PENNY-WISE

The Official Publication of Early American Coppers, Inc.



Volume LIV Number 4 Octob er 2020 Consecutive Issue #302

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Penny-Wise has been published regularly since September 1967. Its founding editor was Warren A. Lapp (1915-1993). Harry E. Salyards has served as Editor-in-Chief since 1986. Contributing Editors: Denis W. Loring, John D. Wright and William R. Eckberg.

Printed by Advance Graphics and Printing, Chandler, OK

INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR: A CALL FOR SHARING

Harry E. Salyards

It was about the beginning of September, 1664, that I, among the rest of my neighbors, heard, in ordinary discourse, that the Plague was returned again in Holland…particularly at Amsterdam and Rotterdam, in the year 1663, whither they say it was brought, some said from Italy, others from the Levant…It mattered not from whence it came; but all agreed it was come into Holland again. Such things as these were gathered from the letters of merchants and others, who corresponded abroad, and from them were handed about by word of mouth only…but it seems the Government had a true account of it, and several councils were held about ways to prevent its coming over…till at the latter end of November, or the beginning of December, 1664, when two men, said to be Frenchmen, died of the Plague in Long-acre…

Daniel Defoe, *A Journal of the Plague Year*, 1722

Ten months ago, these words conjured up the image of a long-lost world; today, one need only replace the 17th century years with "2019" and "2020" to have the passage read like an account of current events. It has been a challenging year for all of us, in and out of numismatics. EAC 2020 was cancelled, and EAC 2021 is anything but a certainty at this point. And yet, in my experience, it has also been a year that has included a great deal of reaching out to one another. Crisis has fueled camaraderie.

Among a number of personal communications in this issue are the autobiographical sketches of EAC's six appointed officials. These were the idea of EAC President Emily Matuska, and were to serve as a kind of follow up to the similar essays by the candidates for the club's elected offices, as published last January. I found these to be fascinating—*both* the January biosketches *and* those published in the current issue. In a year in which diversity has been widely celebrated, we have an incredible amount of it in this club. We bring a wide range of background *vocations* to this collecting *avocation*, and have traveled very distinctive life routes. Which brings me to a suggestion: That we continue this process in each subsequent issue of *Penny-Wise*—by soliciting similar self-portraits from the general membership.

Think about it. No one need feel intimidated on the grounds of insufficient experience. Whether you've been collecting for six months or sixty years, you have all had a "magic moment," a point in your life where something simply "clicked," and you became a collector. Those stories beg to be shared, especially in a troubled time. They provide us with an opportunity to draw closer together even as the numismatic world we have known seems to be unraveling. I'm quite certain that even the most elite collectors among us have stories of the five- and ten-dollar coins that got them started. In short, we *all* have stories worth sharing.

The Numismatic Bibliomania Society has devoted the last two issues of its journal, *The Asylum*, to member contributions on the evolution of their numismatic libraries. The range of interests was all over the lot, from year sets of the "Redbook," to extensive research libraries. But it "worked"—that is, very different stories blended together to create a detailed portrait of the club as a whole. I believe that EAC deserves a similar "Club Self-Portrait, 2021"—but I need your help to make this happen. How about a couple dozen offerings for the January issue? I look forward to hearing from you!

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

JOHN REICH'S HIRING BY THE MINT

Bill Eckberg

John Reich is a mythic presence in American numismatics; there's even a national club called the John Reich Collectors Society. Walter Breen claimed that "Reich's first assignment as Assistant Engraver, 1807, was to improve the designs of all current denominations – *i.e.*, to replace the unsatisfactory Scot designs[1]." (p. 199) As is often the case, Breen gives no source for this claim, and the designs in place at the time were the Draped Busts. Was the Draped Bust an unsatisfactory design? Was Breen's criticism reasonable? Why was Reich hired by the Mint, what do we know about him, and what do the most contemporary sources, the coins, tell us about what he did there?

This article and the next address these questions. This one examines the circumstances surrounding Reich's employment at the Mint and other information we know about his life and his work before his hiring by the Mint. The next examines the artistry of the early coins from the Philadelphia Mint as a means to try to understand who designed them.

John Reich was born Johann Matthäus Reich in Fürth, Bavaria in 1768, son of Johann Christian Reich, an engraver who apparently taught the craft to his son. He married and fathered a child in 1791. Leaving his wife and child behind, he relocated to the United States in 1800 as a servant indentured to John Brown, silversmith. His indenture was to be for two years beginning August 27, 1800 for 30 (or 20) guineas. In 1801 his indenture was released by "an officer of the Mint" (possibly Henry Voigt), after which he engraved medal dies and seals independently and for the government as an outside contractor. He was hired as Assistant Engraver on April 1, 1807, continuing to engrave medals for the Mint and for himself. He served until March 31, 1817, at which point he resigned, claiming "the extreme weekness [sic] of my eyes, which have already made me refuse all work of this kind and could not execute any more to my satisfaction." After leaving the mint, he briefly had a partnership in a type foundry. Reich was living in Pittsburgh in 1821. Apparently, nothing is known of his life after that year. He reportedly died in either 1832 or 1833; it is uncertain when or where he died, and his grave is unlocated[2].

Reich engraved several medals struck by the U.S. Mint on a contract basis over more than five years before his hiring. They included the Jefferson Inaugural Medal and Indian Peace Medal, among others. He wrote President Jefferson several times requesting employment.

What do we know about Reich's hiring at the Mint? This essay reports the known government correspondence related to Reich's employment[3].

The first documentation of Jefferson learning of Reich as an engraver was a letter from William Duane, a journalist and ardent Jefferson supporter. The relevant section reads:

Philadelphia, May 10. 1801.

Sir,

Mr. W. P. Gardner who will present this letter carries with him a small box containing impressions of two Medals, which I have had by me some time past waiting for an opportunity safe and suitable. Mr. Gardner is a man of great worth in every civil relation and is one of those who was compelled to quit the Treasury Department thro' the injuries done him on account of his political opinions. [He was a supporter of Jefferson against Hamilton.] **He is no ordinary man, and to his private virtues and political integrity I can justify. He is a native of this city.**

The medals of which you will receive copies were engraved by a young man of the name of C. J. Reick, a native of Germany, but a republican, and on that account obliged to fly his native country. It appears that he engraved the Medal of Italicus in secret, and from his own account had an interview with the hero at Rastadt. It seems that in order to come to the United States, he had indented himself, and is now in this city, tho' not in absolute indigence or villainage, is yet circumstanced so as to render his situation irksome to him, as must be supposeable from the merits of his work, and his personal manners.

Hearing of his worth, and knowing what it is to be in a strange land without a knowlege of its language, it occurred to me, that the cap of liberty had been erased from our public coins, and other innovations of a tendency correspondent with the views of certain weak men made during the last administration, and hearing on enquiry that there were public medals to be cut; I thought it a duty in various respects to rescue this man if possible from the unfitness of his

1 Breen, Walter, 1988. *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*. Doubleday, New York

2 Witham, Stewart. 1993. *Johann Matthäus Reich Also known as John Reich*. Privately published.

3 All letters quoted are available from Founders Online (https://founders.archive.gov). Spelling and punctuation as in the originals.

condition, and to make his merits known to you.

As a connoisseur I do not pretend to judge of the Medals, but as a person conversant with analogous branches of the arts, they strike me as of superior character. If on consideration the merits of the artist should be such as to entitle him to your patronage, and there are any services in his profession upon which he could be employed, it would greatly serve the man, and afford me extreme delight to have been the means of rescuing him from his present situation. I advised him to draft a letter to you, which he did in German, of which a translation, tho' very imperfectly done, I think proper to forward herewith. His application is confined to the knowlege of two others and myself. Should there be any commands for him, I shall with great pleasure receive and communicate them to him....

I have the honor to be your sincere & respectful Sert

Wm. Duane

Tuesday noon, the trial on the Indictment at the instigation of the Senate, postponed this instant, to October then to be tried peremptorily!!!

Dr Franklins daughter Mrs. Bache, is now at table, and requests to be particularly remembered to you.

Even then, politics infested everything. Jefferson replied, in part:

Washington May 23. 1801.

Sir

I have duly recieved your favor of the 10th. and shall always be thankful for any information you will favor me with, interesting to our affairs, & particularly which may enable me to understand the differences of opinion & interest which seem to be springing up in Pensva., & to be subjects of uneasiness. if that state splits it will let us down into the abyss. I hope so much from the patriotism of all, that they will make all smaller motives give way to the greater importance of the general welfare.

I now write to mr Boudinot, forwarding the specimens of mr Reich's talents as an engraver, and recommending to him to consider whether he may not be usefully employed for the public. will you be so good as to mention this to Reich & to desire him to present himself to mr Boudinot two or three days after you shall have recieved this.....

I accept with acknolegement mrs Bache's compliments, & beg leave to tender her my sincere respects, & to yourself salutations & my best wishes.

Th: Jefferson

The same day, Jefferson wrote Mint Director Elias Boudinot, in part:

Washington May 23. 1801.

Dear Sir

I recieved from a German of the name of Reich some specimens of engraving & a wish to be employed. he is just arrived & in distress. I send them to you by mr Leslie, that you may judge for yourself whether he may be employed usefully for the public. I have taken the liberty of desiring him to present himself to you. accept assurances of my high consideration & respect.

Boudinot replied, in part:

Mint of the United States 16th. June 1801

Dear Sir

I have been waited on by Mr Reich—and was much pleased with the samples of his work—He has been liberated from his servitude by means of one of the officers of the mint; since which I have set him to work on a particular medal, to be ascertained of his abilities—I am obliged to use great precaution, in regard to employing him in the mint, before I can have good evidence of the integrity of his character—

I have the honor to be with every sentiment of respect Dear Sir Your very obedt & very Hble Servt

Elias Boudinot

On December 29, Henry Voigt, Chief Coiner of the Mint, wrote Jefferson suggesting that Reich engrave a medal commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence as a profit-making venture. That medal became the Jefferson Inaugural medal and was sold with the profits going to Voigt and Reich. It is signed with a monogram *JR* . (Figure 1). Voigt sent Jefferson four of the Inaugural Medals, two of which he gave to his daughter and son-in-law in early 1802. As with the first paragraph of this letter, much of the correspondence between Jefferson and Voigt over the years concerned watches, as Voigt was a watchmaker.

Philada. Febr. 11th 1802

Sir

I found the watch exactly as you described it in the few lines laid in the watch. There is one thing however which I suppose has been done since you delivered the watch to the Gentleman; because if it had been done before, you would certainly have mentioned it;—The Stoper which silences the striking part was broke, and the Enamel of the Dial Plate chipt off in two places. This I thought proper to mention, that

you may not blame me for that Accident. I have repaired the defects, and have no doubt but you will find her go well.

I have according to order sent you the four Medallions from Mr Reich. The price he puts on them is four Dol. each. I have likewise forwarded a quantity to Mr Duane for Sale, both of Silver and white metal, so that if any more be wanting, Mr. Duane will furnish them.

As there is a rumour of the Mint being abolished, in that case, I shall be obliged to go more extensively into the watch business, to procure a living for a large Family—Your Custom, & what you can recommend,



Fiogure 1. Thomas Jefferson inaugural medal, engraved by John Reich. Inset is Reich's JR. monogram from the truncation of Jeffereson's sleeve. (Images courtesy of Stacks-Bowers Galleries.)

will be esteemed a favour by Sir

Your most Obed Humle Sevt

Henry Voigt

The next year, Reich sent Jefferson an unknown Masonic medal and directly requested a job at the Mint, which had been under pressure from Congress to be eliminated.

Philadelphia January 3d. 1803.

May it please Your Excellency!

I beg your Excellencie's pardon for troubling you again. The appearance of a reformed establishment of the mint of the United States induces me to do so; I flatter myself that I possess abilities sufficient to make myself useful in such an establishment. Some Medals of my engraving have been favorably received by the judicious part of the public; I have lately executed another of the masonic kind; but not altogether in that stile respectg. to emblems as are required here; it did not turn out to my advantage; but I hope nevertheless you will permit me to offer to you the homage of the inclosed—

If your Excellency should think proper to make use of my services in the establishment of the Mint which may take place, my endeavours shall not be wanting to discharge with faith to the public and honor to myself the duties incumbent on me.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect

Your Excellency! most obedient humble Servant,

John Reich

Jefferson brushed him off.

Washington Jan. 23. 1803.

Th: Jefferson presents his salutations & thanks to mr Reich for the Masonic medal he was so kind as to send him, and which is another proof of the superior talents of mr Reich in that art. what may be the destinies of the Mint is yet unknown: but he will be very happy to see mr Reich's skill find full emploiment either privately or publicly in the US.

Two years later Reich again implored Jefferson for a job.

Philadelphia February 15th. 1805.

Sir

The necessitous circumstances, wherein I find myself placed induce me to trouble your Excellency with this representation, because I am convinced Your Excellency will thereby perceive, that I might be of some use to the United States. The present engraver to the Mint is a very old and—a very rich man—:

Should he get sick; or what is worse, die; it would not be found easy to find another and more particularly a good engraver; and most certainly the affairs of the mint would experience; if not a dangerous, at least an hurtful impediment and delay in their progress—It would appear very vain in me, if I were to extol my own performances and the knowledge which I have acquired in this business; but this I can nevertheless always prove, that by my style of executing the dyes of the mint, the coin of the Un States would have a more beautiful and more tasty appearance, and by their regularity the machinery would be much less strained and of course not so much injured; and at the same time, many other materials and a great deal of trouble and labour might be saved annually; and moreover the States would be much better secured against false coining, because a piece which unites character, taste and the nicest lines, is not easily counterfit.

I therefore think it a duty incumbent on me, to make this representation to Your Excellency; because I should be loath to leave these States; because if I had not preferred to live in these States, I might have obtained the place of chief engraver in my native country, the dominions of the King of Prussia.

I have lived here in poverty for four years and an half, in hopes to obtain a sustenance and to render myself useful to the United States and I should be very sorry, if I had neglected the opportunity of being appointed in the Royal Prussian dominions for nothing. But nevertheless I flatter myself yet, that my expectations will soon be realized, if Your Excellency as an intelligent judge and great patron of the fine Arts and Sciences will only look upon this representation as a sign of my loyalty and readiness to make myself useful.

I beg leave to tender You the homage of my unbounded veneration—and to subscribe myself

Sir Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble Servant

Jn. Reich.

No. 17t. South Fourth Street.

No reply is recorded.

Probably in 1805, Reich engraved four medals commemorating the Revolutionary War for Joseph Sansom. Figure 2 shows two obverses and their common reverse; the inset is Reich's block JR . (JR dot) monogram. The same monogram also appeared on some other medals Reich produced for the U.S., including the 1812 Isaac Hull naval medal. An identical or nearly identical monogram is found on several medals Reich produced while still in Germany[4]. The Washington medal was advertised at the time for $50 in gold and $5 in silver[5].

Reich again begged Jefferson in May:

Philada: May 22nd. 1805

Sir

Observing, some time since a Resolution of Congress for preserving an evidence of National Respect and of perpetuating the Services of Commodore Preble, I trust that you will pardon the Liberty I have taken of addressing you on the subject.

Your being an admirer of the fine Arts, can justly

4 Scuderi, Louis. 2018. The genesis of Reich's Liberty. *John Reich Journal* **28**, 20-29.

5 *United States Gazette*, Philadelphia, PA. January 7, 1806.



Figure 2. Two of Joseph Sansom's medals designed and engraved by Joseph Reich. Upper, Peace of 1793 obverse and reverse. Lower left, Washington, Comander in Chief of the Army of the United States obverse. Lower right, Reich's block JR . monogram as found on the truncations of Washington's sleeves on both. (Images courtesy of Stacks-Bowers Galleries.)

appreciate and pardon the anxiety with which I Solicit the honor of executing the Medal, and did I not feel the most perfect confidence in my ability to give Satisfaction in executing the performance, I would not intrude myself on your notice. Well aware that an undertaking which Shall at once express eminent services, national esteem, and the perfection of Art, is Singularly arduous, and notwithstanding the high responsibility attached to the undertaking, and acutely feeling every insinuation that can be made or sentiment advanced by persons of various descriptions, when an artist Speaks of his Art or his execution, I cannot resist the inclination I have to be employed in these Services.

I am fully Sensible that this is not the Language generally used by applicants, but the very limited opportunities that this city affords for the exercise of my profession renders it improper for me to rely on particular recommendation or general celebrity.

I wish Sir, most Sincerely that it was possible to convey to you my feeling on this Subject and to convince you that in making the request, emolument is but a Secondary consideration—your attention will, believe me, confer a lasting obligation on

Sir Your very humble Servt.

Jno Reich

No 17h South Fourth St

No reply is recorded.

Reich wrote again eleven months later. The letter is interesting for his claims to have been not "justly treated," in the context of the $600 *per annum* salary Reich later agreed to for his employment at the Mint and for the claim that it took him "seven months unremitted labour" to create one medal:

The Preble medal Reich references is shown in Figure 3. Preble led the U.S. Navy's war with Tripoli in 1803-5, He developed the officer corps and established many of the rules and regulations used by the Navy thereafter. Reich's signature monogram is simplified from that on the Jefferson inaugural medal.

Philada. April 28. 1806—

Sir

It is with great reluctance that I have been induced to trouble you upon any business which merely concerns myself, but as I conceive that I have not been justly treated I have taken the liberty of intruding a few moments on your time and of appealing to your candour—

When the Congress of the United States voted a Medal to be presented by you to Commodore Preble for his gallantry and good Conduct in the Tripolitan War, I was applied to by the Navy agent here to undertake the execution of the work. After Seven months unremitted labour and attention the dies were completed and the engraving finished in a Style which I apprehend has given universal Satisfaction and which will I flatter myself do credit to the State of the arts in America. I had hoped that as I was instructed to spare neither time, expense or pains, that I Should have received Some adequate compensation. How great then was my Surprise at being told when my bill was presented, that a charge of Eight-hundred and fifty dollars for Seven months labour was "extravagantly high." I confess that I was



Figure 3. Reich's medal honoring Commodore Edward Preble, Master of the ship Constitution for his service at Tripoli. Reich used a slightly different ℛ. monogram from that on the Jeffereson medal. (Images courtesy of Stacks-Bowers Galleries.)

not prepared for Such an observation nor for another that "it looked like imposition." Of my talents as an artist you may be enabled to form a judgment from the work in question; and you will decide whether they are overrated in a charge of about Four dollars a day for their employment. I trust I shall be pardoned for feeling indignant on this occasion; but I had no expectation of my being put upon a footing of common bargain or having it rated by a comparison with the inferior work of artists in other branches of engraving, or even with my own for other purposes. I have written more in detail to the Secretary of the Navy on this subject; and the reason of my troubling you is that there is no artist in the U … regularly educated to the branch of business I profess, there can be none who can be a competent judge of the merits of such work. Knowing Sir, the opportunities which you have had of examining Similar productions of art I have been induced to appeal to you as the only person on whose judgment I can rely. Confiding that after having examined the medal, you will decide with justice regarding its merit, I shall rest Satisfied with your decision whatever it may be. You will permit me Sir, to ask the favor of an answer to this application.

I am Sir with Sentiments of the highest re … Your most obedient Servant

Jn. Reich

N 23. South Sixth

Reich was nothing if not persistent!

Jefferson's lengthy and rather angry response, dated June 27, noted "**the artists I employed in Paris were 1. Duvivier, the king's engraver, enjoying the general reputation of being the first in France. 2. Dupré, a rising genius of great reputation, & even preferred to Duvivier by some amateurs. 3. Gateau, a man of eminence, but not equal to the others.**" He listed their fees and told Reich he would not pay more than he paid Duvivier. He offered the dollar equivalent, $685.71 and considered it "**a liberality.**" He closed with this admonition: "**I shall regret extremely if the satisfaction I have recieved from the execution of the work should be diminished by your continuing to be of opinion that you have not recieved justice.**" This is about as close to a direct threat as early 19th century politesse would allow.

