

PENNY-WISE

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Club Officials	2	
Introduction by the Editor	3	
Original Articles		
Craig Sholley, John Dannreuther and Saul Teichman	4	The Supposed Destruction of the Proof Half Cent Restrike Dies
C.J. Buchanan	8	Revisiting the 1831 Half Cents
Meetings and Membership Notes		
Elections Committee	13	Ballot for 2023-2026 (use the one inserted with the issue)
Dennis Fuoss	15	Welcome to Portland, Oregon for EAC 2023
David Johnson	17	Volunteer Needed to Run the 2023 Large Cent Happening
Tim Skinski	18	The 2023 Half Cent Happening Varieties
Nathan Markowitz	18	Portland Outings
Tom Webster	19	Call for Exhibits - EAC 2023
Jim Carr	20	Early Coppers at ANA Summer Seminar
Kevin Winn	20	Region One Meeting at Manchester Expo
	22	Obituaries
Miscellaneous Collector Notes		
Ray Rouse	26	Hard Times Tales: HT580
John Hoskins	27	Copper or Conventions
Lou Alfonso and David Huang	29	An Invitation to Apply for a Garvin Fund Grant
Bim Gander	29	Candidates for Membership
Rare But Not Very Pretty Corner		
Jon Truskey	30	My First Early Copper
Letters to the Editor	31	
Swaps and Sales	33	

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INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR: A CLUB OF SEPTUAGENARIANS

Harry E. Salyards

A substantial portion of this issue is devoted to remembrances of deceased members, particularly Walter Husak. While I was saddened, along with the rest of the EAC Community, at the news of Walt's demise, I was not shocked or startled. Walt, after all, was 80 years old. And my 37 years of medical practice deeply impressed the reality that, no matter how robust an individual's baseline health, it takes much less to tip the balance against an 80 year old than a younger individual. Another way of seeing Walt's life as an exceptionally full one, is to realize that the *average* life expectancy for an American male born in 1942 was *62.4 years*. So he "beat the odds" by almost two full decades! That, surely, is cause for celebration!

But that biologic clock goes on ticking in all of us, from the moment of our birth, to the hour of our death. I would like for you to look carefully at the facing page, with its list of Club Officials. Many of these names belong to people in their 70s, a number of whom are nearer 80 than 70. I've written—some might say preached, or even ranted—repeatedly about the need for more participation in this club by younger individuals. From my perspective, this extends particularly to contributions to *Penny-Wise*. While we welcome at least one young, enthusiastic contributor to this issue, many of the names on the title page fall into the same category: Septuagenarians—the 'fifty-dollar word' for people between 70 and 79. I also know that many of these people are dealing daily with the impacts of chronic disease, as is prominent numismatic writer and EAC member Dave Lange, who shares some particulars of his recent struggles in a long letter in this issue.

Yes, one can search for a "Glass Half Full" perspective on all of this. *Statistically*, the additional life expectancy for a 75 year-old male in 2022 is an additional 11.1 years. But that is merely a statistic, extracted from other *personally indifferent* data, such as the World Mortality Data Set (used to separate "excess" from "normal" mortality). Given their individual health challenges, it is exceedingly unlikely that each and every one of the 70-somethings whose names appear in this issue of *Penny-Wise* will be around in another 11 years. And so the question remains: What is to become of the Early American Coppers Club over the next decade? Absent broader participation by younger members, I fear that a day of reckoning is coming.

I'll say it again: Your contribution to *Penny-Wise* doesn't have to be exhaustively researched. It just has to reflect some collecting experience that is yours alone, to *share* with the rest of the membership. It could be as simple as the story of your First Early Copper, such as Jon Truskey's short piece in this issue. The 'coin that started it all,' for each of us, was most likely an R1, as was Jon's. (There are those darn statistics, again!) But whatever that early copper coin may have been, it transported each of us through a time warp, to a faraway world where people actually *spent* coins like these for small purchases, instead of, say, Jefferson nickels. That coin proved to be the spark that lit a most consuming fire in each of us. We need to pass that flame forward, sharing our perspectives, our discoveries, but most of all, our enthusiasm. As for 'origin stories,' such as Jon's, we've published a few of them, over my 37 years as Editor.

That leaves only about 1000 stories left untold.

* * * * *

The Supposed Destruction of the Proof Half Cent Restrike Dies

(Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire)

Craig Sholley, John Dannreuther, and Saul Teichman

In the October 2022 issue of *Penny-Wise*, R.W. Julian presented letters written by Henry Linderman as evidence that, in 1869, Linderman had A. Loudon Snowden destroy some old dies, including the Gobrecht dollar and 1840 to 1848 proof half cents dies, previously used at his direction for restrikes. Julian went on to state that a report of the destruction had appeared at least twice in print.

Julian is quite correct on those points. The memo from Linderman to Snowden instructing him to destroy dies does exist, we've seen it and it has been quoted numerous times in the numismatic literature. He is also correct that Snowden did state that dies were destroyed in numismatic periodicals of the day, including the January 1870 issue of the *American Journal of Numismatics*, the January 1872 issue of *Mason's Monthly Coin Collectors Magazine*, and the November 1880 issue of Frossard's *Numisma*. Parts of Snowden's stories also appeared in general newspapers of the day.¹

Snowden's two most definitive statements on the destruction of dies were those in the January 1872 issue of *Mason's Monthly Coin Collectors Magazine*, and the November 1880 issue of Frossard's *Numisma*. Since Snowden's accounts are quite wordy and since both periodicals are easily found in the periodicals section of the Newman Numismatic Portal, for sake of brevity we'll summarize what Snowden said and then proceed with a discussion.

