

PENNY-WISE

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INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR: THE FLEXIBLE MEANING OF “RARE COINS”

Harry E. Salyards

Back around 1997, one less-than-prescient observer suggested that, with the rising populations tallied by Third Party Graders, the notion that an item like a 1909S V.D.B. cent was a “Rare Coin” could not possibly be sustained. Yet, here we are: the counts continue to rise, and so do the prices. As of March 1997, PCGS had graded 3484 1909S V.D.B.’s, and an EF cost \$550. Today that total is 20,855, and the cost is \$1400. Six times as many certified, and yet the price has gone up almost three-fold. There are certainly not 18 times as many Lincoln Cent collectors in 2022 as there were in 1997! Something else must be sustaining demand, despite the absolute documentation of tens of thousands of examples. I think that something is *Tradition*, pure and simple. Over the course of many years, certain pieces take on the magical aura associated with the words, “Rare Coin.” To an outsider, it may seem insane that the difference of a single digit in the date—a cent reading “1877” rather than “1878,” for example—can make one coin worth far more than the other. To a dispassionate analyst of the available population data, the very idea is absurd. No matter. Collectors are nothing if not passionate.

True collectors don’t *invest* in coins; they *are invested in the pursuit* of coins. In 1978, I bought an 1891-S Double Eagle, which would later slab as MS62. I paid \$350. I sold it for \$1800 in 2013, about \$550 better than inflation between 1978 and 2013. Thus, it proved to be a tangible hedge against the declining value of the dollar. But I didn’t buy it for that purpose; I bought it because I wanted a “Rare Coin” for my collection. Of course, there were no population reports in 1978, but I remember being annoyed at auction catalogers who treated the 1891-S as common, when I had observed that it showed up so much less often than the 1904-S, for example. It isn’t as common, but *they’ve continued to make more of each*—encapsulated examples, that is. In 1997, the PCGS population counts for the two dates were 913 and 6255. Today, those totals are 6187 and 24,686. But regardless of how many double eagles are ultimately repatriated from Europe, to any collector who never saw gold in circulation, Liberty Head gold will always be “Rare Coins.” Thus *Nostalgia* also plays a part in defining rarity.

Like the 1909S V.D.B. cent, many modern “key” dates in other series have undergone population explosions

over the past 25 years. There are now 6808 PCGS-certified 1877 cents, versus 735 in 1997; ten times as many 1916-D dimes, 9926 versus 988; and 2035 1916 Standing Liberty Quarters, versus 601. On the Sheldon rarity scale, all of these “Rare Coins” are R1, “common.” Yet demand remains strong—for now. I believe that much of this demand reflects the fact that every one of these “Rare Coins” was represented by an open hole in a Whitman folder or album, in the hands of the young collectors of a half-century ago. With the financial means at their disposal, they now can fill those holes. This, too, is “rarity” bolstered by Nostalgia. But caution is in order: when the last of these collectors is gone, will over 20 thousand people still want to own a 1909S V.D.B. cent at today’s prices?

United States coins struck before the Civil War, and especially before 1836, are a different matter entirely. Here, the population numbers continue to support a more traditional meaning of “Rare Coins.” Three types of 1793 cents serve as an example. As of March 1997, PCGS had certified 28 Chain AMERI’s. Today that total is 152. The population of Lettered Edge Wreaths has gone from 61 to 238; 1793 Liberty Caps, from 28 to 171. Unlike the situation with the modern key dates, these increases reflect increased demand for the certification of a small fixed supply. In 1997, a visitor to the EAC convention would have seen little encapsulated copper. The reasons for this change in collectors’ preferences are complex, but certainly include the ongoing threat of counterfeits, the dramatic rise in prices, and the perception of enhanced marketability. In other words, the overall numbers for these 1793 cents still fall within the same population ranges suggested by Sheldon in the 1940s, reflecting scholarship going back to the 1860s. Early cent collectors are very fortunate to have such extensive data! When Sheldon published *Early American Cents*, the up-to-200 Chain AMERI’s had to be shared among perhaps the same number of serious collectors, with little turnover in the short term. A collection sale would result in a minor reshuffling of the pieces. Today, that “clubby” atmosphere is long gone. A far greater number of collectors engage in a far more aggressive pursuit of that same limited number of examples, and pay far higher prices for the privilege of owning one: Neither Tradition nor Nostalgia, but Classical Supply and Demand, in the hunt for a Classically Rare Coin.

LARGE BERRY REVERSE PROOF HALF CENTS: ORIGINALS AND RESTRIKES

Craig Sholley, Bill Eckberg, and John Dannreuther

The Large Berry Reverse proof half cents are certainly one of the oddest, if not the oddest, issues in all of U.S. numismatics. Struck for a decade, from 1840 through 1849, as proof-only issues, they have a unique reverse with oddly straight stems and round, BB-like berries punched over top of smaller, more realistic berries. While there were circulation strikes in 1849, those used a larger size logotype for the date and a reverse having the smaller, more realistic berries and stems. The 1849 Small Date/Large Berry proof half cent is thus a proof-only design type.

The Small Berry design remained in use on most of the circulation and proof strikes through 1857, the sole exception being yet another oddity, the proof-only 1852. While many believe the 1852 is an “original” issue of that date based on the weight of the known pieces being within tolerance for half cents, Breen was correct that the die state clearly shows those pieces are later restrikes, albeit earlier than Breen thought.

If that wasn’t enough to mark the Large Berry proof half cents as an “odd-ball,” the overall design with its wide rims, larger letters on the reverse, and portrait positioning clearly presages the later, very similar, design changes seen on the 1843 “Mature Head” cent. This represents a clear departure from over four decades of mint practice, in which the design of the half cent followed that of the cent: Christian Gobrecht’s and the preceding engravers’ typical practice of introducing a new design on the largest denomination of a series.

While there are several “mint records” containing extensive discussion of the design changes for the silver coinage, only one record with the briefest mention remains for the copper coins (and gold), an Aug. 7, 1840 letter from Director Robert M. Patterson to Dr. T.G. Flugel, the U.S. Consul at Leipzig:¹

Your letter of July 25th and December 2, 1839, although a good while on their journey, were safely received, together with the specimen coins therein referred to. They have been acknowledged earlier, but that I was waiting to comply with your request for specimens of our coinage by sending those of the present year. The series of 1840 has but lately been completed, as we have been introducing some modifications of design and dimension, which caused unavoidable [word missing from transcription,

apparently “delay”].

I have this day caused to be sealed up for you, a casket containing

In gold, one eagle (value ten dollars)

In gold, one quarter eagle (value 2-1/2 dollars)

In silver, one dollar

In silver, two half dollars

In silver, one quarter dollar

In silver, three dimes

In silver, two half dimes

In copper, one cent

In copper, one half cent [emphasis added]

The gold and silver coins are all of the standard fineness of 9/10 the same as the French, and the new standard of florins in Germany. The weight of the eagle is 258 troy grains, dollar, 412-1/2 grains, the smaller coins being in proportion. The present standards of our coins were fixed by a general mint law, enacted January 18th, 1837.

Since Patterson specifically states that delivery of the specimen coins was delayed pending completion of design changes, the design change to the half cent was planned, most likely as a “test-bed” for the later changes to the cent. However, why the mint continued to strike these collector-only coins for the next eight years remains unknown. Most likely, it was to curry favor with wealthy collectors, one of the mint’s favored tactics for blunting Congressional criticism.

Distinguishing Originals from Restrikes

Proof half cents with the Large Berry reverse are typically referred to as “Original” because, prior to this study, there has been no definitive criteria to distinguish restrikes from true originals. As with the Small Berry reverses, Breen claimed that Originals could be distinguished from restrikes based on weight. However, as we pointed out in our article on “*The Braided Hair Half Cent Reverses, 1840 to 1857*,” Breen’s weight criteria simply do not hold up because his weight ranges have serious overlaps.² In the case of the Large Berry pieces, the “overlap” is even more serious. With Originals running around 83 to 84 grains, Breen’s weight criteria of 78.8 to 87.9 grains for his Series VII Large Berry Restrikes includes the weight range of Originals. No wonder there is such confusion over the status of the 1852 pieces, some of which reportedly weigh 83 to 84 grains.

² Craig Sholley, John Dannreuther, and William Eckberg, “*The Braided Hair Half Cent Reverses, 1840 to 1857*,” Penny-Wise, April 2021.

¹ Kevin Flynn, *The Authoritative Reference on Liberty Seated Dollars*, pp. 201 – 202.

The only definitive criterion for distinguishing an original from a restrrike is die state. While Breen did present brief die state descriptions in his *Half Cent Encyclopedia*, his descriptions are typically so nebulous as to be functionally useless. For the reverse die states, Breen usually either refers the reader to his upfront general description or makes vague comments that the die is worn or repolished (or both) without ever providing a description of the wear or polishing.

His obverse descriptions are equally hazy. For example, while Breen does note that the early state of the 1843 obverse has sharp “file marks” from the dentils, his “description” of his later state merely says, “*Now with the file marks fainter [repolished die].*”³ As will be described below, there are at least four distinct obverse die states all showing clear differences in the file marks and thus showing that pieces were struck on at least four different occasions.

Additionally, his claim that Originals have full dentils while Restrikes often have weak dentils is simply not correct. In fact, the earliest date in the series, 1840, has weak dentils on both the obverse and reverse in the early state (see PCGS 08644595), yet the file marks in the dentils towards the date and first two stars are far stronger than later strikes with full dentils. The same is true of other dates in the series. Thus, the strength of the dentils cannot be used to distinguish “year of issue” pieces (*i.e.*, struck in the year on the obverse) from later year’s strikes.

Breen also missed several critical reverse die states which provide solid indications as to when the coins were struck. In fact, even though there’s a photograph in his book, he missed the terminal die state of the reverse on an 1847, which has what appears to be a prominent crack from the left side of the upright of T in UNITED to the leaf below and rim crumbling. There is some question as to whether this coin really displays a crack and rim crumbling or just a lint mark and some post-mint corrosion from a coin-board or similar. One of us will hopefully get the opportunity to see the coin in-person and confirm these features.

Regardless of the final assessment of the above two defects, there is also a very fine crack from the right base of the T in UNITED across the wreath to the C in CENT. While that may not sound all that important, keep in mind that it is a defect which could have led to

3 Walter Breen, “Walter Breen’s *Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents 1793 – 1857*,” pg. 402.



Terminal state 1847 with possible rim crumbling and die crack.

subsequent die failure.

Please do not take our critique of Breen’s die states as implying that establishing die states for the Large Berry proof half cents is easy; it is not. The reverse was so carefully maintained that, aside from the crack (and possible rim crumbling), there is little difference between its first use in 1840 and the terminal state circa 1857. Yes, there are clear differences in die polish lines, however, the reverse die was so expertly and lightly buffed that, except in a few very limited instances, there are no lines common between pieces, even of the same date.

The same is true of two of the most typical die state indicators – spalling and rust. While we do see the development of both spalling and rust, the fine polishing disrupts the appearance to the point that the spalling or rust may or may not be seen on subsequent strikes, and even when it is present, it is often not possible to state with certainty which coin is earlier.

Fortunately, we did find three features on the reverse that are solid die state indicators. The first is the shape and appearance of the lone small berry opposite the left upper serif of the H in HALF CENT, the second is the reverse letters becoming grainy from rust in 1848, and finally, the subsequent cracking after 1849 and likely in early 1857 just before the Large Berry Reverse was replaced.

However, the key to establishing die states for the Large Berry proof half cents turned out to be the obverses. By establishing the obverse die state, we can determine the striking order for a date. Obviously, the early state obverses are “Year of Issue” strikes. Later states may have been struck later in the year or in a succeeding year. By comparing the reverse of the later state strikes with the reverse of other dates, we can arrive at an approximate striking date.

In some limited cases we can be more definitive. For example, an 1842 has the same die line through the O in OF as the earliest 1843. Since the line on the 1842 is both weaker and disrupted by additional polish lines, we can say the 1843 was struck first. And there is another 1843 with a line even weaker than the 1842, so we can say that the 1842 was struck in between two batches of 1843s. Likewise, there are 1841 and 1845 coins that

share very similar reverse polish lines. So, we can say the 1841 was struck sometime in 1845, shortly before or after the 1845 coin.

This is not the traditional emission sequence (except for a few limited cases) in which it can be shown that coin B was definitively struck after coin A. For most Large Berry proof half cents all that can be said is that they are originals struck in the year of issue or, based on some visible defects, struck later and within a general timeframe.

A Couple of Additional Observations

Breen claimed that original 1840 and 1841 proofs were struck using reeded-edge planchets with the reeding being crushed down by striking. However, during the course of this study we have found definitive evidence of edge reeding as late as 1844. Furthermore, the reeding is rather sharp and well-defined as opposed to crushed-out by striking.

We thus conclude that the reeding was in the collar, rather than the planchets being edge-reeded as Breen claimed. The most reasonable explanation is that the collar was mistakenly partially punched with one of the reeded drifts used to create reeded collars, most likely one for a Seated quarter or the new five-dollar gold piece. We hope to be able to match the reeding with one of those denominations in the future.



Edge reeding on 1844 Proof Half Cent

We also wish to point out that the term “restrike” in reference to these pieces is pretty much a non sequitur. Yes, there are pieces that were struck in a year later than the date on the obverse. However, that was a deliberate mint practice since these pieces were strictly a collector issue and there was thus no requirement that they be struck solely in their year of issue (*i.e.*, the date on the obverse).

While a piece struck after the date on the obverse is technically a restrike by modern definition, the mint would not have considered it as such, since it was struck from the original dies in response to an order from a collector. Such pieces are perhaps more properly termed “Late Originals.” They were struck to meet collector demand from 1841 to circa 1857 when the Large Berry reverse failed and was replaced by the proof-only Reverse

of 1856, creating the so-called “First Restrikes.”

It could be argued that pieces struck circa 1855 to 1857, likely by Henry Linderman for personal profit (this will be further discussed below), should properly be called “restrikes.” However, there is no definitive proof that these pieces were struck for Linderman’s personal profit; he may well have had them made in response to a collector’s request. So, there is no real difference between these pieces and, say, an 1841 struck in 1845 to meet collector demand. So, all Large Berry proof half cents should properly be called “Original.”

Die States and Emission Sequences

We’ll first present a general description of the obverse and reverse die characteristics, including hub-related characteristics, that have no relationship to die state. On the obverse, there are a number of engraving and punching defects around LIBERTY, including a fine scratch from the underside of B to below the E; a lump underneath the right lower serif of E that may be due to repunching; an odd defect below the base of T, along with a partial vertical outline to the left side of T, and a dot to the left of the right pendant of T, all of which combine to look like the T was first lightly punched a bit too low and then repunched in the proper position; and dash-like defects on each side of the base of Y.

The LIBERTY defects are visible on all strikes to some extent. Polishing, toning, dirt, and photo angle may obscure them a bit, especially the line below B, but they are present from 1840 on. Additional polishing and die flow lines are seen on some coins.



Defects at LIBERTY

The other obvious obverse defect is the V-shaped notch in the hair waves behind the ear. As Breen noted, this notch was caused by damage to the hub and is present on all years from 1841 on.

There are several defects common to all strikes on the reverse. The first is a strong die scratch from the underside of the lower serif of the first S in STATES, through the wreath, through the underside of the small berry, to the underside of the upper left serif of H in HALF. This die line is present on all coins from 1840 on, although, it may not be visible due to toning, photo angle, or because it got filled with polish residue or other foreign material. It also appears to be in pieces on some coins,

but intact again on later state pieces. This again is apparently due to being filled with foreign material.



Reverse S-H scratch.

There are also some other small defects, such as the die line from the dentils to the junction of the serifs of UN in UNITED and the three small dots above the left upright of M in AMERICA mentioned by Breen. Once again, these defects are often obscured by toning or photo angle and/or filling with foreign material. They cannot be used to establish the reverse die state.

In fact, the three small dots over the left downstroke of M, which Breen says are gone in later states, clearly are not. They are seen to some extent on all pieces from the earliest 1840 through the terminal state. Their appearance is certainly heavily affected by toning, rust, strike, and being filled with foreign material (probably polishing compound residue), such that they may not be clearly seen on all pieces. However, the fact that they are quite strong on the latest 1849s and the terminal state shows that Breen's assertion is incorrect and they should not be used for establishing die state.



Dots above M on late state 1849

In discussion his supposed 1840 "Restrike Series VII" pieces, Breen also mentions that the stem of the berry nearest F in HALF is "poorly defined," apparently from "repolishing," as the next sentence discusses the disappearance of the dots over M from polishing. We have found one post-1849 strike 1840 with a slightly weaker than usual berry stem. However, the stem is again strong on the terminal state with die crack, thus showing that the weakness is a strike anomaly, as it is with other dates that show some weakness to the stem.

We also note that this 1840 shows light machine-doubling to most of the berries and the sides of some

letters. (At this point we should note that Breen often mistook machine-doubling for double striking and that is true throughout his half cent book. All the pieces he proclaims as double-struck are actually machine-doubling. Machine-doubling, along with some accidentally double-struck pieces, led Breen to mistakenly conclude that all classic-era proofs were double-struck. Proofs were not deliberately double-struck until modern times.)

In fact, the only two features we have found as reliable reverse die state indicators are the polishing (both polishing lines left and general appearance) along with the appearance of the lone small berry opposite the left upper serif of H in HALF (see the S-H die scratch photo).

On the earliest state in 1840, the berry looks quite similar to those seen on the Small Berry reverses, except that it is a bit rounder and much smaller than the same berry on the Small Berry reverses. Even on the earliest 1840 strikes, the stem can only be described as vestigial, and the left side of the berry does not touch the stem. Rather, there is a small space between the berry and the wreath stem, a roughly U-shaped indent in the lower left quadrant at about 270 degrees, and only the slightest remnants of a stem.

The berry is obviously clear of the wreath stem by 1841 and by 1848, the berry has become a bit smaller and flatter. On later post-1849 strikes, the berry has become a flattened lump, looking more like a large rust pit than a berry.

This, of course, makes establishing die state extremely difficult. In fact, it is far easier to establish the obverse die state and then look for other dates with similar reverse polish and the obverse characteristics of small berry strikes to arrive at some semblance of an emission sequence.

We will present a limited number of partial images to show some key die state characteristics. However, the coins are best viewed in their entirety by downloading them from the PCGS CoinFacts site. We have included the PCGS certification numbers for those coins we used in the die state determination.

With these factors in mind, the die states and emission sequence are as follows:

1840 "Year of Issue" Originals.

PCGS 08644595 and 42287180 are the earliest state seen thus far.