Things changed the next year. Correspondence between Robert Patterson, Mint Director and President Jefferson that is related to Reich's hiring has been published in excerpt. Unfortunately, publication in excerpt allows the author of the article, whether intentionally or not, to paint a picture that does not necessarily comport with the whole truth. The correspondence below is quoted in full except as indicated.

Patterson approached Jefferson in early spring:

Mint of the U.S. March 25th. 1807

Sir

The prospect of full employment at the mint still continues, and is likely to increase. It is probable that in the course of the present year we shall strike to the amount of not less than a million of dollars.

Our present Engraver, Mr. Scott, though indeed a meritorious and faithful officer, is yet so far advanced in life, being I believe upwards of seventy, that he cannot be expected very long to continue his labours;—and in the event of his sickness or death, the business of mint would probably be stopped for some time: since few, if any one, could be found qualified to supply his place, except Mr. Reich, an artist with whom talents I presume, you are not unacquainted; and this gentleman, not finding business here sufficient for his support, is, I understand, about to remove to Europe. A small salary would, however retain him in the country, and secure his services to the mint—and, in truth, the beauty of our coins would be greatly improved by the assistance of his masterly hand.

An assistant Engraver was formerly employed in the mint, both by Mr. Rittenhouse and by Mr. Dessasure, and with your approbation, Sir, I would immediately employ Mr. Reich in that capacity.

He is willing for the present to accept of the moderate compensation of six hundred dollars per annum; and if this gentleman should be employed, perhaps more than his salary would be saved to the publick, in what is usually expended on the engraving of dies for medals; but which might then be executed by an artist in their own service, with little or no additional expence

I am, Sir, with perfect respect & esteem your most obedient servant

R. Patterson

The concern over Scot's age and the threat of Reich to return to Germany in Patterson's second paragraph are overblown and remarkably similar to the words Reich had used two years earlier, in February, 1805. All of that suggests both that Reich had, himself, contacted Patterson and that he was, perhaps, not in as great a rush to return to his old life as he claimed, as he was still looking for the same job at the Mint nearly two years later. The reader may recall that he had left a wife and child behind when he came to the U.S.

According to Breen[1], "Opposition from Robert Scot (who must have regarded him as a threat to his own job) prevented the Mint from hiring him except for occasional odd temporary assignments. But in 1807, Scot's health (for which read failing eyesight) was a source of serious concern to officialdom." (p. 380)

Wow! To quote Mark Twain from another context: "such wholesale returns of conjecture out of such a trifling investment of fact." Nowhere in Patterson's letter does it say any aspect of Scot's health is a concern other than his age, which Patterson either did not know or exaggerated by nine plus years. Scot was 61 at the time, not "upwards of seventy." His eyesight and health remained good enough that he continued as Chief Engraver for another seventeen years, including seven after Reich left. Patterson specifically discusses the savings on the engraving of dies for medals, for which the government had been paying Reich as a contractor. Remember that he billed the government $850 and received $685.71 for a single medal! Indeed, if we read the Patterson letter rather than later interpretations of it, it is obvious that Patterson wanted to hire Reich primarily to save money making medals and exaggerated the need to get Jefferson's permission to hire a man the President had *repeatedly declined to promote* over six years.

Jefferson relented, saying it was up to Patterson:

Washington Mar. 29. 07.

Dear Sir

I have duly recieved your letter of the 25th. proposing the appointment of an Assistant engraver to the mint at a salary of 600. D. and that mr Reich should be the assistant. you are so exclusively competent to decide on the want of such an officer, that I approve the proposition on the faith of your opinion. with respect to the person to be appointed, my knolege of the superior talents of mr Reich concurs with your recommendation in the propriety of appointing him.

I should approve of your employing the mint on small silver coins, rather then on Dollars, & gold coins, as far as the consent of those who employ it can be obtained. it would be much more valuable to the public to be supplied with abundance of dimes & half dimes which would stay among us, than with dollars & eagles which leave us immediately. indeed I wish the law authorised the making two cent & three cent pieces of silver, and golden dollars, which would all be large enough to handle, & would be a great convenience to our own citizens. Accept my affectionate salutations

Th: Jefferson

Patterson replied to Jefferson's letter.

Mint of U. States April 3. 1807.

Sir

With your approbation, I have employed Mr. John Reich as an Assistant Engraver in the Mint, at the annual salary of 600 dolls. He has covenanted "to execute any work, in the line of his profession, that may be required of him, either by the director or chief engraver, whether for the immediate use of the mint, or for that of the U. States, when ordered by any special resolution or act of Congress, for that purpose, or by the President: provided, that in the execution of any such work, no extraordinary hours of labour or attendance be required, without an adequate compensation therefor". So that if any seals should be wanted for the public offices, or dies for the striking of Indian or other medals, they can now be executed in the best stile, at the mint, without any extra expence to government.

Mr. Reich is now preparing a set of new dies, in which some improvements in the devices will be introduced (adhering, however, strictly to the letter of the law) which it is hoped will meet with public approbation.

With respect, Sir, to small coins, the practice of the mint has been, and still continues to be, in strict conformity with your wishes and instructions—No Eagles nor dollars have been struck during the last two years. Quarter dollars, dimes, and half-dimes are struck whenever desired by the depositors, or not particularly objected to.

But, in truth nearly the whole of our silver bullion (chiefly Spanish dollars) come through the Banks; and it is very seldom that they will consent to take any coin less than half-dollars. Small Spanish silver coins are extremely plenty, I believe in most of commercial towns; and as its nominal, and circulating value is far above its real, intrinsic value, it will neither be sent to the mint, used in manufactures, nor carried out of the country; but, indeed, is daily increasing by importation. Small Coins of the UStates will, therefore, be less necessary for the sake of change, while foreign small silver continues to be a circulating medium

We lately struck, at the mint, nearly a quarter of a million of silver dimes: it is, however, with the utmost difficulty that we can prevail on any of the Banks to accept of them; and, in fact, nearly half the number still remains in our vaults!

I have the honour to be Sir, with sentiments of the

most profound respect & esteem your Obedt. Servant

R Patterson

Snowden[6] quoted the just second paragraph of this letter in 1860, thereby suggesting that Reich began immediately to redesign coins. Numerous authors have repeated the quote and Snowden's conclusion, but that is merely an interpretation, and one that is not supported by the context of the letter. The "set of new dies" clearly refers to seal and/or medal dies when read in the context of the previous paragraph.

The subsequent paragraphs, which *do* refer to coinage, form a reply to the second paragraph of Jefferson's March 29 letter that referred to Jefferson's desire that more small denomination silver coins be produced. It had nothing at all to do with Reich's hiring or any job responsibilities that Reich might have at the Mint.

Patterson's April 3 letter to Jefferson thus provides evidence that Reich would design medals and seals for the government, but says nothing about him designing any coins. The mythology about Reich apparently grew out of Snowden's out-of-context quote from Patterson's letter.

How did the Mint officers feel about Reich after his resignation? In 1821 Reich, then living in Pittsburgh, requested a recommendation from Director Patterson. The final response has not been located, but a draft reads: "in compliance with your request you, Johann Matthäus Reich, were employed at the Mint 4-1-1807 and occupied as a die sinker engraver until 31 March 1817 when you voluntarily resigned this employment[2]." That's not the kind of recommendation one gives to a respected and successful former employee. Reich supposedly brought greatly needed artistry to the Mint's products, but Patterson had not the slightest praise for him. There is nothing explaining this response, but Patterson, who had hired him and had first-hand knowledge of his work, had nothing good to say about Reich's work as an engraver at the Mint. We can conclude from this that if Reich designed any coins for the Mint, the Director wasn't very impressed with them.

Why does the notion of Reich as the designer of everything persist? At least some of the reason has to go to the vitriol Walter Breen expressed for Robert Scot[1]. A couple more quotes are worthy of mention. "Probably because he knew he was out of his depth and feared displacement by a competitor, Scot was reluctant to tolerate the continued presence of an assistant (despite having become wealthy through his bank-note work)." (p. 169) Wow. Breen could read the mind of a man who had been dead for 170 years. And somehow, the fact that Scot had success outside of the Mint was taken to mean he feared competition at the Mint. Really?

Breen also wrote that in or after 1801, "Chief Coiner Henry Voigt…put [Reich] to work on a variety of capacities, but – presumably from Scot's opposition – never allowed him to design coins." (p. 169) Probably and presumably seem to be Breen's operative words, but he never produces any evidence to support his probabilities and presumptions – evidently because there was none to produce. Without supporting evidence, they are merely speculations. And, of course, Breen seems to miss the fact that after 1793 Voigt had no responsibility for coinage design. Reich did not report to Voigt. He was Scot's assistant, and as such, his job was to do what Scot told him to do. Breen's speculations are irrelevant.

There's one more thing. Reich resigned in 1817, according to Breen, "after 10 years of adverse criticism and no pay increases." (p. 380) Pure speculation; the evidence says otherwise. Reich did not resign because he had never gotten a raise. Rather, he resigned after his Stephen Decatur medal design was rejected, writing about "the extreme weekness [sic] of my eyes[2]." He left because at age 59 he was no longer capable of doing his job.

Finally, is there any evidence that Scot opposed Reich's employment? I have located none. Nor are there any letters, other than the one to Boudinot in 1801, from Jefferson to Mint Directors concerning Reich until Patterson brought the matter up in 1807. If Jefferson thought hiring Reich was worthwhile, he would at least have consulted the Mint Directors over the years, but he did not. Thus, any opposition to Reich's appointment would seem to result from President Jefferson's indifference, not Chief Engraver Scot's fear of competition.

In the followoing article, I will address stylistic and artistic issues of the coins and other work attributed to Reich and Scot to see if it is possible to ascertain which of them designed which coins.

6 Snowden, H. Ross. 1860. *A Description of Ancient and Modern Coins, in the Cabinet Collection at the Mint of the United States.* Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia. p 103 ff.

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JOHN REICH, COIN DESIGNER?

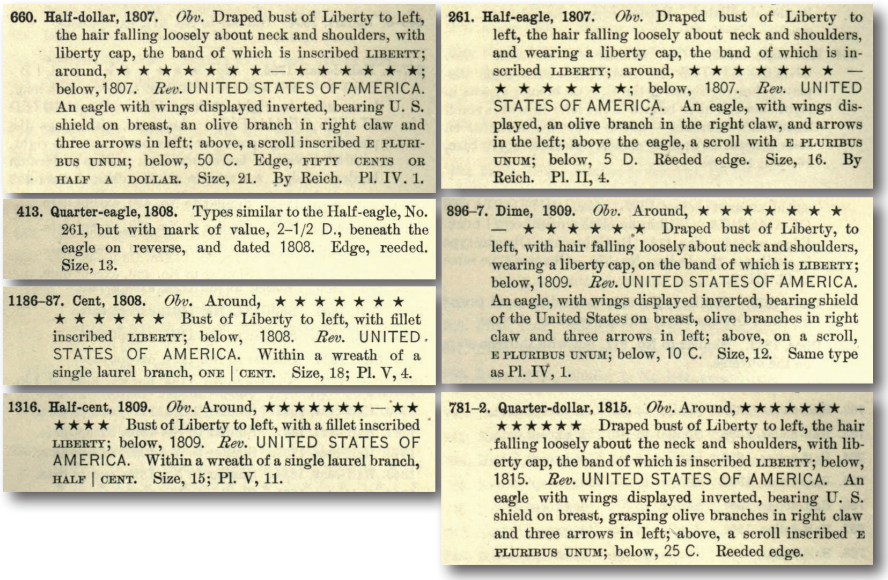
Bill Eckberg

Recent researchers have been attempting to bring a stronger element of proof to numismatic research. Sometimes, proof is clear and obvious, even for something surprising. Despite many authors telling us otherwise for many decades, the Wreath cent and 1793 half cent obverses were created from hubs[1], and the hub that created the half cent had previously been used for the 1792 disme pattern[2]. Other times the evidence is less clear but still compelling. While it is technically impossible to prove a negative, I have provided very strong evidence that Joseph Wright never engraved any U.S. coinage dies[3,4].

Here, I investigate John Reich's possible contributions to the engraving of U.S. coins. Numismatic conventional wisdom has it that Reich redesigned all or nearly all of the coinage denominations struck during his tenure at the Mint, 1807-1817. However, that notion has evolved over the years, and there appears to be no primary source documentation for it. In the preceding article, I addressed the question of Reich's job at the Mint from the point of view of the correspondence related to his hiring[5]. This essay investigates the physical evidence of his and Robert Scot's production to ask whether we can assign various designs to one or the other with any certainty.

Walter Breen claimed that "Reich's first assignment as Assistant Engraver, 1807, was to improve the designs of all current denominations – *i.e.*, to replace the unsatisfactory Scot designs[6]." (p. 199) As was often the case, Breen gave no source for this claim. If we think about it, it immediately seems questionable. Scot's "unsatisfactory" designs at the time were the Draped Busts. Many find them among the most attractive U.S. coinage designs ever. Second, who made this "first assignment?" Reich worked for Robert Scot, Chief Engraver. Would Scot put his assistant to work "improving" his own designs? More importantly, as we will see, Robert Scot's work exhibited great artistry and skill. He was a far better artist/engraver than Breen gave him credit for.

The notion that Reich engraved the half dollar, half eagle and cent apparently originated with J. R. Snowden[7], quoting in part from a now lost letter from Mint Director Patterson to President Jefferson. Snowden, like Breen, did not give any evidence behind his conclusions. Figure 1 shows Mint Collection Curator T.L. Comparette's[8] descriptions of the new designs; the half dollar and half eagle are the only ones he attributed to Reich. However, many subsequent authors (Taxay[9], Breen[6], Witham[10], *etc.*) claimed that Reich also redesigned the 1808 quarter eagle, 1809 half cent and dime, and (possibly) 1815



660. **Half-dollar, 1807.** *Obv.* Draped bust of Liberty to left, the hair falling loosely about neck and shoulders, with liberty cap, the band of which is inscribed LIBERTY; around, ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ — ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★; below, 1807. *Rev.* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. An eagle with wings displayed inverted, bearing U. S. shield on breast, an olive branch in right claw and three arrows in left; above, a scroll inscribed E PLURIBUS UNUM; below, 50 C. Edge, FIFTY CENTS OR HALF A DOLLAR. Size, 21. By Reich. Pl. IV. 1.

261. **Half-eagle, 1807.** *Obv.* Draped bust of Liberty to left, the hair falling loosely about neck and shoulders, and wearing a liberty cap, the band of which is inscribed LIBERTY; around, ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ — ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★; below, 1807. *Rev.* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. An eagle, with wings displayed, an olive branch in the right claw, and arrows in the left; above the eagle, a scroll with E PLURIBUS UNUM; below, 5 D. Reeded edge. Size, 16. By Reich. Pl. II, 4.

413. **Quarter-eagle, 1808.** Types similar to the Half-eagle, No. 261, but with mark of value, 2-1/2 D., beneath the eagle on reverse, and dated 1808. Edge, reeded. Size, 13.

896–7. **Dime, 1809.** *Obv.* Around, ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ — ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Draped bust of Liberty, to left, with hair falling loosely about neck and shoulders, wearing a liberty cap, on the band of which is LIBERTY; below, 1809. *Rev.* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. An eagle, with wings displayed inverted, bearing shield of the United States on breast, olive branches in right claw and three arrows in left; above, on a scroll, E PLURIBUS UNUM; below, 10 C. Size, 12. Same type as Pl. IV, 1.

1186–87. **Cent, 1808.** *Obv.* Around, ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Bust of Liberty to left, with fillet inscribed LIBERTY; below, 1808. *Rev.* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Within a wreath of a single laurel branch, ONE | CENT. Size, 18; Pl. V, 4.

1316. **Half-cent, 1809.** *Obv.* Around, ★★★★★★★ — ★★ ★★★★ Bust of Liberty to left, with a fillet inscribed LIBERTY; below, 1809. *Rev.* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Within a wreath of a single laurel branch, HALF | CENT. Size, 15; Pl. V, 11.

781–2. **Quarter-dollar, 1815.** *Obv.* Around, ★★★★★★★ – ★★★★★★ Draped bust of Liberty to left, the hair falling loosely about the neck and shoulders, with liberty cap, the band of which is inscribed LIBERTY; below, 1815. *Rev.* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. An eagle with wings displayed inverted, bearing U. S. shield on breast, grasping olive branches in right claw and three arrows in left; above, a scroll inscribed E PLURIBUS UNUM; below, 25 C. Reeded edge.

Figure 1. T. L. Comparette's descriptions of the coinage designs struck during John Reich's time at the Mint.

1 Eckberg, Bill. 2017a. Hubbed 1793 obverse dies. *Penny-Wise*. **LI**, 65-68.

2 Eckberg, William R. 2017b. Hubbing dies in the earliest days of the United States Mint. *The Numismatist* **130** (June) 52-54.

3 Eckberg, Bill. 2017c. Did Joseph Wright engrave the cent Head of '93? *Penny-Wise* **LI**, 208-211.

4 Eckberg, William. 2019. The tragic tale of Joseph Wright. *The Numismatist* **132** (February) 41-46.

5 Eckberg, Bill 2020. John Reich's hiring by the mint. *Penny-Wise* **LIV,** 180-187**.**

6 Breen, Walter, 1988. *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*. Doubleday, New York

7 Snowden, J. Ross. 1860. *A Description of Ancient and Modern Coins, in the Cabinet Collection at the Mint of the United States*. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

8 Comparette, Thomas L. 1912.*Catalog of Coins, Tokens and Medals in the Numismatic Collection of the Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, PA.* Government Printing Office, Washington, DC.

9 Taxay, Don. 1966. *The U.S. Mint and Coinage. An Illustrated History From 1776 to the Present.* Arco, New York.

10 Witham, Stewart. 1993. *Johann Matthäus Reich Also known as John Reich*. Privately published.

quarter dollar. What is the evidence for any of this?

Scot was the Chief Engraver, so, unless there is evidence to the contrary, we must expect that ***he*** *designed the coins, and our investigation has to have a goal of testing that hypothesis.* Since we have no documentation to prove Scot or Reich designed the coins beginning in 1807, is there physical evidence to support either one?

Reich's signatures?

Many believe that a notched star 13 (Figure 2, red arrows) is Reich's "signature" as designer of the Capped Bust half dollar (a), half eagle (b) and quarter eagle (not shown) . It does not appear on the cent (c) or half cent (d), nor does it appear on the dime or quarter. Witham wrote in some detail about the positions of what he called the "scallops[11]." He wrote that "[t]his strange characteristic seems to follow the career and the coin designs that are

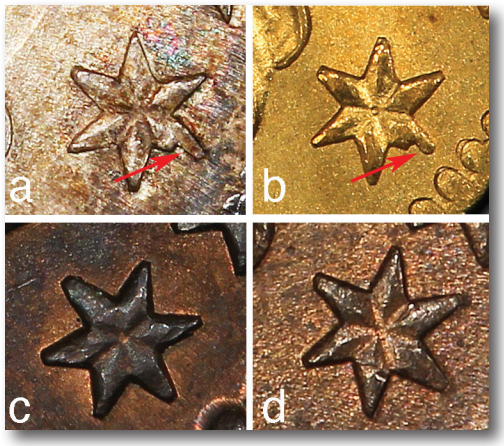


Figure 2. A notch on star #13 has been suggested to be a signature of John Reich. It can be seen on the a, Capped Bust half dollar, and b, half eagle, but not on the c, Classic Head cent, or d, half cent.

attributed to John Reich" and "they appear on the 13th star on every Bust Left Half Dollar from 1807 through 1815 and even to the 1817/14 Overton 1 and 2 and into the large 8 1818/17 BlA and BlJ." Among Witham's statements we find "Reich was the designer because it appeared on his designs only and disappeared when he did." Unfortunately, this logic *assumes* that Reich was the designer, so it can't be used as evidence that he was; the logic is circular. Thus the notches are by no means proof of Reich as the *designer*. *If* he created them, for which there is no real evidence, they point to him only as the *die sinker*.