In the January 1872 issue of *Mason's Monthly Coin Collectors Magazine*, Snowden stated that, in the spring of 1869, he had destroyed numerous dies dated 1800 to 1855 that he had found upon becoming Chief Coiner. As to the boxes of dies held in the Director's safe, he stated that Linderman had instructed the die sinker to destroy those, along with all pattern and regular issue hubs and dies prior to 1869, and that this "*order was faithfully executed.*" He went on to say that no dies prior to 1869 were then present at the mint.²

In the November 1880 issue of Frossard's *Numisma*, Snowden stated that all dies prior to 1880 had been destroyed except for the Metric sets and those for the

four-dollar Stella which were retained on order from the Committee on Coinage. On the dies Linderman had boxed-up and placed in the Director's safe, Snowden said that they amounted to just four or five dies and that they too were destroyed. He went on to blame all of the 1859 to 1860 restrikes that had appeared on the market on his uncle, James Ross Snowden.³

Snowden's excuses are no different from those of Linderman. Both attempted to deflect responsibility from themselves to James Ross Snowden and others. Linderman said he found dies in the Director's safe supposedly boxed-up by James Ross in 1859 and 1860. Snowden was more direct and simply flat-out said it was his uncle.

However, Snowden also created a couple "fall guys" in noting that he supposedly didn't find the dies he destroyed until he became Chief Coiner in 1866, thus implying that someone else could have made restrikes before he found them. Further, he said the "die sinker" was to have destroyed the boxed-up and other dies. So, if restrikes were appearing, it wasn't he and Linderman, it was that "lying die sinker" or other unnamed bad actors who got ahold of dies before Snowden found and destroyed them.

Of course, this is utter nonsense. Other historical records, along with extant coins, show these are nothing but cover-stories intended to blunt the numerous stories being printed in both general newspapers and numismatic periodicals, about previously unknown patterns and proofs appearing in the marketplace, and of mint employees stating that Snowden was the one having them made.

As Nancy Oliver and Richard Kelly noted in their August 2013 article in *The Numismatist*, in 1871 and on, there were numerous stories, citing mint employees as sources, about Snowden sneaking about the mint and surreptitiously striking fantasy coins for well-heeled collectors. One such article appeared in a February 1872 issue of the New York paper, *The Sun*, stating that Snowden had a mint employee pick the lock on a desk drawer so that he could get the keys to the Mint Cabinet. Subsequently other employees said that Snowden and another had been observed using the screw press in the

1 Nancy Oliver and Richard Kelly, "Milking the Mint Connection," *The Numismatist*, August 2013, pp. 105 – 106.

2 Ebenezer Mason, *Mason's Monthly Coin Collectors Magazine*, January 1872, pp. 15 – 16.

3 Edouard Frossard, *Numisma*, November 1880, p. 9.

medal department after hours.⁴

An even more pointed article combining several stories and adding additional detail appeared in the March 1, 1872 issue of the Reading, PA paper, *The Eagle*. In addition to the “lock picking and surreptitious striking story,” the article noted that materials such as paint were routinely stolen, mint employees performed work for private parties while on the payroll, relatives of mint employees were paid as mint workers for doing nothing, and several thousand dollars of base metal coinage had been stolen.

The article went on to note that there was supposed to be a surprise investigation by the Comptroller of the Treasury, but word of the visit had been leaked to mint officials the day before and, not surprisingly, the investigators found no evidence of wrongdoing. The subsequent report was called a “whitewash.”

It could be maintained that these stories were nothing more than disgruntled employees spreading rumors. However, hundreds of questionable patterns and proofs, including mules and off-metal strikes, were appearing at auction from 1870 on. Dozens of these were produced using pre-1869 dated obverses and reverses that simply did not exist prior to 1870.

This is not to say that the majority of pieces appearing in the marketplace in 1870 to 1885 were from pre-1869 date dies. They were not. The majority of pieces were from period pattern and proof dies, some being already known and some not; some were mules and some were off-metal strikes. The point is, however, that there are strikes from pre-1869 dated dies that could not have been produced until 1870 or later, and thus the Linderman/Snowden stories are simply not true. We’ll present a few examples.

First up is the 1838 pattern half dollar, Judd-80 and 81, the former being the silver strike and the latter being in copper. The pieces from these dies were unknown prior to Edward Cogan’s Cohen Sale in October 1875 when a silver strike made its first appearance. John W. Haseltine bought the lot for \$10.50. Curiously, the copper strike appeared two years later, in Haseltine’s February 1877 sale, where it brought \$8.50.

Even more interestingly, pattern and Seated researchers, including Andrew Pollack, attribute these strikes to dies made from pattern hubs discovered by A. Loudon Snowden and noted in his letter published in the January 1872 issue of *Mason’s Monthly Coin Collectors Magazine*. In his 1994 book on U.S. pattern coinage, Pollock notes that the reverse hub still existed. So much

for Snowden having supposedly destroyed all of the old hubs and dies he found.

Additionally, there are several pattern 1863 one-cent pieces, Judd-301 through 304, struck in bronze, copper-nickel, or oide, and aluminum using a reverse that did not exist until 1871, per Flying Eagle and Indian cent specialist and researcher Rick Snow.

We also have several 1864 pattern half dollars, Judd-396 (silver) and Judd-397 (copper) which use a “With Motto” reverse that was first used on 1871 proofs and patterns. Additionally, there is at least one 1864 “No Motto” pattern restrike, Judd-395, with the obverse fields bulging as on the latest 396 and 297 strikes, so that too was struck sometime circa 1871 or 1872.

We’ll finish with the case of the 1801, 1802, and 1803 restrike proof dollars. These pieces were first displayed by John Haseltine at Edward Cogan’s January 1876 sale of the Jewett collection. The weights of these range from 219 to 224 grains and they are thus on Trade dollar planchets. Since Trade dollars were not struck until 1873, these pieces could not have been made prior to that. More likely they were made shortly before Haseltine displayed them. Even more interesting, as part of his studies for his books on classic proof coinage, John Dannreuther has found that these pieces use a later, more extensively cracked state of the original reverse for the 1804 dollar.

Henry Linderman’s inventory of the dies he supposedly sealed-up on May 18, 1867 specifically lists “Dollar Dies 1804” as the first item. Since the reverse die was clearly used well after 1869, Snowden’s statements in Mason and Frossard that the dies held in the Director’s safe were destroyed that year are obviously not true.

It should also be noted that Linderman and Snowden did not limit themselves to just using old dies for their restrike activities. In fact, if they needed a die that did not exist, they simply made one from hubs currently on-hand!

