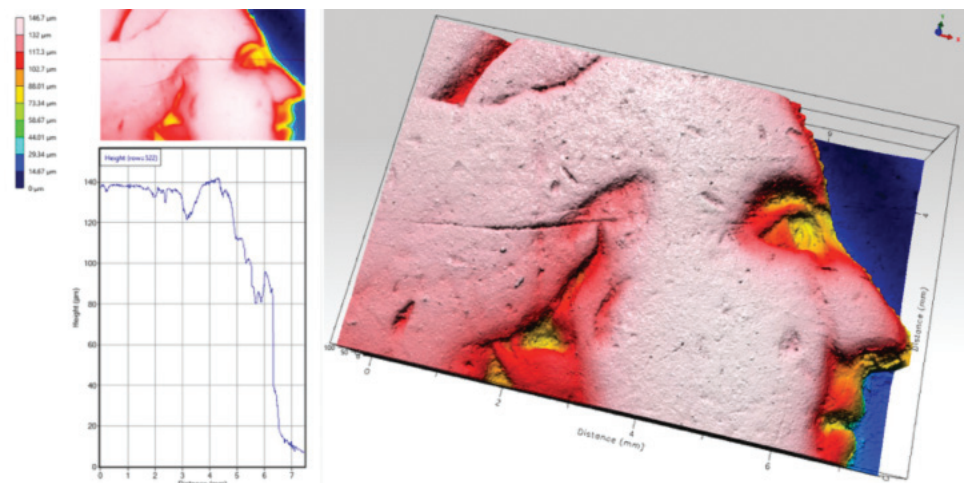


Figure 6: Scan of 1804 C-13 F-12 half cent

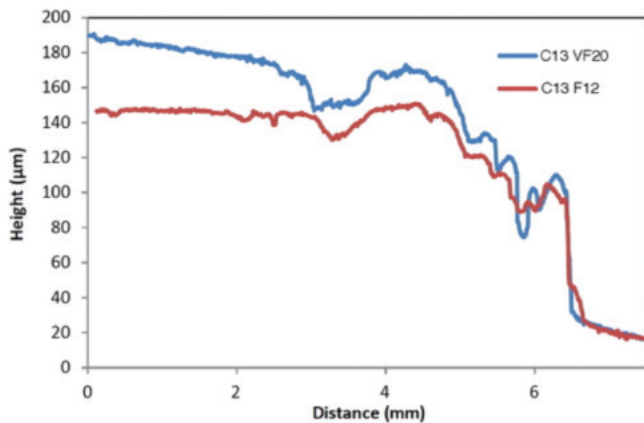


Figure 7a: superposition of vertical height scans through eye section

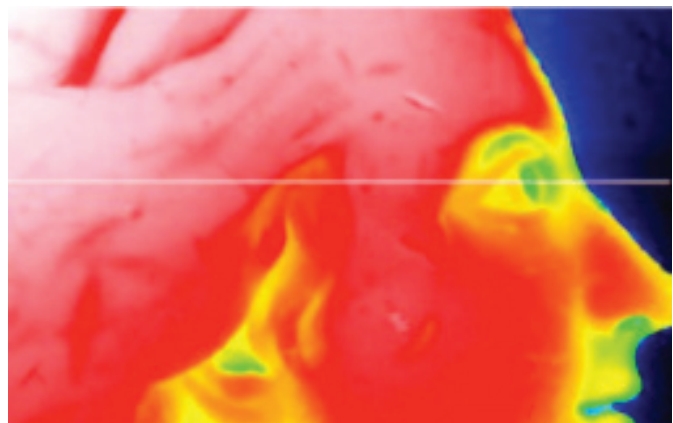


Figure 7b: scan section (white line)

party grading services that have unwittingly encapsulated and guaranteed the authenticity of these coins. The technique described in this paper should allow the easy differentiation between original and copy dies, improving our ability to detect counterfeits and/or surface alteration.

**Acknowledgements:** We would like to thank Menno Bouman of Filmetrics for the use of the Profilm3D and his assistance during the measurements and Stuart Schrier for the loan of his 1804 C-13 (Figure 6: Scan of 1804 C-13 F-12 half cent).

**Appendix: Profilm3D Profilometer Specifications**

Performance Specifications		Mechanical Specifications	
Thickness Range	50??? nm – 10 mm	Z Stage	100 mm
RMS Repeatability	1.0 nm	Piezo Range	500 µm
Step Height Accuracy	0.7%	XY Stage Range	100 mm x 100 mm
Step-Height Repeatability	0.1%	Tip/Tilt Range	±5°, manual
Sample Reflectance Range	0.5% – 100%	Camera	2592 x 1944 (5 megapixels)

Table I: Specifications of the Filmetrics Profilm3D Profilometer

Magnification	2.5x	5x	10x	20x	50x	100x
Field-of-View	8.0 x 6.8 mm	4.0 x 3.4 mm	2.0 x 1.7 mm	1.0 x .85 mm	.5 x .34 mm	.2 x .17 mm
Spatial Sampling	3.52 µm	1.76 µm	0.88 µm	0.44 µm	0.176 µm	0.044 µm
Relative scan time	1	4	16	64	400	1600

Table II: Specifications using Nikon CF IC Epi Plan TI/DI objectives

## PRESIDENT’S LETTER – ON EAC HOSPITALITY RECEPTIONS

Bill Eckberg

There has been a lot of comment on Copper Notes about the Thursday night EAC Receptions. As most of you know, the club solicits donations from members to offset the cost, and I ask that you be generous! There was a donation form in the January P-W, another with this issue, and if you click the JOIN button on the EACS.ORG homepage and then the Pay Online link, you get an opportunity to donate amounts from \$25-300 online. We rarely get enough donations to cover the whole cost, so the club contributes to make up the difference. Sometimes that difference is substantial. Members have asked me what the food costs at the receptions, and I always reply that “it’s more than you think.” Hotel catering is expensive, but if we have the show at a hotel, we have to use their catering. Part of what they charge for meeting rooms is based on how much the club spends on food. We have to pay them one way or the other.

Some members have suggested that we charge a fee for the event or have auction houses or other commercial groups host it. Your Board of Governors discusses this every year. We don’t have commercial groups host it, because that would seriously jeopardize our tax exempt status as a 501(c)3 charitable organization. We have gotten this information from multiple CPAs, and they are right. We can’t have the receptions sponsored. Period. End of topic. *Please, don’t bring it up again.*

The issue of charging a fee is more complex. As you’ll see in the Treasurer’s report in the next issue, EAC is in the black. Our dues and convention proceeds (table fees, Sale proceeds and donations) generally cover the cost of *Penny-Wise* and our convention with a small amount left over. If we need to – and ideally we wouldn’t need to – we can afford to supplement what we

get in donations. I’m sure there are those who would not come to the reception if there was a charge sufficient to offset the cost of the food. A few of us probably couldn’t afford to. Besides, a donation is tax deductible, while a ticket for a reception is not.

We have used donations to support the reception for many years. It’s not perfect, but it works well enough. Some of our members, including a few who don’t come to the conventions, are very generous. Others contribute little or nothing and are first in line for the food. You can read the names of the donors to last year’s reception on page 153 of the July 2016 issue of *P-W*. We’ll post the names of this year’s donors in the July 2017 issue.

This year is our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and we plan to have a GREAT reception. I know that we have sometimes run out of food, but we have planned so that will not happen this year. How much should YOU donate? I think of it this way. How much do you spend on coins in a year? Are most of your coins in the \$50 range? The \$100 range? The \$1,000 range? The \$10,000 range? Higher? If you’re consistently buying 4-figure coins, why can’t you afford a 3-figure donation to keep your club strong and active?

We recognize that we have members of very great means and members of very modest means, with most of us somewhere in the middle. ***We want the reception to be available to all no matter what they can afford to contribute.*** EAC is not going broke; I am sure that we will cover expenses at this convention.