Witham also concluded, erroneously, that "all 13 stars were on one punch. If it were not so – if each star was punched one at a time – the punch with the "scallop' would have shown up in some other position *i.e.* as the 5th star or the 12th." Actually, the stars ***were*** punched individually, as their relative positions vary substantially (data not shown). The fact that it is always the 13th star that has the scallop and that it almost always faces the dentil merely tells us that that particular punch was specifically selected for the 13th star's position. Again, Reich's "signature," if that is what it is, is less indicative of him being the designer than the die sinker.

Of possibly greater significance, there are what are purported to be other Reich signatures. A stylized *JM* is found on 1815 quarter dollars. A supposed script J[12] is found on the 1807 and later half dollars and half eagles, the 1808 quarter eagles and the 1809 and later dimes. It actually looks much more like an old fashioned script Q (*Q*) or even the number 2 (Figure 3); the figures aren't exactly alike on the different denominations.

These would be more convincing as a designer's signature than the notched star, except for one problem. The *Q* monogram is incuse in the coin, so it was not in the master die; it was cut by hand into the hubs created from the master die. In other words, it was not part of the original design. Like the notched star, if it's intended as a signature, it could be evidence for Reich as the die sinker, but it tells us nothing about the designer. Additionally, why would he use only his first and/or first and middle initials?

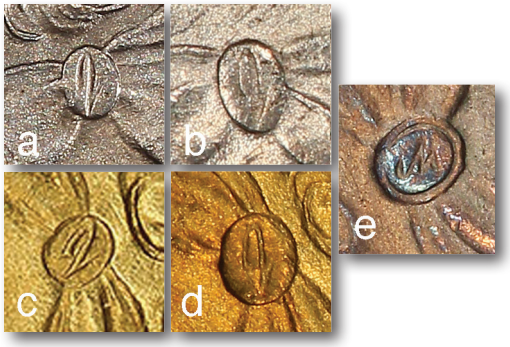


Figure 3. "Signatures" atttributed to John Reich. a, *J* on the Capped Bust half dollar, b, dime, c, half eagle, and d, quarter eagle. e, *JM* on the quarter dollar.

Neither was a monogram Reich had ever used before, though the JR . monogram he used on some medals in 1805 (Figure 4c) also appears on medals he engraved in Germany[6]. The monograms he used on other American medals were either *R* . or *JR* . (Figure 4a, b). A *Q* monogram would be inconsistent with his signatures on previous designs.

Also, in the early days of the Mint, it was not the prac-

11 Witham, Stewart P. 1967. John Reich's "scallops." *Numismatic Scrapbook*. **33**, 1934-1935.

12 Scuderi, Louis. 2020. Johann Matthäus Reich's characteristic engraving "fingerprints." *John Reich Journal* **30**, 10-18.



Figure 4. Monograms Reich used on medals produced at the U.S. Mint. a, JR . on the Jefferson inaugural medal; b, R . on the Commodore Preble naval medal; c, block JR . used on the Sansom medals and a number of medals engraved in Germany.

tice for designers to sign dies, which also argues against the notion that either of these "signatures" indicates that Reich designed the coins.

Dentil counts?

James Ross studied dentil counts on all types that have been attributed to Reich to try to determine whether the dies were products of Scot or Reich[13]. This very exhaustive and detailed study does not, of course, address who the designers of the coins may have been. It might address who the die sinkers may have been, but only if a particular dentil count could be associated to one engraver to the exclusion of the other.

I believe his findings can be briefly summarized as follows. 1809-10 half cent obverse and reverse dentil counts are consistent. The obverse dentil counts of 1811 were much lower; the reverse dentil counts somewhat so. Cent obverse dentil counts were quite variable through 1811, decreasing through 1812, holding steady through 1816 and then increasing slightly beginning in 1817; reverse counts were consistent through early 1813, other than two 1808 and the 1809 dies which had far more dentils. The counts dropped precipitously in 1814 and stayed constant through 1817. Half dollar dentil counts were high through 1805, decreased gradually through 1808 and more gradually through 1810, decreased again in 1812 and again in 1813, finally increasing slightly in 1817. Half eagles and dimes are difficult to use to see trends; their dentil counts vary substantially and inconsistently during the period when Reich was at the Mint.

I think the simplest interpretation of these findings is that gang punches with 3-4 (or more?) dentils were used. The sizes of the dentils in the gang punch and slight differences in the exact position relative to the center of the die in which it was punched would cause the number of dentils to vary. In any case, these, too, would be correlated to the die sinker, not to the designer. I think it is reasonable to suggest that both Reich and Scot sank dies.

All we can conclude from Ross' study is that multiple new gang punches were introduced for the obverses and reverses during the time Reich was at the Mint. In general, these new punches had larger dentils, so there came to be fewer on each coin. There is, however, no evidence that any particular dentil count is associated with either man.

The artistry of the coins

What can we tell from the engraving of the obverses? One approach is to compare the designs directly. It is important to keep in mind that the Mint did not have any technonolgy that would mechanically copy a design between denominations during the Scot/Reich era, so every master die had to be laboriously and meticulously hand engraved. Close correspondence of designs on different denominations was the result of skilled artistry.

Figure 5 shows overlays of Scot's designs in different denominations before Reich was hired. Figure 5a shows a 1794 dollar overlaid by a 1794 half dime. The half dime head is relatively larger in the space of the coin than is that of the dollar, so the half dime appears much larger than it actually is. Remarkably, for coins so different in size, the profiles are identical from the hairline at the forehead, nearly to the base of the neck. The noses, eyes, lips, chins and throats are identical. Even the ears are in the exact same places. Scot very obviously used the same template to engrave both denominations, changing only the scale.

Figure 5b shows the 1795 dollar overlaid by the 1796 half dime. Here, the likenesses are even greater. Not only are the faces the same, but so are the busts and nearly all of the hair. Despite the very large difference in sizes of the two coins, the major differences are that Liberty on the dollar features a slightly stronger chin and marginally less shoulder.

Figure 5c shows an 1802 cent overlaid by an 1804 half cent. Once again, the correspondence is nearly exact despite the coins' different sizes.

Figure 5d shows an overlay of the quarter eagle and eagle. Once again, the correspondence is excellent between coins of different sizes.

It is very clear that, though the overlaid designs are not identical, they are extremely close, and Scot must have done them with great care from the same drawing by changing the scale, a common convention used by artists back into antiquity. It is especially striking that the dollar and 5¢ pieces are so similar, given that the dollar has about 5.8 times the half dime's surface area.

This shows the level of great care and professionalism that Scot brought to his work at the Mint. Scot's vilifica-

13 Ross, James. 2018. The dentils of Robert Scot and John Reich. *John Reich Journal*. **28**, 3-19.



Figure 5. Overlays of a, Scot's 1794 dollar and half dime. b, Scot's Draped Bust dollar and half dime. c, Scot's Draped Bust cent and half cent. d, Scot's Draped Bust quarter eagle and eagle.

tion by Breen has no basis in fact. Rather, we find him to have been a highly skilled artist who created beautiful coin designs and was able to carry them over on multiple denomination coins of very different sizes.

However, all denominations were not done from the same drawing. Although Scot took extreme care to make Liberty's profile as consistent as possible in denominations struck from the same metal, overlay of the Draped Bust dollar and cent (Figure 6) shows that the face profiles match, but Liberty on the copper coin has a much larger head, higher eye, longer neck and lower bust. Thus, the designs for silver and copper coins were noticeably different, other than the profiles of the faces. His gold coin designs are obviously different from the silver and copper designs. Scot's intention was obviously to make the copper and silver denominations distinct, though based on a common motif. Despite Breen's claims, there was no need to "improve" his designs.

We also compare Scot's Flowing Hair to his Draped Bust dollar designs (Figure 7). By doing so, we can see to what extent his Draped Bust design built on his previous work. When we align the chins and mouths, the sizes of the heads are very similar, but the noses, eyes, foreheads, throats, busts and hair are all in very different positions and orientations. When Scot created his Draped Bust motif, he started his new design from scratch without direct reference to his Flowing Hair motif. We can only speculate about why this is the case. Perhaps either he or Director DeSaussure did not care for the Flowing Hair motif, or perhaps Scot just decided he could do better after a year's experience at coinage die production..

Now, we compare the designs from after Reich's hir-



Figure 6. Overlay of Scot's Draped Bust dollar and cent. Though they are similar, the cent design was not copied from that of the dollar.



Figure 7. Overlay of Scot's 1794 Flowing Hair and 1795 Draped Bust dollars. It is clear that the designs are completely separate and that Scot did not use the 1794 dollar as a template or model to create the 1795 Draped Bust.



Figure 8. a, overlay of Classic Head cent and half cent. b, Overlay of 1807 and 1809 Capped Bust half dollar. c, overlay of Capped Bust quarter dollar and half dollar. d, overlay of Capped Bust dime and quarter dollar.

ing. The general finding is that the copper, silver and gold types of the 1807-1817 era are as consistent as those of the earlier Scot era.

Figure 8a shows an 1808 cent overlaid with an 1809 half cent. The differences are minimal. There are minor variations in the lower hair, the half cent has a slightly longer bust, and LIBERTY on the cent is in letters that are not of equal size, unlike the half cent. To the best of my knowledge, this slight diminution in the size of the letters as one reads from L to Y has not been noted before. The copper coins were from a common design.

Figure 8b shows 1807 and 1809 halves. (The bust was modified in 1809.) The earlier version has a higher cap and a larger bust. Otherwise, the latter is very much like the former. The main difference between the two is in the hair at the back of the neck and shoulder.

Figure 8c is an overlay of the 1815 quarter and half dollar. Here the correspondence is probably as close as is humanly possible for a skilled engraver cutting master dies of different sizes by hand. The few differences are completely insignificant.

Even the dime, with its very different cap and bustline, shows near perfect alignment of its face with that of the quarter (Figure 8d). The dime, however, has a much larger cap, and the ear is farther back, consistent with the larger head. In addition, the neck is very short and the bust higher, but again, the correspondence is far too great to be anything but intentional.

This brings us to the gold coins, where we find the same consistency. Figure 9a shows the 1809 half eagle and 1808 quarter eagle. The faces are almost exactly the same. LIBERTY on the headband is slightly higher on the quarter eagle, and, as for the other series, the hair at the back and shoulder is less consistent between the two, but these differences are minor.

Figure 9b shows the half dollar and half eagle. The gold coin has a much larger cap, a longer neck and a smaller bust, but once again, the faces and most other elements are extremely similar.

A new design with a much larger head was introduced in 1813. Superficially, it looks very different from the 1807-1812 design, but if we overlay the busts and adjust the sizes of the heads to be the same (Figure 10), we see that the faces are identical from the base of the necks to



Figure 9. Oveerlays of Capped Bust a, quarter eagle and half eagle. b. half eagle and half dollar.



Figure 10. Overlay of the half eagles designs of 1807-1812 and 1813-1829. While the heads are of very different sizes, as are the busts and caps, the faces are virtually identical, indicating a common origin for the designs.



Figure 11. Overlay of 1813 and 1818 Capped Bust half eagles. They are obviously from the same hub.

the foreheads, with the exception of the positions of the ears. Clearly, these different types were developed from a common design.

Breen inexplicably attributes the 1813-1815 half eagles to Reich and those of 1818-1829 to Scot. Breen refers to the 1818 and later coins as from "Scot's crude copy of the Reich device punch." (p. 521) Overlays (Figure 11) clearly show that both series were produced from the same exact hub/device punch; therefore, they had the same designer.

All pairs are quite obviously developed from the same drawings; the half and quarter dollars are virtually identical. It is particularly obvious that the engraver(s) strove to make the profiles of Liberty's faces as consistent as possible. What differences there are seem to be in the hair curls and the bust; the engraver used much more freedom in engraving Liberty's hair curls. As with Scot's earlier designs, the similarities in the profiles are quite remarkable, especially considering that each master die had to be separately engraved by hand.

These findings strongly support the idea that the same designer created all of the post 1807 designs, and that the approach was the same as the one Scot used for the Draped Busts, but they do not tell us who the designer was.

Now, we compare the earlier Scot designs to those produced after Reich's hiring by the Mint. If the designs are by different hands, we would expect little or no direct correspondence, though that would still not prove anything, because Scot's Draped Bust design is so different from his earlier Flowing Hair design as shown in Figure 7.

First, we compare the Capped Bust half to the Draped Bust half. Perhaps surprisingly, the differences are relatively minor. The obvious first difference is that the Draped Bust is slightly smaller than the Capped Bust, which is why the Capped Bust had to be shrunk in the overlay. The second is that the Draped Bust faces right and slightly up and the Capped Bust faces left and straight ahead. However, we can easily flip the Capped Bust image horizontally so both face the same way (and the Capped Bust faces as it would in the die) and resize one image so the two heads are about the same size. Such an overlay is shown in Figure 12a. Remarkably, they are virtually identical from the base of the nose to the end of the bust.

The profiles of the Draped Bust and Classic Head cents are even more alike than those on the silver coins (Figure

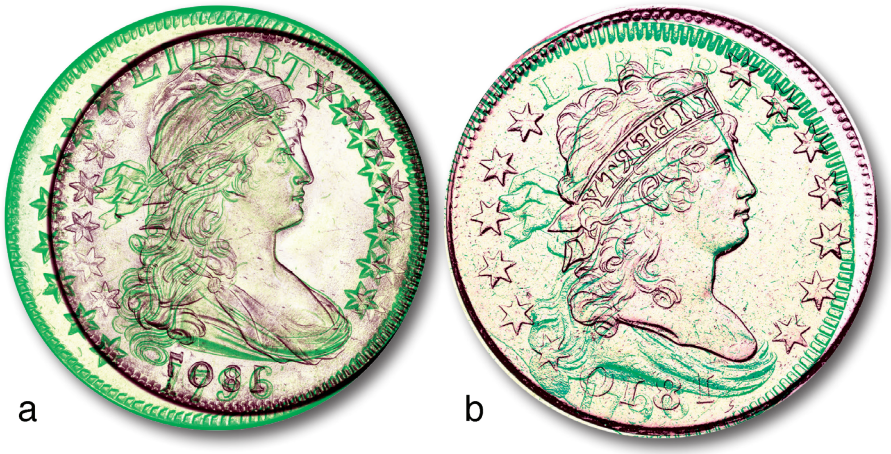


Figure 12. Overlays of a, Capped Bust and Draped Bust half dollar. b, Classic Head and Draped Bust cent.

12b). The facial profiles are virtually identical, particularly from the bust to the nose. Even the eyes nearly correspond. As for the silver coins, the earlier types showed Liberty's head looking more upward, whereas the later ones have her looking straight ahead, but those are the main differences. The resemblances are remarkable, suggesting that all were from the hand of the same designer, and showing further that many aspects of Scot's Draped Bust design were retained in the Capped Bust coinage. The 1807 designs built on the earlier designs, they did not replace unsatisfactory earlier designs.

What, if anything, can we conclude?

First of all, let us remember that the master dies for all of the coins illustrated here were cut by hand - a laborious and meticulous process that is a far cry from the automated processes in use today. Furthermore, the designs were carefully replicated on coins of different denominations and very sizes. This required a keen eye, a steady hand and great patience.

If most or all of the coins from Reich's tenure copy motifs by Scot, is there stylistic evidence that Reich designed *any* coins? What does the style of engraving tell us? We have already seen the quality of Reich's medal engraving; how does it compare to the Classic Head and Capped Bust coins? Suffice to say that his medals are far more detailed and deeply engraved than the coins. Is this difference sufficient reason to doubt that he created the coins? No; the demands of a coinage die are completely different from those for a medal with its high relief and far greater detail. The lack of stylistic similarity and the lack of a "signature" of any kind on the coins do not prove that he did not design them; neither do they support the notion that he did. We are left with a single basis for calling them his designs: tradition.

If we accept the traditional interpretation that the notched star and/or the $\mathcal{G}$ in the clasp are the signature of Reich *as a designer*, we probably should exclude him as the designer of the cents and half cents, as they do not exhibit either. If, on the other hand, they are Reich's signature as the die sinker, their lack may mean he only sank the dies for the silver and gold coins. If they are not a signature of Reich at all, we can conclude nothing from their presence or absence.

The designs of the Draped Bust and Classic Head cents and half cents are very similar, as are the designs of the Draped and Capped Bust silver coins. *The bottom line is that there is no proof that Reich designed the Capped Busts or Classic Heads and none that he did not, but if he did design any of the coins, he was closely following Scot's models.* Scot, after all, was Reich's boss.



Figure 13. Overlay of Draped (1803) and Capped (1807) half eagles. The mouths and chins can be forced to match, but nothing else does.

Is there any series for which the above does not hold true? As it turns out, there is. Figure 13 shows an overlay of the 1795-1807 half eagle with that of 1807-1812. They are completely different. This might be taken as evidence that someone else designed the new half eagle, but any such thought has to be weighed against the equally great differences between the 1794 and 1795 dollars, both of which are universally attributed to Scot. The early gold type design was quite different from the silver and copper types. Perhaps that was intentionally done to make the gold coinage look noticeably different from the rest. If so, the notion was reconsidered in 1807.

The newer design recalls that of the silver coins,The new type faces straight ahead; the hair on the new type is certainly similar to that on the silver and copper types, suggesting that the design of the earliest gold coins was not one that Scot wanted to continue any longer. I believe it to have been among his less attractive designs, so he might well have wanted to abandon it as he did the Flowing Hair design on silver coins.

Indeed, overlay of the 1807 half dollar and half eagle shows that the faces are nearly identical, and the rest of the design is very similar (Figure 9b). This shows that the Capped Bust gold coins were almost certainly designed by the same person who designed the silver coins.

Finally, we must address the other design that came about during Reich's time at the Mint: the Matron Head cent. Breen called it "spectacularly ugly" and attributed it to Scot on that basis, though that is totally absurd. After all, Scot created the beautiful Draped Bust designs.

Figure 14 shows an overlay of the Classic and Matron heads. The newer design owes little, if anything to the older one. Liberty's chin is weak, her neck and bust shorter and thicker, her cranium much smaller, her eye



Figure 14. Overlay of the Classic and Matron Head cents. The designs appear to be completely independent of each other.

and nose tiny and her face much more – shall we say? – matronly.

It would seem, then, that the heads of the Matron Head and the earliest gold coins are completely distinct designs from the earlier silver and copper coins. One could argue that these differences suggest the hand of a different designer. That suggests that the Matron Head may, in fact, be Reich's design as has been previously suggested[10, 14], but they do not by any means prove it. In this context it may be useful to recall that it was shortly after this design came out that Reich resigned his position because of poor eyesight[5]. It seems reasonable to suggest that this less than satisfactory design could be the result of Reich's failing eyesight, but that is speculation; there is no proof of it.

Beyond the stylistic distance of the Matron Head from any other design, it would appear that the best evidence in favor of Reich as an engraver is the script *J* in the clasp of the silver and gold coins. Unfortunately, as I have noted above, the script *J* was not in the master die. If it is intended as a script J, and it was intended to stand for Reich's firat initial, it could much more likely mean he was the die sinker. If so, can its lack can be taken as evidence that he did not engrave the coins that lack it? It is also very unlike either the JR . or R . monograms Reich used on earlier medals. And why would he completely change his signature to a script *J* without the dot? Therefore, I believe it cannot be taken as evidence Reich designed the coins.

The notch/scallop can be dismissed as extremely flimsy evidence for a claim that Reich was the designer of the coins that bear it. If anything, it, too, is much more likely evidence that he was the engraver of the dies.