The clearest example is the Judd-316 two-cent piece pattern which was produced for the restrike “With Motto” sets. The obverse die was sunk from a Large Motto hub style that was not seen until its use on 1870 regular proof coinage. Additionally, Dannreuther has found that the reverse die state of these restrikes was first seen on 1873 proof coins, thus confirming this piece as a post-1870 fabrication. Further substantiating this view are the previously noted Judd-396 and 397 1864 “With Motto” pattern restrikes which used a reverse die not seen until its use on 1871 regular proof coinage.

4 Oliver and Kelly, p. 105.

The Linderman/Snowden Stories Unravel

As a result of the increasing collector and general public criticism over the restriking, along with charges of fiscal mismanagement, Snowden left office at the end of June 1885. Nonetheless, he continued to be dogged by charges of misappropriation of funds, personal use of mint workmen, and other misconduct.

An article in the September 13, 1885 issue of *The New York Times* noted that a “special agent” of the Treasury Department was investigating Snowden for excessive purchases of equipment in the months prior to his leaving office. The investigation had thus far revealed that Snowden had over-paid favored contractors for equipment and supplies and that favored workmen were paid overtime that they did not work.⁵

Snowden defended himself in an article in the same paper the following Wednesday, saying the charges were false and all due to rumors circulated by a worker he had dismissed for poor performance.⁶ Apparently, nothing came of the investigation and Snowden subsequently managed to get himself appointed as an ambassador to various European nations. He spent most of 1889 to 1893 out of the country, which was probably a good idea.

The “restrike era” came to a rather abrupt end in 1887 with the Annual Report of the Director of the Mint. On pages 180 to 189, Director James P. Kimball denounced pieces that were illegal restrikes per existing coinage laws, including various off-metal strikes and mules from both pattern and regular coinage dies.⁷

The report specifically cited three lists, one compiled by the curator of the Mint Cabinet, another by Robert Coulton Davis, Curator of Numismatics for the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia, with the third being an unnamed “*printed list of another collection*.” Kimball went on to state that the lists showed numerous examples of off-metal strikes from both pattern and regular issue dies, mules, and other “*whim pieces*.” He specifically stated that one of the lists showed 57 different pieces dated 1873 through 1885 and that the third list contained 78 different off-metal strikes dated 1873 through 1885.

5 “Mismanagement Charged,” *The New York Times*, Sunday, Sept.13, 1885, p. 9. Accessed at: <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1885/09/13/103079119.html>

6 “Col. Snowden Defends His Administration,” *The New York Times*, Wednesday, Sept.16, 1885, p.

1. Accessed at: <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1885/09/16/issue.html>

7 Downloaded from: <https://archive.org/details/MintDirectorReport1887>

Kimball went on to state that restrikes of the “With Motto” sets, which were not officially authorized, were in violation of the Coinage Act of 1873, thus clearly indicating that they were believed to have been struck after that date. He also noted that an illegally-produced encased set of 1868 regular issue coins in aluminum had “*passed into other hands*.” Those “hands” obviously belonged to Henry Linderman since the set was listed in Lyman Low’s 1887 sale catalog of his collection.

Not only did Kimball’s discussion directly point the finger for illegal restrikes at both Linderman and Snowden, it also served as solid corroboration of the period newspaper stories accusing both of restriking and selling pieces for personal profit and effectively refuted their false cover stories. Obviously, a number of individuals, including mint workers, with knowledge of what went on had talked.

Kimball also amended existing mint regulations and those amendments were approved by the Secretary of the Treasury. The new regulations specifically prohibited the striking of any coin after the year of its date, the striking of pattern and experimental pieces without authorization, and the striking of any coin in other than its legally authorized metal or as permitted by written authorization. Any mint employee did so would be dismissed and the coins seized as illegal.

The “final blow” came in November of 1887 when Kimball sued in federal court and had the sale of Linderman’s coins postponed. The government negotiated with Mrs. Linderman, seizing the illegal 1868 aluminum pattern set along with 11 other lots it deemed illegal. The government also forced the estate to reduce the number of pieces offered in three other lots, the balance apparently being seized.⁸

The mass striking of “collector pieces” ended. No one was going to strike or buy coins that could be seized. Yes, pieces still got out of the mint on occasion, but the flood had been reduced to a sporadic drip.

The Unfortunate End of Henry Linderman

While A. Loudon Snowden essentially got away with his mint shenanigans, going on to live another 27 years and having a very successful career as an ambassador, Henry Linderman was not so lucky. Although he died in January of 1879 before formal charges could be filed, he was under Congressional investigation for serious misconduct in office.

Those charges included manipulating and misreporting official accounts to cover up excess expenditures and

8 Q. David Bowers, *The History of United States Coinage as Illustrated by the Garrett Collection*, p. 22.

excess bullion wastage at some mints, publishing a false report of the silver reserves at a mine in which he was a stockholder as part of a stock manipulation scheme, approving illegal early payments for silver ore deliveries to a company in which he was a stockholder in order to increase the company's profits and dividend payout rate, and illegally employing relatives and friends to perform work that could have been done by existing government employees.

Mint historians rarely mention this fact. Those that do mention it do so briefly, typically noting that no formal charges were ever brought. Some have totally dismissed the matter, saying that it isn't quite clear what the charges involved because the matter never came before a congressional committee for full-scale hearing and investigations.

That's not entirely true. While the charges against Linderman were never the subject of an investigation or hearing before the full Congress, the Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury Department did report its findings to the full Congress in a report delivered on March 3, 1879 and that report was printed in the *Appendix to The Congressional Record, Debates and Proceedings of Debates and Proceedings of the Forty-Fifth Congress, Third Session. Volume VIII.*⁹

It is true that Linderman never faced formal charges because he died first, but that really doesn't matter since he was interviewed by the committee and, in an astounding turn of events, actually freely admitted to every single charge brought by the committee! Yes, Linderman did offer some very weak, tissue-paper thin excuses, but, amazingly, he never denied a single charge.

For his part in the stock swindle, Linderman appended a false and highly inflated estimate of the silver reserves of Consolidated Virginia's silver mine in Nevada's Comstock Lode to his 1875 Mint Report. The estimate, produced by another stockholder, placed the reserves at \$150 to \$300 **MILLION**.