Let’s stop worrying about this and have fun. We can direct our angst to the horrors of commercial grading.

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### EAC 2017 EXHIBITS

Ray Rouse

The 1817s 200 years of coins and collectors: Bob Klosterboer

The *Comitia Americana* Medals: Bob Fagaly

The 1793 “Ships Penny” of Bermuda: Mark Sportack

Terminal Die States of 1835 Cents: John McBride

Die Breaks of 1817 N12 Large Cents: Ed Fox

Early American Coppers, Live or Memorex: Jack Young

EAC Medals Through the Years

History of Canada on Early Canadian Tokens: Joe Pargola

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## EAC 2017 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Nathan Markowitz

Friday April 21, 2017

- 1PM: Phillip Scott Rubin: "How the American Numismatic Auction Catalogue has been influenced by the collecting and collectors of Early American Copper Coinage"
- 2PM: Greg Heim: "Changing the way United States Half Cents are Classified"
- 3PM: Jim Matthews: "Capped Bust Dime Die Deterioration"
- 4PM: Ed Fox "Die Breaks of the 1817 N12 Large Cent"
- 8-9:30 PM: David Finkelstein: The Copper and Bullion Workflows of the United States Mint, 1792-1795

Saturday, April 22, 2017

- Noon: John Kraljevich: "Philadelphia in Large Cent History, 1857 to Present"
- 1 pm: Garrett Ziss: "Baltimore's Washington Monument and Its Numismatic Secrets."
- 2 pm: Mark Borckardt: "Recalling the Early Days of EAC with Denis Loring, George Pretsch, and Gordon Wrubel"
- 3PM: Len Augsburger: "Using the Newman Portal for Early American Numismatic Research"
- 4PM: Craig Sholley: "The Evolution of Proof Coinage at the US Mint"

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## 2017 EAC CONVENTION LARGE CENT HAPPENING VARIETIES

David Johnson

Following are the Large Cent varieties for the 2017 annual EAC "Large Cent Happening" in Philadelphia, PA. I have had many good suggestions. Thanks to all who provided some very thoughtful selections!

A few items of usual Happening logistical items that bear repeating: the Large Cent Happening will start right after the opening reception on Thursday evening. For members planning to exhibit coins, please plan on arriving with your coins as early as possible after the reception so that all the necessary exhibitor registration and paperwork can be completed.

Coins are *handled* at Happenings. For exhibitors who prefer not to have their coin(s) handled, please bring your coin(s) in an air-tite or similar protective holder where the coin can be adequately viewed.

The "Happening" is not just about seeing the best and highest graded coins (although that's fun), but also about having the opportunity to view neat examples and interesting die states side-by-side. If you have interesting or tough die states to share, please plan on bringing it/them to the Happening.

Here we go with this year's varieties:

**1794 S-23.** R4+. Maris 13, "**Standless 4 Variety.**" A scarce-to-rare variety that exhibits dramatic die

state progression, ranging from a very rare "perfect" obverse to a late state "shattered" obverse die. The S-23 should prove an interesting study for the die state enthusiasts.

**1794 S-33.** R6. **The "Hays" Variety.** A storied and favored '94 variety. The "Wheelspoke" reverse. A usually severely bulged reverse die and a progression of reverse rim "breaks" resembling a wheelspoke provide for some interesting study in a neat and desired 1794!

**1795 S-76A.** R5. Lettered Edge. The more difficult sister of the S-76A and Bs. The S-76A was stuck on a thicker (Lettered Edge) planchet than is sister, the more common S-76B, which was stuck on a thinner, plain edge planchet.

**1798 S-170.** R3. The S-170, a second hair style 1798, offers both a "perfect" obverse early die state and a diagnostic late die state, with an arcing rim to rim bulge and die crack in the left obverse field from approximately K8 to K10.

**1820 N-4.** R4. One of the more difficult varieties of 1820. A small date 1820, but with an interesting reverse with a large E in STATES and a low U in UNITED that cozies-up to its next door neighbor N.

- 1834 N-5. Large 8, Large Stars, and Small letters.**  
R5. A tough and popular variety with EAC specialists and Redbook collectors alike. After the 1822 N-14, arguably one the most sought after middle dates.
- 1846 N-12. R1. Tall Date.** Not rare, but this variety presents a wide range of neat die states/rare CUD breaks for collecting and study. This should be one of the more interesting varieties to examine.
- 1855 N-9. R1. “Knob-On-Ear” variety.** A relatively common variety, but one of the most popular late dates. Known for its interesting die state/CUD pro-

gression, with die states ranging from an early State A to a very late State F with an advanced “knob” or internal CUD. Die progressions for this variety are well studied.

LASTLY, I can always use more helpers to pull this event off—assist with the table/variety monitoring, the sign-up desk, and giving fellow monitors a break and chance to view the varieties. If you would like to assist, please contact me at [davidjohnson1798@gmail.com](mailto:davidjohnson1798@gmail.com). Many thanks to all those special EAC’ers who have already volunteered to help out! See you in Philly in April!

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## The 2017 Half Cent Happening Varieties

Mike Packard

The Half Cent Happening varieties for the 2017 EAC convention in Philadelphia, PA have been selected. They are:

- 1793 C-3** Last included in 1998. Hey, it’s Philadelphia. We need a piece from the first year the federal mint produced the little half sisters.
- 1794 C-6a** Last included in 1995. Small edge letters. This is an R5+ variety that is difficult to obtain in grades above VG. The finest grades only VF. The owner of the only known large edge lettered C-6b is invited to bring it. I hope he does.
- 1804 C-8** First appearance at the Happening. It is a very common spiked chin variety that exhibits many die states over LIBE as a piece slowly peels off the edge of the die.
- 1805 C-4** Last included in 1987. This is the common large 5 with stems variety. We should see some nice pieces. Will we see a perfect obverse die state?
- 1809 C-3** Last included in 1994. Another very common variety with a number of Mint State exam-

ples. I look forward to seeing if my modest example will receive any top 5 votes.

**1854 C-1** First appearance. Many Mint State examples remain. How many will exhibit the rust pit (Joe Kane’s “tennis racket”) on the upper part of the I in UNITED?

If you would like to volunteer to be a monitor, contact me at [mikepackard@mac.com](mailto:mikepackard@mac.com). A good time awaits us at the 2017 Half Cent Happening. Brush off you examples of the Happening coins and bring them to Philly. I hope to see you there.

*Call for a volunteer:* I’ve been in charge of the Half Cent Happening on and off since the late 1980s (more “on” than “off” methinks), and I feel it is time for me to move “off” again. I hope someone else will step up to take charge of this traditional and educational EAC event. I’d hate to see it disappear for lack of interest. Those interested can contact me at the above email address or see me at the Convention.

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## TOURS AT EAC 2017 IN PHILADELPHIA

John Kraljevich

Philadelphia is heaven for fans of early American history, where so much of importance happened and so many historical places are preserved and celebrated. You could spend 2 weeks there and not see everything. Come to think of it, in the 17 years I lived in the area, I barely scratched the surface. Fortunately, the convention is right in Center City, a compact area that is easy to walk around or find cabs/Ubbers as you prefer.