Obverse – The early state obverse is extremely clean and smooth with slight remnants of fine polish lines running at about a 45° angle from the upper left to lower right. There are sharp, nearly vertical file marks up from

the dentils towards star 2 and dull, nearly horizontal lines below star 1 towards the date. There are some dull lines up from the top of the head towards stars 7 and 8 and some light lumps in the field between those stars. There are also three short file marks on the upper third of the tip of the bust. All of these lines are slightly sharper on 4287180, thus strongly suggesting it came first. The lines fade on later strikes.



1840, Early state file marks, left, late state erosion, right.

It should also be noted that 08644595 has obviously weak dentils on both the obverse and reverse, while those on 42287180 are full. As previously noted, this refutes Breen's contention that Originals could be distinguished from Restrikes based on the fullness of the dentils.

Reverse – PCGS 42287180 shows a faint trace of the vestigial stem to the small berry opposite H in HALF, thus suggesting it precedes 08644595 which has no visible trace of the stem and an obvious gap between the berry and stem due to polishing. There is a rough patch above AL of HALF and smaller ones between AL and EN, below EN, and between OF and A. Depending on polishing, these hub-related rough patches are visible on most half cent reverses which, depending on polishing, become visibly rougher as striking progresses. The reverse also has numerous indistinct polish lines at various angles in the fields.

PCGS 42426405 appears to be a very early strike as it too has a weakly visible vestigial stem to the small berry. Unfortunately, the obverse has been so heavily bur-nished that die state cannot be accurately established.

1840 Late Originals.

PCGS 27203548 is a Late Original likely struck circa 1842 to 1844. The portrait and fields are lightly rusty and the three short file marks on the bust tip are gone. The area just above the truncation of the bust is lightly rippled from polishing from near the bust tip to the shoulder. While the rough patch above AL is obscured by toning and light rust, those above and below EN are stronger than on early state coins.

PCGS 30451320 was likely struck circa 1846 to 1847

since the reverse letters are becoming a bit grainy as on those dates. There is rusting on the portrait and in the obverse fields, particularly around the stars, along with light rusting on the rim. The cheek, chin, and neck have become rough from erosion. The rippling on the bust tip and shoulder is far stronger and now extends into the hair-waves above the shoulder. There is also obvious polishing erosion on the throat. Both the obverse and reverse show several minor "lint marks."

PCGS 09411381 and 38129934 appear to be post-1849 strikes that share unique characteristics with pieces of other dates. These will be discussed below in the Post-1849 Strikes section.

1841 "Year of Issue" Originals.

PCGS 27384364 is the earliest state seen thus far.

Obverse – The most obvious feature of the 1841 obverse is the prominent crack from the rim at star 2, through stars 3 to 6, to the rim over star 7. The crack is about the same on all strikes. There is light spalling in the field in front of the face from the hair braids to the mid-point of the neck, a lighter patch above the head, and another between the neck and stars 11 and 12. There is a very faint trace of the line from the dentils to the coronet and scattered polish lines in the fields. The reverse has many short, scattered, polish lines, different than previous.

Reverse – The reverse is again smooth and clean. Light polishing has left faint scattered polish lines that are different than those seen on 1840 coins. This characteristic will be a repeated theme for the reverse die states, the reverse apparently having been lightly buffed between most striking, thus leaving different polish lines. The rough patch below EN appears stronger, but that is due to toning.

1841 Late Originals.

PCGS 08644596 appears to be a strike from 1845. The key characteristic is the eerily flat, nearly featureless reverse fields seen only on the earliest state 1845s (especially 08672582). The obverse spalling in front of the portrait is stronger, clearly extending from the eyebrow to just above the bust and that opposite the "C-curl" being stronger. **As in 1840, the chin, jaw, throat, and bust tip have begun to erode from polishing.** There is also some light rust on the right rim. The erosion of the chin, jaw and tip of bust is the key to establishing the die state of 1841s, as it becomes more and more prominent as striking continues. The latest state (60164480) has a heavily eroded chin, bust tip, and jaw, and even some erosion of the throat.

PCGS 30451323 is a Late Original. There is a quite a bit more obverse rust than on 08644596, especially on the portrait which has become a little grainy. The reverse has a rather strange and unique reverse polishing pattern similar to that of 1845 PCGS 42180332. The reverse letters on both the 1841 and 1845 have become lightly grainy as on strikes from late 1846 on, thus making it likely both these pieces were struck circa late 1846 to 1848.

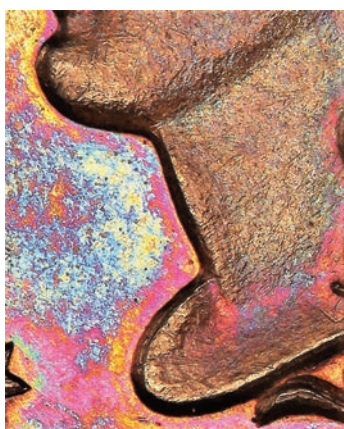


Odd polish on 1841, left, and 1845, right.

PCGS 29583179 is next based on the obverse erosion. It appears to be a strike from 1848 as the reverse letters are lightly grainy from rust. The obverse die has also developed a bit of light rust with the fields, portrait, and faces of the date all lightly grainy. There are rusty areas on the obverse rim but the reverse rim is fairly clean as in 1848. The erosion on the chin, jaw, throat, and tip of the bust are stronger than 30451323 and clearly less than that on 32707891. There are numerous stray polish lines in the fields.

The reverse is unremarkable with numerous light, scattered polish lines. The rough patch between OF and A has become clearly visible.

PCGS 32707891 and 60164480 are strikes circa late 1848 to 1849, based on the graininess of the reverse letters due to rusting. On the obverse, the chin, jaw, throat,



Late state erosion on 1841 obverse.

and bust tip are all obviously heavily rusted. 60164480 is the later strike as, in addition to being rustier, there are several lumps above the right side of the eyebrow and one on the truncation of the bust near the lowest curl from metal chipping out.

PCGS 09411381 and 38129934 appear to be a post-1849 strikes that share some unique characteristics with coins from a few other years. These will be discussed below in the Post-1849 Strikes section.

1842 “Year of Issue” Originals.

PCGS 09811287 is the earliest state seen thus far.

Obverse – The obverse is very smooth and clean with minimal scattered polish lines. There are some short, fine file marks from the dentils below the date and clockwise to star 3. These lines are reduced by polishing and are absent or nearly so in later states. There are some odd raised lines on the rim from K11 to K2, apparently the result of dressing the rim with a file prior to striking. These lines are present on all 1842s. The reverse is likewise clean and smooth with minimal scattered polish lines which, once again, are different than those seen in the preceding year, thus suggesting a light buffing before striking began.

PCGS 30451326 is an early strike, a bit later than 09811287 based on the reduction of the file marks. The obverse fields appear to be a bit grainy from rust, but that is likely a toning and photo artefact as there is no visible rust on the portrait or rim.

1842 Late Originals.

PCGS 42139774 is an early to mid-1843 strike based on the remnants of a reverse die scratch from between the leaves of the wreath, up to the lower left and through the lower center of the O in OF which is strong and sharp on the earliest state 1843, PCGS 43566323. The reverse is also a bit more rusted than on the 1843 striking with the peripheral rust extending to the wreath in areas and even to the C in CENT. The obverse is likewise lightly rusted around the periphery.



O scratch in 1843, left, and remnants on 1842, right.

PCGS 27384368 is a late 1849 or, more likely, a post-1849 strike based on the reverse rusting seen around the legend, especially around AMERICA to beneath the right wreath stem and bow loop. Since the small berry

opposite the H has not been flattened, a striking period of the early 1850s seems most likely.

1843 “Year of Issue” Originals.



1843 early state file marks at stars 1 to 3, left, and stars 12 and 13, right.

PCGS 43566323 is the earliest state seen thus far.

Obverse – The obverse fields are clean with some light, scattered polish lines in the lower fields and stronger lines above the head to stars 6 to 9. There are strong file marks at star 12 to 13 and lighter ones at stars 1 through 3. The portrait is clean with a few stray lines of no consequence for establishing die state.

Reverse – The reverse is fairly clean with remnants of the rust seen on 1842 and several strong polish or scratches lines, including the one from near the wreath through the O in OF.

PCGS 08644597 is an early strike, a bit later than 43566323. There is some light spalling between the stars and the portrait from near the bust tip to the coronet, a lighter patch above the head, and a stronger one between the portrait and stars 11 and 12. The polish lines above the head have been worn away and the file marks from the dentils are weakened, especially those at star 12 to 13. The reverse has been polished, removing the traces of rust seen previously, leaving light scattered marks.

PCGS 8323991 is a bit later than 08644597. The obverse has been moderately polished to nearly eliminate the light spalling previously seen. There are numerous polish lines at various angles across the die. The file marks are again reduced, especially those at star 2. The reverse fields are again clean and unremarkable. There appear to be some odd depressions on the rim below U and the bow. These may be from foreign material stuck to the die rim, post-mint corrosion, or handling marks.

PCGS 30451329 is a middle state strike. There is light,

even rust in the obverse fields and some rust on the portrait. The file marks at stars 1 to 3 and those at 12 and 13 are noticeably weaker. The portrait is developing polishing erosion on the shoulder, the hair wave behind the shoulder, and on the lowest curls up through the lowest waves below the bun. This erosion worsens on later coins as the die is polished and those areas become quite rippled. The reverse has been lightly buffed once again; it is clean with just a few scattered lines, some of which are strong.

PCGS 44293985 is likewise a middle state strike, a bit later than previous. The obverse fields are, once again, very clear from polishing which has likewise reduced the file marks. The polishing erosion on the shoulder hair is now more noticeable with those areas becoming rippled. The reverse is clean and unremarkable.

PCGS 43021277 is later state strike, probably still struck in 1843 or at least early 1844 as there is no rust. The obverse fields are very clear from polishing which, once again, has likewise reduced the file marks. The polishing erosion on the shoulder and hair are now quite rippled, along with rippling on the truncation of the bust and a bit around the eye and mouth. The reverse is clean and unremarkable.

1843 Late Originals.

PCGS 27384374 is the latest state seen thus far, probably struck in late 1845 to 1846. The obverse is lightly rusty and the file marks previously at star 12 are gone. The rippling on the shoulder and hair are about the same as on 43021277. The reverse is also lightly grainy as on later 1845s and 1846s.

1844 “Year of Issue” Originals.



1844 early state file marks at star 1.

PCGS 30451332 is the earliest state seen thus far. PCGS 60047922 appears to be the same state, but the photo is not sharp enough to tell for sure.

Obverse – The obverse is a bit grainy, apparently from acid-etch. There are several short, fine file marks up from the dentils around star 1 and other shorter marks

at stars 10 and 11. There are strong polish lines on the neck, across the bust tip, and at the hair curls. The file marks at star 1 and the polish marks on the neck, bust tip, and at the hair curls fade in later states, but the short file marks at stars 10 and 11 remain faintly visible.

Reverse – The reverse field appears a bit grainy, perhaps being acid cleaned to remove rust. There are scattered polish lines.

PCGS 27384378 appears to be a middle state piece, still struck in 1844. The obverse has been polished with light, nearly vertical polish lines across the fields. The file marks at star 1 are still visible and the polish lines on the neck, etc. are still strong. The reverse has been lightly buffed with polish lines predominantly from the lower left to upper right in the fields.

PCGS 38867784 is a later die state, likely circa late 1844. The portrait has become rather rough, likely from both strike and polish erosion. The file marks around star 1 are still visible, but the polish lines on the neck, etc. are gone. The field has become a bit grainy from rust and light spalling and has light, scattered polish marks in front of and behind the portrait with stronger lines above the head at an angle from stars 6 to 9. The reverse has been lightly buffed with indistinct polish lines at various angles in the fields.

PCGS 85167584 is, again, a later die state, still likely circa late 1844. The portrait is a bit rougher than previous, with some obvious lumps on the cheek, and a bit of strike and polish erosion on the chin, throat, bust tip, and shoulder. The obverse fields have become a bit grainy from rust and light spalling. The reverse likewise has become a bit grainy and there are scattered polish lines in the fields.

1844 Late Originals.

PCGS 06623419 appears to be a strike circa 1845 based on the exceptionally smooth reverse field similar to that of early state 1845s. The obverse fields and rim are smooth and light polish lines visible between the first four stars and the dentils. The portrait has likewise been polished smooth. The reverse is clean and smooth similar to early 1854s. The rim has what appears to be traces of reeding visible from about K4 to K7.

1845 “Year of Issue” Originals.

PCGS 41296973 and 08672582 are the earliest state seen thus far.

Obverse – The obverse fields and rim are exceptionally smooth. 41296973 has light, barely discernable, horizontal polish lines across the die, while 08672582 has light, scattered polish lines at various angles. 41296973



1845 early state odd graver marks at IB.

appears to be first based on the level of frost on the portrait. There are a series of odd graver lines between IB and to the right and below the B in LIBERTY. The three lines between IB merge and fade on later strikes into a single lumpy line. Some lumps at the dentil tips opposite stars 11, 12, and 13 develop from polishing on 08672582. However, they should not be used to establish die state from photos, as they are not always clearly visible due to photo angle and toning.

Reverse – The reverse is likewise strangely flat and smooth. 1841 PCGS 08644596 appears to have been struck around the same time as these pieces, likely shortly after the 1845s.

PCGS 20791732 is an early strike and appears to be next. The obverse and reverse are still smooth, but the lines at IB in LIBERTY are beginning to fade.

PCGS 30451335 is a middle state, but still likely struck in 1845. There is nothing remarkable on with the obverse and reverse excepting that both have become very lightly rusted.

PCGS 84109267 is another is a middle state piece. However, both the obverse and reverse have been polished to reduce the rusting seen on 30451335. The obverse fields have numerous scattered polish lines and a bit of spalling has developed opposite the chin, above the head, and between the portrait and stars 11 and 12. The reverse has been buffed to reduce the rusting, which is still lightly visible around the legend. There are numerous “lint marks” across the reverse. Sholley calls it “The Dust Bunny coin.”

1845 Late Originals.

PCGS 42180332 appears to be a Late Original based on the reverse lettering being a bit grainy as on pieces from late 1846 to 1848. The obverse portrait has developed some light polishing erosion on the chin, along the truncation of the bust, and on the shoulder. As previously noted for 1841 PCGS 30451323, both of these coins share a very similar, odd polishing and toning pattern on

the reverse, and it is thus likely both were struck around the same time.

PCGS 34994514 appears to be a post-1849 strike that shares some unique characteristics with pieces of other dates. These will be discussed below in the Post-1849 Strikes section.

1846 “Year of Issue” Originals.



1846 early state lumps and file marks.

PCGS 30451388 is the earliest state seen thus far.

Obverse – The obverse fields appear to be minutely granular, but that may be nothing more than the toning pattern as the rim is quite smooth. There are numerous sharp file marks up to the left from the dentils under that date, two long lumps at stars 1 and 2, and some short, sharp, nearly vertical file marks around star 3. These features diminish with polishing. There are some scattered polish lines.

Reverse – The reverse likewise appears to be minutely granular, but it has the same toning pattern as the obverse. The letters are, however, becoming lightly grainy from rust and use.

PCGS 27383829 is likewise an early strike, but polishing has reduced the lump defects and the file marks. There is some light rust between stars 11 through 13 and the dentils. The reverse has been buffed, leaving scattered, light polish lines. This piece has been struck through a short piece of wire, leaving a nearly horizontal mark above the E of CENT. Breen stated there are three pieces with the mark; we have only found this one.

PCGS 34480076 is a late state, probably struck in late 1846. The obverse rim has become rusty and there is obvious rust around stars 1 through 8 and into the left field. There is a bit of polishing erosion on the throat, bust tip, and shoulder. The reverse has light rust on the rim from K10 to 2 and around STATES OF AME. The letters are now obviously grainy from rust.

PCGS 086444598 is a late state, probably struck in late 1846. The obverse has been strongly polished. The

rust seen previously is gone and the fields are flat and reflective with cross-hatch polish lines across the die, showing that it was polished at both a nearly vertical 80° angle and nearly horizontal 30° angle. There is a bit more polishing erosion on the bust tip and the shoulder. The reverse has been buffed and likewise appears flat and reflective. There are numerous scattered polish lines in the fields and the letters now appear rippled rather than grainy.

1846 Late Originals.



1847 early state lumps at stars 1 to 3, left, and swelling at stars 10 to 13, right.

PCGS 50053241 is the latest state, probably struck in 1847 to 1848 based on the rusting on the reverse letters. The obverse rim is rusty and there is obvious rust around all of the stars and the date. There is light rust in the fields, which are polished and reflective. There are scattered polish lines in all fields. The portrait has become pitted on the chin, throat, and bust tip which obscures the erosion previously seen. However, those areas are clearly rough. The reverse has obvious scattered, patchy rust especially through and around HALF CENT and STATES OF. The letters are grainy from rust.

PCGS 33934696 is a slightly impaired proof (PR63BN) which appears to be the same state as 50053241. However, the photo is not the best.

1847 “Year of Issue” Originals.

PCGS 04309315 is the earliest state seen thus far.

Obverse – The obverse portrait is grainy from over-etching with acid. This can be easily distinguished from rust due to its uniformity. There are no pits, lumps, or rough areas as seen with rust. Rather, the entire portrait has the same uniform graininess. That graininess like-

wise appears on the stars, date, rim, and to a minor extent into the fields where it was mostly polished away. There are numerous long and short polish lines scattered across the obverse and a small patch of roughness between stars 7 and 8 and others between stars 11 and 12 and the portrait. There is a continuous shallow swelling in front of the dentils from stars 10 to 13 along with some variable lumpiness at stars 1 through 3. The rough patches, swelling, and lumps are reduced by subsequent polishing.

Reverse – The reverse is smooth and clean from a light buffing with scattered polish lines in the fields. The letters are lightly grainy and the field above AME is becoming rippled from repeated polishing.

PCGS 30451341 is a middle state circa late 1847. The portrait is still quite grainy. There is obvious rust around the periphery at all stars and the date, along with bit of rust on the rims. The die has clearly been polished to reduce rust, having prominent, nearly vertical polish lines through the fields and faint traces of the polish lines on the neck. The rough patch between stars 7 and 8 has been reduced, but is still apparent. Likewise, the shallow swelling in front of the dentils from K2 to K5 has been reduced and now has a couple breaks in it. The lumps at stars 1 through 3 have also been reduced by the polishing. The reverse likewise has moderately strong, nearly vertical polish lines across the fields. There are a few other marks and lines. The letters are obviously grainy and there is a bit of rust in places on the wreath.