The stock immediately quintupled, at which point the current stockholders, including Linderman, bailed out. That was a wise move, since later records show that silver production at the mint was actually declining and had been for some time. Stock speculators quickly caught on and the price of the stock plunged.

⁹ U.S. Government Printing Office, *Debates and Proceedings of the Forty-Fifth Congress, Third Session. Volume VIII. Appendix to the Congressional Record.* pp. 140 – 145. Downloaded from Google Books at: https://www.google.com/books/edition/Congressional_Record/Wh5i841T7VIC?hl=en&gbpv=0

Linderman's excuse for including the false estimate in the mint report was that he had read the report and believed it. His excuse for making huge profits on the stock was that a previous false report had driven the stock much higher, but he had not sold, so he actually made less money than he could have. You have to admire his hubris.

In the early pay scheme, Linderman authorized the advance payment on delivery and before mint assay, of 98% of the ore value based on Consolidated's assay. Those payments amounted to some 2,425,000 dollars on which Consolidated made an estimated \$40,000 in interest.

A significant portion of that forty-thousand flowed back to Linderman in the form of dividends, since Consolidated was paying out about 65% of its gross income in dividends, retaining only enough to keep the mine running. Linderman justified his action by saying it was an expediency to keep the silver ore and payments flowing in a timely and expeditious manner.

As an excuse for paying friends and relatives and covering travel expenses for work of dubious value when on-site government employees could have been used, Linderman said that their assistance was necessary in examining mints and assay offices, so the expenses were justified.

As previously noted, Henry died in January of 1879, some three months before the report was presented to Congress, so he never faced formal charges. However, the report does note that the committee had informed President Rutherford B. Haynes of some of the charges against Linderman and Hayes had indicated that he would not be reappointing Linderman as Director. So, Linderman did face a minor official reprimand.

Some Final Comments

In his Letter to the Editor, Julian opined that A. Loudon Snowden would have destroyed the dies in 1869 to avoid devaluing his collection. Clearly, that conjecture is incorrect since the evidence shows the dies were not destroyed (or at least all of them were not). Furthermore, the few additional strikes in the 1870s of ring cents, 1840 to 1848 proof half cents, Gobrecht dollars, and the like would have had little to no effect on the value of Snowden's collection.

First, auction records show that the great majority of the devaluation in the "mass market" restrikes occurred in 1860 to 1868. This should be no surprise at all. As more and more pieces flowed from the mint, prices declined rapidly. When a few additional pieces were released in

the early to mid-1870s, the damage had already been done and prices declined only slightly, about 10% on average. By the time Snowden left office, prices for the pre-1869 “mass market” restrikes were fairly stable.

More importantly, from what we know of Snowden’s collection, which he sold off privately rather than at auction, it mainly consisted of very rare patterns and proofs. For example, we do know he had the two \$50 Half Union gold pieces, and he certainly had a Class III 1804 dollar since he had showed the coin at the 1869 Randall sale.

He also very likely had one each of the 1802 and 1803 proof dollars. While three of the four known pieces of each trace to Haseltine, the original source for the fourth of each is unknown. They were not present in the Linderman collection, so Snowden is a likely source.

He was also the likely source for the 1884 and 1885 proof Trade dollars. And, as noted on the uspatterns.com website, there are numerous rare patterns dated 1873 to 1874 with six or fewer known, some of which are not present in the Mint Cabinet Collection.

So, while Snowden quite likely had some of the common “mass market” pre-1869 restrikes, the best evidence is that the majority of the pieces in his collection were very rare patterns and proofs which had always commanded high prices.

Conclusion

As can be clearly seen from the foregoing, Henry Linderman and A. Loudon Snowden were quite simply typical 19th century corrupt politicians. Stock swindles, kickbacks, theft of materials and services, employing friends and relatives, “sweet-heart deals” with favored suppliers, and making false statements to cover your tracks were standard practices.

Of course, Linderman and Snowden were going to say they were totally innocent. They certainly were not going to say, “Yeah, we’re restriking coins by the thousands and selling them for a ton of money.” However, that is exactly what newspaper articles, auction records, the 1887 mint report, and physical coins show. As we jested in the title to this article, “Liar, liar, pants on fire.”

* * * * *

REVISITING THE 1831 HALF CENT

C. J. Buchanan

The topic of the 1831 half-cent has been visited numerous times through *Penny-Wise*, *The Numismatist*, and in many other forums and publications. Through each attempt, the research grows more profound, and more is understood, but ultimately, there remains significant debate on whether the surviving 1831 half cents are proof-only or not. However, many of the conclusions reached in the past were conjecture or based on accepted “facts” of questionable merit, published by Walter Breen, Roger Cohen, or Eric Newman. Even many of the articles on the ‘proof-only’ conclusions are mere conjecture. Currently, PCGS lists 1831 half-cents as a proof and business strike issue, and NGC lists 1831 as a proof-only issue.

What is a Proof?

The author would like to establish a proof coin, or “master coin,” from this era that is sufficient to describe the different production processes and resulting products. Proof or Master coins were special issues of a coin made especially for presentation, be it for a foreign noble, influential official, or the common collector. They also proved to be trials, in many cases, to confirm the design. The Mint produced most of these on demand for collectors at no additional cost until 1860, when the

Mint deemed it no longer convenient to offer proofs at face-value¹.

The life of a proof coin begins at the planchet stage. First, mint employees burnished planchets with sand or emery. (Burnishing produces the ‘polishing lines’ seen on the fields of many 19th-century proofs.)² They were then treated with an acid or compound with a rough cloth. The small proof-mintages of the early 19th century were likely polished per planchet. In contrast, polishing the entire strip was more convenient for hundreds of master coins struck at the same time². Finally, they are struck (only once!) by dies having been polished and lapped. Some common misconceptions regarding identifying proofs are fins, which are present in both circulation and proof coins; and that proof coins were struck multiple times, though as noted above they were almost always struck just once.