### *Center City tour ideas for visitors to explore on their own*

1. The Philadelphia Museum of Art is a world-class (truly!) art museum. There are as many famous masterpieces by the greats here as at the Met, but you can't pretend to be Rocky in New York.
2. Academy of Natural Sciences. In the same general neighborhood as the Museum of Art, just a short cab ride from the convention center. Dinosaurs, gems and minerals, and more. The Academy also has a legendary collection of seashells -- if you look closely, you may see specimens they acquired from a member named George H. Clapp.
3. The University of Pennsylvania Museum. The whole Penn campus is beautiful and worth seeing, but the Penn Museum shouldn't be missed. Its anthropological collections are legendary, particularly the artifacts found at the pre-Biblical city of Ur. They have mummies too.
4. Franklin Institute. One of the best science and technology museums around, this is great for kids and families but pretty outstanding for grown ups too.
5. Independence Mall. Whether or not you're going on the Independence Hall trip, the rest of Independence Mall is outstanding and really should not be missed. It's a 3 block park in the middle of Olde City including the Independence Hall visitor center, the archaeological site of Washington's home in Philly, the National Constitution Center, the Liberty Bell, and more. Benjamin Franklin's grave site is right across the street, and the Second Bank of the United States is a block over, housing a collection of portraits of early American historical figures that most EACers will recognize and enjoy. (If you like Charles Willson Peale paintings, don't go home without seeing it -- they have over 100 of his portraits there.)

6. Elfreth's Alley. A single narrow residential street over by Independence Mall. There's nothing there but houses that people live in, which doesn't sound special, except that it's all that's happened on this street since 1702. It's a goosebump-raising walk into the 18th century. There is a little museum too, so you can see the inside of a house without interrupting someone's coffee.
7. The Museum of the American Revolution, a brand new museum one block off Independence Mall, is scheduled to have its grand opening on April 19, the day before our convention starts. Assuming they open on time, there will likely be crowds to contend with that first weekend, but it should be worth it.

### *Outside of Center City*

8. The Philadelphia Zoo is the nation's oldest and one of its best. It's on the edge of town, near Fairmount Park and the Schuylkill River (say it with me: SKOO-kuhl). If you like zoos, you'll love this one. It's an easy 15 minute cab ride from the convention -- have your cabbie take Kelly Drive to get a free tour of Fairmount Park along the way.
9. If you're a botanical sort, Philly has two great destinations. Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square is in southern Chester County (1 hour) but is worth the trip if you have a car. The duPont family poured money and interest into it, particularly the orchid collection (7500 plants, 500 on display at any one time). Morris Arboretum is in the leafy, ritzy Chestnut Hill neighborhood of Philly, covering 92 acres planted a century ago. It's about 45 mins away.
10. A bit outside of Philly (30 minute drive, but could be twice that at the wrong time of a weekday), but Valley Forge is an amazing place. It's not just the site of the Continental Army's frigid 1777 encampment, but a beautiful park with bike and walking trails, 18th century structures, and an impressive belltower. If you're a shopper, the King of Prussia Mall is right nearby and is one of the largest malls in the country.

There's plenty more: shopping, historical sites, architectural masterpieces, ethnic neighborhoods, great restaurants, theatre, casinos, parks and natural areas, *etc.* For you golfers, I'm sorry to say I've lived away from Philly long enough that I don't think I know anyone who can get you into Merion anymore.

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## GRADING AND COUNTERFEIT SEMINAR - EAC 2017

Doug Bird and Steve Carr will again offer a counterfeit and grading seminar at EAC in Philadelphia on Thursday, April 20, from 9 am to noon. This seminar is a great way to start your EAC experience. See old friends, make new ones, and get a start looking at coppers before the convention even begins!

If you are interested in attending this seminar, please contact Steve Carr at [scarr4002@everestkc.net](mailto:scarr4002@everestkc.net) or (913)

940-5666 for a reservation. We are often limited in the number of seats, so first come, first served. Get your reservations in early to secure your spot in the seminar.

If you have any coppers you would like the group to look at, please let Steve know.

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## ANA SUMMER COURSE – 2017

Doug Bird and Steve Carr will also be offering an “expanded” counterfeit and grading seminar at the ANA Summer Seminar this summer. This year, we are offering an advanced Early American Copper course. We will cover a number of early copper topics, from attribution and grading to provenance, storage and re-coloring. We will also explore the world in which our small “brown and rounds” lived. You also get to spend a week surrounded by other numismatists, some nationally known, in the beautiful Colorado Rockies. The ANA has the best copper resource library in the area.

This course will cover any topic of general interest.

We have received some in put of the topics and will cover re-colored coins, condition census types of edge lettering, counterfeits and altered coins. However, content can change focus and who knows what we may cover. Most work is in small groups. This course is offered during the second week of the ANA Summer Seminar, held June 25 – 28 in beautiful Colorado Springs, CO. To register, contact either Steve or Doug, go to the ANA website ([money.org/](http://money.org/)), or call Susan McMillan at (719) 482-9850 Bring your favorite loupe and any coppers you would like to share with the class and instructors.

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## BOYZ OF 94 MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA

Chuck Heck

Philadelphia here we come! EAC is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and the Boyz will be there! We will have our usual Wednesday evening meeting on April 19, 2017 in the Maestro Room from 7:30pm to 10:30pm.

Last year we had no actual meeting and I apologize to everyone. As you know the hotel was changed at 6 months out from our event and I should have paid more attention to the details.

We have one speaker committed and can use at least two more – so please contact me if you have anything that you would like to present to the group. There is

no time limit. Anything interesting will be happily received. Also – no pre-arranged die variety show and tell – bring anything you want and we can put up on the video screen for discussion.

One last item – a Boyz token is being considered. Cost can be as low as \$800 for 1000 copper coated tokens – under \$1300 for 1000 pure copper tokens. Do you think the BOYZ should have a token struck? Let me know your thoughts. Call me at 561-628-5345 or email at [check48@comcast.net](mailto:check48@comcast.net).

See you in Philadelphia!

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## GOLF - 2017 EAC, PHILLY

Dan Trollan

If you are interested in golf this year in Philly we are going to play Wednesday at 11:00 to let things warm up a little. This also frees up Thursday for bourse table set up for the dealers that want to play.

I will make sure the course has rental clubs. Please contact me soon so we can reserve enough tee times. My

email is [dantro1794@gmail.com](mailto:dantro1794@gmail.com) or call my cell 970-769-3196.

I will have a rental car but we may need one more car. Let me know if you can help. Many thanks and I hope to see you there.

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## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA COIN COLLECTING MERIT BADGE WORKSHOP

Bob Fagaly

EAC will be hosting another Coin Collecting Merit Badge Workshop at the upcoming Philadelphia meeting. The Workshop will be held from Noon to 4 PM, Saturday April 22nd. I will be coordinating the workshop. If you'd like to help out (especially if you are

already a Coin Collecting Merit Badge Counselor) or make a donation to fill a goody bag that would be given to each scout, please contact me for details. [fagaly@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fagaly@sbcglobal.net) (760) 994-9839.

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## EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS REGION 4 MEETING

FUN SHOW – FORT LAUDERDALE, FL  
JANUARY 7, 2017

Grady Frisby

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Secretary, Grady Frisby, in the absence of Chairperson Donna Levin. Donna sent her regrets that she was unable to attend this meeting due to a family gathering. Introductions of those members present followed with several guests and at least one new member attending a Region 4 gathering for the first time.

A moment of silence was held for our recently departed member Fred Lake.

EAC President Bill Eckberg gave everyone an update on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention of the Club to be held in Philadelphia, PA the week of April 19-23, 2017. He emphasized getting your room reservation in as soon as possible. The Anniversary Medal was discussed and Bill emphasized that anyone interested in purchasing an example would need to do so by February 7<sup>th</sup>. No extra medals will be available at the Convention or at a later date. Bill also passed out examples of a pair of large cent sized copper tokens, produced by Jess Patrick, one with a 1793 half cent obverse and the other with a Chain reverse, that the Club is using to advertise

and promote our organization. He said examples would be available at the EAC table on the FUN bourse floor for those who wanted to stop by and get one of each. *Penny-Wise* editor Harry Salyards shared a few words about some articles that are in the January issue as well as the ongoing series of large cent correspondence of John Adams. Club historian Mark Borckardt gave the members an update on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Club History and passed around a draft of the document. Mark can be contacted at [markb@ha.com](mailto:markb@ha.com) for more specific information and any late contributions of photos, etc.