PCGS 34972359 is a later state coin circa late 1847. The portrait is less grainy from both polishing and wear. There are numerous polish lines at various angle in the fields from a polishing which has further reduced the rust at the stars and date. The shallow swelling at K2 to K5 is still clearly visible, but the lumps at stars 1 through 3 have been reduced to a few small, residual fragments. The reverse has been buffed, reducing the graininess on the letters and wreath, leaving numerous polish lines at various angles in all fields.

1847 Late Originals.

PCGS 21212165 is a later strike than 34972359, probably 1848. There are only residual traces of the dentil lumps at K3 to K4 and a very shallow lump off the point of star 13. The reverse is smooth from a buffing as on the preceding 1847 and on early 1848 strikes.

1848 “Year of Issue” Originals.

PCGS 24180867 and 30451343 are in the earliest state seen thus far.



1848 early state punch splash and scratch.

Obverse – The obverse is very clean and smooth with few distinguishing marks, excepting some light punch splash around stars 6, 7, and 8, along with a sharp die scratch from the dentils and down to the right between stars 7 and 8. These features become diminished by polishing. There is a heavy nick across the upper serif of the “C curl” at the base of the neck which becomes more pronounced in later states. 30451343 is a later strike as it has developed some light spalling between the portrait and stars 11 and 12.

Reverse – The reverse is likewise clean and smooth, having been buffed once again. There are scattered polish lines and the letters are lightly grainy from previous rust and the field above OF AME is lightly rippled from polishing.

PCGS 42256167 is a mid to late state strike. The obverse developed moderate rust around the stars and into the field around the hair bun. Be aware that the toning pattern makes the rust initially appear worse in the photo than it is. Blowing up the photo shows that the rust is light to moderate. The obverse was obviously polished to reduce the rust as there are readily apparent polishing lines running across the fields from the lower left to upper right at about a 45° angle. The scratch between stars 7 and 8 is still very strong and the punch splash around those stars is about the same as previous. The reverse likewise has the same toning pattern as the obverse which makes the rust initially appear worse than it is. The rust is, again, light to moderate and it does not appear the reverse was buffed before striking.

PCGS 27383837 and 34972360 both have a very similar appearance and were likely struck later in 1847. The obverse rust is much lighter. Since there are no obvious polish lines, it seems that the reduction is due to strike wear. The scratch between stars 7 and 8 is fainter as is the punch splash around those stars. The splash around star 6 is becoming visibly diminished and that around star 7 is now little more than a large lump on the right side of the lowest point. The reverse rust is likewise much lighter, again apparently from strike wear as there are no apparent polish lines.

PCGS 25511656 is slightly later than the previous. Light polish lines in the fields and the significantly reduced rust on both dies show they were buffed prior to striking. Additionally, the nick on the upper serif of the C curl is now far more obvious with the tip of the serif being nearly detached.

PCGS 27383838 appears slightly later than 25511656, again still likely struck in 47. The obverse has again become lightly rusty and there are stray polish lines in the fields. There is a patch of spalling, with heavy polish lines through the spalling, between the portrait and stars 11 and 12. The punch splash at star 6 is significantly reduced. The reverse is likewise rusty with some stray polish lines.

PCGS 08672583 is the latest state seen thus far. It may have been struck in 1847; however, the reverse is flatter and smoother than that seen on 1849s, so it may be a late 1849 or even a post-1849 strike. Both dies have been finely polished to remove the rust leaving the fields clean and flat. The obverse has obvious polish lines running from lower right to upper left across the fields. There is a small patch of spalling above the head and the polishing has nearly eliminated the spalling between the head and stars 11 and 12. The polishing has also lessened punch splash around stars 6 and 7 and that around star 8 is essentially gone. The upper serif of the C curl is almost detached and the lower serif is weaker and likewise nearly detached from the upper serif.

1849 “Year of Issue” Originals.



1849 early state lump at star 13.

PCGS 08672584 is the earliest state seen thus far.

Obverse – Similar to 1847, the obverse portrait is a bit grainy from over-etching with acid. This can be easily distinguished from rust due to its uniformity. There are no pits, lumps, or rough areas as seen when rust is present. Rather, the entire portrait has the same uniform graininess. That graininess likewise appears on the stars, date, rim, and to a minor extent into the fields where it was mostly polished away. There are strong polish lines above the head to reduce a rough patch or spalling be-

tween the head and stars 6 through 9. There are other polish lines at various angles in the left and right fields. There is a small lump on the dentils below the point of star 13. There appear to be some other small lumps at the dentils, especially at stars 11 and 12. Remnants of the lumps at stars 11 and 12 (and 13) do appear to be present on the Heritage Auctions holder photo of the NGC PF65 RB Partrick/Norweb coin; however, they are not seen on any other coin.

Reverse – The reverse is clean and smooth with some light, stray polish lines left from a light buffing. The letters are lightly granular.

PCGS 30451346 and 0497341 are early state strikes with slight remnants of the lump at star 13. The portrait and the stars are still quite grainy from acid-etch; however, the fields have been polished smooth. 0497342 appears to have been struck first as there is a light patch of roughness from the mouth to the eye on 30451346. This may also be present on 0497342, but the photo quality of 0497342 is not the best, so it is not possible to be certain. The reverse is smooth and clean from a light buffing with stray polish lines in the fields. The rough patches between OF, above AL, between HALF and CENT, and below EN appear to be about the same on both coins. As a “best guess” both coins are part of the same striking group with 30451346 being struck after 0497341 and the differences are thus due to strike wear. However, as just noted, the photo quality of 0497342 prevents us from being certain.

PCGS 27383842 is a later state strike, still likely struck in 1849. The obverse has developed some light rust, particularly around the stars and portrait. There are numerous polish lines at various angles in all of the fields from a polishing to reduce the rust. The rough patch in front of the face first seen on 30461346 is now obviously light spalling and that area shows heavier polish lines to reduce the appearance. There are four patches of rust or spalling between the head and stars 10 to 12 with heavy, nearly vertical polish lines. The reverse has numerous polish lines at various angles and the rough patches between OF, above AL, between HALF and CENT, and below EN are quite obvious.

PCGS 27383843 is the latest state seen thus far. It may still have been struck in 1849 or shortly thereafter. The obverse portrait, stars, and date still have the same grainy appearance. There is light rust and polish lines in the fields with the spalling between the head and stars 11 and 12 perhaps a bit more obvious. Polishing has eliminated the dentil lumps at stars 12 and 13. The reverse letters and fields are grainy and there are numerous rem-

nants of polish lines at various angles.

Post-1849 Strikes.

Aside from some of the Late Originals of each date which may well be post-1849 strikes, and the 1852s discussed below, there is a very interesting group of 1840 to 1848 Late Originals which, in addition to rust, show a number of very odd-shaped indents and lumps on both the obverse and reverse, in some cases so numerous as to suggest the dies were dropped in floor sweepings prior to striking. All of this strongly suggests these were the final uses of the Large Berry reverse circa late 1856 to early 1857 when it was replaced by the Small Berry Proof-only Reverse of 1856.



Late state post-1849 struck-through indents and lumps.
1840 “Snotty Nose” obverse, top, and 1845 reverse,
below.

1840 PCGS 38129943 both the obverse and reverse have been polished and have numerous “struck-through” marks. The obverse shows remnants of light rust around the stars and out into the fields, along with fine polish lines across the die from lower left to upper right at about a 60° angle. The file marks below star 1 towards the date are nearly gone and those below star 2 are much lighter. The chin, throat, bust tip, and shoulder are rippled from polish erosion. The reverse spalling above AL and below EN is obvious and the letters have become quite grainy.

1840 PCGS 09411381 is a later strike than the preceding, again with numerous indents and raised lines from striking through foreign material. In fact, there is one awkwardly located indent, apparently from a piece of fine wire, that earns this coin the unfortunate moniker “The Snotty Nose Obverse.” The polishing erosion on the chin, throat, bust tip, and shoulder are about the same as the preceding, but the file marks below star 2 are much weaker. There appear to be some lumps on the reverse rim below the ribbon, that may be the result of “strike-through,” or handling marks or toning.

1845 PCGS 27383825 and 34994525 appear to have been struck about the same time as 1840 PCGS 09411381 since they both show similar numerous “struck-through” marks on both the obverse and reverse. PCGS 27383825 shows a very heavy and odd X-shaped mark on the neck, along with the heaviest erosion of the chin, throat, and bust tip seen so far on an 1845.

1847 PCGS 27383833 is apparently the terminal state of the Large Berry reverse. It has a rather prominent crack from the left side of T in UNITED to the leaf below. As previously noted, it also appears to have extensive rim crumbling around most of the periphery, however, this could be corrosion from a coin board.

The Quandary of the Proof Half Cents of 1852

The actual status of the 1852 Proof Half Cents has been a matter of contention for many decades. Some researchers maintain they are original strikes from 1852, while others claim they are later restrikes. Breen was in the latter camp, placing the striking of the Large Berry 1852s post-1860 after both the First and Second Restrikes, based on the obverse die state being later, mainly based on what he felt was weakness in the curls.⁴

A careful review of the three known uncirculated examples reveals that Breen incorrectly interpreted a bit of strike weakness on the 1852 Large Berry strikes as die polish and wear. Yes, the curls on the neck and the waves above are weaker on the three known uncirculated pieces: Pogue PCGS PR65RD, McGuigan PCGS PR64+BN, and Partrick NGC PF64RB. However, all three pieces also show obvious strike weakness, including a flat area above the ear, lightly blunted hair waves in the bun nearest the second set of beads and, on the reverse, slight weakness in the leaves below OF and on the high points of the ribbon.

Additionally, the obverse on both the First and Second Restrikes is obviously a later state as the mouth on the Large Berry pieces is solidly closed, while it has been polished open, with the lips now parted, on both the First and Second Restrikes.

When these pieces were struck is anyone’s guess. Dannreuther feels they may be original to 1852, or shortly thereafter, noting that the mint tended to use proof-only dies for proof-only issues, thus supporting bringing the old Large Berry reverse out of retirement.

However, as Dannreuther fully admits, there is no solid evidence supporting this proposition. Even the weight of the PCGS PR65RD Pogue coin of 83.8 grains, which many point to as “conclusive evidence” that these

4 Breen, pp. 444.

were struck in 1852, proves nothing, as we will explain below. Furthermore, none of the extant pieces can be traced to an original 1852 proof set and there are no tales in any early auction catalog or journal of any prominent collector receiving one from the mint in 1852.

Eckberg and Sholley conclude that these pieces are, most likely, fantasy mule “Cabinet Coins” struck at the behest of Henry Linderman. They note that the Small Berry reverse had been in use on both proofs and circulation strikes since the 1849 Large Date, so it is a question whether the mint would have remembered to use the old Large Berry reverse even if they intended the 1852s to be a proof-only striking.

The only solid evidence we have as to the dating of these pieces comes from the die states of the latest Large Berry pieces and the earliest Small Berry First Restrikes. The 1856, 1857, and First Restrike proof half cents all use the Proof-only Reverse of 1856, and the early and middle die states on the First Restrikes are intermingled with the early state of the 1857 proofs.

Thus, the earliest First Restrikes were struck sometime in 1857 and that places the last use and apparent failure of the Large Berry die, along with the striking of the 1852s, sometime prior to early 1857. A comparison of the Large Berry reverse die states on the 1852s with the latest strikes of other dates suggests that the 1852s came first. But exactly when and how much sooner cannot be determined.

It also should be noted that a striking date for the 1852s of “sometime prior to 1857” clearly invalidates the weight of Pogue coin as supposedly “conclusive evidence” that the 1852s were struck in 1852, since half cent planchets would obviously have been available at the time.

In the end, based on the best evidence we have to date, we can only positively state that the 1852 Large Berry proofs were struck sometime between 1852 and early 1857. So, “pick your poison.” If you wish to believe that the 1852s are “originals” struck in 1852, there is no proof that they are not. On the other hand, if you wish to believe that they are “Cabinet Coin” fabrications circa 1856 or 1857, there’s some circumstantial evidence that they are and no solid evidence they are not.

We realize this is not what either side wanted to hear, but those are the facts. And, with just four known pieces does it really matter when they were struck? It’s not like the mint is going to strike any more or a hoard is suddenly going to be found. Four pieces. That’s it.

1852 Large Berry Proof Half Cent Die State.

The Pogue PCGSPR65RD coin (certificate no. 32709102) appears to be the first struck. Both the obverse and reverse are lightly grainy, apparently from acid cleaning to remove light rust as there are some scattered pits and lumps. However, the apparent graininess may well be a photographic artefact since the surfaces appear much smoother in the Goldberg Auctions Missouri Cabinet sale photo. Other than a few lint marks on the obverse, there are no notable defects.

Most importantly, note that on this and the two other uncirculated pieces, Liberty’s mouth is solidly closed, while on the Small Berry restrikes polishing has left the mouth quite obviously open. This clearly shows that, contrary to Breen’s assertion, the Large Berry pieces were struck first.

The PCGS PR64+BN and NGC PF64RB appear to be about the same die state, although the NGC photo is not the best. Both the obverse and reverse have apparently been polished, but the mouth is still solidly closed. The obverse has a few lint marks and a few scattered lumps in the fields. The reverse of the PCGS coin shows some rippling of the field above F AME supporting the contention that these pieces are later strikes. The NGC photo is not clear enough to tell if it has this defect.

Conclusion

As we said at the beginning, it is not easy to establish die states for the Large Berry Reverse proof half cents due to the care taken to preserve the reverse. We have presented features we see in the photographs and hope that future auction catalogers (and collectors) will not simply accept our descriptions, but will carefully examine coins as they become available and note any corrections or improvements. At very least, the foregoing die states do provide some solid descriptions to “throw rocks at.” Wind up and fire away.

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SOME COMMENTS ON THE POLISHING OF 1840 TO 1849 PROOF HALF CENT DIES

Craig Sholley

In the July 2022 issue of *Penny-Wise*, Roger Burdette published some speculation as to how many half cent master coins might have been struck prior to the dies (particularly the Large Berry reverse die) requiring polishing. Since there are no contemporary records documenting such polishing, Burdette used data from nearly a century later – that for the 1936 to 1937 Washington quarter proof dies. While he acknowledges that there was likely a difference in the die steel, that there certainly was a difference between a screw press and a hydraulic press, and that copper is a bit more malleable than the 90% silver 10% copper alloy, he goes on to assert that, “we might reasonably estimate that repolishing was necessary every 300 to 400 strikes.”¹

I disagree. Why? Because the changes in materials, equipment, processes, die design, and even the physical environment of the mint between 1840 and 1936 were so significant there simply is no comparison and, thus, Roger’s conclusions are simply not valid.

First, the die steel used in 1936 was vastly different from that in 1840. Steel in 1840 was still made by centuries-old practices handed down over the generations. These early steelmakers had no idea of why infusing iron with carbon and then heating and quenching it with water caused it to become hard, they simply knew that it did from practice.

That all changed with the development of the science of metallurgy in late 1850s and early 1860s. By that time, steel wasn’t even made using the same processes (those interested can read up on the Bessemer process). By the turn of the century, steel was made using scientifically established effects of alloying agents and heat treatments. Steels were developed using hardness, tensile, and impact testing, spectroscopic analysis, and metallography – microscopically examining the grain structure of steel and correlating that to its properties.

There is absolutely no doubt that the mint made use of the new steels being developed. On page 439 of *The Engineering and Mining Journal*, Volumes 47 - 48, published in 1889, the editors included a pre-publication excerpt of *Howe’s Metallurgy of Steel*, which contained a table of various tool steels including one noted as “Best

American mint-dies, Foster’s steel” and showing the composition as 1.29% carbon, 0.17% silicon, and 0.22% manganese. A footnote to the listing states:

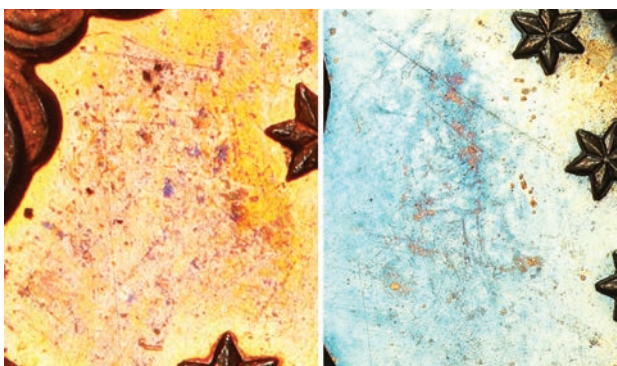
Mint die steel made by Alex Foster & Co Philadelphia. CE Barber Engraver US Mint at Philadelphia, private communications of May 21st, [and] July 31st 1885, states that, after employing Jessop’s steel he introduced the use of Foster’s steel in 1876. “It has proved superior to any other, giving us a far greater average per pair of dies than any steel ever used in this mint, and, so far as I am able to learn, our average is better than any of the mints in Europe.” The composition here given was kindly determined by Messrs. Hunt and Clapp of Pittsburg for this work. The average output per silver dollar die in 1887 was 372,307 pieces; 559,146 has been reached for an average in making bronze one cent pieces.

In addition to the large increase in die life noted by Barber, the new steel also significantly reduced two of the most common types of die defects, cracking and spalling. Of course, cracking is relatively uncommon in proof coinage due to the low mintages, but there are still some rather spectacular fractures in pre-1880s proof dies, including the 1841 half cent obverse and a few pre-1880 Seated half dollar reverses.

However, spalling (crumbling and chipping-out of die steel, particularly in the fields, due to striking pressure) is quite common on pre-1880 proof coinage. Perhaps as many as a half of all proof half cents show spalling and subsequent spot-polishing, and about a third of pre-1880 non-cameo Seated half and dollar proofs show the defect and subsequent polishing.

From 1880 on, not only is the incidence of spalling on proof dies reduced by about half, but the overall area of spalling along with the size and depth of the chips is far less. As a result, the dies were polished less frequently and far less aggressively than prior. In fact, spalling is rarely seen on Proof Morgan dollars and only the latest state of the high-mintage 1880 Proof Trade dollar shows anything approaching the spalling previously seen.

¹ Roger Burdette, “How Many Master Coins Could Be Struck Before Half Cent Dies Required Repolishing?”, *Penny-Wise*, July 2022, pg. 135.



Spalling and aggressive polish on 1840s to 1860s proof coins.

1843 half cent, left, and 1866 half dollar, right.



Spalling between star 1 and leg on 1880 Trade dollar.