What other evidence may there be? Lacking documentation or stylistic evidence, can we determine anything from precedent? As it happens, there is a clear one. Scot had one previous assistant, John Smith Gardner, who worked at the Mint from 1794-1796. It would not be unusual if Reich's role was similar to Gardner's. On August 11, 1795, Gardner requested an increase in pay from $2.25 to $3 per day. He claimed to be "making all punches together with the types [*i.e.,* letters and numerals] necessary for the dies, also all the hubs from the original [*i.e.,* master] dies and the striking of all the hubs and dies. He also engraved all the reverses of each kind of die such as the dollar, half dollar, *etc*., and put the border and legend on all the head dies, assisted in hardening each and partly the glossing [*i.e.,* polishing] of them[15]." He did not claim to have designed any coinage or engraved any obverses. Unless the relationship between Scot and Reich was completely different from that between him and Gardner, it would be unlikely that Reich designed the obverses of any coins. We cannot say with certainty who designed the new coinages from 1807-1817, but what evidence there is points to Scot for all except for the Matron Heads. Indeed, if Reich designed the coins, he was following the directions of Scot.

None of the information here provides irrefutable evidence that Reich did or did not design coins when he was employed at the Mint. He may have, but if he did, he did so as Scot's assistant. He was not working for or reporting to someone else at the Mint. Neither the Chief Coiner, nor the Assayer/Refiner nor the Treasurer had any control over the engraving of dies. That was under Scot's control. Since he was the boss, unless we have evidence otherwise, we should attribute designs to him rather than to his assistant. The Director could have ordered coinage redesign, but it is highly unlikely that he would assign that to an assistant over his Chief Engraver.

Nevertheless, the received knowledge seems to be that Reich designed all of the coins while he was employed at the Mint. Since there is no evidence for it, why has this notion of Reich as a prolific coin designer become so entrenched? One reason is doubtless the fact that it has been repeated so often over the past 160 years. *When something is repeated often enough, people come to believe it to be true, whether or not it is.* We see that in our civic and political life today and in even more pernicious form in the Nazi propaganda of the 1930s and the McCarthyism of the early 1950s. Conversely, new

14 Julian, R.W. 1995. The large cents of 1815-1816. *The Numismatist***. 108**, 65.

15 Stewart, Frank H. 1924. *History of the First United States Mint its People and its Operations*. Privately published.

information has a great deal of trouble getting accepted into the numismatic literature *precisely* ***because*** there are so many familiar reference works that perpetuate old, unproved or disproved information. Numismatists still regularly quote Sylvester Sage Crosby, who published over 150 years ago and has been dead for over 100 years. Even Breen's works are more than 30 years old. Old information dies very hard in our field. Snowden suggested it first, but it was amplified by Taxay[9] and, many-fold, by Breen[6]. It seems to have been forgotten that Taxay also wrote that "Reich, though an exellent die-sinker, was only a moderately talented portrait engraver," and his "design for the silver coins was far from an improvement." Whether or not they were Reich's designs, they owed a great deal to those of Scot, which can explain why they are not much of an improvement.

Walter Breen went overboard execrating Scot's work and praising Reich's[6]. Several of his quotes appear in the previous article in this series[5]. However, none of Breen's allegations about the inferiority of Scot's work are supported by evidence; in fact, the evidence completely refutes them.

The evidence I have presented here very clearly shows that Scot was a highly skilled and artistic Chief Engraver. In contrast to Breen's unsupported and prejudicial speculations, the evidence presented here demonstrates Scot's great skill as a designer and engraver of U.S. coins. Not only were his designs artistic and attractive, but he was highly skilled at engraving his designs on very different-sized coins.

In summary, Reich *may* have designed some coins, but if so, he did it under Scot's direction. Robert Scot should now, finally receive the credit that he is due for the quality of his work.

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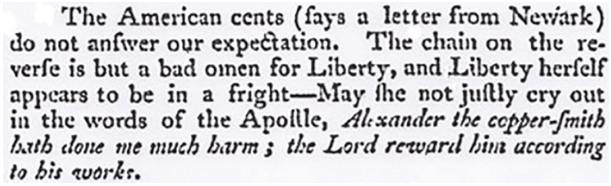
ALEXANDER THE COPPERSMITH

Harry E. Salyards and Bill Eckberg



The American cents (ſays a letter from Newark) do not anſwer our expectation. The chain on the reverſe is but a bad omen for Liberty, and Liberty herſelf appears to be in a fright—May ſhe not juſtly cry out in the words of the Apoſtle, *Alexander the copper-ſmith hath done me much harm; the Lord reward him according to his works.*

This oft-quoted letter heads up Sylvester Crosby's article in the May 1869 *American Journal of Numismatics*.[1] Though Crosby offered no comment upon it, public disapproval of the Chain design is clear—or so it seems. Eighty years later, Sheldon mentioned the "Liberty in chains" cent as "a particular target for invective" by the Mint's critics, without any mention of Alexander the Coppersmith.[2] Breen resurrected the quote, stating that "everyone knew that this barb was aimed at Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton."[3] Indeed. But was it strictly a criticism of the coin design – Hamilton's Treasury Department, after all, was not even responsible for the Mint, under the organization of the Federal bureaucracy in 1793 – or indicative of some deeper animus toward Hamilton? Over time, it has come to be assumed that it was simply about the coin, and that such public criticism caused the changeover to the Wreath reverse. Thus, the "Redbook," commenting on the Wreath cent: "Introduction of this reverse answered criticism of the chain design, which critics saw as symbolic of slavery rather than strength in unity."[4] If this was the case, why wasn't the design of the Fugio cent reverse similarly criticized? We are not aware of any such criticism. Furthermore, we are not aware of any published comment on the Chain cent design beyond this solitary letter. Is it possible that the meaning of this letter has been misinterpreted?

Crosby notes that the letter appeared in *The Mail, or Claypoole's Daily Advertiser*, Philadelphia, March 18, 1793. In fact, it also appeared in *The Diary or Loudon's Register*, New York, on the same date.[5] In an era when newspapers freely 'lifted' items from other papers, this suggests that the first publication of this anonymous letter may have come several days earlier. Whether or not that was the case, the decision to discontinue the Chain cent *had already been made* – and made not because of any public criticism, but because of the realization that it was impossible to continue to hand-engrave each working die, as the Chain cent dies had been created.

We know this, because of the time it took to gear up for the Wreath coinage, which began on April 4. If we allow a week for the creation of the master die and hub and a day at least for each of the seven working obverses and reverses – Breen suggests that multiple Wreath die marriages were part of the first 10 days of coinage[6] –

production of the dies for the Wreaths had to have begun no later than March 14, only two days after the last Chains were delivered. It may have begun even earlier, as the times cited here for die making are from modern, professional diesinkers. Henry Voigt, who created the Wreaths, was not a professional diesinker, so it may well have taken him longer to produce the dies.

So, what are we to make of "Alexander the Coppersmith"? We will present evidence that the meaning of the anonymous letter writer from Newark goes far beyond any criticism of coin design – to an accusation that Hamilton has betrayed the cause of Liberty itself.

To set the context: it is mid-March, 1793. Louis XVI of France died under the guillotine just six weeks earlier. There is heated discussion over whether we are obligated, under our 1778 Treaty with France, to come to the aid of the nascent French republic. After all, without the aid of the French, the American Revolution could easily have failed. It is also worth remembering that Louis XVI's treaty was made not with an established government, but with a *different* cast of rebels. *Claypoole's Daily Advertiser*, in which the critical letter appeared, was clearly anti-Federalist, soliciting contributions later that spring on behalf of "the PATRIOTIC FRENCH SOCIETY of the friends of liberty and equality in Philadelphia…in seconding the efforts of the defenders of liberty, the armed citizens and soldiers of the French republic."[7]

That March, Alexander Hamilton wrote a letter for the *Gazette of the United States*, one of two prominent Federalist sheets then published in Philadelphia, in which he offered the following sophistry with regard to the United States' treaty obligations: "Are the UStates [sic] bound to fulfil [sic] to the *present ruling powers* of France in the midst of a *pending* and *disputed* revolution, the stipulations made with the former government – with a Prince who has been dethroned and decapitated? It may be answered that treaties are made between *Nations* not between *Governments*, and that the obligations they created attach themselves to the contracting Nations, whatever changes in the form of their Government take place. This, as a general principle, is true. But it is true only in reference to a *change*, which has been finally *established* and *secured*, not to one which is *depending* and *in contest*, and which may never be consummated. Such is the condition of France at this time."[8]

As if the 1778 Treaty with the American rebels was with an "established and secured" nation!

It turns out that, for years afterward – long after he had resigned as Secretary of the Treasury[9] – Hamilton's critics continued to refer to him as Alexander the Coppersmith. His published admission to adultery with Mrs. Maria Reynolds[10] provided a particularly long-lived stimulus. An 1800 note in the *Aurora General Advertiser* stated, "A correspondent has furnished us with *'amourous anecdotes'* of certain characters of the *anglo-federal* party, but we decline troubling the peace of honest wives, by depicting the vices of wicked husbands – we leave them like *Alexander the Coppersmith* to expose themselves!"[11] Another writer, speaking of "having devoted much of my life to study," goes on to recite a semi-facetious list of the works he has read, including *"Alexander the Coppersmith, Confessions* (*Vindication*, I mean)."[12]

But *why* was he so labeled? To answer that question, we need to take a closer look at the Biblical quote: "in the words of the Apostle." The citation is from 2 Timothy 4:14. While the basic accusation against Alexander here includes a verb usually translated simply as "to do" – hath *done* me much harm, or in the case of the King James Bible, *did* me much evil – the original Greek verb, ενδεικνυμι (endeiknumi), is more highly nuanced, meaning "to inform against." It is an Attic law term, used by Plato,[10] conveying a sense of *betrayal*. In the case of 2 Timothy, the sense is that Alexander showed what was really in his heart, for it came out in his evil actions directed toward Paul.[11]

In the case of the French sympathizers in Philadelphia in March 1793, the sense is that the evil done by Alexander Hamilton, in denying any treaty obligation to no-longer-Royalist France, is a *betrayal of Liberty itself*. While the Chain cent provides a useful image, Liberty "in a fright" is much more than an awkward rendition in copper. She is emblematic of an active threat to democracy, in the person of Alexander the Coppersmith.

* * *

To the skeptical reader who would question how proficient 1790s Philadelphians were with the nuances of New Testament Greek, we would remind you that people of that era were often conversant in many fields. It wasn't as unusual for someone to be considered a Renaissance man. Think of all Henry Voigt did at the Mint, and he was just a watchmaker!

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[2] William H. Sheldon, *Early American Cents 1793-1814*, New York, Harper & Brothers, 1949, 13. The identical text appears on the same page of *Penny Whimsy* (1958)

[3] *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States Cents 1793-1814*, Wolfeboro, NH, Bowers and Merena Galleries, 2000, 45

[4] R. S. Yeoman, *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, Atlanta, Whitman Publishing, 2012, 97

[5] http://www.genealogybank.com, Issue 342, page 3

[6] Breen op cit 47

[7] ibid; Dunlap and Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser, issue 4455, page 2, May 6, 1793

[8] https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Hamilton/01-14-02-0158

[9] January 31, 1795. https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Hamilton/01-14-02-0148

[10] included in Observations on Certain Documents, Philadelphia, John Fenno, 1797

[11] March 29, 1800

[12] Lancaster Intelligencer and Journal, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, June 18, 1800

[13] Liddell & Scott's Greek-English Lexicon, New York, Harper & Brothers, 1851, 454

[14] https:www.preceptaustin.org/2_timothy_414-18

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Emily Matuska

Hello from your new EAC President. Thank you for your vote of confidence in me. I can't wait to see what adventures we all have during these next three years.

If you didn't know, I teach high school science at a small, private school, mainly chemistry. My husband, Rob, is very supportive of this crazy teaching thing. When we met, we were both working as metallurgical engineers. And Rob is the one who got me started into coin collecting.

Shortly after we were married, we were trying to find some other things that we both liked to do. Some things ended up not so high on my list. But coins took hold. Rob is a silver collector, and the female in me likes gold to be shiny in jewelry. That led me to copper. My first collection was a date set of Flying Eagles and Indian Heads. As I was looking for another thing to collect, I ended up being interested in half cents. I started as a date set collector, and now have only a handful of die varieties left to go. Since we have three kids, that handful has been slow going.

My first EAC show was Annapolis, when my oldest daughter was still in a stroller. I have fond memories of Tett playing with her during that show while I was looking at one of his coins. I remember my first EAC Sale where I was the lucky winner of several late date half cents from our immediate past president. The Sale from the show in Newark, Ohio, had several of the back rows cheering when one of my daughters won her first lot, using my bidder number. Yes, she "bought" me a half cent. I have so many great memories of not just coins, but of the people and of the stories behind who owned those coins.

Our current world feels, some days, like it is going crazy. My school is currently meeting in person, but we are set-up, mostly, to be able to be remote. And that's part of the "fun." If a student is absent for any reason, we don't find out until the bell rings and they aren't in their seat. And that triggers the teacher of that class to have to teach both in-person and *via* video. It's a little hectic, and pretty much doubles the work, but at least we get to have most of the students in the building every day.

In the coin world, most in-person events are being cancelled. Have you been able to be more active during the pandemic? Have you found new ways to introduce others to the hobby?

Just because we have to be physically distanced right now doesn't mean that we have to become personally disconnected. Sharing stories, great finds, or other coins that have meaning doesn't have to stop while most shows are on hold. Send me an email or a letter with one or more of your treasured EAC stories, or with pictures of a treasured coin. Or better yet, send them to me AND to Harry Salyards so that others can read about them in *Penny-Wise*. Stay safe, and I'm excited to hear about some of your treasures.

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AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOTES FROM EAC'S APPOINTED OFFICIALS

In a July 18 email, incoming EAC President Emily Matuska requested that EAC's appointed volunteers each write a short bio for the fall *P-W*—in the style of the ones the elected officers were asked to do for the March issue. Here they are, for all six of us:

EAC Historian Mark Borckardt began his full-time numismatic career in 1980 after finishing four years at Findlay College in Ohio. Prior to that time, he had attended coin shows, buying and selling, since 1970. For much of the 1980s, Mark and his father operated the Collector's Cabinet in Findlay, Ohio. In 1989, Mark joined the staff of Bowers and Merena Galleries as Senior Numismatist, and he remained with the firm until April 2004. During those years, Mark participated in the cataloging of most major collections, including the Eliasberg and Bass Collections. He also contributed to several books by Dave Bowers, including the Silver Dollar Encyclopedia published in 1993. He edited *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of Early United States Cents*, published in 2000. He was also a contributor to the firm's award-winning publication, *Rare Coin Review*.

In 2003, Mark worked with Paul Montgomery, Donn Pearlman and others to locate the long-missing Walton Specimen of the 1913 Liberty nickel, and is a co-author of Million Dollar Nickels, published in 2005. He was a member of the authentication team who examined this specimen along with the other four known examples.

As a member of Heritage Numismatic Auctions since June 2004, Mark has been involved in nearly all the firm's auction catalogs since that time. He cataloged two Brasher doubloons and an 1894-S dime for the 2005 FUN auction, the first three million-dollar coins ever auctioned by Heritage. Cataloging projects with Heritage include the Rasmussen, Husak, Padula, Mervis, and Boka large cent collections, extensive offerings from the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society, the Eugene H. Gardner Collection, and the January 2015 offering of material from the Donald Groves Partrick Collection. Other cataloging work includes collections of several EAC members. Mark has cataloged 80 of the 100 Greatest US Coins per the book by Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth.

Mark is a life member of the ANA and holds membership in many other numismatic organizations. He is a 47-year member of Early American Coppers and is a member of the Rittenhouse Society. He received the Numismatic Literary Guild's Clemy Award in 2016, an ANA Presidential Award in 2018, and is the ANA Numismatist of the Year for 2020.

When not immersed in numismatics, Mark is an avid bowler, carrying a 210-league average, and is involved in the study of his family history, having identified seven Revolutionary War ancestors. He is a member of First Families of Ohio, documenting ancestors who lived in that state as early as 1807. Mark and his wife, Mary live in Allen, Texas. They will celebrate their 40th anniversary in 2020. Mark and Mary have three children, Mathew, Michelle, and Melissa, and one grandson, Gavin.

Penny-Wise Editor Harry Salyards: A fourth-generation Nebraskan and a 1974 graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine, I am a retired Family Physician with a special interest in surgical obstetrics. I and my wife, Dr. Phyllis Shannon Salyards, practiced together for 34 years before retiring in 2011. We have been married 47 years this October 6. We have two children, Shannon and Scott, and two grandchildren, Samuel and Lily.

I am a 41-year member of EAC, and have edited *P-W* since May 1986. I am also a 40 year member of LSCC, a charter member of JRCS, and a member of a number of other numismatic organizations. Introduced to coin collecting by my mother's gift of a number of well-worn Indian Head cents in 1959, I have formed a number of collections over the years. Two notable ones were my collection of the cents of 1802-1803, sold in the 2012 EAC Sale; and my collection of Liberty Seated Half Dollars, sold by Heritage in 2015. Over the last decade, my interests have gravitated toward historical medals, particularly of the *Comitia Americana* series; 1794 cents by obverse die; and Draped Bust/Small Eagle Dollars. I am also building a "fun" collection of Indian Head cents in AU 55/58, noting that many better dates in these grades are available for 30-40% of what they would have cost, had their 1965 prices advanced in parallel with general inflation.

I also enjoy restoring old book bindings, and occasionally hand-binding personal volumes for family and friends. This hobby was a natural outgrowth of another: I am a 50+ year collector of antiquarian books, with an emphasis on New England authors before the Civil War. I have also collected 78 RPM records and 1950s-era American Flyer trains. Mark mentions his involvement in genealogical research. My own fascinating journey through family history began with a question: what prompted my great grandfather Joseph Edward Salyards (1842-1918) to put his Union Army Regiment on his gravestone, 53 years after the war was over? Years of research later, while I have uncovered roots in Virginia

from the time of the Revolution, and in Massachusetts to 1635, more importantly I have learned something of the *beliefs* of those long-gone ancestors—for example, Joe Salyards told a small town Iowa paper in 1882 that he was "a red-hot radical, like Hawkeyes and Buckeyes, where they produce Garfields." Or my fourth great grandfather Aquilla Moffatt, who lost his job as Town Constable of Chichester, New Hampshire in 1780 when he refused to collect a tax "to hire a gospel minister," as authorized by the town meeting of March 10, 1779. I am proud that my ancestors stubbornly took a stand *against* Jim Crow, and *for* separation of church and state, so long ago. (Phyllis has occasionally accused me of being stubborn. I guess that the acorn doesn't fall far from the tree, after all.)

In many ways, these various avocations, together with my profession, have combined to create a Life Tapestry of incredible richness: for which I am profoundly grateful.

Membership Chairman Bim Gander writes, my grandparents exerted inordinate influence on my tender years. It was my dad's dad who gave me a tennis racquet and paid for my lessons. He also gave me a Raleigh 3-speed. On my eighth birthday his wife gave me a couple of blue Whitman folders, but her gentle instruction in music failed to take.

The bike put me in business. By age ten, I had a paper route, delivering the Norwalk (CT) *Hour* for 42 cents a week. Forty-two cents quickly filled the easy slots in the Whitman folders. Meanwhile, in far away Idaho, mom's mom sent exotic silver dollars to commemorate each of those early birthdays. Cross country trips to her summer cottage in the Wallowas offered wilderness trekking and be-jeweled alpine brook trout. And the pristine Oregon beaches added to the irresistible allure of the West.

The Bicentennial year brought some milestones: my first new car (a '76 Bronco), my first home, and I joined EAC. Shyly, I went to the homes of the early copper collectors. I felt like the grandson they didn't know. "What do you collect?" they inquired. "I have a set of Lincoln's and Indians and some silver dollars, a few from the 1800s." "Oh," they remarked.