As we have done for the last two meetings of Region 4 at the FUN show, a member has been ever so kind as to provide a presentation to the members and guests on copper and the stories and history behind them. This year, for the second time, Chuck Heck provided us a visual trip into the history of Charles E. Clapp Sr. and Junior that was truly informative and unfortunately longer than the time allotted for the use of our meeting room. Maybe we can all see the presentation in its entirety at another time.

We adjourned at 10:00 AM. The following members and guests were present:

Mike Dudas	Memphis, TN
George R. Trostel	Southington, CT
Harry Salyards	Hastings, NE
Joe Pargola	Langhorne, PA
Bill Eckberg	West Palm Beach, FL
Denis Loring	Palm Beach Gardens, FL
Phyllis Thompson	Dayton, OH
Jerry Stubblefield	Fulton, MS
Mabel Ann Wright	St. Joseph, MI
Mark Borckardt	Allen, TX
John Wright	St. Joseph, MI
Sam Foose	Dallas, TX
Mark Dizio	Sarasota, FL

Steven Ellsworth	Clifton, VA
Bob Fagaly	Carlsbad, CA
Bob Padula	Ocala, FL
Ed Fuhrman	Dumont, NJ
Mike Swift	Knoxville, TN
Lou Alfonso	Delray Beach, FL
Russ Butcher	Richardson, TX
Roger Lussier	Fort Myers, FL
Ray Rouse	Boca Raton, FL
Tom Wachel	Genesco, IL
Karen Heck	Hypoluxo, FL
Carol Consolo	Western Reserve, OH
Check Heck	Hypoluxo, FL
David Consolo	Chagrin Falls, OH
David Carroll	Columbus, OH
Grady Frisby	Memphis, TN

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**EAC REGION 4 MEETING AT THE MEMPHIS COIN CLUB SHOW**

February 25, 2017

EAC Region 4 held a meeting at the Memphis Coin Club Annual Coin Show at the Landers Convention Center, Southaven, MS. Due to difficulty in getting a room assigned at the Landers Center until the last minute, there was very little notice available through Region 8, but we did have four EAC members and two guests with one of the guests completing a new member application and submitting a dues payment.

After an introduction by Region 4 Secretary Grady Frisby all present introduced themselves and where they lived and what they collected. Due to the smaller crowd we were able to elaborate in greater detail as to what we collected and about how long we had been working on our copper collections.

News was shared about copper finds, the upcoming EAC Convention in Philadelphia, new auctions being planned later in the year and, based on questions from our guests, on what and how to collect in the copper world.

One of our guests is a former EAC member and he shared a little bit of information about his collection as part of our educational forum. He currently is working

to complete his high grade Redbook large cent variety set of eighty coins and only lacks two.

With time running out, we adjourned to begin our search for additional specimens of early copper on the floor of the show. Hope to see more members and guests next year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Grady Frisby, Region 4 Secretary

Members and Guests:

Brian P. Lee (submitted membership application)	Memphis, TN
John Okerson	Lakeland, TN
Mike Dudas	Olive Branch, MS
David Johnson	Chattanooga, TN
Grady Frisby	Memphis, TN
Ray Brown	Memphis, TN

\* \* \* \* \*

## LARGE CENTS REDEEMED BY THE U. S. MINT, 1857-1880

Harry E. Salyards

Most of us have read of how, following passage of the Coinage Act of 1857, teller windows were set up in the courtyard of the mint, labeled “Cents for Cents” and “Cents for Silver.” At the former, large cents were exchanged for new copper-nickel Flying Eagle cents. At the latter, worn Spanish silver—*finally* set for demonetization, following Congress ‘kicking the can down the road’ for over 60 years—were likewise exchanged for the new ‘nickel’ cents. What many of us may not have seen, are the actual redemption figures. The records are incomplete, for reasons which I will explain; but enough data exists in the Annual Reports of the Director of the Mint to provide some surprises.

First off—the magnitude of those initial exchanges. The 1859 Mint Report states that 9,524,700 large cents had been exchanged for new small cents from the onset of the program in 1857, through June 30, 1859. During the same time span, \$546,305 worth of Spanish silver had been similarly exchanged—for 54,630,500 new ‘nickel’ cents. That’s a grand total of 64,155,200 new small cents put into circulation—about 80% of the entire 1857 through *calendar* 1859 mintage. (This massive substitution of cents for silver had its own consequences, as the potential now existed for a 75-cent purchase to be made not with two old silver coins, but with 75 new copper-nickel ones. For the moment, however, there was adequate small U. S. silver in circulation to obviate this problem.) At the same time, large cent redemption continued apace. Successive Annual Mint Reports offer a detailed breakdown of large cent redemptions:

Fiscal Year 1857:	1,660,200
Fiscal Year 1858:	3,140,400
Fiscal Year 1859:	4,724,100
Fiscal Year 1860:	3,750,000
Fiscal Year 1861:	9,524,500
Fiscal Year 1862:	5,336,500
Fiscal Year 1863:	618,500
Fiscal Year 1864:	<u>49,000</u>
Total to June 30, 1864:	28,803,200

Those numbers tailing off make it seem like the end of the road for large-scale redemption. And indeed, the Mint Director himself interpreted the data in that fashion. But he was wrong. The real reason redemption numbers fell off precipitously was the Civil War. Like every other kind of coined money, by the end of 1862, the old large coppers were hoarded. In two short years,

a glut of small change had turned into a scarcity. But as the prospects for the Union improved, by the end of 1864, the situation reversed itself again. The public was confronted with a sudden glut of small cents coming back into circulation, only now *without* any complementary small denomination silver. Now people really *were* making three-dollar purchases with 300 ‘nickel’ cents! Congress had a ham-handed answer: just make it illegal! The Coinage Act of March 3, 1865, which provided for the nickel three-cent piece, also included the following: “The one and two cent coins of the United States shall not be a legal tender for any payment exceeding four cents.” *Four cents!*

At the same time, the Mint had transitioned out of ‘nickel’ cents in favor of bronze ones, and was preparing to exchange and melt the former, to recycle their nickel content into three and five cent pieces. As a result, the large cents get no attention whatsoever in the Mint Reports for Fiscal Years 1865 and 1866, which merely repeat the same tabular data ending June 30, 1864. The 1867 Report drops this table entirely. What the Director wants from Congress that year is legislation that will authorize “the Treasurer of the Mint. . .to receive any such coins that may be offered in sums not less than \_\_\_\_\_ dollars.” (Congress was to fill in the blank.) The mint was to function, in other words, as a kind of bank-of-last-resort for people holding large accumulations of cents.

While he waits for Congress to act—and he has to wait over three years, because of the Impeachment of President Johnson and disputes over the form Reconstruction was to take—the Mint Reports of 1868, 1869, and 1870 are silent as to the fate of any additional large cents. Instead, they describe the redemption (and melting) of a total of close to 43 million copper-nickel cents—nearly a quarter of the original mintage gone, over three years, within six years of the last coin struck! Our large coppers didn’t get *that* degree of disrespect—not quite.