Foster's steel is an example of the "low alloy" steels (a steel with 5% or less of alloying agents) developed principally by British metallurgists experimenting with chromium, manganese, and other alloying elements in the 1860s. By the 1880s, steelmakers were experimenting with "high alloy" steels containing more than 5% chromium, vanadium and other alloying agents.² By 1918, high-strength, high-wear chromium tool steels were commercially available from various companies including Pennsylvania steelmakers such as Ludlum Steel in Brackenridge, PA.^{3, 4}

2 Geoffrey Tweedale, "Sheffield Steel and America," pp. 57 – 75 discusses the rise of alloy steels, the development of high speed, tool, and stainless steels.

3 Ludlum Steel, *Carbon and Alloy Tool Steels*, 1918, pp. 78 and 80.

4 Ludlum Steel, *Carbon and Alloy Tool Steels*, 1924, pg. 101, lists their Huron brand as a high chromium steel and pg. 119 page recommends this steel for, "punches and dies for thin sheets and heavy material also for drawing threading forming thread rolling and *mint dies*..." [emphasis added] and recommends a hardening temperature of 1700 to 1750° F.

While I have yet to find a record of the mint switching to Ludlum or other high alloy steels, Ludlum Steel advertised their "*Huron Special Alloy Punch and Die Steel Brand 650*" as being recommended for "*mint dies*" in their 1918 product brochure, and by 1924 the term "*mint dies*" appeared in their commercial advertisements in mechanical journals such as the September 4, 1924 issue of *American Machinist*.

Yes, it could be argued that "*mint dies*" did not necessarily mean the U.S. Mint. However, as a former manufacturing engineer I can say that engineers do not take kindly to "trick advertising," and Ludlum's competitors would have wasted no time making such a misrepresentation well known. It thus is quite likely that Ludlum was supplying the U.S. Mint.

The introduction of these new steels to the mint in the late teens and early 1920s was most certainly not the last. The *Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1923* suggests that the mint was at least experimenting with newer die steels. On pages 618 to 619, the report states:

An electric furnace to be used for hardening purposes only was installed during the year and has been in operation for four months. It is as yet too soon to speak positively of its value, which will be demonstrated in the life of the dies in the coining presses, but present indications are of favorable results. It is slower than the gas furnace but this is probably an advantage. The electric furnace gives a definite record of the critical point in the heating of the steel when quenching will give the best results. This critical point changes with the slightest variation of the component parts of the steel. [emphasis added]

The new "high alloy" chromium steels required fine control of the heat-treating temperatures, often to within a span of just 50° Fahrenheit to achieve the best results.⁴ The noted concern with controlling the critical temperature required by various steel compositions thus indicates they were at least testing newer steels.

Furthermore, that was not the end of the steel changes. A quick search of U.S. patents issued for alloy steels from 1880 to 1936 yields literally thousands of results. Not all of these were for tool steels, but enough were that the mint could literally have changed die steel every year.

The advancements in steelmaking were aptly summarized in a December 9, 1935 report to Congress, in which R.E. Zimmerman, Vice President of U.S. Steel,

noted that, “There are almost innumerable grades of alloy steel on the market today although 15 or 20 classes will account for the major portion of the tonnage... Most steels these days are tailor made for particular requirements... Metallurgical research serves the field of alloy steels not only by searching out and deciding upon suitable compositions or formulas, but also by devising proper methods of subsequent heat treatment so that full advantage may be taken of the inherent qualities of the various grades.”⁵

Many of the new tool steels no longer required quenching in water or oil to harden. Rather, they were “air-hardened.” This process involved heating the steel to a specific temperature and then cooling in air in a very specific manner, dependent on the alloy.

Additionally, many of these new steels were “through-hardened,” that is they hardened all the way through the part, rather than just the “surface-hardened” to a depth of about one-quarter inch in 1% carbon, water-quenched steel. So, not only did these new alloys have much greater wear resistance, the “through- hardening” also made them far more resistant to pressure and impact.

It is thus not surprising that spalling on proof coins of the modern era (1936 on) is virtually absent. Yes, there are coins with some small shallow chips, but nothing even remotely approaching that seen on prior proofs. The image of a late-state 1936 Proof Washington quarter shows about the worst spalling I have been able to find on modern-era proof coinage.



Spalling in left obverse field of 1936 proof quarter.

Thus, comparing the straight 1% carbon, water-
5 United States House Committee on Patents, “*Hearings Before the Committee on Patents, House of Representatives, Seventy-fourth Congress, on H.R. 4523, a Bill Providing for the Recording of Patent Pooling Agreements and Contracts with the Commissioner of Patents, Parts 3-4,*” 1936, pg. 2430.

quenched steel of the 1840s to the very advanced alloys of the 20th century is like comparing an F-16 fighter jet to the Wright Brothers “Flyer” or a Formula One race car to the Model T. There simply is no valid comparison.

And, it’s not just the die steel that had a major impact on die life and required maintenance; design relief is also a significant factor. While there are mint records discussing relief, it’s really not necessary to quote them as it is visually obvious that the mint drastically lowered the relief over the years, such that the relief on the Washington quarter was no more than half that of the 1840s half cents and might even be as little as a third. Lowering the relief reduces striking pressure and thus die wear and the need to polish.

In fact, the notebook for the 1937 quarter presented by Roger in Figure 2 of his article clearly illustrates the effect of relief on die wear and die life. First, the data show that **four obverses** were used to strike 3946 proof coins while **five reverses** were used to strike 3947 coins. That’s difference of nearly 200 strikes per die between the obverse and reverse, and a major factor is the difference in total relief area. The obverse is a fairly open design with significant areas of clear field, while the devices on the reverse take up most of the surface area. Thus, there is no surprise that here is a significant difference in die life.

I’ll address one last point regarding the proof notebook data before continuing, and that is, I’m not sure how Roger came to his conclusion that the 1937 quarter dies were only polished after 600 to 800 strikes. The notebook shows that both obverse number 2 and reverse number 2 were first used on March 2, where they are both noted as “New, not plated,” and the number of coins struck is 175 for each. They are both used again on March 8, where they are noted as “Old, good repolished.” That clearly means that both dies were repolished after the initial 175 strikes, not 600 to 800 strikes.

Obverse number 2 is then listed again with ditto marks for the “Old, good repolished” notation for March 8, March 15, March 25, April 22, and May 4. The wording and ditto marks indicate to me that the die was repolished before it was used on each of those occasions and thus the average number of proofs struck between polishings was 265 strikes. Similar data is seen for the other dies, both obverse and reverse, giving a range of about 250 to 300 strikes.

There are two possible reasons for the difference between Roger’s calculation and mine. First, I did not include the data for obverse and reverse number 1 since both of the dies are clearly noted as “Tryout.” Perhaps

Roger did. That would certainly explain the difference.

I have no idea of what the mint was testing. Maybe it was a new steel; maybe it was a new heat-treating or polishing process. That doesn't matter. The fact that the dies were noted as "Tryout" and that neither die was repolished for the first three uses, in which 965 coins were struck, clearly suggests that part of the experiment was to see the degradation in surface quality over a large number of strikes. That alone invalidates the data for use in a "polishing calculation."

The other possible reason is the aforementioned ditto marks. Perhaps Roger felt the ditto marks in place of the words "Old, good repolished" meant that the die was reused without repolishing. Different interpretations of what the dittos mean would obviously result in significantly different calculations.

The reason I interpreted the ditto marks as indicating repolishing before each use is that the resulting average of 250 to 300 strikes between polishings is far more consistent with the entries showing that all new dies were repolished after the initial use in which 175 to 250 pieces were struck.

Continuing with the discussion of factors affecting how often dies were polished, we have the possible effects of the hydraulic press versus a screw press. Of course, manual screw presses have no means of accurately controlling the pressure. Furthermore, they could be operated in two different manners.

Most collectors have read descriptions of the striking of regular-issue coinage, where the swing-arm was manually operated, by men pulling on the arm to close the press and then pushing to open it. However, it could also be operated in a "squeeze mode" like a vise. This method was used for hubbing dies and was first described by Franklin Peale in his 1835 report on the European mints, where he stated that one man pushed the arm through a full 360° rotation after contact was made with the die body being hubbed.

We have no description of how the press was used to strike proofs. Maybe they used the push-pull method, which would have produced highly variable pressure, depending upon how fast the swing-arm was swung, along with the shock of an impact strike; or perhaps they used the squeeze method, which was more controllable and did not subject the dies to impact shock. Thus, the difference between a screw and hydraulic press for proofs may have been a major factor, a minor one, or none.

More importantly, the manner in which proofs were

struck had changed greatly by the modern proof era. Earlier proof coinage was largely struck "on-demand." The mint would receive orders, strike a number of pieces, and the dies would be stored to await further orders. In the case of the 1840 to 1849 proof half cents, coins of any year would be struck on-demand, so both the obverses and reverse were kept in storage, often for a year or more, during which time they rusted to various extents.

Modern proof coins were struck in far larger "production runs" as shown by the process control books referenced by Roger. Thus, the dies were not stored for any great length of time, so there was significantly less chance of rusting – a major reason for polishing early proof dies. Modern era proof coins thus show nowhere near the rust seen on the 1840s proof half cents; it's virtually non-existent. I've seen one or two 1936 to 1937 proof quarters showing a few very minor rust spots, but that is not the norm. Rust spots on modern proof coins are actually quite unusual. On the other hand, all of the 1840 to 1849 proof half cent dies show fairly extensive rusting and the dies were thus typically polished to reduce its appearance.

An excellent example of the difference is the rust on the 1842 half cent obverse compared to that on a 1936 proof quarter obverse. The 1842 half cent shows moderate rust around the entire periphery and that rust extends to a lighter extent into the fields, with some pitting on the portrait. However, rust on the 1936 quarter is limited to small spots in the left and right obverse fields. The 1936 quarter illustrated is the most extensive rust spotting I could find.



Rust on 1842 half cent, left, and 1936 proof quarter, right. The rust on the 1842 half cent is actually present on the entire periphery and extends into the fields.

In sum, the spalling and rust that necessitated much of the polishing on early proof coinage are simply not present on modern-era proof coinage due to changes in die steel and production processes. Environmental factors (possibly including

air-conditioning) may also have contributed to this difference.

The mint may well have occasionally polished early proof dies because of die wear reducing the mirror, but that was not the major reason as it is with modern-era proof coinage. In fact, there are quite a few pre-1860s proof coins that do not have strongly mirrored fields. They are clearly proofs as they were struck from proof-only dies, but their appearance is merely proof-like.

To reiterate, Roger's conclusions about the 1840s proof half cents, based upon the polishing of 1936-1937 proof quarters, are simply not valid. Changes in the steel, equipment, processes, die design, and other factors between 1840 and 1936 were so significant that there simply is no comparison. His attempt to do so is literally the classic "apples-and-oranges" comparison.

That brings us to the question of how often the proof half cent dies were polished. Neither I, nor John Dannreuther, nor William Eckberg have any idea of how often or how many times either the Large Berry Originals or the Small Berry Restrike dies were polished. The only thing we can say is that the die state evidence, including changes in polish lines and the appearance of rust, spalling, and some die cracks, indicates that the dies were likely polished before every striking.

So, why does the Large Berry reverse not show any evidence that features have been reduced or disturbed, especially the extremely polish-sensitive bow area of the reverse? Because the reverse was so expertly spot-polished to reduce the spalling and rust, and then so lightly buffed with a mild, "low-cut" abrasive like jeweler's rouge, that there is little difference between how the devices appear in 1840 and how they look in 1849. In fact, there are later strikes than 1849s. Other than graver lines on the leaves and bow being worn away, some distortion to the lone small berry opposite the H in HALF, and some light graininess on the faces of the letters, the Large Berry reverse shows no significant changes throughout its use.

That brings us to the apparent purpose of Roger's article, that being to estimate various mintages from the 1937 polishing data. At least, that was his

closing argument. Obviously, his proposition is not valid because the comparison is not valid. Additionally, as previously noted, I question how he came to calculate that the 1937 dies were polished every 600 to 800 strikes since the data he presented do not support that conclusion. Beyond that, I must say I simply don't understand why one would bother to guess original mintages from polishing data, whether the data are relevant or not.

For fairly scarce to truly rare coins, there are far better data providing much greater value - the population data compiled by the major grading services. At least the data are real data on actual coins in question, not "guesstimates" based on questionable analogies. Yes, the reported populations can be skewed by resubmissions, but the data are pretty much the "upper bound" of survivors, as it's unlikely that, for scarce and rare coins, another 20 or 30% will suddenly appear on the market.

For the 1840 to 1849 Large Berry half cents, the PCGS and NGC populations range from a low of 12 for the 1849 Small Date to a high of 68 for the 1843, with the 1842 being quite rare at just 16 pieces and the 1845 being nearly as rare at just 17 pieces. If you wish, you can apply some survivorship factor and get an estimated mintage. Although what value there is in such a guess is beyond me.

Despite the forgoing, Dannreuther and I did find the 1936 to 1937 process control documents for the proof quarters very interesting since they substantiate the reason the mint gave for ending proof coinage in 1915. As we noted in our article, "Satin and Sandblast Proof Eagles and Double-Eagles" which appeared in the December 2021 issue of *The Numismatist*, Superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint Adam Joyce wrote to Director of the Mint F.J.H. von Engelken on October 17, 1916, stating, in part:⁶

"The issue of the silver coins of the new design will complete the series of changes in the coin designs. The ground of all these designs is uneven, which makes it impossible to produce proof coins which are distinctive from the regular coins made on the coining presses from new dies, the only difference between the proofs and the regular coins being the sharper edge and design..."

⁶ John W. Dannreuther, *United States Proof Coins, Volume IV: Gold, Part One*, pp. 392 – 393.

The extra charge for the silver and minor proof coins, 5 cents, does not cover the cost of manufacture.

I would, therefore, suggest for your consideration the advisability of ceasing the manufacture of proof coins.”

Director von Engelken’s terse reply came the next day, “*I am in receipt of your letter of October 17th. Effective at once, you will please discontinue the manufacture of proof coins.*”⁷

The Superintendent’s claim that the new designs could not be acceptably polished is, of course, quite effectively belied by the fact that beautifully polished proof “Mercury” Dimes and Walking Liberty Half Dollars were produced when the mint resumed proof production in 1936.

⁷ Dannreuther, pg. 403.

The real reason for cancelling proof production is revealed in Joyce’s statement that the extra charge does not cover the cost of manufacture. Of course, the mint could simply have raised prices as they did when production resumed in 1936. That Joyce preferred cancelling production clearly shows that the mint had become tired of the never-ending collector complaints over the sand-blast proofs and simply chose the easiest way out.

The process control books cited and illustrated by Roger clearly show the mint was seriously concerned about ensuring the new die processes did not go out of control and lead to spiraling costs.

Acknowledgements

As usual, many thanks to PCGS for use of its photographs. Also, many thanks to John Dannreuther and Bill Eckberg for their contributions to and proof-reading of this article.

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF EAC OFFICERS 2023-2026

We need a new slate of National and Regional officers to direct EAC for the next three years. Every member is encouraged to nominate themselves or other club members to any position where they could help the club.

EAC has always been run by volunteers. Now is your chance to get involved and make a difference.

Nominations are needed for the following National Offices: President; Vice-President; Secretary; Treasurer.

Candidates for Regional Chairs and Regional Secretaries are needed for Region 1, New England (CT, MA, VT, NH, RI, ME); Region 2, New York-New Jersey (NY, NJ); Region 3, Mid-Atlantic (PA, DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, NC); Region 4, Southeast (SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, TN); Region 5, North Central (MI, OH, KY, IN, IL, WI, MN, IA, NE, SD, ND); Region 6, South Central (KS, MO, AR, LA, TX, OK, NM, CO); Region 7, West (WY, MT, ID, UT, NV, AZ, CA, OR, WA, AK, HI).

People to support the annual convention are needed as: Lot Viewing Chairman; Exhibits Chairman; and Education Chairman.

Other National Positions such as *Penny-Wise* Editor; Membership Chairman; Region 8 Chairman; Historian; and the Sunshine Committee are appointed positions for which volunteers are always welcome.

Nominations should include the position and the name, email address, and phone number of the nominee.

Please forward your nominations to one or all members of the nominating committee: Chris Pretsch (pretsch@staleycap.com); Torey Denman (tdenman166@outlook.com); Ray Rouse (rayrbfl@gmail.com).

Election ballots will be in the January *Penny-Wise* and the results will be announced in April.

* * * * *

DUTIES OF THE EAC NATIONAL SECRETARY

Donna Levin

The Bylaws define the duties of the Secretary thusly:

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to act as a secretary of all meetings of the Board of Governors, and to keep the minutes of all such meetings in a proper book or books to be provided for that purpose; the Secretary shall see that all notices required to be given by the Corporation are duly given and served; the Secretary shall keep a current list of the Corporation's Governors and officers and their residence addresses; the Secretary shall be the custodian of the seal of the Corporation and shall affix the seal, or cause it to be affixed, to all agreements, documents and other papers requiring same. The Secretary shall have custody of the minute book containing the minutes of all meetings of members, Governors, and Executive Committee, and any other committees which may keep minutes, and of all other contracts and documents which are not in the custody of the Treasurer of the Corporation, or in the custody of some other person authorized by the Board of Governors to have such custody.

Practically speaking, the role of the secretary is pretty simple:

1. Keep the corporate seal in a safe place where you won't lose it, knowing that you will almost certainly NEVER have to use it. To my knowledge, the seal has never been used ... but it exists.
2. Take the minutes at the annual Board of Governors

meeting, usually held on the Saturday of the annual convention, and at the annual Members Meeting, usually held on the Sunday of the convention. If you can't be present at the meeting, cajole someone else to serve as Acting Secretary to take the minutes.

3. Circulate a list of attendees amongst those in the audience at the annual Members Meeting.
4. Take the minutes at any Special Meetings of the Board, which are usually held by conference call or Zoom.
5. Put the minutes and attendance list into a form suitable for publication in *Penny-Wise*, and send to the Editor for inclusion in the journal.
6. Put the minutes and attendance list into the Minute Book.
7. At meetings, certify a quorum necessary to transact business.
8. Distribute to board members and committee heads the annual Conflict of Interest attestation (required, we were told, by the IRS) for their signatures, and make sure everyone signs and returns it.
9. Be prepared to represent EAC in any discussions with the ANA on show-related business (taking a club table at the show, reserving a room for an EAC meeting at the show, *etc.*) if the President doesn't choose to do this him- or herself.

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EAC REGIONAL OFFICERS' JOBS

Ray Rouse

What are their jobs? I ask this question because I am not aware of ANY document that tells our EAC Regional Officers what is expected of them. Yet they are our front-line soldiers in promoting and maintaining EAC membership. From conversations with current and past Regional Chairmen and Secretaries, I have learned much of what they have been doing and what resources they have and need to have to do their jobs.