Sources of Confusion

There are excellent reasons for such confusion regarding the Mint, its documents, and the coins they struck during the early 1830s. The Mint was undergoing a severe face-lift on the technological front, and construction on a new Philadelphia Mint building began in 1831. The Mint had just begun using a new press

in 1827 and was beginning to use tight, closed collars during striking. Samuel Moore was still in his first years of directorship of the Mint, and the new administration of Andrew Jackson was running anything but smoothly. The accounting procedures introduced under Moore were also a hassle. From late 1829 until 1836, the coinage reflected in the Director of the Mint's annual report was what was delivered to the Treasurer. The reports make no such mention of coins struck during that calendar year.³ The most notable example of this is found in the annual report for 1834 (regarding the year 1833), of which 154,000 half cents were delivered, struck in both 1832 & 1833. There is no indication as to the number explicitly produced each year. Most proofs during this period were struck with the same dies as their circulating counterparts, making it extremely difficult to distinguish between late proofs and early business strikes. With no reliable documents from the Mint and little to properly distinguish the coins, numismatists have been forced to speculate.

To prevent the regurgitation of previously discussed information, the author condensed points made from articles, books, and forums into a table (see below). While 'circumstantial' evidence leans towards proof-only, neither side has strong enough evidence to settle the debate.

Evidence of Proof-Only	Evidence of Circulation Strikes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no uncirculated "business strike examples" Mintages are incorrect for much of this period No need for any more half cents in circulation - excess of 900,000 in storage Circulated proofs are well known for half cents of this era The amount of coins known is on par with other proofs of the time period Some coins are clearly circulated proofs Kneass made many improvements and changes to Reich's original design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High percentage of circulated examples exist Mint Report states 2,200 were delivered in 1831 The Mint was testing new equipment during the 1830s such as collars and new presses The market for master coins was very small, much too small to justify 2,200

Contemporary Evidence

The U.S. Mint documents of this period have been searched many times over. Unfortunately, even general correspondence has not revealed anything significant regarding 1831 half cents. Obtaining documents from sources other than the Mint is quite tricky. Coin collecting only became popular after half cents and large cents

were discontinued in 1857. The late 1850s and civil-war era produced the first numismatic auctions, circulars, and national clubs. While U.S. numismatics was still in its infancy, the academic side of the hobby still had strong roots in Europe. The observations made by early numismatists thirty years after a coin was produced are far better than those made 200 years later. As with other early numismatic mysteries, information in the documents from contemporary collectors and dealers offers a clear view of the period. The author looked at more than eighty auction catalogs, books, periodicals, and correspondence between collectors for the period 1830-1920. Unfortunately, only ~12% mentioned 1831 half cents or general proof half cents.

479.	1797	Poor.
480.	1809	Only fair.
481.	1802	Rather poor, but very rare.
482.	1803	Ordinary.
483.	1804	Very good.
484.	1805	Very fair; has been silver plated.
485.	1806	Very beautiful, bright, and uncirculated.
486.	1806	Also bright and fine.
487.	1807	Only fair.
488.	1808	"
489.	1809	A splendid uncirculated specimen; rare.
490.	1809	Very good; rare.
491.	1810	"
492.	1811	Very fine original; very rare in this condition.
493.	1811	Very fair for date; rare.
494.	1825	Very fair.
495.	1826	Rather poor.
496.	1828	12 stars, extremely fine; scarce.
497.	1828	12 " very fine.
498.	1828	13 " fine.
499.	1829	Very fair.
500.	1831	Splendid proof; very rare.
501.	1832	Ordinary.
502.	1833	Proof; rare.
503.	1833	Uncirculated.
504.	1833	Ordinary.
505.	1834	Fine proof; rare.
506.	1834	Ordinary.
507.	1835	Very fine; uncirculated.
508.	1835	Uncirculated; 2 pieces.
509.	1836	Original fine proof; very rare.
510.	1841	Fine proof; very rare.
511.	1849	Extremely fine, uncirculated; rare.
512.	1849	Ordinary.
513.	1850	Very fine impressions; 2 pieces.
514.	1851	Extremely fine; nearly proof.
515.	1851	Uncirculated.
516.	1852	Proof, slightly tarnished; very rare.
517.	1853	Uncirculated.

Shown above is a "Catalogue of coins, medals, medalets, tokens and cards, in gold, silver, copper, nickel, brass and tin...more complete in the American mint and political series..." published in 1863⁴. Henry A. Smith's collection included a "splendid proof; very rare" 1831 half cent. It also mentioned other proof half cents and an original 1836 proof half cent. Interestingly, 1831 was not listed as an original, even though the first restrikes of proof half cents were most likely produced around 1860⁵. Pictured are two more catalogs mentioning 1831 half cents from 1863^{6,7}.

782.	1829	Uncirculated.
783.	1829	Fine.
784.	1831	Fine proof, very rare.
785.	1832	Very fine.
786.	1832	Fine.
787.	1833	Fine proof, rare.
788.	1833	Fine.
789.	1833	"
790.	1834	Uncirculated.
791.	1834	Very fine.
792.	1834	Good.
793.	1835	Uncirculated, splendid impression, scarce.
794.	1835	Very fine, scarce.
795.	1835	Another, fine, scarce.
796.	1836	<i>Fine proof</i> , rare.
797.	1837	Half cents' worth pure copper, very fine, rare.
798.	1840	<i>Fine proof</i> , rare.
799.	1841	" " " <i>Gorton</i>
800.	1842	<i>105</i> " excessively rare. <i>Gorton</i>
801.	1843	<i>12</i> " rare. <i>Gorton</i>
802.	1844	<i>40</i> " " <i>Gorton</i>
803.	1845	" <i>10</i> " " <i>Gorton</i>
804.	1846	" <i>15</i> " very rare. <i>Gorton</i>
805.	1847	" <i>105</i> " excessively rare. <i>Gorton</i>
806.	1848	" <i>105</i> " rare. <i>Gorton</i>
807.	1849	" <i>105</i> " small date, rare. <i>Gorton</i>

30		HALF CENTS.		No. of pieces.
2	1000	1811	Uncirculated struck from original die, scarce,	1
25	1001	1825	Fair impression,	1
37	1002	1826	Uncirculated and very fine, light color,	1
25	1003	1828	do. do. red do.	1
20	1004	1828	With 12 stars, fine for this type,	1
30	1005	1829	Uncirculated,	1
7.63	1006	1831	Brilliant proof, rare,	1
1.25	1007	1833	Proof, very scarce,	1
6	1008	1834	Uncirculated, fine,	1
50	1009	1835	do. do.	1
8.	1010	1836	Fine proof, very scarce,	1
8.	1011	1841	do. very rare	1
10.25	1012	1844	do. do.	1
10.25	1013	1848	do. do.	1
4.12	1014	1849	do. small date do.	1
1.13	1015	1850	do. do.	1
5.30	1016	1852	do. do.	1
37	1017	1853	Uncirculated,	1
1.25	1018	1854	Fine proof, do.	1
1.	1019	1855	do. do.	1
1.88	1020	1856	do. do.	1
78	1021	1857	do. do.	1

Curiously, the first mention of proof half cent restrikes was in 1890⁸.