Finally, in March 1871, Congress acts: “The Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and required to redeem in lawful money. . .all copper, bronze, copper-nickel, and base metal coinage of every kind heretofore authorized by law, when presented in sums of not less than twenty dollars.” With this policy in place, large cent redemption figures reappear in the Mint Reports. No, the numbers aren’t as massive as in the early ‘60s;

but the nine-year total just about equals the entire mintage of 1853. And furthermore, they are now redeemable in any “lawful money”—*i.e.*, greenbacks—not just new cents:

3/3-6/30, 1871: 1,005,215  
 Fiscal Year 1872: 1,796,641  
 Fiscal Year 1873: 747,683

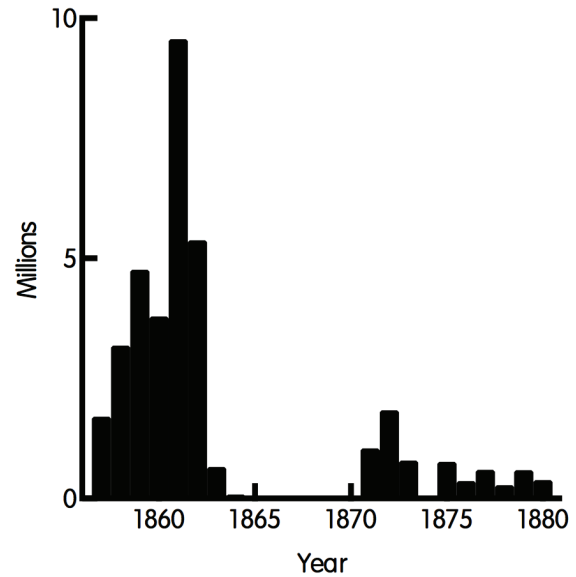
[The 1874 Mint Report omits all discussion of minor coin redemption, being more or less obsessed with the developing crisis over silver vis-à-vis gold.]

Fiscal Year 1875: 725,387  
 Fiscal Year 1876: 322,476  
 Fiscal Year 1877: 559,419  
 Fiscal Year 1878: 239,360  
 Fiscal Year 1879: 552,957  
 Fiscal Year 1880: 344,525  
 Total, 3/3/71-6/30/80: 6,293,663

The 1881 Mint Report again does not deign to discuss minor coin redemption, preferring to devote over 100 pages to the international uses of gold and silver, in every conceivable ramification. But what is clear is, even as the decade of the 1880s began, large cents were still coming into the mint for redemption in significant numbers.

With the figures for 1857 through 1864, 1871 through 1873, and 1875 through 1880, we have data for 17 of the 24 years. Though large cents were off the Director’s radar screen between 1865 and 1870, we cannot assume that large cent exchanges for small cents were nil. (Unlike the situation with Spanish silver, *that* part of the 1857 law had no cutoff date.) And if we were to interpolate a figure for 1874, it would look like something over 700,000. In a sense, the Mint Act of March 3, 1871 was even more of a boon to holders of accumulations of large cents than to holders of stockpiles of small cents, since large cents had *zero* legal tender status. But just using the incomplete figures we have, 28,803,200 redeemed between 1857 and 1864, plus 6,293,663 re-

Cents Redeemed



deemed between 1871 and 1880, equals 35,096,863—more large cents than were minted over their last eight years of production (34,855,770), and nearly a quarter of the entire cent mintage back to the beginning.

It can’t match the abrupt about-face of the ‘nickel’ cent redemption that paralleled it—which had grown to nearly 59 million coins by the end of Fiscal Year 1872—but it wasn’t exactly slow and steady attrition, either.

References:

*Report(s) of the Director of the Mint*, 1859 through 1873, and 1875 through 1881, at [newmanportal.org](http://newmanportal.org)  
*Report of the Director of the Mint for 1874*, at [fraser.stlouisfed.org](http://fraser.stlouisfed.org)  
*Coinage Laws of the United States, 1792-1894*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, revised and updated. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1894  
*Guide Book of United States Coins* (for large cent mintage figures)

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE DISCOVERY OF 1794 VARIETIES

John W. Adams

In his 1869 monograph, *Varieties of the Copper Issues of the United States' Mint in the Year 1794*, Dr. Edward Maris listed 39 varieties. The following year, he published an additional four varieties. He never updated his publication thereafter. However, from his surviving correspondence—specifically, letters dated August 16, 1878 and July 5, 1879—it is clear that he had recognized an additional nine varieties before the decade was over.

Maris's handwritten notes regarding his numbers 44 through 52 passed into the hands of William Wallace Hays, and then Charles Steigerwalt, followed in turn by Lyman Low, Ebenezer Gilbert, and George Clapp. Whereas, to the best of my knowledge, these notes were never printed, they somehow eased into the public domain. We find Captain John Haseltine, for example, referring to M-47 as early as 1873; Cogan and Frossard cite M-49 in 1882. On this basis, I am inclined to credit Maris for M numbers 44 through 49 plus 51, which are, respectively, Sheldon numbers NC-1, 47, 42, 51, 50, 39, and 69.

Gilbert might argue Maris 48 (Sheldon 50) quite vociferously, as he was wont to refer to this number as the "Gilbert variety." However, if Maris is not to be accorded the honor, then there is W. W. Hays, who bought a specimen, unattributed, from the Bowman sale of April 20, 1897. (Ironically, Frossard not only failed to recognize this piece, but unwittingly used another Sheldon 50 to illustrate his version of Sheldon 49 in his 1879 work.) This latter S-50, the finest known of the variety, was lot 45 in my 1982 sale.

In my assigning credit to Maris, you will note that a couple of numbers, Maris 50 and 52, are missing. Henry Chapman laid claim to discovering the Starred Reverse (Maris 50, a/k/a/ Sheldon 48) in 1876. He did so in the presence of Dr. Maris, which fact, together with the contemporary publicity which appeared in *Numisma*, should be evidence enough to bury the case for A. J. Gilbert. If the latter indeed noted the Starred Reverse in the 1850s, as his brother Ebenezer claimed in 1907, then he should have said something to somebody before the century was over.

The other missing number, Maris 52 (Sheldon 18) was first described by Frossard in his Merritt sale of January 3, 1879. He published it and the "Frossard variety," which he dubbed Maris 53 (Sheldon 35) in his book written later that same year. My suspicion is that Maris

uncovered his M-52 a year or so ahead of Frossard; however, the latter's thorough public demonstration of the subject is ample reason for according him the honor of discovery. The discovery specimens of both of these varieties were in my 1982 sale (lots 5 and 27, respectively).

Only five varieties given a collectable number by Sheldon never received a Maris number. Taking them in the order of their discovery, we have:

*Sheldon 33* – Said by Low in 1907 to have been discovered by Hays in 1888, this variety came to be called the "Hays variety." It may be regrettable but it is nonetheless true that W. E. Woodward adequately described the "Hays variety" seven years earlier, as lot 137 of the Burton sale, October 26, 1881.

*Sheldon 68* – This variety was first published by Frossard, in his description of lot 548 in his sale of August 3, 1882. The possible discovery specimen was in the Downing sale, August 18, 1952, lot 1700, there graded MS-60.

*Sheldon 38* – Said by Low in 1907 to have been discovered by Hays in 1889. In this instance, I know of no earlier appearance.

*Sheldon 53* – This was cataloged by the Chapmans as lot 760 of the M. A. Brown collection, April 16, 1897, with the notation, "Hays confirms our discovery." The second finest example of this variety (lot 48 in my 1982 sale) was also likely the second to be described by a numismatist, when it came to light near the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. I spotted mine, unquestionably the first to be plated, in S.H. and H. Chapman's Ralph R. Barker sale of July 7-8, 1904, lot 977. There it was described, "*New die, not in Hays*. Tall rather narrow head almost touching RT; the 4 of date touches bust. R[everse of] Hays 7. Very fine. Light brown color; sharp even impression. Excessively rare if not unique."

*Sheldon 37* – According to his letter to George Rice dated October 11, 1900, Charles Steigerwalt discovered the variety that came to bear his name in the Spring of 1900. "I had bought the coin as a 'Distant 1' Hays 44 at the Bowman sale [Frossard's sale of the Frank L. Bowman collection, April, 1897, lot 420] and cataloged it thus. [Augustus] Heaton ordered it but returned it as improperly described." (That makes three experts who missed it!) "I examined it and later sent it to Dr. Hall for confirmation of a new variety." The discovery specimen

is in the A.N.S.

As an interesting sidelight on the M. A. Brown collection, I was able to obtain a (presumably unique) set of prints from the Brown plates. These latter, which were to be the Chapmans' first use of photographic illustra-

tions, were confiscated by the U. S. Treasury.