But their coins were fascinating. I kept going back.

In 1991, I traveled to my first EAC convention. I met Jon Warshawsky. It was a first convention for both of us: he had arrived from Cleveland, and I from San Diego. I was 40 at the time, but may have looked younger. Jon is younger than I, and he definitely looked even younger still. We both liked 1794 large cents. We didn't know what we were getting into.

Jon and I became fast friends. In 2004 we co-chaired the San Diego EAC convention. We rarely missed an EAC convention after that, and our circle of copper friends expanded every year. Together with Chuck Heck and Dan Trollan, we founded The Boys of '94 on a lark in one of the convention watering holes. Improbably, Jon and I both served later as Region 7 Chairmen and as EAC presidents.

As I now approach the dawn of my eighth decade, I take comfort in all of my life's earliest pleasures. I teach tennis as a part time profession, I travel, hike, and fly fish on some of the country's most beautiful trout streams. To those I've added golf, pickleball and kayaking. The coins and the friendships of EAC are the most

Internet Chairman Matt Yohe writes, Hello everyone and welcome to Region 8 newsletter...whoops, wrong intro! Hello everyone! My name is Matt Yohe and I have been a member of EAC since 2010. I attended my first EAC convention in 2011 in Portland, Oregon, a trip my wife and I enjoyed very much as we had never traveled to the Pacific side of the country together. It was at the reception that I had the pleasure to meet Bim Gander and Bill Eckberg. Bill was exiting his position as Chairman of Region 8 and I was soon enlisted as his replacement. I have enjoyed this appointment since July of 2011.

My numismatic interest began somewhere around the age of seven on the knee of my grandfather. He would spend hours with me looking at wheat cents in search of the elusive 1909-S V.D.B. After his passing, I inherited his collection which caused me to move beyond Lincoln cents. It wasn't until the mid 90s that early copper started to become a passion. My collection was meager as I was just starting a family and funds were better spent elsewhere. Once I completed my business degree at Eastern Illinois and joined the world of retail middle management, I was able to take up my collecting interests once again. I retired from my employer of 20 years about four years ago to become a full time coin dealer, an adventure that has turned out to be a lot harder than I thought it was going to be! I currently collect foreign coins used in colonial America, counterfeit British halfpence and whatever catches my eye.

Personally, my wife, Wendy, and I have been together for 21 wonderful years and we have four sons. We currently reside in the mountains of beautiful western Pennsylvania but may be looking to head south soon! I have enjoyed the last 10 years in this club immensely and look forward to many more!

Webmaster Joe Pargola was born in South Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He married his wife Debbie in 1973; they have two sons and four grandchildren. After spending over 50 years in the Graphic Arts and Printing Industry, during the transition from Analogue to Digital Preparation and Printing, retired in 2018. Joe is a collector of Half Cents and Large Cents by date and variety, as well as Fractional Currency and Official Presidential Inaugural Medals. He serves on the Boards of EAC as Webmaster, GSNA as VP and Webmaster, Trenton Numismatic Club as President and Webmaster, and produces the Newsletters for GSNA and Trenton. He is also a Member and Volunteer Representative of ANA, a member of American Numismatic Society, Medal Collectors of America, Society of Paper Money Collectors, Fractional Currency Collectors Board and Chester County Currency Club. Joe is a frequent author of articles and researcher of Presidential and Civil War History. Joe's other passion is for Alfa Romeo motorcars. He is a member of AROC and maintains several vintage examples.

Sunshine Committee Chairperson David Consolo writes, I began coin collecting at the age of five with a jar of Lincoln Cents and a corresponding blue fold-out Whitman folder. Then, I learned that one grandmother had a can of Indian Head cents; the other had saved buffalo nickels. More Whitman folders. Soon I had formed a coin club at my grade school. At the age of 17, I was helping a coin dealer at coin shows. By 1970, between college courses, I was on my own as a part-time coin dealer.

Then one day, I was invited to appraise and purchase a large coin collection in Columbus, Ohio. Eight hours later, I found that I had beat the next highest bid by $300. In this collection were dozens of half cents. I had never owned any before. I studied and compared the small copper coins; purchased the Breen and Cohen books; and soon I was bitten by the copper bug, a unique disease that, through EAC, has led to friendships, education, and intellectual conversations which surpass the value of any coin or collection that I could ever own.

I feel a calling to be of service to others. As a member of EAC, I took this trait and combined it with my interpretation of Maslow's concept of self-actualization—that one, or in this case, EAC, should live up to its potential. EAC already had the mechanics of a fine organization, but it had the potential to do more. This was my reasoning in the development of the SUNSHINE COMMITTEE.

The avocation as a coin dealer continued through 30 years of Banking, and, 15 years in Education where I worked with Special Needs students. Now, "retired" from a regular paycheck, I have expanded my efforts buying, selling, and appraising coins. I remain a Merit Badge Counselor for the Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge; and, I am available for speaking at coin clubs..., especially offering my Power-Point presentation on Half Cents.

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EAC 2021 BOURSE – APPLICATION INFORMATION AND POINT OF CONTACT

The EAC 2021 Convention will be held at the Washington, D. C. Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave., from Thursday March 11th until Sunday March 14th. The hotel phone number is (202) 483-3000.

The layout of the bourse has worked out well. (And "Thanks" to Mike Demling for doing the layout work.) The room is large enough to accommodate an exhibit area, lot viewing and up to 80 tables for dealers.

If you are interested in getting an application for the bourse, please contact convention chairman Greg Fitzgibbon via email fitzgg1@aol.com or by phone (703) 392-8297. Please try to call between 5 and 10PM Eastern Time on Weekdays. (Weekends 8AM to 10PM.) If we're not there, leave a message and I'll get back to you.

There will also be a bourse application available on the website www.eacs.org.

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Minutes of the 2020 EAC Board of Governors Meeting

By "Zoom" teleconference – July 18, 2020

The meeting, having been duly noticed, was called to order by President Bill Eckberg at 11:04 a.m. (EDT).

Upon roll call, all national officers were present and 6six of eight regions were represented by their regional chair; Region 5, by its regional secretary; and Region 8, by Webmaster Joe Pargola. Region 2 was absent. A quorum was verified.

Reading of the minutes of the last meeting of the last Board of Governors, held on May 4, 2019, was waived. No corrections were reported. Upon motion, duly seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

Membership Report: Treasurer Lou Alfonso reported that club membership had dropped to approximately 870, about 100 less than usual at this time of year. Speculatin is that some of that attrition might be due to non-renewal by new members who had been gifted with a free membership for their first year and chose not to continue with a paid membership. A reminder has been put in *P-W* reminding non-paid-up members that their dues are past due, and regional officers are encouraged to reach out to non-renewers. Membership Chairman Bim Gander undertook to send a snail-mail letter to non-renewers after their membership was 6-8 weeks in arrears. Webmaster Joe Pargola suggested that the club reach out to non-renewers to ascertain their reason(s) for dropping out.

In Memoriam: The club has been advised of the passing of two members in the past year: Eric Fix and Robert Joseph Kaufman.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Lou Alfonso presented the Treasurer's Report. See Report, which appeared in the July issue of *Penny-Wise* (hereinafter, "*P-W")*.

Editor's Report: Editor-in-Chief Harry Salyards reported that *P-W* has somewhat rebounded in number of pages published, with more contributions from newer members and from first-time article writers. Major auction companies and dealers continue to support *P-W* with advertising purchases. This year's Editor's Award is being given to Conly Riederie for his article "A Simple, Compact Setup for Photographing Slabbed Coins in High Resolution."

Garvin Fund: The Treasurer reported the Garvin Fund currently stands at approximately $73,814. There was one grant last year in the amount of $1,000. No applications have been received to date for 2020. The club encourages more applications from members, in order to implement the grantor's purpose in establishing the fund to support educational endeavors.

Sunshine Committee: Committee chairman David Consolo stated that there is currently $192.91 in the fund account, which he uses to send notes of congratulations, condolences, get-well sentiments and the like. David encourages members to notify him of significant life events for acknowledgment.

Website Report: Webmaster Joe Pargola reported that the primary problem with the website has been the delay in new members' getting access. He said that a software upgrade, which he hopes to implement in just a few weeks, should eliminate that problem. He reported that he had set up pages for each region to post information specific to its area, and asked if this was something that the region chairs found valuable. Region 7 chair Ron Shintaku affirmed that it was. Discussion was had as to the feasibility of having a secure section dedicated to members' collections, accessible only by members, and whether there was actual demand for such a section. Joe further stated that security will be a continuing issue with the website, with outsiders trying to gain access to post inappropriate content (including pornography). Finally, Joe reported that he would like to put content from the Happenings that would have displayed at the Pittsburgh convention onto the site in furtherance of the "virtual convention" experience.

Historian's Report: Club historian Mark Borckardt reported that he has made a great deal of progress on the club's history book, and he hopes to have a manuscript ready for next year's convention.

Regional Reports:

Region 1: All quiet as a result of COVID19.

Region 2: (no report)

Region 3: All quiet s a result of COVID19, but hopeful that a fall Baltimore show will go forward.

Region 4: Regional chair Grady Frisby had an EAC presence at one local show before March, but all is quiet now.

Region 5: Regional secretary Carol Consolo reported that EAC had a presence at the last Ohio State Coin Show, but she would not be attending this year as a result of COVID19.

Region 6: All quiet as a result of COVID19.

Region 7: Regional chair Ron Shintaku reported that there was good EAC attendance at the Long Beach shows before COVID19, and that the regional EAC meeting at the show will be moving from Friday evening to Friday morning in the future. His region has been staying in touch during the pandemic through Zoom meetings and emails.

Region 8: (no report)

Publications Committee report: Bill Eckberg reported that three proposals had been received during the past year, two of which were deemed not ready for approval. Bob Grellman submitted the third proposal, for an update of the Late Date book to be put on the EAC website and accessible without charge to the membership. The publication would include updated information on rarities, photos in place of drawings, a section on cuds (*vel non*). A few copies would be printed as well, with extra plates. Upon motion, duly seconded, the Publications Committee's recommendation to accept Bob Grellman's proposal was approved without dissent.

Literary Award: David Fanning reported that The EAC Literary Award was given to Bill Eckberg for his book "*The Half Cent, 1793-1857: The Story of America's Greatest Little Coin*."

2020 Convention report: Because of the cancellation of the in-person convention in Pittsburgh this year after so much work had been done by the convention chairs, it is hoped that Pittsburgh can serve as the venue in the not-distant future.

The exhibits from this year's convention will be held over until next year.

The educational seminars will be presented online through the ANA; times and dates are in the July *P-W*, on CopperNotes, and in the July *Numismatist*. One must pre-register for the seminars. Mark Borckardt, Educational Programming Chair, reiterated the desire he expressed last year to retire from his position. The club encourages members to step up and volunteer to receive the baton from Mark.

Chris Victor-McCawley, for Kevin Vinton, reported that the Sale will be held as scheduled, live-streamed on iCollector, Bidders will have to register on iCollector for live bidding; mail bids will be accepted, as usual. Auction lot viewing is available in Austin, Texas, by appointment.

2021 Convention: Region 3 chair Greg Fizgibbon reported that the convention next year (at the Washington D.C. Hilton near Dupont Circle, March 11-14), will have 80 tables for dealers available, plus six for exhibits and five for lot viewing. He is trying to arrange tours that might be of interest to the membership (including one at the Society of Cincinnati's Anderson House), and there is a multitude of interesting tourist sites in the area available for visiting on one's own.

2022 Convention: President Bill Eckberg reported that the planning for the St. Louis convention (at the Hilton St. Louis Airport, May 12-15, 2022). is well under way. Convention chair Bob Kebler's report to the president is attached to these minutes and incorporated by reference.

2023 Convention: Portland, OR, has been proposed as the venue, with Rory Lassetter as the chair, Nathan Markowitz and possibly Dennis Fuoss assisting, at the same hotel used for the last Portland convention. With 320 room nights, $15K spent on food, and a $1,400 fee, the meeting space would be comped. It would be a SUMMER convention (not springtime), from June 22nd to 25th: $174/night for a room, $10/night for parking. A motion was made and seconded that the organizer(s) seek a contract from the hotel for a 2023 convention at that site; motion was passed without dissent.

CoinWeek proposal: Discussion was had on a proposal from *CoinWeek* to continue video/podcast production and advertising for EAC. Treasurer Lou Alfonso noted that CoinWeek did not fully satisfy its undertakings in the past, and suggested that we get a formal contract and monitor CoinWeek's satisfaction of that contract going forward. A motion, made and duly seconded, to accept CoinWeek's proposal provided it is in writing and we monitor CoinWeek's performance of it, was passed without dissent.

Miscellaneous: The club still has some cull large cents and EAC tokens, which will be transmitted to the incoming president. The company that made the EAC tokens was destroyed in a fire, and the dies used to make the token were lost in the fire. Membership Chairman Bim Gander reported that he has copies of old *P-W*s available for give-away at shows/conventions/meetings to attract new members.

Election Results: President Bill Eckberg announced the results of the 2020 election of club officials. The results:

President: Emily Matuska

Vice President: Lou Alfonso

Secretary: Donna Levin

Treasurer: H. Grady Frisby III

Region 1 chair: Tim Skinski

Region 1 sec'y: George Trostel

Region 2 chair: Glenn Marx

Region 2 sec'y: Greg Heim

Region 3 chair: Greg Fitzgibbon

Region 3 sec'y: Ed Fox

Region 4 chair: Greg Hannigan

Region 4 sec'y: Denis Loring

Region 5 chair: Terry Denman

Region 5 sec'y: Carol Consolo

Region 6 chair: Russ Butcher

Region 6 sec'y: Steve Carr

Region 7 chair: Ron Shintaku

Region 7 secy: Dennis Fuoss

(Other positions are filled by appointment, not election.)

There being no further business before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made, duly seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m. (EDT).

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Levin

National Secretary

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MINUTES OF THE 2020 EAC ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

By Zoom Teleconference

August 8, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by outgoing president William Eckberg, who introduced incoming president Emily Matuska and passed the metaphorical gavel to her. Bill was thanked for his six years of service at the helm of the club.

Reading of the minutes of the last members meeting, held on May 5, 2019, was waived. No corrections were reported. The minutes were approved, by acclamation, as written.

Outgoing treasurer Lou Alfonso presented the Treasurer's Report, which appeared in the July issue of *Penny-Wise*, and introduced incoming treasurer Grady Frisby. As in past years, Lou solicited applications from members for a Garvin Fund grant to support their educational activities, as the Garvin Fund was generously endowed by its benefactor and is underutilized, only one grant having been made this past year.

Lou Alfonso delivered the Membership Report for membership chairman Bim Gander. The club's membership has decreased in the past year by more than 200 members; to combat the attrition, the club is placing ads in *Coin World, Numismatic News, The Numismatist*, and *The Virginia Numismatist*, which in the past have been fruitful venues for finding new members.

A moment of silence was observed for EAC members known to have passed away since the last annual meeting: Eric Fix and Robert Joseph Kaufman.

P-W Editor-in-Chief Harry Salyards delivered the Editor's Report. He noted that he had received submissions from an increased number of less-published contributors, as well as more material geared to less advanced collectors. He thanked Bill Eckberg for his efforts in ensuring the color quality of the publication, and he addressed the fine line the club treads between producing a top-notch product that is, for many members, their primary touchpoint with the club, and keeping the cost of production and mailing within reasonable bounds. He announced the recipient of this year's Editor Award: Conly Rieder, for his article "A Simple, Compact Setup for Photographing Slabbed Coins in High Resolution."

David Consolo, chairman of the Sunshine Committee, reminded members to advise him of significant life events that deserve acknowledgment.

Webmaster Joe Pargola reported that he has been updating the website and everything seems to be working well. He invited members to contact him if there are things they'd like the website to include. Many of the events from this year's cancelled convention in Pittsburgh have been or will be made available on the website.

Club Historian Mark Borckardt reported that he expects to have a manuscript of the club's history available for inspection at next year's convention.

Representatives of each of the regions gave reports. As was expected, activity is down because of the pandemic. It was noted that the Garden State convention is looking for a new venue more centrally located within New Jersey.

Bill Eckberg reported that the Publications Committee

had received three proposals. One, from Steve Carr on 1853 misaligned die strikes, might be suitable for a *P-W* article or digital publication; and one, Bob Grellman's proposed revision of his late date large cent book, was going to be made available for free in digital format on EAC's website (with printed copies containing additional material available for purchase).

David Fanning announced that the Literary Award was given to Bill Eckberg for his book "*The Half Cent 1793-1857: The Story of America's Greatest Little Coin*."

Mark Borckardt announced his desire to step down as the convention Educational chairperson. The club will be seeking another member willing to assume this important position.

Tom Nist and Chris Pretsch were thanked for their heroic efforts towards this year's convention, and Tom reported that they were willing to try again for a Pittsburgh convention in a few years.

Members were reminded that the annual EAC Private Sale will be held on iCollector later this day, and requires preregistration.

Greg Fitzgibbon reported that the 2021 convention in DC would be held March 11-14 at the Hilton near Dupont Circle. The ongoing pandemic has thus far inhibited the ability to plan tours.

The 2022 convention will be at the St. Louis, MO, Airport Hilton (the same hotel as was used for the last St. Louis convention).

The 2023 convention is expected to be in the month of June in Portland, OR, at the same hotel as the last Portland convention.