While it is relatively easy to be elected to a Regional EAC position (many candidates run unopposed), once elected you will find there are a few pesky administrative

duties. The one the club is always asking you to do is, to contact (by email or phone) EAC members whose dues are expiring and ask them to renew. This works best if you have been in contact with them about the Regional Meetings you've organized when there are coin shows in your area.

Yes, setting up Regional Meetings and informal get-togethers of the EAC members in your area are some of the ways you can promote EAC. The main resources you have are your "personal drive" and the contact information found in your list of the EAC members in

your Region. (Regional Chairmen and Secretaries can get the membership list of the people in your region from the National Treasurer, Grady Frisby, at frisbyco@yahoo.com.)

While setting up meetings of coin collectors near your home is quite feasible and much appreciated, EAC regions generally encompass several states and the majority of EAC members in your region will not live close to you. One way to overcome this is to hold regional EAC zoom meetings (such as on the second Tuesday of each month, for example). Because of their size and color variations, showing coins on zoom does not work very well. Just as in a Regional meeting at a coin show, you can have the members identify themselves and tell something of what they collect. You can have “teases” for the next zoom meeting. (For example, “Joe is going to talk about when he met Dr Sheldon...”)

You can talk about upcoming events. (“We are going to have a club table at the coin show in _____, and I need volunteers to man the table Saturday afternoon. Who is going to the show?”) Note: You can get information about upcoming events off Region 8, but you can also get it simply by using gmail to search the name of your state and then enter “coin shows.” By doing this you can find the location, dates, and expected size of upcoming shows.

This brings up a crucial point: How do you get a table, a booth, or even just a meeting spot at a coin show without EAC having to pay for it? Contact the show’s organizers, tell them what space you need, and ask for permission to hold a 30-45-minute EAC Regional Meeting at the show. If they are hesitant, stress the benefits for them, such as promoting the hobby and attracting more collectors to the show. If you get approval to use a room or even a table, be GRATEFUL for their help. (Remember, you are going to be back next year looking for space again.)

Running a Regional Meeting at a coin show is much the same as running a zoom meeting, with the added advantage that you can have the collectors show off items they have found at the show. Often you can have a discussion about the upcoming sale of an EAC member’s outstanding collection—Who’s planning to attend? What about that particular coin’s die state, color, or provenance?

When you have a large coin show such as FUN,

Central States, or the Long Beach Expo, that is an obvious place for a Regional Meeting. However, if you have a far-flung region with small (often 50 or fewer dealers) shows, then you have a different challenge. You can’t go to all of them, and there are likely to be few EAC members attending anyway, so what do you do? I have two suggestions: When you can attend, call the EAC members in the area, introduce yourself, and make a point of finding those EAC members at the show. While you are there, you can also set up a lunch or dinner meeting that day with the collectors at the show. Where you cannot attend, get in touch with an EAC member in the area and encourage them to get together with the other local collectors. You will note that I did not restrict this to just current EAC members. We want other collectors to be aware of EAC and what it has to offer. One way to show collectors what EAC has to offer is to show them copies of *Penny-Wise* and some of the specialty books written by EAC members.

Where do you get material to hand out? One source is a set-up kit that Joe Pargola (webmaster, who can be reached at joe@pargola.com) mails out to Regional Officers to provide a club table display. Please order the kit a month or so ahead of time.

Although Regional Chairmen and Secretaries normally work together on these projects, some jobs typically fall to the secretary. The secretary normally takes notes of Regional Meetings and writes up a report for *Penny-Wise*. Secretaries also typically report EAC members’ personal events—happy events such as the births of children or grandchildren, or sad events such as the death of a member or spouse—to the Sunshine Committee, David Consolo (dbconsolo@sbcglobal.net), so he can do appropriate follow up for the club.

Finally, your region is part of the governing body of EAC. Each region through its Chairman has a vote on EAC policies and actions. As such, your region needs to be represented at the annual Board Meeting held at the EAC convention. If neither the Region Chairman nor Secretary are able to attend this meeting, then an EAC member from the region who is attending should be appointed as your representative.

I don’t know what else needs to be covered, but YOU DO. Write a note to *Penny-Wise* and let us know how the EAC officers can help you with your collecting!

* * * * *

2022 EAC SALE REPORT

TOTAL AUCTION HAMMER:	\$346,235	I-COLLECTOR HOSTING & FEES:	2,306
GROSS COMMISSIONS:	51,900	TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$3,673
ADJUSTMENTS:	8,200		
NET COMMISSIONS COLLECTED:	43,700	NET COMMISSIONS:	\$43,700
EXPENSES:		LESS EXPENSES:	<3,673>
MISC. POSTAGE & INSURANCE:	\$1,367	TOTAL TO EAC:	\$40,027

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WELCOME TO PORTLAND, OREGON FOR EAC 2023

As EAC prepares to converge on Portland, Oregon for our 2023 annual convention, those of us on the convention committee want to welcome you to Oregon, and help you maximize your enjoyment of this beautiful city and its surroundings.

Background: Portland is a medium-size city, with an estimated 650,000 residents in the city, and nearly 2.5 million people in the metro area. The settlement was originally called “Stumptown,” because the landscape was littered with the remains of the trees that were felled to make room for dwellings and other structures. The city was incorporated on Feb. 8, 1851. The city’s name was decided by a fateful coin toss—was it to be Portland or Boston? The coin employed, now known as the Portland Penny, is an 1835 Large Cent on display in the headquarters of the Oregon Historical Society. The original settlement was on the west bank of the Willamette River about 10 miles from its confluence with the Columbia. This area is now downtown Portland, and today’s city limits extend north to the Columbia. Portland bills itself as “The City of Roses,” and holds an annual Rose Festival & Parade in early June.

Sights to Visit: Portland offers a great number of cultural, recreational, and visual treats for visitors. Many of these sights also have historical aspects. The EAC convention will be held at the Doubletree Inn near Lloyd Center (the same venue as the 2011 convention). The key to visiting many of these attractions is Portland’s transit system.

- **Downtown & River Walk** – just a few blocks west of the hotel is the Willamette River, which remains a vital waterway for the city. About 10 blocks west, following the light rail line, past the Oregon Convention Center, one can run the gauntlet of roadways to reach



the pedestrian-friendly Eastbank Esplanade. An easier alternative is to ride the MAX light rail west over the river into downtown, and disembark at the Skidmore Fountain station, then walk a block east to the river bank. A splendid two-mile walking loop runs along the Willamette from the Steel Bridge on the north to the Hawthorne Bridge on the south. Immediately south of the Hawthorne Bridge, on the east bank of the Willamette, is the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry. Just south of the museum is Portland’s newest bridge over the Willamette – The Tilikum Crossing Bridge carries light rail trains and pedestrian traffic. At the west end of Tilikum Crossing Bridge one finds the Portland Aerial Tram, which provides close-up views of downtown and the river. Don’t forget to stop and see The Mill’s End Park (the world’s smallest park), located in the median where Taylor Street meets Naito Parkway. A short walk southwest will take you to the Elk Statue, located on Main St. between 3rd & 4th Ave. Just around the corner (on 5th Ave, between Main and Madison) is the famous Portlandia Statue, perched on a niche in the building. A few blocks west of the river (or another

couple of westbound MAX stops) you will find Pioneer Courthouse Square (at 6th & Morrison). Here you can stop for a rest, grab a coffee, or just take a picture of the old 19th century courthouse. Some fine museums are clustered along the park blocks on 9th Ave. The Portland Art Museum is on SW 9th near Jefferson St., and The Oregon Historical Society is right across the park on 8th. Some other notable downtown landmarks include: Powell's Bookstore, located on Burnside at NW 11th Ave., Old Union Station, located at NW 6th & Glisan St., and the original Voodoo Donuts, on SW 3rd at Ankeny (a couple blocks from the Skidmore Fountain).



- **Washington Park** – located just west of downtown Portland, this beautiful park offers many sights. The International Rose Test Gardens are blooming in June. The Japanese Garden is located right behind the Rose Garden (but, you might need a reservation). The Hoyt Arboretum is a short ride up the hill, and the Portland Zoo lies near the top of the hill. A miniature train ride runs during the summer months between the Rose Gardens and the Zoo. The Zoo is also easily accessible from the Washington Park MAX stop via a short elevator ride.

Pittock Mansion – also located in the west hills, but



north than Washington Park, the Pittock Mansion offers sweeping views of the city and Mount Hood, to the east (on a clear day). The home was built by the founder of the Daily Oregonian (Henry Pittock) in 1914. Mansion tours are available.

Council Crest Park is another interesting viewpoint in Portland's west hills. It is tucked away near Council Crest Dr. and can best be reached by auto. The local soccer clubs (Portland Timbers men's club and Portland Thorns women's club) play their home games at Providence Park, located on SW 18th Ave. near Burnside (there is a MAX stop for the park). **Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden** is a relaxing nature park located near Reed College, on SE 28th Ave. at Woodstock Blvd. It will take an hour or two to enjoy all the flowers and walking paths. **Mount Tabor**, which is the only extinct volcano inside any city limits in the lower 48 states, is found by going east on Hawthorne Blvd. to 60th. There is a bus line (#14) that will take you as far as 50th. You can drive or walk to various vista points.



- Day trips from Portland.

Wine Tasting – The Oregon wine country encompasses the northern Willamette Valley. The easiest way to reach it from Portland is to drive southwest of the city on Hwy. 99W. There are numerous wineries located near the towns of Newberg, Dundee, and McMinnville. While in Newberg, you can take a tour of the Hoover-Minthorn house, which was Herbert Hoover's childhood home. McMinnville has a rejuvenated downtown with some attractive restaurant choices along 3rd Street for lunch or dinner. An alternative plan is to get five or six people together for a guided wine tour.

Columbia River Gorge is just a short drive east from Portland. There is a scenic historic highway which runs east from Troutdale, OR and affords breathtaking views of the Columbia River, and easy access to the numerous waterfalls and hiking trails in the Gorge. The tallest of the waterfalls is Multnomah Falls, which is also accessible from the interstate (I-84). Just a few miles east from

Multnomah Falls you will find Bonneville Dam, with its impressive navigation locks and hydroelectric turbines.



Mount Hood offers another scenic day trip from Portland. Just take Hwy 26 east through Sandy and ZigZag, and then the road will climb to Government Camp at the 3900-foot level. Just east of Government Camp is the access road to Timberline Lodge. This beautiful lodge was constructed by the W.P.A. between 1936 and 1938. A newer ski lodge has been added just below the historic old lodge. When the weather is clear, the views are stunning. Another road just east of Government Camp leads south to Trillium Lake. This tiny alpine lake offers plenty of picnic spots, hiking trails, and stunning views of the mountain (when it is clear).



Nerd's tour of Washington County. Portland's western suburbs are home to some iconic Oregon companies. For the curious, a short drive will provide a glimpse of many of these industrial palaces. To start, drive west on Sunset Highway (Hwy 26) over Sylvan Hill and exit at Murray Blvd. in Beaverton. Less than a mile south on Murray, you will encounter the world headquarters of Nike Inc. (on Murray, between Walker Rd. and Jenkins Rd.). Nike was the brainchild of Oregonian and distance runner Phillip Knight. Just across the street from Nike (actually south & east of Nike, on Jenkins Rd.) is the headquarters for Tektronix; a pioneering high tech. firm that was founded in 1946 in Portland and moved to

Beaverton in the 1950's. A few blocks further south on Murray Blvd., one will see the impressive St. Mary's Academy, located at the corner of Murray and Tualatin Valley Hwy (TV Hwy). A right turn on TV Hwy, and a short 3-mile drive west leads to the original Intel Corporation Oregon campus. This facility is located on TV Hwy (actually, just across the railroad tracks) at 198th Ave. Intel used this FAB (the term used for silicon manufacturing plants) from the 1970's through the early 2000's, but it has become a tech relic. To reach the new Intel campus, continue west on TV Hwy to Cornelius Pass Rd., turn right, and proceed a few miles north to Evergreen Parkway. Turn left (west) on Evergreen, and the new Intel industrial campus will loom on the left after about ½ a mile. I do not know whether tours are available at Intel. While in Hillsboro, you should drive over to the county courthouse, at Main St. and 1st Ave. to gawk at the 100+ year old sequoia trees on the grounds.

Restaurants & Pubs: The Lloyd District is home to some inviting restaurants and pubs, with most of these along Broadway and Weidler Streets, which run east and west about four blocks north of the hotel. McMenamins Pub is a home-grown institution, with numerous locations throughout the metro area. The closest one is on Broadway at NE 15th. For more dining and imbibing options, we suggest that you ask the hotel concierge for suggestions.

Golfing: Golf enthusiasts can find a number of lush courses in and around Portland. Closest to the convention hotel is Rose City Golf Course. To the south, near the Sellwood neighborhood, is the beautiful Eastmoreland Course. Heron Lakes Golf Course offers some challenging holes and is located at the north end of Portland, near where Interstate-5 crosses the Columbia River. The western suburbs offer The Redtail Golf Center (near Hwy 217), Rock Creek Golf Course (near Hwy 26), and The Reserve Golf Club (just south of Hillsboro).

Transit: Portland began building its light rail system in 1982, and has been expanding the system since then. A red-line train can whisk you from the Portland International Airport to the convention hotel in less than 30min. There are now five light rail arteries that connect downtown Portland to other parts of the city along east-west or north-south routes. The blue line is the system's oldest and longest, running between Gresham (15 miles east) and Hillsboro (20 miles west), stopping at Lloyd Center, where the convention hotel is located. An adult day pass will cost \$5. Portland also has an extensive system of city busses, which can be accessed with a day pass.

EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS – REGION ONE – NEWS AND NOTES

Kevin Winn

Hi Fellow Copper Enthusiasts! There is a lot happening in Region One this year and I wanted to be sure to bring everyone up-to-date.

Our Region One Chairman, Tim Skinski, spent two days at the EAC table talking to prospective new members at the Bay State Coin Show in Marlboro, MA on July 29th and 30th. He had lots of company, as other EAC'ers stopped by and helped out. Bob Stephan, Darin Augustine, Rick Mullen, Kevin Winn, and Stuart Schrier all spent some time helping to man the table during the two-day show. Tim reports four membership applications were submitted to EAC, one new adult member (from New York State) and one new junior member in Region One. One member from Connecticut paid his 2022-23 dues in person because of issues when he tried to pay on-line. Lastly, a membership application was submitted for the Nashua Coin Club in Nashua NH. As far as we know, this is the first club membership application ever to be submitted to the EAC.



Ray Rouse and Darin Augustine stopping by the EAC table at the Bay State Coin Show.

It was a great show with plenty of dealers and large crowds at the tables on both days.

The next big event for Region One EAC members will take place at the Manchester Coin and Currency Expo on October 14-15, 2022, at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel on 700 Elm Street in Manchester, NH. Here is the on-line link to the show: <https://nhcoinexpo.com/>

Tim and I will be at the show overseeing the EAC table once again. Bob (“The Large Cent Guy”) Stephan will be there as well, to answer any questions you might have about Large Cents, while Tim himself is a Half Cent expert. Please stop by and say “Howdy!” Or even spend an hour or so helping out the club.

BIG NEWS: We’ll also have a Region One meeting for any members, prospective members, or passers-by who wish to join in. That will take place at one o’clock on Friday, October 14th in a room at the Expo. We’ll know the room later, but it won’t be hard to find. The highlight of this meeting will be a reprisal of the seminar presented by Harry and Matt Channell in St. Louis entitled, “WHOOPS! Things that Went Wrong at the Mint.” Harry and Matt are experts on Large Cent errors and always eager to share their knowledge and answer any questions you might have about that field.

Besides EAC, Ernie Botte and the Manchester Show also generously donates tables to the New England Numismatic Association (NENA), the Nashua Coin Club, the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, and the Barber Coin Collectors Society, so there is something for everyone.

There are always plenty of dealers and a great crowd of collectors to talk with or maybe even bump into an old friend.

Please plan on visiting with us in Manchester and attending the Region One meeting.

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MINUTES OF THE EAC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT ANA

Rosemont, Illinois

The meeting was called to order by newly appointed Region 5 Chairperson, Mark Borckardt, at 9:00 AM on Friday, August 19, 2022.

Mark introduced himself to the EAC members and guests present, and provided a little background information on himself that some present may not have known.

As has been an EAC tradition at meetings, we all introduced ourselves and shared our collecting interests, both copper-related and outside of the copper world. During the introductions, Mark interjected some comments related to a guest in the audience, and warned everyone about an up-and-coming young numismatist present. His name is Eli Kelso of Leroy, Michigan. His interest in early copper coinage caught Mark's attention, and Mark announced that he would be sponsoring Eli's first year in EAC if Eli was interested. Eli responded enthusiastically, and Mark directed him to supply the necessary information for membership to Grady Frisby, Treasurer of EAC.

After introductions, Mark asked for announcements of upcoming copper auctions. He then opened the floor to general discussion about the copper coinage we all love, and asked whether anyone had found a special piece or wanted to discuss aspects of a coin that may have been recently discovered or discussed in the different media. Chuck Heck announced that, the initial printing having sold out, a second printing of his book on the Die States of 1794 cents was in the offing. Harry Salyards announced the upcoming publication of his new reference on the Draped Bust / Small Eagle dollars.

An update on the Garvin Fund was provided, and members were reminded of the availability of funds for research purposes. The sites of future EAC Conventions, confirmed and proposed, were noted.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted
Grady Frisby, Secretary Pro-Tem

ATTENDEES AT THE EAC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT THE ANA

<u>Name</u>	<u>Member Number</u>	<u>Residence</u>			
Bill McMahon	5193	Buffalo, NY	Mark Hammang	5913	Arvada, CO
John D. Wright	7	St. Joseph, MI	Sam Foose	LM5286	Dallas, TX
Mabel Ann Wright	78	St. Joseph, MI	Chuck Heck	514	Bluffton, SC
David M. Tortortice	6582	Buffalo, NY	Garrett Ziss	6302	West Chester, PA
Ron Shintaku	LM4611	Long Beach, CA	Bill Eckberg	LM3395	Carmel, IN
David G. Gomm	3945	Arlington Heights, IL	Susan Eckberg	5568A	Carmel, IN
Rich Uhrich	4929	Sebring, FL	Harry Salyards	799	Hastings, NE
Chris Bower	6923	New Palestine, IN	Phyllis Salyards		Hastings, NE
Jon Lusk	351	Ypsilanti, MI	John Bolger	2796	Waukesha, WI
Amber and Eli Kelso		Leroy, MI	Scott McGowan		Chicago, IL
Lyle Engleson	7888	Ventura, CA	Gawain O'Connor		Bellingham, WA
Travis Hollon	LM6329	Austin, TX	Mark Borckardt	LM312	Pleasant Prairie, WI
Chris McCawley	LM1349	Austin, TX	Katie Robucci	6929	Farmington, CT
Lucas Baldrige	LM6162	Austin, TX	Grady Frisby	2794	Memphis, TN

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EAC REGION 7 MEETING

July 1, 2022, Long Beach Convention Center

Dennis Fuoss

There were eight members in attendance: Region 7 Chair Ron Shintaku, Region 7 Secretary Dennis Fuoss, Fred Truex, Casey Keener, Alan B. Gorski, Bob Fagaly, Phil Moore, and Tom Reynolds.