*Editor's note:* This previously unpublished typescript was discovered in the Adams correspondence, dated simply 1/82. It has been lightly edited and updated with John's assistance.

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## DISCOVERING A VERY SCARCE 1807 SMALL 7/6 OVERDATE (S272) CENT AND MY PROCESS FOR WRITING ARTICLES

Howard Spencer Pitkow

### *Introduction*

In a few previous publications for *P-W*, I confessed to having contracted an incurable clinical condition that I diagnosed as Pathological Compulsive Copper Disease Syndrome (PCCDS), which exhibited symptoms early in my collecting career. These symptoms were eventually manifested through my writings and publications of two dozen articles in *P-W* dealing with my various copper collections. These manuscripts encompassed such diverse topics as my primary and duplicate half and large cents, foreign coppers used by our forefathers as coinage, Chinese counterfeit large cents, large cent errors, numerous scarce and rare copper finds as well as my philosophy of life as applied to numismatics. One night as I sat by my desk reading a few numismatic journals, I suddenly realized that I had completely forgotten about a significant discovery of mine made several years ago. The more I thought about the events leading up to this "find," the clearer and more delineated they became, which stimulated a cascade of lucid images in my brain. I wrote feverishly, making notes as these visions past through my mind. This discovery, which is the subject of this twenty-fifth publication for *P-W*, was a very scarce 1807 small 7/6 overdate (Sheldon 272).

### *My Process for Writing Articles*

Before discussing my S272 discovery, I would like to digress briefly and explain to the reader my methodology for writing numismatic articles for *P-W* and other publications. The first thing the reader should note is that I am NOT a CONVENTIONAL author. In order to write, it is necessary for me to get a "burst of creative mental energy." That is, my brain has to subconsciously energize itself by a mechanism or trigger unknown to me. These creative bursts occur both suddenly and randomly without any hint of their etiology. It can happen at 3PM or 3AM. Whenever it occurs, I have to take advantage of this opportunity. I then isolate myself at my desk by shutting my office door so as to concentrate on

the "task at hand."

Unlike most authors I do NOT make an outline beforehand. Instead, as the plethora of thoughts and ideas flow through my mind, I start to write haphazardly about these images as they come to me. If another thought suddenly enters my brain while I am writing about a series of events, I quickly write a few words in the margin and get back to it at a later time. My unorthodox way is further illustrated by the fact that I do not use a computer while writing articles. I use exclusively pen and pad, writing on every other line, so that I can add or delete words or sentences. I like to hold the pad (*i.e.*, hard copy) in my hand as I read over what I wrote and make corrections when appropriate.

When my creative mental burst of energy subsides, I basically "cut and paste" these isolated paragraphs into a logical sequence and weave them together in order to make a coherent narrative for the reader. By molding and "working" various sections of my manuscript, I eventually develop the final written product. The last two parts of the manuscript that I formulate are the INTRODUCTION and CONCLUSION sections. Only then, when I am satisfied with my article, will it be committed to the computer for E-mailing to the appropriate publication editor.

### *The Discovery*

After this brief digression on my writing habits, let me get back to the main focus of this article, the discovery of an 1807 small 7/6 overdate. According to my notes recorded on a data card, I found my S272 cent in November of 2012 at the Whitman Coin Show held in Baltimore. This copper cent was a low-grade coin obtained from a dealer's junk box. Unfortunately the dealer's name was omitted. However, these two pieces of information among others were enough to stir my memory, enabling me to recall the chronological order of events which led to my discovering this previously

unattributed very scarce S272.

I remember walking the Whitman Coin Show bourse searching for needed half and large cent varieties for my primary collections. As on several other occasions, I met and talked to many dealer and collector friends about various current numismatic topics of mutual interest. As I continued to visit many dealers, I would occasionally check their junk boxes with no success. Eventually I came upon a dealer who possessed a decent number of large cents. After examining his coppers, I noticed that he had a large junk box consisting of a hodgepodge of coins. Since it was late in the afternoon and I was a little tired from walking the bourse, I decided to sit down and examine the contents of his junk box. As I went through the box, I picked out all the copper coins for inspection. A few of the large cents I found appeared to be very worn. As I quickly went through these coppers, I observed what I thought was an overdate on one of the worn coins. As I looked closer, I could recognize some of the observe diagnostics on this coin. Due to extensive wear the cent's date and legends seemed very smooth and blurred to me. However, I could barely make out the overdate which looked like a 7/6. After a lengthy inspection the first three digits in the date appeared to be "180". Since the S273 (large 7/6, R1) is more common than the S272 (small 7/6, R4+) I assumed, without further inspection, that it probably was the S273. At that juncture in my numismatic career I was interested in obtaining a duplicate S273, low-grade as it was, not thinking that it might be the S272. Besides, I was getting a little exhausted and was ready to go home. The end result was that I bought this copper for a reasonable price (as well as a few other nondescript coppers from various other dealers) before meeting my travel group and heading home.

The next day, I decided to attribute my purchased coppers. While sitting at my desk in the comfort of my office-like setting, I checked the worn overdate, as I always do, by turning this copper at different angles while using various light intensities and magnifier powers. Little did I know I was in for an astonishing and

exhilarating surprise. As I intently studied the obverse diagnostics, I soon became keenly aware that I indeed had the very scarce S272 (small 7/6) and NOT what I assumed to be the more common S273 (large 7/6). Since both varieties share Reverse A, I have contrasted their different obverses below. The worn copper I bought at the Whitman Coin Show showed S272 (Obverse 2) diagnostics as follows:

- 1-small, narrow 7 cut over 6 overdate
- 2-both tops of 7 touch drapery
- 3-"1" digit has a blunt top and almost touches both hair and curl.
- 4-junction of hair with forehead (JHF) below right side of upright of T of LIBERTY.

For comparison, the diagnostics for the more common S273 (Obverse 3) are as follows:

- 1-large and heavy 7 cut over 6 overdate.
- 2-both tops of 7 are close to drapery but do not touch.
- 3-"1" digit is pointed and close to hair but further away from curl.
- 4-junction of hair with forehead (JHF) between T and Y but closer to T of LIBERTY.

*Conclusion*

Taken together, the four distinctive features listed above confirm that the copper I bought was indeed the very scarce S272 (small 7/6, R4+) and NOT the more common S273 (large 7/6, R1). The circumstance surrounding this rare find depended upon my slightly fatigued state causing me to sit down and peruse the contents of a dealer's junk box!

*References*

Sheldon, W.H. *Penny Whimsy*. Quarterman Publications, Inc., Lawrence, MA, 1976

Noyes, W.C. *United States Large Cents (1793-1814)*. Litho Technical Services, Bloomington, MN, 1991

\* \* \* \* \*

**Correction:** We apologize for misspelling the name of Kevin Schuwer, member #6419 in the January issue.

## OBITUARY- FRED L. LAKE, EAC #3316

Bill Eckberg

I am sorry to report the passing of long time EAC member, Fred L. Lake. Most of us know Fred mostly as a bookseller, but he was a copper collector first! Fred joined EAC in 1990, with member number 3316. Fred was a regular fixture at EAC conventions with a lot of books and plenty of good conversation to offer. It's not an easy job being a numismatic literature seller who sets up at conventions. The inventory is large and heavy, and the prices are very modest compared to the coppers elsewhere on the floor, but it's ALWAYS a good idea to buy the book before the coin.

Fred was also for many years a pillar of the Florida United Numismatists (FUN) shows and a member of the FUN Board of Directors.

Best known for his numismatic literature auctions, Fred cataloged 125 of auction sales containing about 90,000 lots.

Fred lived a long and productive life of 87+ years. When he announced his retirement in October, I had no idea that he was 87. None of us had any idea that he only had a couple more months to live. He passed on Christmas night. Rest in peace, Fred.



Photo from Alan Workman.