Ray Williams reported that all meetings that would have occurred in person at the upcoming Baltimore show will be held online instead.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna S. Levin

National Secretary

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EAC ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

Saturday, August 8, 2020

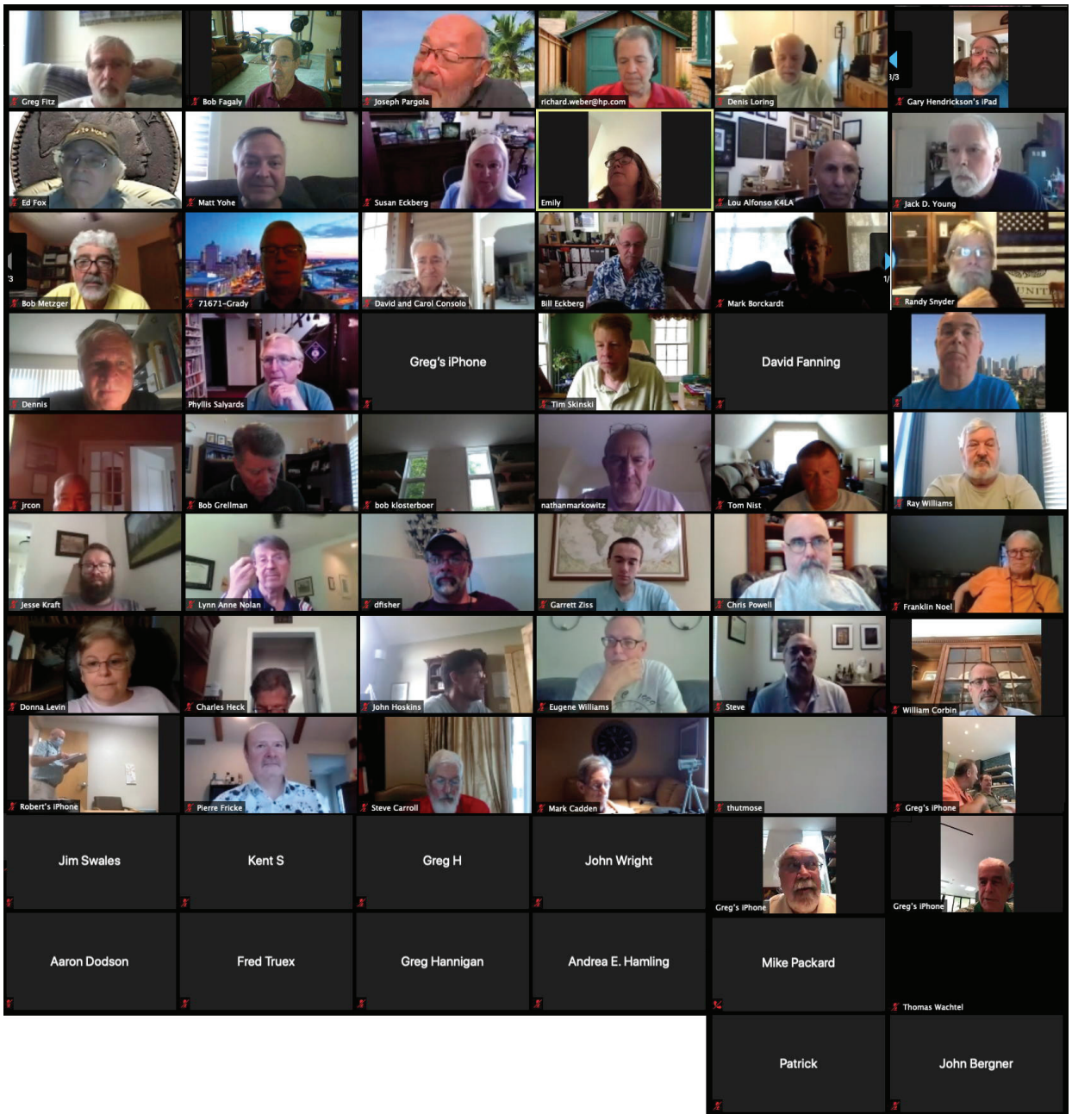
By "Zoom" teleconference

----Attendance Roster*--

Lou Alfonso	Delray Beach, FL
John Bergner	Dallas, TX
Al Boka	Las Vegas, NV
Mark Borckardt	Allen, TX
Russ Butcher	Richardson, TX
Mark Cadden	Marlboro, NJ
Steve Carroll	Daniel Island, SC
Jack Conour	Batavia, OH
Carol Consolo	Chagrin Falls, OH
David Consolo	Chagrin Falls, OH
William Corbin	Fair Lawn, NJ
Terry Denman	Traverse City, MI
Aaron Dodson	Costa Mesa, CA
Bill Eckberg	West Palm Beach, FL
Susan Eckberg	West Palm Beach, FL
Bob Fagaly	Carlsbad, CA
David Fanning	Gahanna, OH
Dan Fisher	Anoka, MN
Greg Fitzgibbon	Manassas, VA
Ed Fox	Spencerville, MD
Pierre Fricke	Alamo Heights, TX
Grady Frisby	Memphis, TN
Bob Grellman	Amelia Island, FL
Craig Hamling	Westtown, NY
Cecelia Hannigan	Royal Palm Beach, FL
Greg Hannigan	Royal Palm Beach, FL
Chuck Heck	Bluffton, SC
Karen Heck	Bluffton, SC
Greg Heim	South Plainfield, NJ
Gary Hendrickson	Camillus, NY
John Hoskins	Boulder, CO
Bob Klosterboer	Fountain Hills, AZ
Jesse Kraft	Ocean City, NJ
Lou Kramarski	Palmyra, NJ
Donna Levin	Palm Beach Gardens, FL
Denis Loring	Palm Beach Gardens, FL
Nathan Markowitz	Springfield, OR
Beth Matuska	Heath, OH
Emily Matuska	Heath, OH
Jackie Matuska	Heath, OH
Rob Matuska	Heath, OH
Chris McCawley	Austin, TX
Alice McCawley	Austin, TX
Bob Metzger	Lakeville, MN

Tom Nist	Pittsburgh, PA
Franklin Noel	Minneapolis, MN
Gene Nolan	Chalfont, PA
Mike Packard	Fairfax, VA
Joe Pargola	Langhorne, PA
Chris Powell	Yorktown, VA
Ray Rouse	Boca Raton, FL
Harry Salyards	Hastings, NE
Kent Sims	Bolingbrook, IL
Tim Skinski	Southbury, CT
Randy Snyder	Carmichael, CA
Jim Swales	Center Point, IA
Steve Synck	Lubbock, TX
Fred Truex	North Hills, CA
Thomas Wachtel	Geneseo, IL
Rich Weber	Houston, TX
F. Eugene Williams	Macon, GA
Ray Williams	Trenton, NJ
John Wright	St. Joe, MI
Mabel Ann Wright	St. Joe, MI
Matt Yohe	Johnstown, PA
Jack D. Young	Dayton, OH
Garrett Ziss	
Dennis Fuoss	

* Apologies to anyone in attendance who was omitted from this list, which was constructed from emails and from chat comments and screen names visible during the Zoom meeting.



THE EAC SALE

Prices Realized (Does not include the 15% Buyers Premium)

LOT	AMOUNT	LOT	AMOUNT	LOT	AMOUNT	LOT	AMOUNT
1	$220.00	2	$220.00	3	$95.00	4	$82.50
5	$100.00	6	$55.00	7	$100.00	8	$240.00
9	$110.00	10	$85.00	11	$75.00	12	$190.00
13	$160.00	14	$200.00	15	$140.00	16	$100.00
17	$90.00	18	$170.00	19	$400.00	20	$120.00
21	$600.00	22	$320.00	23	$170.00	24	$110.00
25	$45.00	26	$70.00	27	$2600.00	28	$1100.00
29	$300.00	30	$650.00	31	$199.00	32	$100.00
33	$260.00	34	$700.00	35	$625.00	36	$170.00
37	$700.00	38	$120.00	39	$300.00	40	$110.00
41	$200.00	42	$35.00	43	$180.00	44	$140.00
45	$180.00	46	$1150.00	47	$575.00	48	$360.00
49	$380.00	50	$420.00	51	$1100.00	52	$1100.00
53	$1800.00	54	$650.00	55	$5000.00	56	$300.00
57	$2200.00	58	$800.00	59	$320.00	60	$350.00
61	$75.00	62	$2400.00	63	$300.00	64	$280.00
65	$70.00	66	$45.00	67	$500.00	68	$340.00
69	$120.00	70	$600.00	71	P	72	$650.00
73	$550.00	74	P	75	$800.00	76	$500.00
77	$380.00	78	$800.00	79	$440.00	80	$50.00
81	$450.00	82	$2200.00	83	$240.00	84	$80.00
85	$3000.00	86	$380.00	87	$1800.00	88	$3000.00
89	$800.00	90	$140.00	91	$360.00	92	$190.00
93	$650.00	94	$200.00	95	$240.00	96	$150.00
97	$190.00	98	$130.00	99	$450.00	100	$260.00
101	$170.00	102	$440.00	103	$360.00	104	$180.00
105	$600.00	106	$100.00	107	$550.00	108	$320.00
109	$2400.00	110	$1800.00	111	$200.00	112	$750.00
113	$2200.00	114	P	115	$850.00	116	$850.00
117	$5000.00	118	$4000.00	119	$460.00	120	$300.00
121	P	122	$3600.00	123	$825.00	124	$480.00
125	$725.00	126	$1000.00	127	$2200.00	128	$1400.00
129	$110.00	130	$10500.00	131	$460.00	132	$7000.00
133	$3000.00	134	$1400.00	135	$320.00	136	$460.00
137	$1400.00	138	$180.00	139	$600.00	140	$160.00
141	$4200.00	142	$480.00	143	$260.00	144	$900.00
145	$480.00	146	$440.00	147	$800.00	148	$220.00
149	$650.00	150	$900.00	151	$900.00	152	$550.00
153	$310.00	154	P	155	$1300.00	156	$1200.00
157	$600.00	158	$140.00	159	$850.00	160	$85.00
161	$1700.00	162	$280.00	163	$280.00	164	$260.00
165	$575.00	166	$390.00	167	$170.00	168	$320.00
169	$150.00	170	$280.00	171	$440.00	172	$300.00
173	$725.00	174	$500.00	175	P	176	$4200.00
177	$1550.00	178	$1300.00	179	$1450.00	180	$3200.00
181	$90.00	182	$3400.00	183	P	184	$420.00
185	$320.00	186	$240.00	187	$320.00	188	$150.00
189	$7500.00	190	P	191	$360.00	192	$55.00
193	$300.00	194	$65.00	195	$3000.00	196	$575.00

197	$750.00	198	$200.00	199	$190.00	200	$3500.00
201	$525.00	202	$1200.00	203	$900.00	204	$300.00
205	$180.00	206	$2000.00	207	$280.00	208	$90.00
209	$80.00	210	$60.00	211	$160.00	212	$320.00
213	$1350.00	214	$900.00	215	$500.00	216	$120.00
217	P	218	$420.00	219	$70.00	220	$40.00
221	$430.00	222	$550.00	223	$440.00	224	$100.00
225	$110.00	226	$180.00	227	$500.00	228	$190.00
229	$2400.00	230	$280.00	231	$70.00	232	P
233	$260.00	234	$460.00	235	$1600.00	236	$600.00
237	$340.00	238	$1600.00	239	$125.00	240	$70.00
241	$145.00	242	$800.00	243	$300.00	244	$600.00
245	$1200.00	246	$550.00	247	$280.00	248	$100.00
249	$470.00	250	$4000.00	251	$75.00	252	$1100.00
253	$105.00	254	$1100.00	255	$950.00	256	$1300.00
257	P	258	$1500.00	259	$90.00	260	$280.00
261	$1700.00	262	$3700.00	263	$280.00	264	$180.00
265	$360.00	266	$100.00	267	$320.00	268	$190.00
269	P	270	$2000.00	271	$400.00	272	$1400.00
273	$300.00	274	$80.00	275	$280.00	276	$360.00
277	$70.00	278	$240.00	279	$220.00	280	$190.00
281	$170.00	282	$100.00	283	$400.00	284	$220.00
285	$460.00	286	$450.00	287	$170.00	288	$460.00
289	$190.00	290	$440.00	291	P	292	$110.00
293	$700.00	294	$170.00	295	$80.00	296	$300.00
297	$400.00	298	$1800.00	299	$130.00	300	$55.00
301	$600.00	302	$160.00	303	$700.00	304	$240.00
305	$1400.00	306	$240.00	307	$260.00	308	$130.00
309	$460.00	310	$410.00	311	$260.00	312	$825.00
313	$310.00	314	$400.00	315	$170.00	316	$250.00
317	$480.00	318	$280.00	319	$550.00	320	$850.00
321	$45.00	322	$1200.00	323	$280.00	324	$900.00
325	$500.00	326	$825.00	327	$90.00	328	$360.00
329	$950.00	330	$280.00	331	$190.00	332	$330.00
333	$30.00	334	$190.00	335	$280.00	336	$380.00
337	$140.00	338	$40.00	339	$525.00	340	$320.00
341	$1800.00	342	$2200.00	343	$2400.00	344	$170.00
345	$5500.00	346	$220.00	347	$220.00	348	$90.00
349	$190.00	350	$900.00	351	$110.00	352	$55.00
353	$120.00	354	$130.00	355	$420.00	356	$3600.00
357	$260.00	358	$50.00	359	$160.00	360	$110.00
361	$260.00	362	$240.00	363	$80.00	364	$320.00
365	$340.00	366	$480.00	367	$55.00	368	$50.00
369	$85.00	370	$45.00	371	$190.00	372	$380.00
373	$130.00	374	$1000.00	375	$300.00	376	$180.00
377	$170.00	378	$220.00	379	$750.00	380	$185.00
381	$280.00	382	$130.00	383	$280.00	384	$75.00
385	$220.00	386	$1,200.00	387	$1,300.00	388	$240.00
389	$160.00	390	$300.00				

Pg 2

Hammer: $271,791.50 BP: $40,768.73 Total: $312,560.23

THE 2020 VIRTUAL HALF CENT HAPPENING

Tim Skinski

The 53rd annual EAC convention has been cancelled and the 2020 ANA convention has been "suspended," but the 34th Half Cent Happening is going…online at 8:00 PM (EDT) on Friday evening, August 7, 2020. We are going to continue our annual tradition, albeit in a very different format, so I will need your help and support with some pre-event preparation.

We will retain the same varieties, which have been published in previous editions of *Penny Wise* (and elsewhere). They are:

- ***1794 C-5a, R3 and 1794 C-5b, R8***
- ***1797 C-2, R3***
- ***1804 C-6, R2***
- ***1805 C-2, R5***
- ***1835 C-2, R1***
- ***1849 C-1, R2***

If you are planning to exhibit any of these varieties, please send me your name, your email address, and pictures (both obverse and reverse) of your coins to my email address (tim.skinski@earthlink.net). As we would do during our Happening registration process in person, I will assign you a registration number to protect your anonymity. As always, we are all on the honor system, so please only send me pictures of coins, which you personally own (no signed affidavits required). ***I will need your submissions via email by end of day on Tuesday, July 28.*** I will then publish all submissions (anonymously) in the following day or so after this deadline. Publishing format has yet to be determined, as of this writing.

If you are planning to participate in scoring the coins during the Happening, please send me your name and email address to my email address (tim.skinski@earthlink.net). I will send you a score sheet, as soon as all Happening half cent varieties submissions are published. ***These score sheets (partial sheets accepted, but full sheets encouraged) need to be returned to me by end of day on Wednesday, August 5.***

The online Half Cent Happening is scheduled for 8:00 PM (EDT) on Friday, August 7. We will conduct the Happening via Zoom or other suitable video conference media. I will send you technical documentation on how to be able to access this online session, as soon as this information is available.

Although I am very disappointed not to be able to meet you in person in Pittsburgh this year, I do look forward to having the opportunity to speak with you on August 7. *I hope that we will also welcome some newcomers, who might not have otherwise been able to travel to Pennsylvania for the convention.*

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EAC 2020 COLONIAL HAPPENING

Ray Williams

These are crazy times we are living in! As I write this, the ANA World's Fair of Money (in Pittsburgh) has been "suspended" (cancelled), and the EAC Convention has followed suit.

The Colonial Happening will still be held, but online. I will conduct a ZOOM meeting. How this will work is, anyone wishing to participate should email me at njraywms@optonline.net and let me know you want to participate. I will acknowledge that I received your request. The Colonial Happening will then occur on Sunday afternoon, August 9th, at 3:00 EDT. I picked this time as it would have been the time most would have been heading home from the convention (so already free on your calendars), and being a weekend, fewer are stuck at work. Anyone sending me an email request will be sent an invitation with a link to click on, and a password to enter. This will be sent the weekend before (and during that week for you late-comers).

Now we need to talk about logistics of holding this event online. If you have a coin, medal, paper money or whatever to share, the best procedure would be to take satisfactory pictures and share those. If you send me images ahead of time, I could share them while the owner and others can comment. You will also have the ability to share on your own, but I've found that using the cameras in cell phones and laptops can yield questionable results. But if you take pictures, you do have the ability to share them on your own. I'll do some experimenting

and advise those emailing me a desire to attend.

As in the past, the Colonial Happening is a fun time of sharing and learning. It's an adult show-and-tell. Think about a coin or two in your collection to share. It could be your favorite, something unusual, something you might have questions about. But even if you don't share something, log in and enjoy a time with friends.

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ARE YOU TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ALL YOUR RESOURCES?

EACS.ORG

Joe Pargola

The Early American Coppers web page is a great resource for members and non-members alike. For those yet to join, you can read about the EAC mission, Benefits, Officers and Meetings. You can also peruse book listings and get an application to join. The real resources are contained in the Members tab, secured by a user name and password, available to all members in good standing. Open this and you will see Past and current (when available) sale catalogues, current issues of *Penny-Wise* in pdf format, information on Region 8 and our Bylaws, but also a Media Center. The Media center contains a dozen video selections uploaded to YouTube. These include video on the Washington Monument, Die breaks of the 1817 N12, Evolution of Proof Coinage at the US Mint and much more. As we enhance our digital this year, we intend to post many more titles here.

So, if you have not visited the web page lately, give it a look. I think you will enjoy the content.

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SAVE THE DATES FOR FUTURE EAC CONVENTIONS

2021 EAC Convention – Washington, DC

Dates: Thursday, March 11 – Sunday, March 14, 2021

NOTE EARLIER THAN USUAL DATES in 2021!!!

Washington Hilton
1919 Connecticut Avenue
Washington, DC 20009
(202-483-3000)

2022 EAC Convention – St. Louis, MO

Dates: Thursday, May 12 - Sunday, May 15, 2022

Convention Chairman: Bob Kebler (rskdrk1985@sbcglobal.net)

St. Louis Hilton Airport
10330 Natural Bridge Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63134

Your Board is soliciting proposals for the 2023 convention. The 2017-2021 conventions are all held in the Northeast quadrant of the US. More than half of our membership lives in that quadrant of the country. Most aspects of the conventions are easy, as we have the experience of having done this for 50 years. If you are interested in hosting, the local host's main duties are to pick the venue, arrange for security and select the food for the reception.

The most important criteria for a venue include: 1) a ballroom large enough for the bourse (should be at least 6500 sq. ft. and 8000 sq. ft. is better) 2) proximity to air travel. For security, dealers with inventory do not want to travel far from an airport. 3) proximity to interesting side trips. 4) dates must not conflict with Easter, Passover, Mothers' Day or the Central States convention.

If you are interested in hosting, please contact Emily Matuska (rmatuska@roadrunner.com) to discuss your ideas.

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2022 CONVENTION REPORT

Bob Kebler

When I decided to head the 2022 Convention, I had verbal commitments from three members who said that if I would chair the event, they would help with the organization, planning, and running of the convention. Since the board meeting last year in Dayton, all three have backed out of these commitments. So cur-

rently I am running solo. My plan was to use EAC 2020 in Pittsburgh to network, try and get more help, and learn the ropes by watching and helping with the convention. This, of course, went by the wayside. What has been done is the following:

- the convention contract has been signed and finalized at a very attractive room rate and enhancements
- I have investigated options and contacts for security
- I have spoken with Greg Fitzgibbon and we will be working on coordinating his information for the bourse for EAC 2021 so I can use this information going forward
- We have the layout for the bourse from the 2007 Convention (will be in the same room) so have a basic idea of how the room can function
- I have enlisted the help of Marsha Birk (Tett's Executive Secretary) who planned much of the St. Louis 2007 Convention
- I have some ideas on a few educational topics
- I have some thoughts on "things to do" in St. Louis
- I hope that that several members who will be organizing such events as the Happenings and Sale lot viewing for the 2021 Convention will continue forward into 2022

Despite all of the above, I am looking forward to a very successful 2022 EAC convention in St. Louis, and am looking forward to making this happen!

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New 2020 Edition of *The Die Varieties of United States Large Cents 1840-1857*

Bob Grellman

A new digital version of *The Die Varieties of United States Large Cents 1840-1857* is now available for download from the Members section of the EAC web site (eacs.org). This digital version is free to all EAC members. It updates the 2001 edition that has been sold out for several years. Many new die states are described and condition census information has been added.

Two digital versions of the book are available on the EAC web site. The "Flipping Book" version is a smaller file that should fit on a smart phone or tablet. The pdf version is a larger file that has sharper resolution, and that difference is noticeable on the finer points of the attribution diagrams. The pdf file may not fit on a phone or tablet.

Printed copies of the 2020 edition should be available before the end of the year. The only difference between the free digital version and the printed version (which is currently unpriced) is the presence of photos in the printed version. There are no photos included in the digital version.

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EAC PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

EAC is a club with many talented members who do interesting research projects related to early copper and the early days of the United States Mint. Yet, EAC has never promoted the publication of such books. Indeed, the only book ever published by EAC was the *Grading Guide for Early American Copper Coins* by Bill Eckberg, Bob Fagaly, Dennis Fuoss and Ray Williams, and that was done without established procedures and practices. Most recently, Bill Eckberg's book, *The Half Cent, 1793-1857: The Story of America's Greatest Little Coin*, was published by EAC, but without any financial contribution from the club.