Ron Shintaku called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 AM. Following tradition, we went around the room, with each member introducing himself. Since all members present were known to one another, collecting preferences were not shared.

In response to Ron's question about any interesting finds or observations, Dennis reported that an interesting group of four high-grade Early Date large cents had been submitted to ANACS for authentication and grading. The coins included one 1793 Chain Cent, one 1793 Wreath Cent, a 1794 Head of '93 Cent, and a 1799/8 Cent. All the coins exhibited surface integrity problems, but in each case the surfaces were different. The coins also had typical characteristics of genuine specimens (i.e., die clash marks in expected locations, proper weight, and convincing rims and edges). They were either genuine early cents, or some of the most dangerous counterfeits yet encountered!

The recently completed EAC convention in St. Louis was discussed. Bob Kebler was commended for the excellent job he did of organizing and producing the event. He even "came to the rescue" during the Boy Scout Merit Badge workshop and saved EAC \$250 by loaning his personal laptop for use with a projector to show the PowerPoint slide presentation. The EAC Sale was reported to have a total hammer of \$376,000 with the buyer's premium benefiting the club. Ron reminded members that the Garvin Fund continues to seek worthwhile projects to fund. If there are good ideas for projects that need some financial support, members are urged to come forward with their proposal to anyone on the EAC board. Someone mentioned a project that would require some elemental analysis with X-ray Florescence (XRF). XRF is good for identifying trace amounts of impurities in a metallic sample. There was a

short discussion about the possibility of finding a local (Southern California) dealer who could be induced to provide access to a machine that they routinely use for precious metal analysis. It was also pointed out that XRF analysis has a very small (microns) penetration depth into a sample, and it is essentially a "surface analysis" technique.

There is a new EAC Region-5 chairperson – it is Mark Borkhardt. Mark recently relocated from Texas to southern Wisconsin. In other EAC news, the board is working toward a future with ZOOM meetings. Apparently, a ZOOM license needs to be purchased.

It was noted that the Jim McGuigan PCGS registry set of half cents would be sold by Heritage Numismatic Auctions in August, and the Steve Ellsworth Middle Date Cents, plus the Del & Larry Bland collection of 1794 Cents would be sold by Early Cents Auctions in early September.

The 2023 EAC convention in Portland was discussed. The convention dates are June 22 – June 25, at the Doubletree by Hilton at Lloyd Center in Portland. Dennis will be acting as bourse chair for the Portland convention, and he reported that there will be a strong emphasis on bourse security.

A general discussion commenced about third-party-grading services. It is understood that John Albanese (well known numismatic personality and founder of NGC) is planning yet another grading service. Do we need yet another grading service? This point was debated. Many members complained about long turn-around times for submissions this year to grading services (no need to mention any particular service). A few more horrifying personal anecdotes about grading adventures were shared with those present. In short – the grading game can be a lot like playing roulette at one of the casinos!

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50AM.

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AN INVITATION TO APPLY FOR A GARVIN FUND GRANT

Lou Alfonso and David Huang

As many of you know some years ago our late member, David Garvin, donated his copper collection to be sold at the 2005 EAC convention sale. The proceeds of over \$50,000 were set aside in our EAC savings account to be used for educational and related purposes. Any member of EAC who has been a member for at least one year may apply for a grant from the fund of up to \$1000 to defray the costs of a research project, writing an article, a trip to a coin convention, a museum that features coins of interest to EAC members, a grading or other numismatic class, just to name a few possibilities. The financial situation of the applicant is not a consid-

eration. All eligible members of EAC are encouraged to request an application, which can be obtained from either of the two Garvin Fund members, Lou Alfonso and David Huang. Grants are typically either \$500 or \$1,000 but may vary.

The only requirement is to subsequently write an article for *Penny-Wise* setting forth what the grant was used for and its results. Please consider making an application if you have an idea that would help you and be of interest to your fellow members of EAC.

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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 2023 issue of *P-W*, all will be declared elected to full membership at that time. Chairman of the Membership Committee is Bim Gander, 12770 NW Steelhead Falls Drive, Terrebonne, OR 97760.

New Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u>Member #</u>
Bruce Pronovost	Largo, FL	6945
Thomas Wilson		6947J
Joseph Flores	San Diego, CA	6948J
Alexander Flores	San Diego, CA	6949J
Gregory Flores	San Diego, CA	6950J
Nicholas Eli Perez	Coronado, CA	6951J
Aidan Hare	San Diego, CA	6952J
Carl Mendoza	San Diego, CA	6953J
Loki Andrews Orlando	San Diego, CA	6954J
Ishan Satpathy	San Diego, CA	6955J
Logan Carson	San Diego, CA	6956J
Siri Moorthy	San Diego, CA	6957J
Andrew Cederbaum	Boston, MA	6958J
Richard Wilberding	Malta, NY	6959
Nashua Coin Club	Nashua, NH	6960
Ahmed Kaya	Temecula, CA	6961
Bruce Gimelson	Garrison, NY	6962
Eli Kelso	Leroy, MI	6963J
Peter Archibold	Mendon, NY	6964
Jacob Harper	Culver City, CA	6965
Nancy Kuebel	Newport, KY	6956
John Barkley	Fort Collins, CO	6958
Duff Tillotson	Columbus, WI	6959

Returning Members

Ralph C. Langham	New Fairfield, CT	178
Carl Locker	Berkeley, CA	6957

RARE BUT NOT VERY PRETTY CORNER

Jon Truskey

After posting several stories about some of my rare, albeit lower grade, early copper finds, I spoke to Harry Salyards. We discussed making the “Rare But Not Very Pretty Corner” a regular feature of *Penny-Wise*, if there was enough interest and participation from the membership. This column would allow collectors to showcase their rare or interesting early copper finds *via* a story with photos, in the publication. It would be open to any American copper coins struck through 1857.

Few Early Coppers can lay a claim to being in the top 10% of their variety visually, but all are worthy of review, in my humble opinion. Any early copper is incredibly rare, especially when compared to today’s minting of billions of Lincoln cents every year. I believe they are worthy of recognition in print, if for no other reason than the fact that the youngest examples are now 165 years old.

I believe there must be others in our group who would not mind getting their 10 minutes in the spotlight for their accomplishments in acquiring these pieces of early numismatic history. Sharing stories like these might encourage new collectors to join our quest, share in the hobby and possibly even join Early American Coppers (EAC) and help swell our ranks.

Interested in contributing a story and some pictures? Contact Harry Salyards at hesalyards@gmail.com or me, Jon Truskey at truskeyfarm@gmail.com.

To start the “Corner” off, I would like to share an interesting find of my own.

Is it an Extremely Rare Subvariety, an Error, or Somewhere In-Between?

Back in September of 2019, I received an email from a fellow half cent collector who owned a slabbed half cent identified as a 1795 C-1. He decided to break it out of its holder when he noticed that it looked a lot thinner than his 1794s and lettered edge 1795s. He also noticed the lettering seemed too tall and some letters hung off of the coin’s edge. He had heard of at least one of these thinner C-1s being designated as a C-1b.

He knew that I was interested in such things, and after writing back and forth a bit, he shared that the coin’s weight was 86.4 grains. We eventually settled on a price that was agreeable to both of us.

Back in 2014 the old CoinFacts site listed a 1795 C-1b as an “extremely rare” sub-variety of half cent, seldom

found in advanced collections. They noted that Breen only knew of a single example, but he allowed that a few others probably existed and were an important opportunity for the specialist.

The specimen shown on the CoinFacts page had a fair amount of corrosion and wear, was listed as About Good 3, and weighed in at 84.8 grains. They said that the edge letters were the large style used in 1794 and 1795 but many hung off of the planchet at the top and bottom because of its thinness. The coin had appeared in Superior’s Auction of October 1-3, 2000, lot 1063, where it sold for \$977.50. Unfortunately, there was no image of the coin’s edge, nor a measurement of its thickness. The example that I purchased is of a similar grade, but the date on the obverse and the “STATES OF” on the reverse are very weak. You can see the top of the “7,” a “9” and a portion of the “5.” I believe that it likely did not have a strong impression in that area of the planchet to begin with. And, it has some corrosion.



My example’s weight of 86.4 grains is well below the 104 grain standard, even considering its wear. And it is observably thinner than my other C-1 example (see edge pictures, below). I have seen three other heavier examples for sale at Goldberg auctions. They were listed as Rarity 7, underweight or thin C-1’s; however, those three coins weighed 91.9, 96.9 and 95.9 grains, with one having very heavy wear and the others having moderate wear and some corrosion. None of their edges were illustrated.

In Breen’s Half Cent Encyclopedia, on page 129, he suggested that the lightest known example mentioned in his “Remarks” section, at 77.1 grains, was probably cut from a copper strip that was rolled too thin. Perhaps this was just a mint error. Or perhaps the mint was testing a

batch of thinner planchets for the new, reduced weight coins soon to be in production.



So, should my example have a sub-variety designation, such as an a or b? Or is it perhaps something that is somewhere in between a thick and a thin planchet? One day we may all agree upon a weight that serves as the dividing line between “thick” and “thin” for worn examples. Then of course, how much wear and corrosion will be allowed in that calculation will have to also be decided. I will leave those decisions for others to debate for now.

I prefer calling mine “seriously underweight,” a fit-

tly descriptive term used by Manley to describe similar thin, lightweight half cent examples. We will probably never know what the intent of the mint workers was in creating these, nor what the coins originally weighed. But the mint made them, and we collectors love to collect and talk about them and share our finds in publications like *Penny-Wise*.

Do you have a collecting story that you’d like to share? Send us an email and perhaps you and your numismatic find could also be featured in *Penny-Wise*.

In the edge photos for lettering and thickness comparisons, my thin C-1 on top is 20 percent thinner (1.6 mm average thickness) than the one below. The bottom coin is an Extremely Fine C-1 (2.0 mm average thickness). Interestingly, 20 percent is also the approximate weight reduction that the mint made for later 1795 half cents.



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HARD TIMES TALES

HT 210

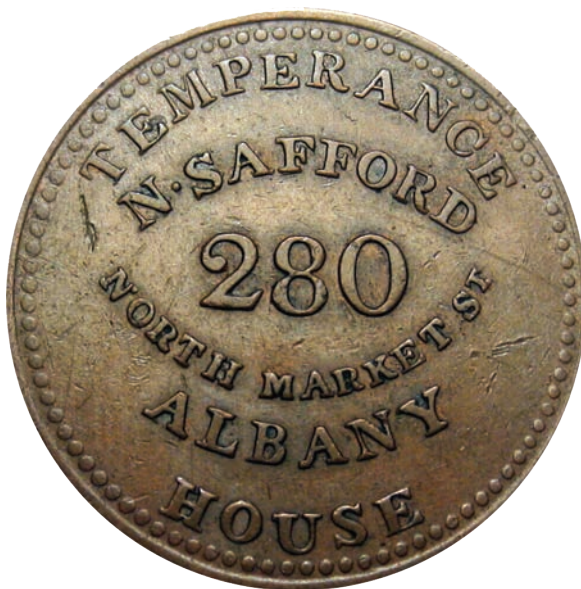
Ray Rouse

Much of American history can be found on the surfaces of Hard Times Tokens like HT 210. The words “Temperance House” found on this token reference not only an innkeeper, N. Safford, of Albany, New York, offering his services to non-alcohol drinking travelers, but also speak to an aspect of our past that people today have all but forgotten.

In Colonial America, common medicines such as aspirin had not yet been developed,¹ and although drunkenness was frowned upon, alcohol was widely used both as a beverage and as a medicine for the whole family, including children. Moreover, drunkenness was not much of a problem as most people only drank small amounts of alcohol during the day.

But some Colonial physicians, such as Benjamin Rush, found correlations between drunkenness and disease, death, suicide, and crime. They called on ministers to preach the message of temperance (which allowed for the drinking of beer or wine, but advocated abstinence from “ardent spirits”—hard liquor—hence the name, “Temperance”). These messages were largely ignored. After all, the norms of the day made it impolite to refuse to drink alcohol in social settings. This began to change as the Industrial Revolution brought about the need for sober workers to operate the new machinery.

The temperance movement also grew in the early 1800s as religious revivals sought to bring about moral reforms such as abolitionism and temperance in order to



create a “perfect society.”

Many temperance supporters were also abolitionists. Safford was one of them. Newspaper records indicate that when the American Anti-Slavery Association held its National Convention in Albany, New York in July of 1839, Safford not only participated but was on the committee that arranged for the convention to be held at the Presbyterian Meeting House.² Interestingly, one of the primary disagreements at the Albany Convention was on whether former slaves now living in free states should be allowed to vote.

Earlier in his career, Safford had operated the Oneid Temperance House in Utica, New York, but in 1832 he moved to Albany³ to operate the Albany Temperance House at the corner of North Market and Steuben streets. The building itself was owned by Edward Cornelius Delavan, a prominent name in the temperance literature. For example, Delavan, Wisconsin, was named for E. C. Delavan. The town was founded in 1836 by two brothers, Henry and Samuel Phoenix. They bought 4,000 acres to use for a colony that would be free from the evils of both alcohol and slavery. Because temperance was such an issue for the brothers, they painted the words “Temperance Colony” on some of the large trees found on the land and they gave other colonists deeds that prohibited the ownership or consumption of alcohol on the land they sold.⁴

When the Phoenix brothers learned about six “temperance houses,” inns that operated without alcohol in southeastern Wisconsin, they decided Delavan should also have such an alcohol-free inn. So they gave Israel Stowell, a twenty-seven year old immigrant, terms

so that by building and operating the tavern as an alcohol-free inn, he could earn the money to purchase the land the tavern was to be built upon. Stowell completed the building in 1840 and operated it as a “Temperance House.” However, after three years he declined to purchase the land on which the building stood and left the colony. He took up farming in nearby Darien, Wisconsin. By the late 1840s when the inn was taken over by a Mr. Harkness, alcohol began being served. (The prohibition against owning or serving alcohol on the property was struck down in 1849).⁴

In a visit to the site of the Israel Stowell Temperance House in Delavan, Wisconsin (in the U.S. National Register of Historic Places) you can get some idea of the people and their motivations for founding a temperance colony. (The remains of the original building were demolished in 2021).

Notes

¹ It wasn’t until 1897 that Felix Hoffmann, a young chemist working for the Bayer Company, acetylated salicylic acid to produce the drug subsequently patented as “aspirin.”

² The Rochester *Freeman* (Rochester, NY), July 10, 1839, page 3

³ Russell Rulau’s *Standard Catalog of HARD TIMES TOKENS* tells us that Safford was not in the 1830 Albany, NY census. Records show he did not move to Albany until 1832. See the Buffalo *Patriot and Commercial Advertiser* (Buffalo, NY), May 29, 1832, page 4

⁴ Posted to the National Registry of Historic Places on August, 11, 1978 Reference # 78000145

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THE “FREAK CENT”

Matt and Harry Channell

In our search for large cent errors we have come to appreciate and enjoy the hunt for the provenance of these coins. We have found that they were considered the “ugly penny.” It is not unusual to find them holed, scratched, dinged, dented, and worn from circulation. It was not until the 1970’s that their first serious collectors appeared. Dr. Conway Bolt, John Ashby and Richard Picker were some of the first, with the latter two being dealers who collected errors so as not to compete with their customer bases. Michael Arconti and Dan Holmes both also had substantial large cent error collections. In the early auctions, photos of errors are scarce and the descriptions are often vague. This has made it challenging but also rewarding and fun, as we try to bring many of these lost provenances to light. In our quest to do so, we have made new friends along the way. Many EAC members have been helpful, freely giving of their knowledge, sharing photos, etc. To us, it is just not the collecting of the coin but how it came to be acquired and the story behind it that holds much of the value. The following is one such story about uncovering a coin’s history that required many friends along the way.

July 26th 2022, I noticed an email advertising a large cent brockage for sale, with the following description from Sullivan Numismatics: “*NGC certified large 1C Obverse brockage mint error fine details damaged.*” With the power of the Internet, a return email and a follow up through Facebook Messenger, the coin was purchased and on its way to us. Unfortunately, the coin’s prior history is usually lost once it is encapsulated and this coin was no different. Such history is usually found on the original coin envelope or flip, with the collector’s own notes about variety, rarity, and provenance. This coin had been encapsulated on 4/25/2019 and that is all we had to go on.

We noticed right away the indented mark on the incuse side, which had caused NGC to mark it as dam-

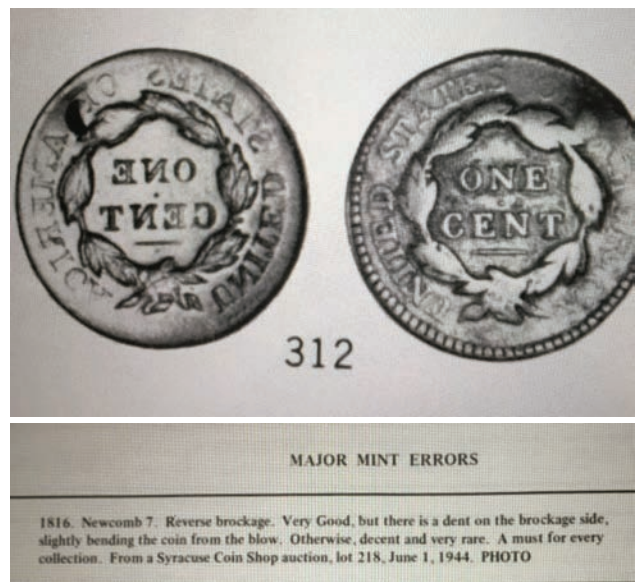


aged, and of course it was unattributed. We hoped to use the half-moon shaped mark as an identifier in looking at past sales and patiently awaited its arrival. Hats off to Jon Sullivan from Sullivan Numismatics as the coin arrived safely in Thursday’s priority mail. As usual, it looked way better in hand and was put away for later inspection.

My dad keeps an extensive record of large cent brockages from past sales using the Newman Numismatic Portal, in hopes of someday coming up with a census of rarity for large cent brockages. I left the coin with him for further investigation and later that night I got the following pictures from my father.