\* \* \* \* \*

## OBITUARY - ROBERT C. NORVICH, EAC #5456

Bim Gander

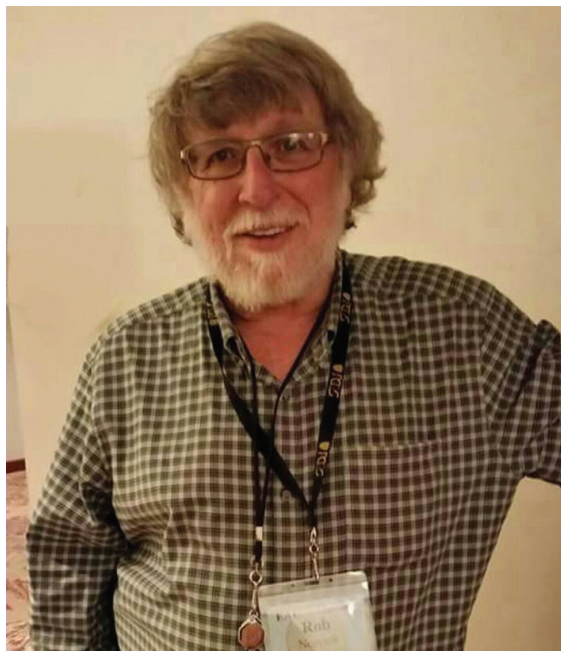


Photo from Alan Milhone

### ABOUT ROB

So about a year ago I called my bud:

“Rob, I’m demo-tying steelhead patterns at the annual “Fly Fishing Expo” at the Linn County Fairgrounds. Can we get together afterwards for a quick dinner and visit after the show closes at five?”

Forget *that*, says he: “Plan to spend the night with us. We’ll enjoy a fine Oregon Pinot, go out to dinner, relax a bit and you won’t have that late night drive over the snowy pass to the dry side”.

*Sold!*

An evening with Rob and Nicki is a rare treat. The conversation ranges from sailing ships, to his Alabama childhood, to our common New England college experiences. Even Early Copper has its moments while Nicki powders her nose.

Rob is in some ways a modest copper collector. His knowledge is deep and thorough. He liked it all and had trouble limiting himself to only one or two small spheres of our collecting universe. I admit to having specialized far too soon (and with great naiveté) on the '94's and cannot venture much beyond, because they have consumed me.

Nicki returns and we celebrate the EAC conventions we have enjoyed together. She and Cindy have grown to know each other as volunteers at the registration table. . . While Rob and I have simply rejoiced in our deepening friendship . . .

I will always treasure Rob's warm smile. And his gentle disposition will be remembered by all who knew him.

\* \* \* \* \*

### CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following candidates have applied for membership in EAC since the last issue of *Penny-Wise*. Provided that no adverse comments on any particular individual are received by the Membership Committee before the July 2017 issue of *P-W*, all will be declared elected to full membership at that time. Chairman of the Membership Committee is Bim Gander, 12770 NW Steelhead Falls Drive, Terrebonne, OR 97760.

#### New Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u>Member #</u>
Robert Sawyer	Long Beach, CA	6429
Anthony Witte	Chester, NY	6430J
Kirk Zigler	Chattanooga, TN	6431
Jeanne Madigan	Boca Raton, FL	6432A
Gregory Bayn	Spokane, WA	6433
Blake Gibb	Oklahoma City, OK	6434
Craig Thurber	Stevenson Ranch, CA	6435
Jacob Williamson	Cape Coral, FL	6436
Philip D'Antonio, Jr.	Malvern, PA	6437
Bob Sattler	Charleston, WV	6438
Tim Janecke	Melbourne, FL	6439
Stephen Sauer	Bloomfield, IN	6440
Michael Jacob	Toledo, OH	6441
Michael Singer	San Mateo, CA	6442
Kyli Rosson	Dallas, TX	6443
James Masner	Gilroy, CA	6444
David Sunshine	Easton, CT	6445
Marco Cairo	Oak Park, IL	6446

#### Rejoining Members

Robert Miller	North Woodstock, NH	357
Richard Gross	Hampstead, MD	578
Tim Krawczyk	Appalchin, NY	2840
Timothy Hernly	South Bend, IN	4564
Richard McCarthy	Lincroft, NJ	4609

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Jack Young** writes,

I wanted to take the time to write that I enjoyed Ray Rouse's article in the January P-W, entitled "RETIREMENT, COINS SOLD, NOW WHAT?" Although I am nowhere near the retirement age (at least in my mind!) I can relate to the feelings after selling a prized collection. When some personal/family issues arose a while back I decided we would be better off with the money I had invested in my collection, and I sold it (I had collected up to 53 of the 58 collectible 1794 varieties). My first reaction was to be thankful that I had the cash, but this quickly led to a "funk" as I realized the collection was

really gone. I considered leaving the hobby altogether, but a discussion with Al Boka led me to decide just to back off and realign my interests going forward. My humble collection now includes very low grade early coppers including some Colonials and early date large cents, some with countermarks, with a couple of electrotypes thrown in. With the recent discussions of struck fake early coppers, I suddenly had another twist to "collecting" and have added a few interesting examples of these (including two silver pieces) as well. I am undoubtedly more active in the hobby as well as EAC now, and as Ray expressed, "there is always something new to learn!"

\* \* \*

**Steve Lund** writes,

I would like to make a few comments about your 'Introduction by the Editor' and Ray Rouse's comments.

Many of our old-time hobbies are experiencing growing (old) pains. I read similar editorials in stamp, muscle car and flying publications.

During my 40 year career in the electronics industry, I was heavily involved with recruiting and mentoring. The millennials are a very distinctly different group and I believe that they will be very difficult to attract to some of our old-time hobbies.

They are much less interested in things or ownership. One of my kids does not own a car and has no interest in one. Another problem is many of them have high levels of college debt. How are you going to collect early copper, when any 'extra' money goes to pay off that debt. One thing they are interested in is experiences. They might really enjoy visiting the places where old colonial coins were produced.

Not all hobbies are shrinking - ham radio is growing and so is the Maker movement. Both are group activities (at least the growing parts). The Maker movement is about building things and learning how they work. That could be duplicated with the study of all those die states of early copper. The ham radio success is mostly in the area of public safety and contesting. I'm involved in the

contesting side - it is like a video game, but in real time with real out of control conditions. It can involve travel (there's that experience) and does involve station design and software (Maker involvement).

If this can't be duplicated, the next best choice is to look for folks who have recently retired and are looking for that next thing. They may have 'extra' money available and certainly the time. They may also be looking for new friends as those work friends seem to quickly fade away. We might be able to attract them by placing articles in 'retirement' magazines.

If this doesn't work our fate is going to be that of the muscle car collectors. I was led to sell my half cents from my experiences in the muscle car market. A friend took me to a Mechum auction - a nirvana for a car buff. I was shocked by the prices for top cars (a/k/a The Missouri Cabinet), but underneath that, the bread and butter Corvettes had long ago peaked. While a '67 L88 Stingray would get seven-figure money, 327's often went unsold. Just not enough gray-haired Baby Boomers alive to support the market. Those cars will never bring \$75K.

For me, I'm in Ray Rouse's 'What Now?' I haven't found that coin next collecting area. Until then, I'll enjoy drinking down my wine cellar. Those \$1000 bottles are tasting really fine and I'm enjoying them with friends. Can't ask for more than that.

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## SWAPS AND SALES

EACers are invited to submit their ads for inclusion in this column. Ads up to twelve lines are free. ADS LARGER THAN 12 LINES MUST BE SUBMITTED CAMERA-READY OR AS ELECTRONIC FILES, AND PAID IN ADVANCE. A full-page ad is \$250. One-half page is \$125. Discounts are available for repeating ads. Ads should be limited to early American Coppers or tokens and books related to the same. **Deadline for material to appear in the July 2017 issue is June 30, 2017.** All ads must include the individual membership number of a current member in good standing. Copy should be sent to the Editor, Harry E. Salyards, P.O. Box 1691, Hastings, NE 68902 or by email to [hpsalyar@tcgcs.com](mailto:hpsalyar@tcgcs.com).