The committe consists of Harry Salyards, Editor of *Penny-Wise*, Lou Alfonso, EAC Treasurer, Bill Eckberg, EAC President and Steve Carr. Others who volunteer to participate are welcome.

We believe that formal procedures and parameters for EAC publishing projects need to be developed and promoted to keep early copper in the minds of collectors, and initial thoughts wre presented at the meeting at the EAC convention in Dayton. Like the publications committee of C4, our group would assist with editing and EAC would provide financial support for the project.

At this point, we invite potential authors to make proposals to the committee.

Do you have one? We are ready to help.

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 January 2021 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

Name	*City, State*	*Member #*
John Thornton	Pensacola, FL	6781
Casey Keener	Wilmington, CA	6782
Andrew Simpson	Hackettstown, NJ	6783
William Corbin	Fairlawn, NJ	6784
Jim Contois	Davenport, IA	6785
Chris Bullfinch	Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA	6786
Jeffrey Byars	Poynette, WI	6787
Ronald Yourigny	Fitchburg, MA	6788
Everett Jones	Gainesville, FL	6789
Fred Berger	San Diego, CA	6790
Bradley Stinchcombe	Hillsborough NC	6791
Tom Pickett	Huntington Beach, CA	6792
Steven Alcorn	Newark, DE	6793
Jeffrey Dow	Florence, AL	6794
Keith Franz	Pace, FL	6795
Zack Winston	Albuquerque, NM	6796
Dennis Rawlinson	Woonsocket, RI	6797
Larry Lady	Clinton, OK	6798
Dennis Hogan	Hemet, CA	6799
Edward Kahn	Boulder, CO	6800
Thomas Knight	Midlothian, VA	6801
Salvatore Germano	Hawthorne, NJ	6802
Ken Faulkner	Loxley, AL	6803

Returning Members

Lisa Heim	S. Plainfield, NJ	3619
Don Stoebner	Leola, SD	4153
James McAlister	Huntington, WV	4475
Scott McKenzie	Seattle, WA	5307
William Dale Bunyard	Williamsville, MO	5567
Bill Nyberg	Woodinville, WA	5632
Michael Singer	San Mateo, CA	6442

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DISCOVERING A 1797 C-3c (R6) HALF CENT

Howard Spencer Pitkow

In this, my thirtieth publication for *P-W*, I will discuss my process for identifying an extremely rare 1797 half cent variety. On Sunday April 28, 2019 I attended the Trevose Coin Show, located just north of Philadelphia, where I made arrangements to meet a dealer about some coppers. As I approached his table I noticed he had an assortment of half and large cents. In the upper left corner of one of his display cases, I observed two unattributed 1797 half cents in "hugger" holders, both in Fr-2 condition. I easily attributed one of them for him as the 1797 C-1, the famous "1 over 1" date variety with a plain edge, which I already possessed in my collection. The other 1797 was not so easy to identify since it was very worn with practically no discernable reverse detail. Fortunately, the date was barely visible. The dealer informed me that he had had these two 1797s for several years and that very few prospective customers asked to see them.

According to Ronald Manley's *The Half Cent Die State Book*, there are five 1797 varieties:

1- "1 over 1" date with plain edge (C-1)
2- normal date with plain edge (C-2)
3- low head with plain edge (C-3a)
4- low head with lettered edge (C-3b)
5- low head with- gripped edge (C-3c)

Since this second 1797 copper was extensively worn, it was difficult to attribute it in the "hugger." After some negotiation over price, I decided to purchase it. Since I had only the C-1 variety in my collection, and this was definitely not another C-1, it was obvious that this coin was one of the other four varieties that I needed.

Later that night I sat down at my desk in order to attribute this low grade copper. As I took the coin out of its "hugger" with great care, I could see that its reverse was a lost cause. On the obverse, I could make out part of the outlines of the hair, face, bust, liberty cap, a few letters of "LIBERTY" and the faint numbers of the "1797" date. Also, I noticed that my 1797 was a "low head" variety. Since the bust was close to the 1797 date I could eliminate C-2 from consideration. I then decided to look at the coin's edge. As noted above, there are three "low head" edge varieties: plain (R3), lettered (R4), and gripped (R6).

As I rotated the copper's edge while using my 20X loop magnifier, I noticed markings with various degrees of wear. Therefore, the plain edge C-3a was ruled out. This left me with two possibilities—the lettered edge (C-3b) and the gripped edge (C-3c). As I looked at the edge of the planchet, I could NOT make out any letters or parts of letters in "TWO HUNDRED FOR A DOLLAR." However I could discern random vertical incused lines along some parts of the half cent's edge. Most of these lines were on the upper and lower surfaces of the edge, while the middle portion appeared to be worn away. Based on these observations, I could now also eliminate the lettered edge C-3b.

In Q. David Bowers' book, *A Guide Book of Half Cents and Large Cents*, he defines a "gripped edge" as an "edge with widely and irregularly incused vertical and curved lines." Hence, I had indeed found the very rare 1797 C-3c (R6)—my 70th half cent variety.

It is believed that 127,840 half cents dated 1797 were produced by the Philadelphia Mint. In EAC'er Jeff Noonan's "1/200 Survey" published in March 2015, 111 of these 1797 half cents were reported, of which only three (G4, AG3, AG3) were of the gripped edge C-3c variety. Therefore, *I believe I am now documenting the fourth known 1797 C- 3c for the "1/200 Survey."*

According to Ronald Manley's previous mentioned text, all examples of the very rare "gripped edge" C-3c exist in very low grades. Manley speculates that "the 1797 C-3c's were minted after the lettered edge coins, but before the plain edge coins." Eckberg et al, in the *Grading Guide for Early American Copper Coins*, state that "All 1797 low head cents (C-3a, C-3b and C-3c) are believed to have been struck in 1800 on planchets cut from spoiled cents, so many of these show undertype as well."

My next and LAST article for *P-W* will be entitled, "Appreciation, Copper Status, New Frontiers and Final Afterthoughts."

References

Q. David Bowers, *A Guidebook of Half Cents and Large Cents*, Atlanta, Whitman Publishing, 2015.

William R. Eckberg, Robert Fagaly, Dennis Fuoss and Raymond J. Williams, *Grading Guide for Early American Copper Coins*. Early American Coppers, Inc., 2014.

Ronald P. Manley, *The Half Cent Die State Book (1793-1857)*, Chandler, Oklahoma, Advanced Graphics and Printing, 1998.

Jeff Noonan, 1/200 Survey, Early American Coppers, March, 2015.

PLEASE WRITE

Ray Rouse

Now that our travel has been restricted and chances of attending coin shows such as the EAC or ANA Conventions are gone for this year and even suspect for next year, the question arises "What do I need to know to collect from home?"

Some of the questions are obvious. "Can I find what I want on eBay?" Other questions are not so easy. If I am bidding on an eBay auction do I need to have a sniping program or at least know how they work? If I need a sniping program, where do I get it and which one is best? Maybe I should only buy eBay items from fixed price lists, or at least the ones that let me make a reasonable offer for the coin. What about paying for the coins I buy? Should I use PayPal or send money directly from my bank account? Is it safe? PayPal has been around for a number of years but merchants and even banks are always having data breaches. It might take longer to get the coins, but perhaps it is better to just write a check?

Perhaps I need to consider even more basic questions. "Is this a good time to be buying coins for my collection?" What is the long term forecast for the hobby? It seems like all the "old timers," like me, are dying off. What happens to coin collecting then? Will there be enough younger collectors to keep the hobby going? Will there be demand for my nice VF coins? Perhaps there will only be a few billionaires that are all collecting just the uncirculated monster coins for their registry sets. What happens to my material then? Is it worth anything? Should I even bother to leave my coins to my younger relatives? Maybe it is better to sell now and just leave them money. After all, the only question I get from them about my collection is, "What is it worth?"

Suppose I decide to keep collecting; after all, I enjoy it. Well, one of the primary ways I have found coins in the past was by participating in some of the auctions by firms such as Heritage, Stack's, and Goldbergs. However, although they have top notch material, they get top prices for it, not to mention the 20% "juice" they charge the buyer. Perhaps I need to find some smaller, lesser known auction houses that might have something in my price range. What firms would they be? How would I search for them on Google?

What about dealer inventory lists? Which ones are good for copper collectors? In the past my experience was that the lists were often so far out of date as to be practically useless. Who is keeping their lists up to date so that it is worth my while to look at them? I have tried to find dealer price lists by going to the EAC website and looking at the dealer links. What other source should I be checking?

Are counterfeits going to ruin the hobby? Now I collect counterfeits, Wyatt's and Bishop's, which are counterfeits of Massachusetts silver. However they were made in the 1800s, thus I do not think that I am encouraging the counterfeiter by doing so, as he is long since dead. I stay away from the "contemporary" counterfeits such as the "Chinese" ones currently in the marketplace. But with modern technology detecting fakes by just your eyeballs is getting harder. So does everything now have to be slabbed?

Anyway, which slab service is better? cheaper? faster? When is it reasonable to get a coin slabbed? When is the value of the coin so low that it is not worth getting it put into a slab?

Now I have found some good news in collecting from home. Since I no longer have the costs of traveling to a coin show, staying at a hotel, and eating out for several days, I now have more money in my coin budget to spend. Of course I still miss all the people. But if I can get the answers to some of my questions, perhaps I will be a better collector. Please Write!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

R.W. Julian writes,

The July 2020 issue of *Penny-Wise* has two articles for which comments would seem to be in order.

1.

The first article in question is the essay by Dennis Fuoss entitled "Another Look at 1796 Draped Bust Cents." This article has considerable material of value but the author appears to have mixed up his notes from 1796 and 1797, a type of error which plagues all of us from time to time.

Mr. Fuoss suggests that it might be possible to distin-

guish between copper sources for the two main deliveries of planchets for the 1796 Draped Bust cent coinage, those of Governor & Company and Matthew Boulton. This is turn would lead to further knowledge of the order of striking.

The problem here is that the first Boulton delivery of cent planchets did not arrive until August 1797. There were, however, two distinct kinds of copper sent by Governor & Company in 1796. That firm not only sent planchets but also sheet copper. The quality was rather poor in both cases.

Because planchets cut out at Philadelphia from the sheet copper perhaps vary in some respects to the original Governor & Company planchets it might be possible to draw some conclusions from a study along these lines.

The Governor & Company cent planchets were coined from mid October to late November 1796 but the sheet copper, which had to be rolled again because of the low quality, was not used for planchets until early February 1797. Given this information, the comparison for planchets might show, for example, if 1796 Draped Bust cent dies were used in February 1797.

2.

The other article of interest is by William Eckberg and titled "Early Copper Reverses. Part I: 1808–1857." Mr. Eckberg questions whether half cents dated in the early 1840s were in fact struck during the years named on the coins. He notes in particular that, "Nobody has yet uncovered any documentation from the Mint proving that it sold complete proof sets that included half cents in the 1840s."

A letter dated August 7, 1840, from Mint Director Robert M. Patterson to United States Consul T.G. Flügel at Leipzig (Saxony) is definitive in terms of the above point raised by Mr. Eckberg. The letter accompanies a set of U.S. coins of the "present year" destined for someone at Leipzig. Included were one eagle, one quarter eagle, one silver dollar, two half dollars, one quarter dollar, three dimes, two half dimes, and one each of the cent and half cent. The total value was $15.16 ½.

This letter thus shows that half cents dated 1840 were struck in that year.

No half eagle was sent as this would have put the total value above the money sent from Leipzig. Dr. Patterson does not stipulate that the coins were in proof condition but it seems likely that they were. They were put into a special case which happened to be on hand at the Mint.

The mint file copy of the letter to Mr. Flügel may be seen on the Newman Numismatic Portal: RG 104, Entry 1, Boxes 18–21 (Part 5), frames 156–157.

The other point of interest raised by Mr. Eckberg concerns the source of the planchets for the proof-only half cents of 1840–1849. He notes that "There is no record of the purchase of half cent planchets after 1825 until 1849, and it seems unlikely that a substantial number would have been left over from 1836. Both Cohen and Breen report that the coinage of 1835 exhausted the remaining planchets from 1825."

In point of fact the planchet delivery of August 1825 was exhausted in June 1833, not 1835, leading Mint Director Samuel Moore to order five tons of half cent planchets from Matthew R. Boulton late that year. These planchets were received in the spring of 1834. There were 933,333 planchets in this delivery, according to the total weight shown on the invoice, but the true number was of course slightly above or below this amount due to minor variations in weight.

The 1834 Boulton half cent planchet delivery details have been published on several occasions, including the March 2001 issue of *Penny-Wise*.

As only 539,000 pieces were used for half cent coinage during 1834 and 1835, this left nearly 400,000 planchets on hand after December 1835. The bulk of these would have been melted for use as alloy in the gold and silver coinage but a reasonable number would have been kept on hand for the proof half cent coinage of the 1840s.

* * *

Dennis Fuoss responds,

Thank you for taking the time to read my work, and for your thoughtful commentary on the article. I sincerely believe that we can improve our shared understanding of the mint's early processes and products through this type of dialog.

With regard to your comments about the sources of large cent planchets: while I mentioned that there were two main sources for copper (Boulton & Watt, and Governor & Company [aka. Coltman Bros.]), I was not aware that Governor & Co. provided both blank planchets and sheets of copper. Breen notes that the Governor & Co. planchets can often be found with a rounded border on one side. This observation is very useful, but it would not be a defining characteristic for Governor & Co. copper, if they also delivered sheets of copper, which would presumably be rolled & punched into cent blanks at the Mint. This is another aspect of the cent coinage of this era that could probably be clarified through a non-destructive elemental analysis (*e.g.* XRF analysis) of the

cents themselves. The elemental analysis could be used to identify the fractional composition of trace elements (*e.g* Bismuth, Antimony, *etc*.) which would be a sort of "signature" from the mine where the copper was derived. I would hypothesize that copper from Governor & Co. would have the same elemental composition, whether shipped as sheets or cut planchets. The Boulton copper, if from a different source mine, would presumably have a different trace elemental composition.

As you mentioned in your letter, "The Governor & Company cent planchets were coined from mid October to late November 1796 but the sheet copper, which had to be rolled again because of the low quality, was not used for planchets until early February 1797." You also stated that "…the first Boulton delivery of cent planchets did not arrive until August 1797." To me, these copper shipment details do not represent a problem, but rather give us more data to incorporate into our model for the actual minting process for 1796 and 1797 cents. There is ample evidence that cents dated 1796 were minted later (1797, and perhaps even later). To cite just one bit of evidence, there are the "knotless" reverse dies, which appear on some 1796 varieties as well as some from 1797.

My article from the July 2020 *Penny-Wise* used die characteristics to formulate some ideas about the emission sequence for the Draped Bust cents. However, the resultant picture remains fairly cloudy, and I believe that supplementing our knowledge with information about the composition of the coins would provide some more clarity. It is not likely that this data will help us solve the entire riddle. However, we can make progress, with the help and observations of skilled researchers such as you, Bob.

* * *

Bill Eckberg responds,

I thank Craig Sholley, John Dannreuther and Bob Julian for comments on my article on half cent reverses. It is gratifying that someone reads these articles closely enough to find things that need to be sorted out. Their comments related to the speculative part of the article that dealt with the proof half cents of the 1840s.

Craig and JD related that two 1843 proof sets attributed to President John Tyler (presidency 1841-1845) and one from the Stickney collection had large berry half cents. They also suggested that the crushed reeding on the edges of the 1840-41 half cents suggests that they were at least struck at the same time. I agree. Incidentally, I discovered recently that Tyler, who died in 1862, has a living grandson and another who died last month!

According to JD, "The earliest ones we can prove [were] struck in the year on the coin are the three 1843s (two in the Tyler sets and the one to Stickney). Since there are so many red 1841s, maybe you are correct and they were struck later. However, why reed the planchets if you are striking them later?" Though interesting additional information, it does not disprove my speculations.

Craig also provided additional information about the striking of "patterns" and proof half cents being a side business at the Mint. His comments were very interesting, and I hope he will publish them in *Penny-Wise*, as they are too long to quote here. Again, they provide interesting information but don't disprove my speculations.

Bob Julian provided a link to a letter that I had not seen. It was from Director Patterson to a governmental official in Germany that accompanied a proof set of 1840 that included a half cent. I thank him for that information, which, if the set contained an 1840 half cent, would prove that at least one proof half cent was struck in 1840. In this context, other diplomatic proof sets may be of significance. The Sultan of Muscat and King of Siam 1834 proof sets were also supposed to be of "current" coins but the dollar and eagle were dated 1804. Unless that proof set is located and is established to have an 1840 half cent, it might have contained one dated 1836 or earlier.

He also reported a planchet delivery from Boulton in 1834 that most authors, including me, had not been aware of. (He had published the information in a 2001 *Penny*-Wise article; I was familiar with the article, but missed the novelty of the 1834 delivery, and I appreciate the reference.) Thus, an unknown number of half cent planchets could have been left over after 1836. Proofs dated in the 1840s could have been struck on some of these leftover planchets, but there is no proof (pun intended) that they were. The "restrikes," whenever they were coined, do not conform to the 84 grain weight standard, so those, at least, were presumably struck on planchets made at the Mint.

Many thanks to all three of these excellent researchers for their comments.

* * *

Larry Knee writes,

I'm looking at the cover on our last issue and I wonder why that S-24 is graded AU? I of course see roughness in the planchet especially around the date and bust and a nick or two on the apple cheek. Is that wear in the hair

opposite the eye in the middle of the hair? Rub on the nose? Is that some wear on the "NE" of ONE? Is that some wear on the leaf above the O? When a keg of large cents was opened, how was it emptied? No circulation but of course, but some coins were more desirable than others. But were they all Unc? I would guess that the better condition coins were received from a bank? Such coins were most likely placed in a leather "pocket book" when you went out the door. (We even had leather pocket books when I was a kid.) Does the off color between O in ONE and E in CENT cause a problem when grading this wonderful piece? How in the world can we buy coins unseen and get what we want? How in the world can we really decide what a coin is worth from a pricing guide? This cover piece shown—along with others—is an unbelievable thing for us to see.

Harry Salyards replied,

I don't think anyone could say, without having the coin in hand (and not just a photograph) whether that spot in the middle of the hair or the slightly lighter color of NE of ONE reflects a rub of wear or not—and maybe not even then. People talk about looking for "luster breaks" on the high points, but after almost a half-century of looking at near-mint copper and bronze coins, I'm damned if I can always tell, even with the coin in hand. And even before that, going back to collecting Lincoln cents out of circulation in the late 1950s, I remember thinking, "How can this 1956-D be 'uncirculated' when I got it out of circulation?"

I know that the coin in question picked up its quasi-official grade at the hands of Del Bland. It is the coin that was stolen from the Carnegie and sold to Del (if memory serves), thus I believe it was Del who ended up eating the cost of the coin, when a series of several subsequent would-be owners were reimbursed their purchase prices, but there was no refund for Del because by then, the thief was dead and his widow declined to be helpful. Maybe losing your purchase price on a coin like this is enough to sour you a little on its grade, even.

But you're absolutely right. If we bid on any "AU" sight unseen, and think it's going to look like this, we'll be disappointed 100% of the time.

* * *

Larry Knee responded with a sad story:

I was thinking that the coin was one that Dr Sheldon had "exchanged." Many many years ago I was on the board of CWNA (Colorado-Wyoming Numismatic Association) and we all met at a member's home in Cheyenne. The member was a conductor for Union Pacific, and he was the nicest guy you would ever want to meet. All the walls in his house had actual coins from his collection on display in frames, and boy was he excited to show them all to us. Also at the meeting was the local coin shop owner. Some few weeks later, all this conductor's walls were stripped, the local coin shop was empty, as was the dealer's rented house, and the dealer with his wife and kids all disappeared. (I never heard the rest of the story). Coin collecting is always an interesting hobby, I guess.