I responded, “Wow!” and he said, “1816 N7 per the auction description,” in Superior’s Charles Ruby Collection Sale, Part III, February 10, 1975, lot 312. The catalog description went on to note, “Very Good, but there is a dent on the brockage side, slightly bending the coin from below. From a Syracuse Coin Shop auction, Lot 218, June 1, 1944.” He searched further that night for any information on the Syracuse coin shop they described but had no success.

Luckily, there was a photo of the coin and it proved to be an easy match. The moon-shaped mark is a “forever identifier” for this coin. We have identified several other coins this way, by using a scratch or some sort of damage. Dr. Ruby had also owned the Sheldon-79 holed brockage, sold in the first Ruby sale, February 11, 1974, lot 414. This was said to have been Dr. Sheldon’s pocket piece.



The following morning, Friday July 30, happened to be the start of the yearly Bay State coin show in Marlboro, Massachusetts, a little over an hour away. We took a long lunch from work and arrived shortly before 11:00 AM. After a quick tour of the bourse, where we found little in the way of early copper, we were about to leave when we ran into Kevin Vinton. Knowing he also liked to research the pedigree of coins and had a vast knowledge of early copper, we showed him what we had found so far. Instantly and not surprisingly to us, he mentioned the Bluestone auctions based in Syracuse and run by Barney Bluestone. Born in Russia, he ran auctions out of the Hotel Syracuse Building from 1931 to 1950. Once again utilizing the power of the Internet and thanks to the Newman Portal, Kevin discovered that, sure enough, on June 1, 1944 Bluestone held his 82nd Auction. A quick scroll to lot 218, at the end of the large cent offerings, revealed this description: "Freak."

"Lot 218: "Freak" (1817-1837), Rev. impression on Obv., Very good." Kevin's first impression, when he saw the photo of the coin on my phone, was that it was an 1817, not an 1816. 1817 brockages are by far the most common by date, and reverse brockages make up the

215	1857 Lge. date, Few pinpoint nicks on Obv. Strictly fine.
216	1857 A. 2 Sm. date, Light brown, Ex. fine.
217	1857 N. 4, Sm. date, Fine.
218	Freak (1817-1837), Rev. impression on Obv., Very good.
RARE U. S. DIME, ETC.	
219	1860 Dime, New Orleans mint, Very good, Rare. Lists at \$20.00 in fine condition.
220	1864 Half Dollar, Double profile, Fine.

majority of them. We have posted unattributed reverse brockages before on Copper Notes, with great success in establishing the date and variety. The help we have received has been amazing: too many names to publish, but we thank you all!

We now felt uneasy about the attribution from 1975, plus we still wanted to know where it had been from 1975 to 2022, "47 years of uncertainty." Sometimes answers are hiding in plain sight. This is what happened sometime Saturday night when, armed with the 1816 N7 description, it occurred to my father to check the first obvious place: Coin Galleries' May 24, 1989 sale featuring the Richard Picker collection of brockages. As mentioned earlier, Picker was one of the first known collectors of not just errors but brockages in particular. Despite having 51 coins for sale, there were only seven photos, making it difficult to confirm any potential matches. Under lot 1073 is the following description:

"(1816) Newcomb 7 Reverse brockage. Fine, or so. A deep reverse dig has caused a corresponding mound on the obverse." With the coin now also in hand, it became obvious that Richard Picker was either the bidder on the

Coronet Type Cents	
1073	(1816) Newcomb 7. Reverse brockage. Fine, or so. A deep reverse dig has caused a corresponding "mound" on the "obverse."

coin in the Superior auction, or acquired it sometime after 1975. We have found it is not unusual for one auction house to just carry over a previous auction's description without double-checking. This actually proved helpful in this case. Also from the Dr. Ruby sale part III was lot 313, a second brockage described as "1822 Newcomb 3, Good, but well-handled and slightly bent." I would surmise that this is the same as Richard Picker lot 1090, described as "1822 N.3 Obverse brockage. Good, somewhat flattened, weak incuse. A problematical piece." It would make sense that he bid on and won both pieces considering that 1975 was a time when it seemed he was actively collecting. This freak cent has now been in two famous collectors' collections, Dr. Charles Ruby and Richard Picker, spanning 45 years. Where it's been since...the hunt continues.

On Sunday, having received the coin on Thursday and having all the auction information, the last nagging question came to the forefront. Was the attribution done by Superior and the Goldbergs in 1975 correct as an 1816 N7, or is the initial gut feeling Kevin Vinton had right? After all, this would be the only 1816 reverse brockage that we know of. Something happened the following year to make 1817 so common. So once again, we turned to our EAC community of members who are so willing to share their time and expertise. Instead of posting on Copper Notes, we sent a message and a photo to Dave Stark, one of several members who have been so helpful in the past. We told him we were checking a past auction sale to confirm its variety. Within minutes he responded, "1817 Rev D used on N4, N14 and N5. Is this what you were expecting?" We answered, "No, the auction house had it as an 1816 N7." He said that was on his short list but the A in states is high, making this the smoking gun that it is an 1817. Given his help and clue in what to look for, we pulled out *The Cent Book* and confirmed what he was saying. While we trust him completely in his skill at attributing, we always like to get more than one opinion. Given the vast talent in our membership, what better person to ask than the author of *The Cent Book* himself, John Wright? We John an email with the same photo and the following message: "We acquired this coin from the Dr. Charles Ruby collection part III as an 1816 N7. We have had others look at the coin and believe it may not be an 1816 but rather an 1817. We value your thoughts." The following day he replied, "Your cent is 1817 N4. Brockages

of 1816 are scarce. 1817 is the most common year for brockages, especially for reverse brockages. And the N4 looks to be the most common of all.” So now we know that our freak cent’s journey from Syracuse, New York in 1944 disguised as an 1816 N7, through two famous collections, 78 years later finally gets the recognition it

deserves as a hopefully now even more famous 1817 N4. It is our hope that you have enjoyed this journey as much as we have, and that you will experience your own similar (tail) and come to realize that there is much more to collecting than just the coin.

* * * * *

Corrections and Additions to the 2021 Edition of THE DIE VARIETIES OF UNITED STATES LARGE CENTS 1840-1857

Bob Grellman

Here are some corrections and additions to my latest attribution guide for late date large cents:

1848 N-11, die state d: Additional rim cud at D-S, not O-S

1849 N-7 OBVERSE, line 4: “homed” should read “horned”

1852 N-3 Die state b has been found with a reverse rotation of 25 degrees ccw

1855 N-4, die state e: “second T in STATES” should read “second S in STATES.” However a single example with a retained cud break over the second S in STATES has been discovered, so state e can now be changed to “Additional rim cud break over the second

S in STATES.” (Unique)

1856 N-18, die state d: A single example has been found that has a smaller rim cud break over only the second T in STATES. It comprises the left 40% of the rim cud shown over TE. This state should be called d (Unique) and the state with the complete rim cud over TE should be e (Extremely Rare)

Page 415 (list of contributors) RS – Robert Soltisiak was misspelled (our apologies)

If you have any additional edits or new information you can share please contact me at jrgrellman@gmail.com or text 407-221-1654. Thanks for any help you can provide.

* * * * *

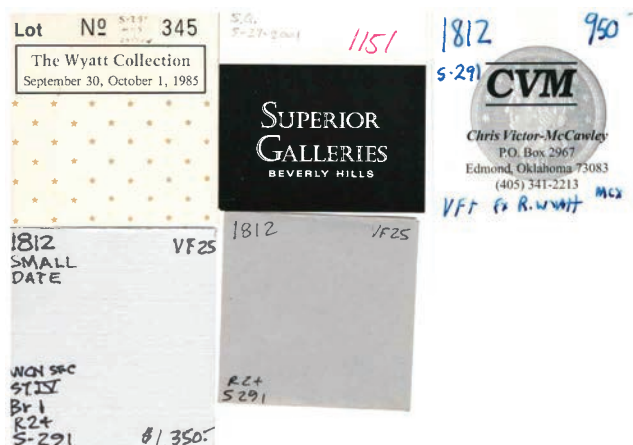
A PEDIGREED VF CENT NOW GRADED “AU55”

Fred Truex

TPG’s can’t grade early copper correctly!

I recently sold a raw, fairly well pedigreed S-291, to a fellow EAC’er. The provenance is as follows:

The Wyatt Collection, Superior Galleries September



30th, October 1st, 1985: Lot 345 – “Very Fine 20. Medium chocolate brown with clean attractive and somewhat lustrous surfaces.”

Superior Galleries – May 27th, 2001: Lot 1151 – “VF 20+. Slightly sharper with a light hairline scratch from the curl on the neck down to the left side of the 8 in the date. Otherwise, this cent is very nice. Glossy chocolate brown with frosty flowline luster in protected areas. MDS. Good eye appeal for a Turban Head cent in spite of the minor defect. Ex Russell Wyatt, Superior 09/30/85: 345.”

CVM S291 VF+ ex R. Wyatt

By all indications and notes a very nice VF20+ coin. The new owner sent it into NGC for grading. It came back AU55! How can a VF 20+ coin be graded AU55? I guess we will have to adjust Bill Noyes’ 15-point deduction from a slab grade to EAC grade. How about 30

points!

I would be curious to hear from NGC on how this coin was graded AU55?

The owner has sent pictures of the coin in its NGC slab and given permission to use them in this article.



Editor's Note:

It is interesting to compare this coin with the plate coin for the variety in Walter Breen's *Encyclopedia of Early United States Large Cents 1793-1814*, which was also the coin used to illustrate both obverse and reverse in *Penny Whimsy*.

Graded AU 55/50 as lot 2855 in Norweb Part III, November 1988, the cataloger expressed astonishment that it had been graded only EF40 in Stack's sale of the Anderson Dupont Collection, Part I, September 1954, lot 515—which would have been *Dr. Sheldon's grade*, since the title page of that catalog indicates that the coins were “personally described and edited by Dr. William H. Sheldon.”

To take it back one additional step, according to the provenance chain in the Breen Encyclopedia, Dorothy Paschal purchased the coin at Stack's sale of the Davis-Graves Collection, in April 1954, wherein Stack's graded it Very Fine-35! In the Breen Encyclopedia, it is graded EF45.



(Image Courtesy Stack's Bowers)

All of which goes to show that grading was, is, and always will be subjective. The Anderson Dupont-Norweb coin having been called everything between VF35 and AU55, seems to have settled for the moment at the midpoint of that range: EF45.

But one other point should be equally clear: S-291 is the scarcest 1812, and a *real*, no-dispute AU55 would challenge for the second finest known. The purchaser of Fred's coin clearly bought the *coin*. The challenge for its next potential purchaser will be to stay focused on the *coin*, and not on the *little slip of paper* in the slab.

* * * * *

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dave Lange writes,

I was pleased to see Lou Alfonso's article about large cent coin boards. I have a few corrections and additions that will be of interest to readers.

Whitman was indeed the only publisher of true coin “boards” for large cents. The products of the Beistle Company, which were marketed by Wayte Raymond through the Scott Stamp and Coin Company and then

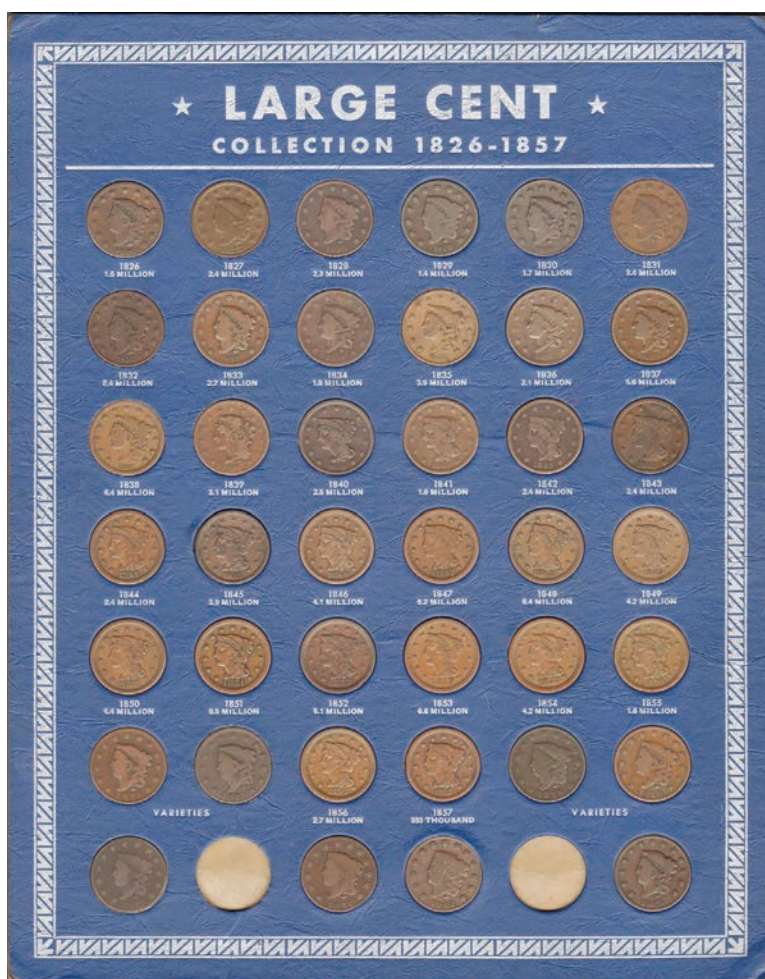
later by Wayte Raymond Publications, were actually just loose leaf pages that were not intended as stand-alone items. In the early years (1928-30) Beistle provided cardboard panels covered in black cloth to which the pages could be bound by generic steel rings or leather thongs. It was Wayte Raymond who devised the first ring binders designed specifically for the line of pages when he took over their design and marketing in 1930. These are the albums that became so familiar in both

the original portrait format and then later in the landscape format most often found today.

The pair of large cent boards were offered in two editions. They debuted in late 1938 or early 1939 as part of Whitman's Second Edition that had been initiated in 1936. This edition featured blue, flocked paper with silver (not white) printing. The color confusion occurs because the flocking wore off so quickly in use, taking much of the printing with it. Though the most common of Whitman's several editions of boards, the Second was terminated in 1939, most likely due to customer and dealer complaints about the rapid loss of text. Whitman's Third Edition featured the same materials used for its later line of folders---unflocked blue paper with silver printing that was quite durable. Lou was correct in assuming that his boards are of two different editions, the 1793-1825 board belonging to the Second, while the 1826-1857 is from the Third. Second Edition large cent boards are quite scarce, while those of the Third Edition are genuinely rare.

Though a superior product, the Third Edition Whitman boards were cut short by the transition to folders at the end of 1940. The most popular board titles soldiered on as late as 1942 in a different color scheme, while the large cent boards were immediately superseded by the folders. Since starting my business in coin boards in 2008 it has been only with great difficulty that I've been able to supply the endless demand for large cent boards of either edition. I don't recall whether Lou ever reached out to me for the boards he sought, but it would have been the best place to start.

One oddity that holds true for both editions of large cent boards is that the extra openings for "VARIETIES" are not all of the same size. In the final row the second and fifth openings are sized for chain cents and will not fit any later issues. This presented a problem for



me when I decided to fill my Third Edition 1826-1857 board with both the dates printed, as well as the several preceding dates of the Coronet series. The two undersize openings had to be left unoccupied, though I was able to fit 1816-22 and 1825. A photo of this collection is attached.

Lou mentioned my book, but the source he included for it is of little use. My website is coincollectingboards.com, and from it I sell all of my PennyBoard Press books on coin boards and albums. Of course, I also have a large stock of vintage coin boards for sale, though rarely are the large cent titles to be found within it.

* * * * *

Bob Julian writes,

I read the July *Penny-Wise* article by Messrs. Sholley, Eckberg, and Dannreuther. Two documents in the Archives are germane. These letters show clearly that:

- 1) No restriking was done between 1860 and 1864. The only post-1860 mintage was probably done in February and March 1869.

- 2) The dies were destroyed in March 1869, meaning that none was struck after that date.

The 1870 *American Journal of Numismatics* also carried a note about the 1869 die destruction. There was a further published note, probably in the *AJN*, that the dies and hubs had been destroyed; I cannot find the exact citation on this reference, however.

May 18 [186]7

On the 8th of July 1859 several experimental Dies were boxed, sealed, and placed in the vault in the Cabinet by the then Director of the Mint and a list thereof was filed in the Director's office. Another sealed box of experimental Dies was placed in said vault July 30th 1860 and a list filed in the same office. Neither of these papers can now be found and the Director deems it proper to have the boxes opened and again sealed up. It is ordered that the boxes referred to shall be opened this day in the presence of the Director, Chief Coiner and Engraver. A list of the Dies shall then be made. Immediately after which, the dies shall be replaced in the boxes and sealed up under the official seals of the Director and Engraver.

H. R. Linderman
Director

M[ar]ch 19 [186]9

Sir:

Referring to yours of this date reporting a number of dies found in one of the vaults, I have to request that all dies of a date previous to the present year shall be destroyed including those referred to.

When the request contained herein has been complied with you will report that fact to me in writing.

Very Respectfully
H.R. Linderman
Director

A Loudon Snowden
Chief Coiner
US Mint

* * * * *

Mark Strunsky writes,

Thank you for your outstanding job putting together the July edition of *Penny-Wise*! As a “newly minted” EAC member (I joined in April of this year), I am thrilled to be receiving our club journal. It alone is well worth the annual membership dues.

Your Editor pondered, in response,

Is this solid documentation of what *really happened*, or the deliberate creation of a paper trail for *cover* purposes, on Linderman’s part?

Bob responded,

The chances of it being a cover letter to hide the fact that the dies were not destroyed is, I think, not possible. Linderman clearly made the restrikes for himself in February/March 1869 in order to enhance the value of his collection. To have left the dies on hand at the Mint, until his return as Director in April 1873, would have defeated this objective as others would then have had access to the dies and made restrikes for themselves. Moreover, James Pollock was Director/Superintendent at Philadelphia after March 1869 and would not have tolerated restrikes.

In addition, Chief Coiner A. Loudon Snowden was an avid collector and would very likely have made restrikes for himself in 1869. Snowden thus also had a clear motive for destroying the dies and preventing others lessening the value of his holdings. That a report of the destruction later appeared at least twice in print is further proof.

I suspect that putting *P-W* together is - to some extent - a labor of love for you. I’m sure most EAC members understand the love part, but very few things of quality happen by magic or by accident, and I wanted to tell you that I really appreciate the labor part!

markstrunsky@gmail.com

* * * * *

Frank Wilkinson writes,

I read “Braided Hair Restrike Proof Half Cents: Another View,” by Craig Sholley, William Eckberg, and John Dannreuther, in the July 2022 issue of *Penny-Wise*.