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

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\* \* \* \* \*

**John D. Wright, EAC #7** 1468 Timberlane Drive St. Joseph, MI 49085

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A Comprehensive Analysis and Attribution Guide of United States Half Cents

**1794 Half Cent Obverse Attribution**  
Obverse 4 is used on Cohen C4a & b  
Married with Reverse D

**Obv. 4**

- Die lump on edge of Cap
- 2nd & 3rd hair touch below Cap
- Narrow space
- Date evenly spaced, 9 low
- Date distant from edge
- Hair finely engraved
- Five creaser dot in hair
- Wreath's two top leaves touching
- Leaf points above "C"
- Leaf points above "E"
- Wreath touching bust and close to devices
- Wreath bar slanted
- 1" centered under ribbon

**Cohen Obverse 4** \* Attribution points \* Diagnostic points

**LIBERTY'S HEAD**  
\* One creaser dot in hair \*  
\* 2nd and 3rd hair touch below Cap \*  
\* Ribbon and hair \*  
\* Hair is finely engraved \*  
\* Date is slightly low \*  
\* Narrow space between 4 and Liberty's hair \*  
\* Narrow space between 4 and Liberty's hair \*

**LIBERTY'S CAP & POLE**  
\* Die lump on edge of Cap \*  
\* Hair to bust and close to devices \*

**OTHER**  
\* Five creaser dot in hair \*  
\* Wreath's two top leaves touching \*  
\* Leaf points above "C" \*  
\* Leaf points above "E" \*  
\* Wreath touching bust and close to devices \*  
\* Wreath bar slanted \*  
\* 1" centered under ribbon \*

**Half Cent Reverse Attribution 1794**  
Reverse D is used on Cohen C3a&b and C4a&b  
Married with Obverse 3 and 4

**Rev. D**

- Wreath's two top leaves touching
- Leaf points above "C"
- Leaf points above "E"
- Wreath touching bust and close to devices
- Wreath bar slanted
- 1" centered under ribbon

**Cohen Reverse D** \* Attribution points \* Diagnostic points

**LEGEND**  
\* Legend "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" uniform on all varieties \*

**WREATH**  
\* Top tip leaves are touching \*  
\* Left wreath leaf inside half points above "C" \*  
\* Right wreath leaf inside half points above "E" \*  
\* Left wreath has 14 leaves & 6 berries \*  
\* Two leaves below of inside right wreath slanting "C" \*  
\* Two leaves in right wreath above "E" in HALF \*

**RIBBON**  
\* Ribbon ends hold \*  
\* "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" \*  
\* "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" \*  
\* "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" \*

**OTHER**  
\* Die lumps occur at STATES OF \*

**HALF CENT OBTVERSE / REVERSE GUIDE 1794**

**Obv 1** High relief  
**Obv 2** Low relief  
**Obv 3** High relief  
**Obv 4** Low relief  
**Obv 5** High relief

**Rev A** High relief  
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**Rev C** High relief  
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**Legend:**  
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FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2017



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1793 S-4 PCGS AU-50  
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**LOT 6**  
1793 S-14 PCGS XF-45  
LIBERTY CAP  
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REALIZED \$199,750



**LOT 18**  
1796 S-103 PCGS AU-55  
EST. \$22,000  
REALIZED \$51,700



**LOT 21**  
1797 S-120a PCGS AU-58  
EST. \$18,000  
REALIZED \$82,250



**LOT 37**  
1801 S-219 PCGS MS-62 BN  
3 ERRORS  
EST. \$30,000  
REALIZED \$108,687



**LOT 50**  
1804 S-266c PCGS AU-55  
EST. \$45,000  
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**LOT 57**  
1807 S-274 PCGS AU-55  
EST. \$20,000  
REALIZED \$61,687



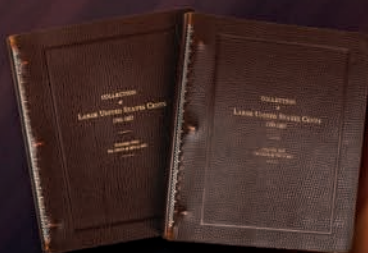
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PCGS MS-65 BN  
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*Among the Finest Known*



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*The Garrett Specimen*



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1837 N-10. Proof-66 RB (PCGS).  
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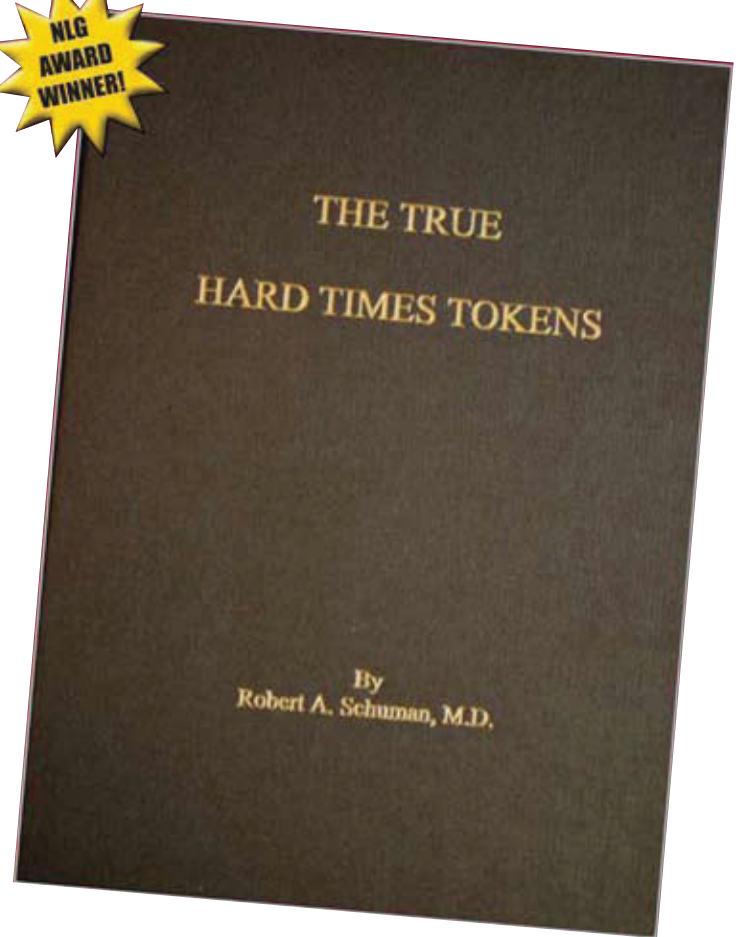


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*Hi, I'm Lucas Baldrige and have recently started working full time with my uncle "The Numismatic Godfather" aka Chris McCawley. You can like our Facebook page under Early Cents and stay up to date on our latest show schedule. You can also view our frequently updated new purchases on our website at earlycents.com. I am excited to be here learning and working towards our future numismatic endeavors.*



**1794 Sheldon 37**

*Ex Arthur Sargent 1910-Samuel H. Chapman (privately)-Howard R. Newcomb, J. C. Morgenthau & Co. 2/7/1945:74-Barney Bluestone-Charles J. DuPont (Anderson DuPont Sale), Stack's 9/24/1954:53-Dorothy I. Paschal 12/1973-Denis Loring 12/1973-Dr. Edward R. Bush 12/1977-Denis Loring 5/7/1983-Jack H. Robinson, Superior 1/29/1989:61-Daniel W. Holmes, Jr. 6/2005-McCawley & Grellman 8 2005-Chuck Heck, McCawley & Grellman/Goldbergs 2/12/2017:273-Walt Husak.*

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