And the extensive group of proof half cents from the collection of William A. Lilliendahl in 1862⁹.

Important to mention is how these numismatists viewed well struck, mirror-surfaced circulation strikes, or as they termed them, "near proof" or "almost proof," coins. If the 2200 coins struck during 1831 were 1831-dated half cents, most, if not all, would carry substantial prooflike appearances. 19th century collectors had no quarrel pointing out these prooflike coins, and probably were overzealous in their attributions. *The lack of "almost*

1.10	2676	1828	12 and 13 stars: uncirc.: red: former scarce; 2 pcs.
1.10	2677	1829	Sharp: uncirc.: red.
14.00	2678	1831	Sharp, perfect proof: original; very rare.
45	2680	1832	Uncirc.: sharp: light olive.
2.10	2681	1833	Fine sharp proof: minute nicks in field.
60	2682	1834	Fine sharp proof: slight chafe in field.
1.10	2683	1835	Uncirc.: sharp: red.
13.00	2684	1836	Sharp, perfect proof: original; very rare.
8.50	2685	1840	Sharp perfect proof: re-strike; rare.
7.50	2686	1841	Sharp perfect proof: re-strike; rare.
10.00	2687	1842	Sharp perfect proof: re-strike; rare.
8.00	2688	1843	Sharp perfect proof: re-strike; rare.
8.50	2689	1844	Sharp perfect proof: re-strike; rare.
8.50	2690	1845	Sharp perfect proof: re-strike; rare.
8.50	2691	1846	Sharp perfect proof: re-strike; rare.
8.50	2692	1847	Sharp perfect proof: re-strike; rare.
8.50	2693	1848	Sharp perfect proof: re-strike; rare.
8.00	2694	1849	Small date: sharp perfect proof: re-strike; rare.
31	2695	1849, '50, '51, '53:	uncirc.: sharp: red: '50 proof surface, field minutely nicked; 4 pcs.

HALF-CENTS.—Continued.	
\$.25	710. 1808 Very good.
.25	711. 1808 " "
.25	712. 1809 Uncirculated, a little dark, scarce.
.25	713. 1809 " "
.35	714. 1809 Remarkably good.
1.50	715. 1810 Perfectly uncirculated.
1.50	716. 1810 Another, equally good.
4.00	717. 1811 Splendid, original, and extremely difficult to meet with—rare.
.62	718. 1811 Very good, rare.
.50	719. 1825 Uncirculated, rare.
.25	720. 1825 Very good.
.25	721. 1826 Uncirculated, very good.
.62	722. 1828 " splendid.
.63	723. 1828 " brilliant.
.50	724. 1828 Equally as fine.
.15	725. 1828 Uncirculated.
.20	726. 1829 " "
.20	727. 1829 " "
7.00	728. 1831 A splendid proof, extremely rare.
1.25	729. 1833 " rare.
1.00	730. 1834 " " "
1.00	731. 1835 " " "
5.00	732. 1836 " " very difficult to find.
6.25	733. 1845 " " " "
21.50	734. 1847 " " excessively rare.
6.75	735. 1848 " " equally rare.
4.25	736. 1849 " " small date.
2.13	737. 1850 " " "
.20	738. 1851 Uncirculated.
5.75	739. 1852 Splendid proof, extremely rare.
.20	740. 1853 Uncirculated.
.20	741. 1854 " "
1.00	742. 1855 Fine proof, rare.
1.00	743. 1856 " " "
.12	744. 1856 Another, almost proof.
.62	745. 1857 Fine proof, rare.
.55	746. 1857 " " "

proof" is more telling than the exclusive use of proof. Any description of business strike 1831 half cents would have been described as such.

Of the more than eighty documents viewed, all dozen or so mentioning 1831 half cents described them as proof. While it could be true that the examples sold in auctions or catalogs in this period were only undisputed proof examples, this is unlikely. Even encyclopedias of U.S. coins listed the 1831 half cents as proof only, such as the 1916 book, *The United States Half Cents*, by Ebenezer Gilbert¹⁰. Until the Breen era, all mentions in the literature described 1831 half cents as a proof-only issue.

275	75.	1845	"	"	"	Libbey
225	76.	1846	"	"	"	Chambers
225	77.	1847	"	"	"	Chambers
250	78.	1848	"	very scarce.	"	Tickets
200	79.	1849	"	scarce.	"	Stratbridge
300	80.	1850	Brilliant, might be described as proof.	"	"	Libbey
4000	81.	1851	Brilliant proof, extremely rare.	"	"	Lapere
3300	82.	1852	"	"	"	Lapere
225	83.	1853	Uncirculated.	"	"	Libbey
725	84.	1854	Perfectly uncirculated, very rare.	"	"	Tickets
300	85.	1855	Very fine, very scarce.	"	"	Tickets
200	86.	1856	Uncirculated.	"	"	Stratbridge

half cents were struck as both proofs and for circulation, the proof-only notion of them was undisputed. Why these claims are still given any validity within numismatics, as Breen has been proven incorrect on a great many of his 'findings,' is beyond reason. Regardless, that theory still warrants merit. One can draw parallels to the pewter continental medals. They were rightly established as European medals in all references, catalogs, and collections through the 19th century; however, Newman

62

United States Cents and Half Cents.

835 1793 Liberty cap. A very beautiful impression, both obv. and rev. as sharp as found; in color, of original brilliant red, turning to a rich light bronze. Except a few microscopic nicks on nose, neck, and in the field, barely visible to the naked eye, I can find no defects in this superb specimen, probably struck for a proof, and unquestionably the finest known of this rare variety. Plate VIII.