In brief, the authors maintain that the die emission sequence of the First and Second Restrike Braided Hair Half Cents can be determined. I thought about working through the data—later. BUT there was a certain something the just did not seem to be quite right. I couldn’t

put my finger on it right away.

And then I knew what it was.

Walter Breen had done virtually the same thing several decades ago. His *Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents* was published in 1983. He grouped the First Restrikes and the Second Restrikes along with some of the so-call Originals, those with Large Berries, into groups based upon planchet weight, color, and strike. The coins did appear to fit within those groups. The late Jim McGuigan and I talked about these groups. He said that R. Tettenhorst (A/K/A Bernard Edison) was the only per-

son he know who actually tried to obtain a coin from each group. As if trying to get all those incredibly rare coins, to get several more would be a GIGANTIC goal.

I kept coming back to the issue of Sholley, Eckberg, and Dannreuther writing the apparently nice article that they did, but with no mention of what Breen had done several decades ago. I was forced to come to the conclusion that these gentlemen HAD NEVER READ THE SECTION ON BRAIDED HAIR PROOFS IN THE BREEN BOOK.

Sorry, but there is no other possible conclusion.

* * * * *



1797 2-A, C-2, B-2

Ex: Clenay, Bareford, Tettenhorst, Pogue

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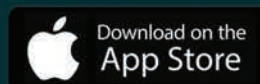
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SWAPS AND SALES

EACers are invited to submit their ads for inclusion in this column. Ads up to twelve lines are free. ADS LARGER THAN 12 LINES MUST BE SUBMITTED CAMERA-READY OR AS ELECTRONIC FILES, AND PAID IN ADVANCE. A full-page ad is \$250. One-half page is \$125. Discounts are available for repeating ads. Ads should be limited to early American Coppers or tokens and books related to the same. ***Deadline for material to appear in the January, 2023 issue is December 30, 2022.*** 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 hesalyards@gmail.com.

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New Book on Late Date Large Cents

Late Date Large Cent Book: A new 2021 edition of The Die Varieties of United States Large Cents 1840-1857 is available in digital format on the EAC website (eacs.org). I have a limited supply of hard copies available for \$125 delivered and a very small number bound in white leather for \$225. The hard copies have photos, the digital format does not. Autographed on request.

Bob Grellman, EAC #575

cell 407-221-1654 email jrgrellman@gmail.com PO Box 181 Sorrento FL 32776

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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

* * * * *

Bob Gelman, EAC #728

GENTEG@aol.com

Large Sheldon Collection For Sale

I am looking for a buyer for my 50+ years' collection: a nearly complete lower-grade Sheldon set. This set of 276 lovely ladies is listed as #16 in the 2021 issue of "The Score." These are nice coins. I have tried to use strict EAC grading. On a fixed income, the remaining vacancies in the series are out of my financial reach, and the children do not have the same enthusiasm that I had. There are many R5s and R6s in this collection. Many have pedigrees, but no CCs. Many have been out of circulation for over fifty years. Over the years, I have built this collection by buying from EAC Sales, Tom, Chris, and Doug. Most EAC dealers will recognize me.

I am interested in a single lot, private sale. Please, no consignments or auctions. To serious bidders only, I will send a description of each coin in this group. To the successful buyer, I will throw in my collection of copper catalogs and books. For anyone who is willing to travel to Western Pennsylvania, I can arrange an inspection. This lifetime collection goes to the first fair offer in writing. I reserve the right to reject any and all offers.

* * * * *

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).

* * * * *

Mabel Ann Wright, EAC#78

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New Book – Die States of 1794 US Large Cents – by Chuck Heck sold out its first printing. Thanks to all who purchased one. A second printing is now available. Price is \$110 plus \$7 for shipping. For info, please contact:

Chuck Heck, EAC #514

703 Village Green Ln, Bluffton, SC 29909

561-628-5345

* * * * *



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)

* * * * *

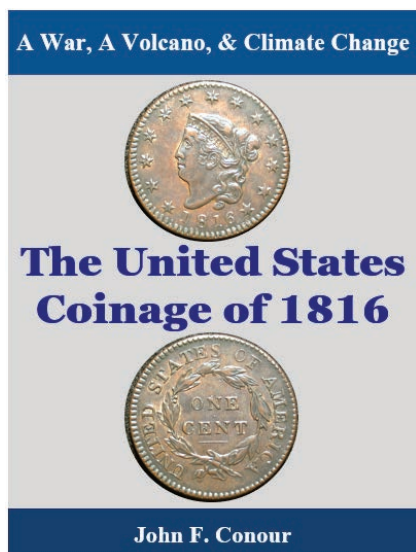
Jack Conour

EAC 4607

4548 Winners Circle

Batavia, OH 45103

A War, A Volcano, & Climate Change, The United States Coinage of 1816



A high quality color printing of 150 pages detailing the coinage for 1816, The history of the times is discussed to explain the events of this year as well as how 1815 and 1817 are relevant to this year. Attribution, grading, rarity, die life, errors, counterfeits, & strike, are discussed in detail and illustrated using large, colored photographs.

Comments: "The photos are great, and the sections make sense".

"a great big BRAVO, WELL DONE!"

"Love the book and thank you for writing it."

Non EAC'er "Pretty fascinating Well-written and designed."

email jcon1799@sbcglobal.net Phone: 419-410-6461

* * * * *

John Wnuk, EAC #6895

(810) 358-0397 Wnuk.John@Yahoo.com

Wanted for My Personal Collection

1798 Draped Bust Large Cent: **S-144** die variety

Call, text, or email with details. Thank you.

* * * * *

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.

* * * * *

Robert Calderon, EAC #5644

201-264-2427

rjc463@gmail.com

1794 S22 large cent, ex Tom Reynolds, EAC 15, net 12 \$1,150

1796 S81 large cent, PCGS VG10, (#1392.10/82472653) \$1,100

1801 S223 large cent F15, \$1,000

1819 N9 large cent, ex Mike Demling XF45+ \$675

1832 N1 large cent, ex Steve Carr XF40 \$300

1836 N3 large cent XF45 ex Tom Reynolds \$425

1839 N8 large cent XF 40, net 35 ex Tom Reynolds \$325

1845 N2 large cent AU choice, ex Doug Bird \$350

* * * * *

Al Nelson, EAC #5732

In upgrading my Middle Date Large Cents, I have accumulated many duplicates.

I will sell them to EAC members for what I paid for them.

If you are interested in receiving a list, please call me at (847) 746-8510. Thank you.

* * * * *



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EAC # 781 mdemling@mdaarchitects.com

* * * * *



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* * * * *

Allan Davisson, EAC #3299 (Davisson's Ltd) **P.O. Box 323** **Cold Spring, MN 56320**

British Trade Tokens have been a specialty of ours since the 1980's. Our auction catalogs each feature a changing array of these issues. Our emphasis is on what Americans call the "Conder" series. (Though James Conder was British, British collectors seem to never use his name to describe the series.)

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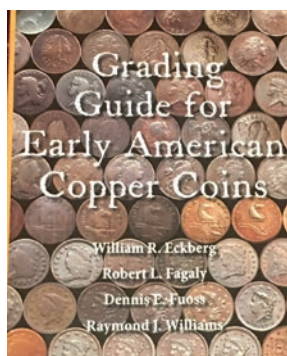
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Ron Gammill EAC #5321

PO Box 698

Schoolcraft, MI 49087

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Gammill Numismatics, LLC

(Gammillnumismaticsllc.com)

Ron@Gammillnumismaticsllc.com

Phone: (662)-736-3222

* * * * *

Keith Gilbert, EAC #5933

5208 Wolf Run Village Lane
(814) 218-9250

Erie, PA 16505

I am looking for middle date variety collectors willing to part with their duplicates,

F15-VF30 that I need for my collection, currently at 176 pieces.

Please feel free to write, call or text truzezy@aol.com with your available coins, or to ask for my needs list.

Thanks for all who have responded. I now have 212 varieties.

* * * * *

Todd Gredesky, EAC #2467
856-803-6102(cell)

P.O. Box 102

Woodbury, NJ 08096
email: njtodd7@hotmail.com

1783 Chalmers Shilling (low grade)	\$1400
1797 Large Cent S-138	\$300
1798 Large Cent S-162	\$200

Wanted: Canadian Blacksmith tokens.

* * * * *

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*.

L. Michael Lawrence, EAC #3053

email: lmllibcap@gmail.com

phone: 319-364-5266 (landline, no texts)

I am interested in buying for my personal collection the following 1793 large cent electrotypes, Ex Jules Reiver, from the 2007 EAC Sale in St. Louis:

S-1 (lot 102)
S-8 (lot 110)
S-11c (lot 118)

Please email or call.

* * * * *

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.

* * * * *

Denis Loring, EAC #11

dwloring@aol.com 561-351-8585

For sale: 1794 large cents VF-AU

All coins are EAC graded from 25 to 50; most are above average in quality.

At this writing, the following varieties are available: 21, 22, 24, 25 (CC-4), 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 41, 43, 44, 46 (CC-4), 49, 54, 55 (CC-6), 56 (CC-7), 57, 58, 59, 60, 63, 65, 67, 69, 70, 71, 72. There's also an NC-9.

* * * * *

COL Steven K. Ellsworth, ret., EAC #1901L

P.O.Box 2869 Brentwood, TN 37024

dba The Butternut Company

1-703-932-6331 - Mobile

Email: Butternut@Butternut.org

FOR SALE:

1793 Sheldon 7, PCGS VG details. #35453.98/43990953	\$19,500.
1794 Sheldon 51, PCGS XF details. #35615.97/43967613	\$11,900.
1794 Sheldon 53, PCGS F details. #35621.97/43967614	\$10,500.
1795 Sheldon 80, Jefferson Head, PCGS VF details. #35741.98/84302593	\$65,000.

Garry Apelian, EAC #2686
(847) 414-8879

910 Revere Road
garryapelian@att.net

Glenview, IL 60025

Wanted all Half Cent Counterstamped Coins. Any coins listed in Brunk, or unlisted. Please email me or call with what you have.

* * * * *

Ken Fowler, EAC #5743

fowler1771@hotmail.com

270-285-3110

For Sale: Middle Date Large Cents

1820 N5,VF35 \$425

1820 N13,XF40 \$250

1820 N15, removed from PCGS XF45 holder \$400 PCGS label included

Please phone, text or email for more information or pictures.

* * * * *

Rich Uhrich, EAC #4929

P. O. Box 7096 Sebring, FL 33872

717-579-8238

I will be setting up a table at F.U.N. where I will be offering my proof-only half cents. All are Originals except the 1852:

1831 PCGS Genuine, tooled, Unc details; 1836 corrosion, at grading; 1840 PCGS PR58; 1841 PCGS AU details, scratch; 1842 PCGS PR55; 1843 PCGS PR12; 1844 PCGS PR58; 1845 PCGS PR62 BN; 1846 PCGS PR63 BN; 1847 PCGS PR55; 1848 NGC PR64 BN; 1849 Small Date PCGS PR63 RB; 1852 Restrike PCGS PR62 BN.

Note: NO EARLY SALES! Hope to see you at F.U.N.!

* * * * *

Harry E. Salyards, EAC #799

P. O. Box 1691

Hastings, NE 68902

Announcing the Publication, October 2022, of a New Reference Work:

Eagle Poised on a Bank of Clouds: The United States Silver Dollars of 1795-1798

Including a Debunking of Two Myths: that these dollars were a commercial failure, and that their design can be traced to Gilbert Stuart. Also, Memorable 19th and 20th Century Collections, a Major Reevaluation of Survivorship Numbers, Illustrations of All Known Die States for Each of the 13 Die Varieties, Updated Condition Censuses, Reconstructed Provenance Chains, a Photographic Grading Guide, and a "Collecting Quality" feature for each variety in turn.

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\$145, postpaid.

* * * * *

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- 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:

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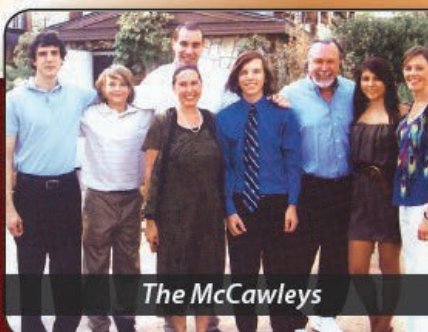


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The McCawleys

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Chicago | August 2022

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MS67 Brown PCGS
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Condition Census Old Reverse
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Head and Edge of 1793
NGC Graded VF35
Realized \$108,000



LOT 502 - 1794 S-19b R4
Head of 1793, Edge of 1794
PCGS graded AU53,
CAC Approved
Equal Finest Known
Realized \$120,000



LOT 505 - 1794 S-25 R3
NGC Graded MS63 Brown
Finest Known
Realized \$84,000



LOT 508 - 1794 S-32 R2
PCGS graded MS64+ Brown,
CAC Approved
Realized \$90,000



LOT 509 - 1794 S-33 R6
"Wheelspoke Reverse"
PCGS graded VF35
Finest Known
Realized \$108,000



LOT 512 - 1794 S-38 R5
PCGS graded MS63 Brown
Realized \$114,000



LOT 516 - 1794 S-49 R2
PCGS graded AU58
Realized \$36,000



LOT 522 - 1794 S-62 R4+
PCGS graded MS63 Brown
Finest Known
Realized \$102,000



LOT 526 - 1794 S-68 R5 Head of 1795
NGC graded MS62 Brown
Finest Known
Realized \$186,000



LOT 528 - 1794 S-71 R2 Head of 1795
PCGS graded MS61 Brown
Realized \$60,000

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THE SAM NACOL COLLECTION



LOT 556 - 1846 N-11 R1 Medium Date
ANACS graded MS62 Brown
Realized \$2,640



LOT 557 - 1846 N-12 R1 Tall Date
ANACS graded MS63 Brown
Realized \$3,840



LOT 560 - 1847 N-11 R4-
ANACS graded MS65 Brown
Realized \$2,880



LOT 607 - 1851/81 N-3 R1
Overdate 51 over Inverted 18
ANACS graded MS63 Brown
Realized \$2,280



LOT 609 - 1851 N-10 R1
PCGS graded MS65 RED
Realized \$4,560

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LOT 3 - 1816 N-3 R4
PCGS graded AU58,
CAC Approved
Realized \$7,200



LOT 7 - 1816 N-7 R3
PCGS graded MS63 Brown,
CAC Approved
Realized \$4,080



LOT 14 - 1817 N-4 R3+
PCGS graded AU50
Realized \$2,160



LOT 24 - 1817 N-13 R1
PCGS graded MS64 Brown,
CAC Approved.
Realized \$3,360



LOT 33 - 1818 N-4
PCGS VF30
Realized \$9,600



LOT 39 - 1818 N-10 R1
PCGS graded MS64 Brown,
CAC Approved.
Realized \$3,600



LOT 52 - 1820/19 N-3
PCGS MS66RB
CAC Approved
Realized \$25,200



LOT 54 - 1820 N-5 R3 Small Date
PCGS graded MS63 Brown
Realized \$5,040



LOT 65 - 1821 N-1 R1
PCGS graded AU55
Realized \$5,760



LOT 69 - 1822 N-3 R2
PCGS graded MS63 Brown
Realized \$6,600



LOT 79 - 1822 N-13 R5
PCGS graded AU50
Realized \$20,400



LOT 80 - 1822 N-14 R6+
PCGS graded VF25
Realized \$72,000



LOT 81 - 1823/2 N-1 R2
Overdate 3 over 2
PCGS graded AU53
Realized \$11,400



LOT 82 - 1823 N-2 R2
PCGS graded AU55, CAC Approved
Realized \$28,800



LOT 84 - 1824/2 N-1 R1
Overdate 4 over 2
PCGS graded AU58, CAC Approved
Realized \$16,200



LOT 94 - 1825 N-6 R3
PCGS graded MS63 Brown
Realized \$6,600



LOT 105 - 1826/5 N-8 R2
Overdate 6 over 5
PCGS graded MS64 Brown,
CAC Approved
Realized \$24,000



LOT 130 - 1828 N-12 R3+
PCGS graded XF40
Realized \$4,320



LOT 137 - 1829 N-7 R3
PCGS graded MS62 Brown
Realized \$8,400



LOT 140 - 1830 N-1 R1
PCGS graded MS64 Brown,
CAC Approved
Realized \$4,680



LOT 164 - 1832 N-1 R2 Small Letters
PCGS graded MS64 Brown
Realized \$6,600



LOT 173 - 1834 N-1 R1
Small 8 & Letters, Large Stars
PCGS graded MS64 Brown, CAC Approved
Realized \$6,000



LOT 177 - 1834 N-5 R5
Large 8 & Stars, Small Letters
PCGS graded MS65 Brown,
CAC Approved
Realized \$45,600



LOT 183 - 1835 N-5 R2
Head of 1834, Small 8 & Stars
PCGS graded MS64 Brown
Realized \$7,800



LOT 187 - 1835 N-8 R1 Head of 1836
PCGS graded MS64 Red & Brown,
CAC Approved
Realized \$7,200



LOT 188 - 1835 N-9 R4
Head of 1834, Large 8 & Stars
PCGS graded AU58
Realized \$8,400



LOT 231 - 1838 N-10 R1
PCGS graded MS65 Red & Brown,
CAC Approved
Realized \$7,200



LOT 244 - 1839 N-8 R1
Type of 1840
PCGS graded MS63 Brown,
CAC Approved
Realized \$5,280



LOT 248 - 1839 N-12 R4 Booby Head
PCGS graded AU58
Realized \$7,200



LOT 249 - 1839 N-13 R2 Booby Head
PCGS graded MS65 Red & Brown,
CAC Approved
Realized \$13,200



LOT 251 - 1839 N-15 R5+
Booby Head
PCGS graded MS62 Brown,
CAC Approved
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NOTE THE ADDRESS FOR MAILING DUES

January 1, 2022

Print your name and mailing address for *PENNY-WISE*:

Telephone#: _____

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Dues are payable by June 30, 2022 for the period 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023.

If your dues expire before June 30, 2022, please contact our Treasurer (frisbyco@yahoo.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= _____

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Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____ Applying for: \$1000 Scholarship _____
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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



**1737 Higley Copper. Freidus 3.2-B.a, W-8225. Rarity-7.
VALUE ME AS YOU PLEASE / I AM GOOD COPPER, 3 Hammers.**

Ex: John L. Roper, 2nd Collection, Stack's, December 1983, lot 151; Anthony Terranova, August 2019;
Sydney F. Martin, Stacks-Bowers, August, 2022: 8195.