CONSIGN NOW TO THE

2021 EAC SALE

We are now accepting consignments for the 2021 EAC Sale to be held Saturday, March 13, 2021 at the Washington DC convention. If you have coins to sell, please consider taking advantage of this excellent venue that not only achieves strong results for consignors, but also helps support our club.

Deadline to consign is December 31, 2020.

$200 minimum value per lot.

Please send consignments and any questions to:

Kevin Vinton
PO Box 771
Danbury CT 06813
203-305-4710
kevindanielvinton@gmail.com



1802 S-226

AU-50 *With a short line-like planchet defect on obverse and weak striking through the date*.
George H. Clapp, 3/31/49 • Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh, PA
Description from *Walter Breen's Encuclopedia of Early United States Cents 1793-1814.*
Bowers and Merena Galleries,Wolfeboro, NH. 2000.
Images by Lyle Engleson for EAC and the Newman Numismatic Portal.

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 January 2021 issue is December 30, 2020.*** 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.

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

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* * * * * * * * * * * * *

New Book on Late Date Large Cents

Bob Grellman, EAC #575 P.O. Box 17226 Amelia Island, FL 32035-3138

407-221-1654 (cell, text) email: jrgrellman@gmail.com

Consignments for Auction: I am accepting early copper consignments for all Goldberg auctions. Call, email, or text for details.

Late Date Large Cent Book: A new 2020 edition of *The Die Varieties of United States Large Cents 1840-1857* is available in digital format on the EAC website (http://eacs.org/member-login/). **It is free to all EAC members**. Two digital versions are available. The "Flipping Book" version is a smaller file and will fit on most smart phones and small tablets. The pdf version is a larger file (about 440mb) and is better suited for a computer or higher-powered tablet. Enjoy.

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A SMALL HOARD OF EAC COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS which has been off the market for well over a decade will once again be offered to the general membership on a first-come, first-served basis! Order yours now, as there is no telling how long this limited supply will last!

We still offer the 2000 Cape Canaveral Convention Commemorative, in copper, plain edge, larger than a dollar. This obverse features the obverse of 1794. The reverse has the space shuttle soaring over the state of Florida, with the legend EAC 2000 Cape Canaveral Florida April 6-9. Gem brilliant,flawles ssurfaces.

The medals are offered at $5.00 each, plus postage. ALL PROCEEDS TO EAC!! Please place all medal orders, and/or inquire about available *P-W* issues: bimgander@gmail.com
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Al Boka, EAC #406 9817 Royal Lamb Drive Las Vegas, NV 89415

Tel: 702-809-2620 email: eac406@aol.com www.1794largecents.com

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Tom Deck 9755 Brewster Ct. Mobile, AL 36695 EAC #4574

Cotton Liners For Sale

For a limited time my wife has resumed making cotton liners for early copper storage. Rugged and high quality. Liners are a combination of cotton and interfacing, white fabric with white stitching. They are a bit thicker and stiffer than the ones Rod Burress used to sell. Prices are $45/100, or $25/50, plus exact shipping. Or you can send an SASE for a sample. We currently have a small supply available for immediate shipping; otherwise, there is a small lead time. Feel free to call or email for details.

http://www.largecents.net tom@largecents.net 251-408-7806

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Mike Iatesta, EAC #4815, mikeiatesta@hotmail.com, (303) 913-0449

1845 N-7 R5, die state a, $2,500
Grellman: "CC#1 in the Noyes census, his photo #31208. Our grade is 55+, CC#3 in the Grellman census behind two marginally finer examples. This cent offers outstanding eye appeal with virtually flawless surfaces."
PCGS: PCGS MS64BN, Newcomb-7, Naftzger Collection, CAC
Provenance: Howard R. Newcomb, Floyd T. Starr, R. E. Naftzger, Dan W. Holmes, Fred Iskra

1847 N-30 R4, die state b, $1,100
Grellman: "**TCC#2**, 50+, Trace Red"
PCGS: PCGS AU55 Newcomb 30
Provenance: Robbie S. Brown, Dan W. Holmes, Chris Victor McCawley

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Wanted to buy: all bronze Presidential medals of the New York Numismatic Club and the Rochester Numismatic Association. Also, 1929 Howard Newcomb medal (California Coin Club).

Wanted to buy: Original 1890 Doughty signed (once owned) by Charles E. Moellering. Call me!

Chuck Heck, EAC #514 703 Village Green Ln, Bluffton, SC 29909 561-628-5345

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Ray Rouse, EAC #2675 7568 Regency Lake Drive Boca Raton, FL 33433
(954) 234-6240 rayrpbfl@gmail.com

Wanted for Personal Collection:

1985 Boston Numismatic Society Medal.

Copper copies of Massachusetts's silver coins as made by Edwin Bishop from Thomas Wyatt's counterfeit dies.

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Denis Loring, EAC #11 P.O. Box 32115 Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420
dwloring@aol.com

For sale: 1794 S-59, EAC VF-25, unslabbed, ex-Jack Beymer in 2012. $4650.

1794 S-65, EAC VF25, no material defects, ex-Heritage 1/18: 3189, $3900

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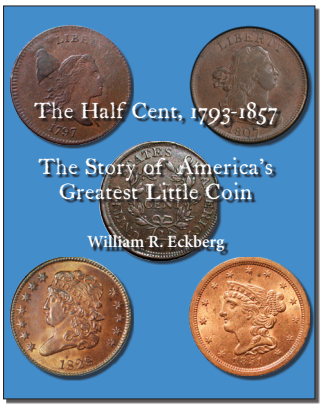
Bill Eckberg, EAC #3395 PO Box 222338, West Palm Beach, FL 33422 703-577-7066

The Half Cent, 1793-1857: The Story of America's Greatest Little Coin.

2020 EAC Book of the Year Award



It tells the story of the American half cent from its beginnings in 1793 to its end in 1857. Who designed and made them? Why wre they made? How many were made, and how many survive of each variety? What grade ranges are collectable? The book includes extensive research information developed in the past 35 years that corrects many of the errors in the Breen and Cohen books.

A highly readable and very useful overview of the subject, with a nice balance of historical background and technical (die variety) discussion. Good color photography provides an improvement over earlier works. – Daved Fanning

Available to EAC members for $95.00; list price $125.00.

http://www.halfcentbook.com halfcent@mac.com

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Michael S. Shutty, Jr., EAC #2790

If you want to read something totally different and a bit radical, I think you will enjoy my new book. It is a heartfelt exploration of history as told by coins lost in the dirt. The book also explains how copper cents decay when confronted with Mother Nature. Finally, I examine the aesthetics of corrosion, born of the conflict between nature and man (wherein nature wins). Check it out & enjoy a great weekend read.

LOST CENTS, DEAD OWNERS: Appreciating Coins in Decay.

My book is available from Books123.org or from other Internet sellers like Amazon.com. It costs $24.95 (less than a corroded Draped Bust cent).

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Mabel Ann Wright, EAC#78 1468 Timberlane Drive St.Joseph, MI 49085

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Craig McDonald, EAC #1540

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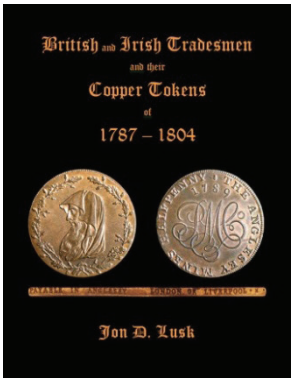

British and Irish Tradesmen and their Copper Tokens of 1787 – 1804, a book by **Jon Lusk. (EAC #356)** It has been fifty years since a book dedicated to the subset of Dalton & Hamer tokens known as *Tradesmen's Tokens* has been published. The author of this work reveals discoveries concerning the issuers, their lives, names, and occupations. Tokens are pictured in large size, and in color, along with photographs of the edges unwrapped into a straight line. Variety identification photographs and availability ratings are included to assist the collector. Using inclusion criteria developed by the author, he suggests four collections of these tokens each containing from 110 to 248 pieces. This book was written for collectors, or those interested in history. Better yet, it is meant for those who are both. It is available from the author, Jon@Lusk.cc. (400 pages, hardbound, 8½ x 11 -- $109, free shipping in US)

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Tom Webster, EAC #5752 Phone 269-217-7700 email: webs1873@gmail.com
P.O. Box 19501, Kalamazoo, MI 49019

Wanted to Buy for my Personal Collection

Connecticut Copper 1785-1787 within Top to Middle of CC range in Choice, well struck, original surfaces, no rim dings or planchet cutter voids, please offer

Also wanted:

- Alfred D. Hoch Plates of 1785 Connecticut Coppers produced in the 1960's.
- 1992 Rosa Americana reprint Thos. Elder catalog of 1920 Henry Miller Sale with plates.
- Unpublished Connecticut copper reference material that may be useful.

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Bill Eckberg, EAC 3395 halfcent@mac.com
PO Box 222338, West Palm Beach, FL 33422
703-577-7066

For Sale

1833 half cent, PCGS PF62, ex-Stacks-Bowers 8/2020 #2284 $4200

1803 half cent C-3, AU50 (unworn but dark) $3500

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New Half Cent Attribution Guide Makes identifying Half Cents easy. Book was awarded EAC Book of the year 2016. Large photos with all attribution points clearly illustrated. With each book ordered a quick finder Small format guide is included. (a must have tool)

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Massachusetts Coppers Attribution Guide Just like the NJ Copper Guide this publication covers both Mass Cents and Half Cent. 228 pages in 10 chapters outlining proven methods for easy attribution. Also four chapters with large photos showing Obverse and Reverse die combinations for both cent and half cents. Order yours today.
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New Jersey Coppers Attribution Guide Makes identifying Jerseys easy. Unfortunately **all SOLD OUT! But** I do have a limited supply of the Leather Bound hard back copies . This is a beautiful tan leather, made with premium paper. They originally sold for $149.95. Clearance price is $95 + $4 shipping. **Order one today before their all gone. Send Payment to:**

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Al Nelson, EAC #5732

I am trying to upgrade my middle date collection. I am looking for the following varieties in VF30 or better: 1817 N15 1820 N4 1820 N6 1822 N1
1822 N7 1839 N4 1839 N5

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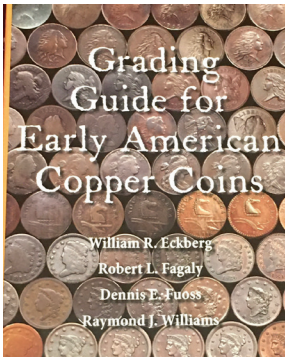
If your mailing address changes, be sure to notify the Treasurer promptly, as the United States Postal Service does not forward copies of *Penny-Wise*.

Ron Gammill EAC #5321 PO Box 698 Schoolcraft, MI 49087

Grading Guide for Early American Copper Coins.



We have copies of this masterfully illustrated Grading Guide for Early American Copper Coins. This 2014 publication details technical vs market grading, net grading, an introduction to die varieties, die states, authentication, detection of counterfeits and alterations and has a glossary of terms second to none.

Available for $55/copy postpaid.

Gammill Numismatics, LLC
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Phone: (662)-736-3222

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Lou Alfonso, EAC # 3731 loualfonso@aol.com

WANT TO BUY OLD WHITMAN LARGE CENT AND STANDING LIBERTY QUARTER COIN BOARDS FOR PERSONAL COLLECTION. JUST THE COIN BOARD, NO COINS.

PLEASE EMAIL ME WITH WHAT YOU HAVE AND PRICE DESIRED.

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Robert Calderon, EAC #5644 rjc463@gmail.com 201-264-2427

For Sale

1857 N-4 small date, mark free, ex Dan Holmes 2011, Herman Halpern 1988, includes Stacks and Goldberg lot tickets, Dan's envelope and J.R. Grellman attribution and grade card (EAC 60), also graded EAC 60 in both auctions, NGC 62 brown, slab notes Holmes and Halpern pedigree. $1,000.

1794 S-25, R3, ex Tom Reynolds, NGC VF details, rim damage (rim bump at k6), EAC Fine, net VG $750.

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Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4)



- Which of these coins was the first struck in the New World?
- Which of these were the first coins struck in what would eventually become the United States?
- Benjamin Franklin designed which coin?
- Which is the first American coin to include the famous motto, "e pluribus unum?"





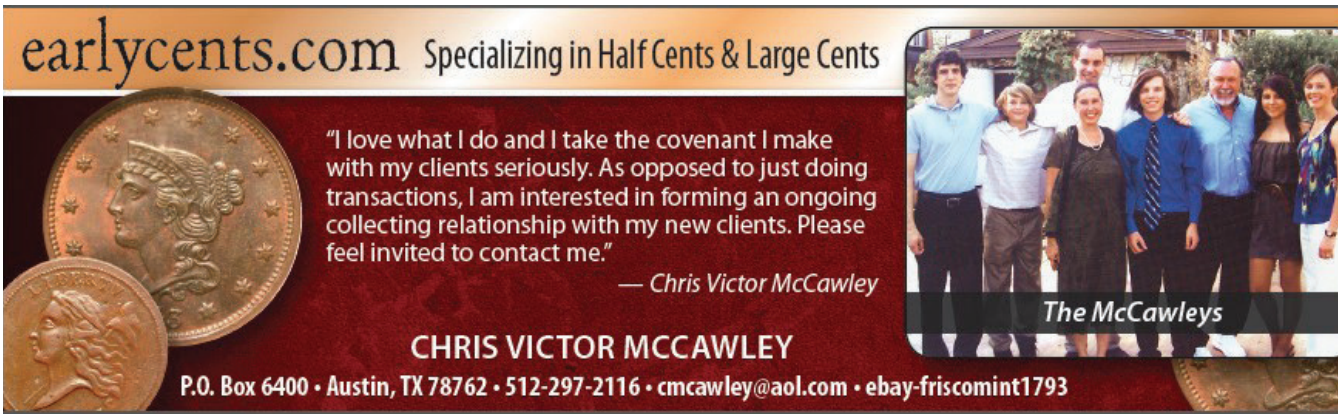
If you are interested in the answers to these questions or want to know more about the coins on this page or colonial era history, check out our website at:

www.colonialcoins.org









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AU50 CAC



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1788 New Jersey Copper,
MS63 Brown NGC
Maris 50-f, Head Facing Left



1787 New York-Style Brasher Doubloon
From the Garrett Collection,
MS65★ NGC



1795 Washington Oval Peace Medal
Engraved by Joseph Richardson
From the Garrett Collection
* Image reduced



1714 Gloucester Courthouse Shilling,
VF25 NGC
The Finer of Two Known



1786 Lima-Style Brasher Doubloon
MS61 NGC
The Finer Of Two Known



1792 Washington Half Dollar,
MS63 NGC
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1787 Connecticut Copper, VF20 NGC
Miller 1.4-WW,
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The E Pluribus Unum Collection, Part 2:

Colonial Coins and Washingtonia

Featured in the Stack's Bowers Galleries November 11-13, 2020 Auction



Built over the course of more than half a century, the E Pluribus Unum Collection is replete with coins and medals of superb rarity and quality, many with significant pedigrees, some of which date to the 19th century. Sales from the collection commenced in our November 2019 Baltimore Auction with the record-setting auction of the best collection of New Jersey coppers sold since 2003. Building upon that momentum, Part 2 of the collection numbers nearly 500 pieces and focuses on a variety of 17th and 18th century colonial coin types, along with Washington coins, medals and tokens. Notable sectors include American Plantations tokens, St. Patrick coinage, Wood's Hibernia and Rosa Americana coinages, Voce Populis, Vermont coppers, Auctori Plebis coppers, Mott tokens, Castorland medals, and Franco-American jetons. Of special note are nearly 40 Machin's Mills halfpence by die marriage, more than 60 Connecticut coppers, and over 200 pieces of Washingtoniana. Of particular interest to specialists in the colonial series, the sale features dozens of numismatic delicacies like multiple strikes and brockages, in addition to several rare and high quality overstrikes.

Contact us today for more information!

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THE MARK CADDEN COLLECTION OF 1794 CENTS, THE CHUCK HALL COLLECTION, THE BOB WILLOUGHBY COLLECTION



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PCGS VF20
Est $25,000 Realized $40,800



1794 S-33
PCGS Fine Detail
Est $15,000 Realized $31,200



1794 S-36
PCGS XF40 CAC
Est $13,000 Realized $28,800



1794 S-66
PCGS VG10
Est $5000 Realized $12,000



1794 S-72
PCGS AU50
Est $5000 Realized $13,800



1816 N-1
PCGS AU58
Est $4000 Realized $7500



1816 N-9
PCGS MS64
Est $2000 Realized $4080



1820 N-4
PCGS AU55 CAC
Est $1750 Realized $6600



1820 N-5
PCGS MS62
Est $2500 Realized $5040



1820 N-14
NGC MS62
Est $7500 Realized $25,200



1822 N-12
PCGS MS63
Est $6000 Realized $26,400



1835 N-4
PCGS VF30
Est $1500 Realized $4560



1838 N-15
PCGS VF35
Est $750 Realized $3840



1839 N-15
PCGS AU58
Est $3500 Realized $10,200

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Garvin Scholarship/Research Grant Application – 2020

Name _____
Address _____
_____
Telephone _____ Applying for: $1000 Scholarship ____
$500 Research Grant ____
EAC# _____ Date Joined EAC _____

Scholarship requirements:

1. What class, seminar, conference, *etc*. will you attend? Where and when will it be held? Please attach a flyer, application, or any documentation regarding the class, seminar, conference, *etc*.
2. Please indicate and document how you have shared your numismatic knowledge with others during your lifetime. Possible instances can include:
    a. Giving a presentation to a non-numismatic entity, ex. A school, community service organization, home for the aged, Boy or Girl Scouts, *etc*.
    b. Presenting a program or seminar at a coin club or coin show.
    c. Writing articles for local, regional, or national numismatic publications.
    d. Service in leadership positions for local, regional, or national numismatic clubs or organizations.
    e. Volunteer work for local, regional, or national numismatic clubs or organizations in an effort to insure a successful specific program or show.
3. By signing this application, you agree that should you receive an EAC Scholarship you will prepare and submit an original article to ***Penny-Wise*** discussing the subject matter of the class or seminar including personal observations or comments. Such article will be due no later than four (4) months from the end of such class or seminar.

Research Grant requirements:

1. Please submit documentation showing the nature, timing and source of the research being conducted and its direct relation to early American copper.
2. Please submit original documents (to be returned) showing clearly the nature and amount of such expenditures that relate directly to the research being conducted.
3. By signing this application, you agree that should you receive an EAC grant you will prepare and submit an original article to ***Penny-Wise*** that details the results of the research project. Such article will be due no later than four (4) months from the completion of the research covered under the grant.

Note Well: There is no deadline for applications. However, you must be an EAC member in good standing for at least 12 months prior to the date you submit the application.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail or email this application to either:

Lou Alfonso, PO Box 480188, Delray Beach, FL 33448 or loualfonso1794@gmail.com

David Huang, 20 Quail Run Lane, Glenmoore, PA 19343-2020 or oysterk@hotmail.com

Early American Coppers

Membership Dues Notice for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

SEE THE NEW ADDRESS FOR MAILING DUES

January 1, 2020

Print your name and mailing address for PENNY-WISE:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Telephone #: _____

E-mail address: _____

Dues are payable by June 30, 2020 for the period 7/1/2020 to 6/30/2021.
If your dues expire before June 30, 2020, please contact our Treasurer (loualfonso@aol.com) for your renewal dues rate.

You may pay for up to five (5) years at a time.

Regular dues (including new members) **$39 x _____ years = _____**
Associate members send $10.00/year
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1793 Sheldon-15, Breen-22. Very Good 7.
Clapp Collection, Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh.
This coin, despite it's low grade and the fact that it was Clapp's duplicate,
is Condition Census #4!
Photos by Lyle Engleson for EAC and the Newman Numismatic Portal.