This cent originally came from the Le Gras collection, Paris. It was invoiced to me on joint account with a Paris dealer, put in my 29th sale, where I bought it for my cabinet at \$107.

836 1795 Thick planchet, lettered edge; the upper curl of 5 merging into bust. Fine impression of brilliant olive color. Uncirculated. Very rare. Monograph obv. 1. Plate VIII.

837 1795 Thin planchet. Rev. "One cent" high in wreath; wide perfect milling. Beautiful color; uncirculated. Rare. Plate VIII.

838 1798 Large date. Brilliant original, reddish olive color. An extremely fine cent. Plate VIII.

839 1799 Legend and date both very good, the head shows all the hair-lines. Rev. nearly equal to obv., the break in die under E of ONE particularly large. Surface slightly but evenly corroded. Very good for this rare date, and an undoubted original. Plate VIII.

840 1804 Perfect die. Fine impression, slightly marred by several light scratches. Very rare. Plate VIII.

841 1809 Fine. Very scarce.

842 1823 Perfect date. Very fine impression, of brilliant olive color. Uncirculated; very rare. From the Poillon sale; cost me \$19.00. Plate VIII.

843 1827 Deep milling; olive color. Uncir. Plate VIII.

844 **Half Cents.** 1793. Bust of Liberty, with cap behind it, to left. Rev. HALF CENT in wreath. Brilliant olive color; sharp, well struck. Uncirculated. Very rare. Monograph No. 2. Plate VIII.

845 1793 Same obv. as last, but rev. from an entirely different die, with break on border. HALF CENT a little weak; extremely fine or uncirculated. Dark olive. Monograph No. 3.

846 1795 Head to right. Thick planchet, lettered edge. Fine; very scarce.

847 1797 Perfect die, broad milling. Brilliant olive; sharp and uncirculated. Almost proof. Very rare. Plate VIII.

			HALF CENTS.		
1229	1793	Broad planchet; a little corroded, but almost uncirculated, rare.			
1230	1794	Very fine; almost uncirculated, small scratch on the obverse, rare.			
1231	1800	Partly red; uncirculated; a beauty.			
1232	1804	With and without stem to bow on reverse; very fine. 2 pieces.			
1233	1805	Very fine, scarce.			
1234	1806	Red; uncirculated, scarce.			
1235	1807	Very fine.			
1236	1809	Very fine.			
1237	1810	Very good or fine, scarce.			
1238	1811	Fair; rare.			
1239	1826	Uncirculated; red bronze, extra fine.			
1240	1828	Sharp impression; uncirculated, red bronze.			
1241	1829	Perfect; like the preceding.			
1242	1832	Red; uncirculated, sharp.			
1243	1833	Sharp impression; nearly proof.			
1244	1834	Sharp; uncirculated.			
1245	1835	Red; uncirculated, sharp impression.			
1246	1849	Large date; uncirculated.			
1247	1850	Fine.			
1248	1851	Fine.			
1249	1854	Red; uncirculated.			
1250	1855	Red; uncirculated.			
1251	1856	Uncirculated.			
1252	1857	Red; uncirculated, fine impression; fine, scarce.			

Conclusions

Unfortunately, most evidence is purely circumstantial, without an explicit mention of the 1831 half cent in the Mint's documents. The catalogs, books, and auctions fall into these categories despite being significant indicators. There was no mention of the 1831 half cent in the Mint's cabinet that regarded it as proof or circulation strike. Although, even if such a statement had been made, the Mint often kept only proof issues in their collection. The author was also unable to find any mention in the Mint's correspondence to William G. Stearns. Stearns was the most hopeful lead, as he was known for asking for original proof half cents and corresponded with the Mint regularly.

Until Walter Breen and Eric P. Newman decided 1831

incorrectly assumed they were an American issue. They have been considered American by most, even with damning evidence contrary to such found since.

In a 1996 issue of *Penny-Wise*, Ron Manley posited that if die rotations or different die alignments were found, they would almost certainly conclude the debate¹¹. A single alignment with nearly indiscernible rotation would spell proof-only, whereas different die alignments would support that they were struck both as proofs and for circulation. This raises more questions, however. Would the thirty-or-so examples known be enough strikes to cause any die rotation, especially rotation visible to the naked eye? Any significant die rotation could show that 2200 would had to have been struck to create any notable rotation.

The author produced overlays of the PCGS graded half cents with their Tru-views. There was a notable rotation between the images. However, as there is no specific orientation that the coins were imaged at, and the coins were imaged across multiple years, the author found it unwise to give merit to them. Nevertheless, it proved to be a good proof-of-concept.

It was the author's intention when he started the search to find conclusive evidence in the debate. Of the many sources he perused, none were as decisive as he would have hoped. While the debate is not nearly finished, the onus is on those who see the 1831 half-cent as a proof and circulation issue. Before Breen and Newman, there were 100 years of precedent on the excellent footing that these were proof-only. There is far more evidence that the coins are proof-only than that circulation strikes exist. Without a doubt, 2200 half cents were struck during 1831, but whether dated 1831 or an earlier year is unclear. Hopefully, as documents, letters, and books continue to be uncovered by willing numismatists, there might be irrefutable information therein.

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Editor's Note

C. J. Buchanan was the recipient of a Garvin Fund research grant, and this article is the product of that research. We welcome C. J. as a contributor to the pages of *Penny-Wise*, and hope that this if the first of many thoughtful pieces to come! We also hope that his article may stimulate others to apply for a Garvin Fund grant, as this has been a *vastly underutilized* resource, over the 18 years since David Garvin contributed *the entire prices realized from his collection*, to establish the Garvin Fund.

* * * * *

**OFFICIAL BALLOT — ELECTION OF EAC OFFICERS
2023-2026 TERM**

**All members are eligible to vote for the National Officers.
Please vote only for the Chairman & Secretary Candidates of your Region.**

A paper ballot and envelope addressed for vote counting is included as inserts with this issued.

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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



Pittock Mansion – also located in the west hills, but farther 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.

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VOLUNTEER STILL NEEDED TO RUN A LARGE CENT HAPPENING AT EAC '23

David Johnson

I will not be attending the 2023 EAC Convention in Portland, OR in June. I am looking for a volunteer to take over and run the 2023 Large Cent Happening and all subsequent Large Cent Happenings. Unfortunately, my

schedule is not going to allow me to continue to run the Happenings. If interested in running future Large Cent Happenings please contact me at davidjohnson1798@gmail.com

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THE 2023 HALF CENT HAPPENING VARIETIES

Tim Skinski

An annual EAC convention event since 1986, I am very pleased to announce that the Half Cent Happening will once again be held at the upcoming June 2023 convention in Portland, Oregon. Mike Packard, our Half Cent Happening Emeritus, has again promised me that he will be joining us in the Beaver State! Six varieties have been selected for the 38th Happening. They are:

1794 C-8, R5

The C-8, one of the three so-called “High Relief Head” varieties, with Small Edge Letters, last appeared at the 2006 Happening. This is the second scarcest of the three High Relief Head Varieties.

1795 C-4, R4

This is most common of the Plain Edge, Punctuated Date varieties. This variety made its last Happening appearance in 2005. Will we see any examples of the early die state with full “HALF CENT” on the reverse?

1800 C-1, R2

This is the only variety for 1800, and is also the first coin of the Draped Bust series. Its last Happening appearance was in 2000. Will we see any early die states or varieties with large cent undertype?

1803 C-4, R4

This variety, which is characterized by an evenly spaced date (obverse) and wreath with 11 berries (reverse), is

the second scarcest of the four varieties of this date. It has appeared most recently at the 2006 Happening.

1829 C-1, R1

This relatively common coin, which is the only variety for the date, returns to the Half Cent Happening for its first appearance in over a quarter century (not since 1995). Will there be examples with misaligned die strikes?

1850 C-1, R2

This coin, which is also the only variety for its year of issuance, was last seen at the Happening in 2010.

If you would like to volunteer to be a monitor, please contact me via email at tim.skinski@earthlink.net. I always really appreciate experienced monitors stepping up and volunteering their time for at least part of the evening. We often will have monitors oversee a table for an hour and then participate in the Happening during the second hour (or vice versa).

As usual, there is a balance of rare and common Little Half Sisters selected for this year’s event. All Half Cent collectors are strongly encouraged to bring their *most interesting* examples of this year’s varieties (note: grade is but one consideration). Please plan to join us on Thursday evening, June 22 for the 38th Half Cent Happening! I very much look forward to seeing many of you again in person in Portland.

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PORTLAND EAC OUTINGS

Nathan Markowitz

EAC is rapidly approaching and will be at the summer solstice, June 22-25, 2023, at the Portland Doubletree Hotel. I am planning the non-numismatic events and float the following possibilities. Please contact me if you are interested and also if you have other suggestions.

First, Portland Oregon in late June is blessed with sunrise before 5 AM and dark at about 10 PM. Typically, temperatures are in the 70s daytime and 50s at night with no humidity. I can’t guarantee the weather, but late June is lovely most years...fleece suffices and a rain jacket in case.

I encourage those who have not visited the area to plan a vacation around EAC. I know it’s a long trip, and many have never visited the area I’ve called home for 40 years; I have considered renting Safe Deposit Boxes for those who plan to extend their visit. My email is cascades1787@yahoo.com.

Possible Events, Depending Upon Interest

Wednesday June 21: Hike in the Columbia Gorge. There are many options depending on interest. I am fond of Dog Mountain which is a 6.5 mile loop with a 3000 foot vertical climb. We would need to depart

early in the morning yet it is only an hour's drive. We could choose a less difficult hike, but this one affords a panorama up and down the Columbia gorge where Lewis and Clark adventured a mere 220 years ago. We would be home in time for the Boys of '94 meeting. Sturdy boots and extra clothes helpful.

Saturday June 24: Japanese Garden tour [Portland Japanese Garden](#) and Rose garden [Washington Park - International Rose Test Garden](#) visit. These two are adjacent and about ten minutes from the hotel. The Portland Japanese garden is the best example in the USA and the Rose Garden is an international test/competitive garden and display. This is peak flower season and usually Mt. Hood graces the backdrop. We were planning a morning visit; perhaps 3-4 hours total, so copper enthusiasts could scoot back to the bourse. The forestry center [World Forestry Center - World Forestry Center](#) and the zoo <https://www.oregonzoo.org/> are in

the same neighborhood, as are an absurd number of restaurants for those who wish to spend more time, or perhaps enjoy more respite from their copper weeny partners. It's a short Uber/Lyft ride back for those who plan to stay longer.

Other possibilities include a trip to the waterfalls of the Columbia gorge which is a half hour drive and also easy on your own.

The Rhodie garden is likely past peak [About the Garden — Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden](#)

Summer in Oregon is really all about the outdoors: For those truly intrepid adventurers, Mt. Hood still offers downhill skiing [SKI AREA | Timberline Lodge](#)

Again, we will need to firm up numbers so please contact me at cascades1787@yahoo.com. I will follow up on Region 8/P-W as I get a sense of interest.

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CALL FOR EXHIBITS - EAC 2023

Tom Webster

Exhibit registration at the upcoming 2023 EAC Convention in Portland, OR is now in progress and I'd like to receive the title of your exhibit as soon as possible to get you registered and listed in the 2023 EAC Convention program before it goes to print. Please don't delay, act today.

Please send me the title of your exhibit and the number of cases you would need to display your project. **In order to get your title listed in the EAC Convention program, I will need the title of your exhibit not later than May 20th.**

As others have said before, it is not about the choicest

pieces, but rather, displaying something that you feel has meaning, that's all. Others will appreciate it, guaranteed.

The benefits of exhibiting at EAC are many and include early entry into the bourse for set up, publication in the EAC convention program, and the potential to take home the coveted voter's choice award.

The exhibit arena is open to display Early Copper and related material. This includes colonial era, medals and tokens, large and half cents, books, letters, pictures, and other related items. Display ideas could include examples of die states or the die progression for a particular variety, sets or particular coins that take us back through pedigree and history, or controversial coins. Other ideas for display are noteworthy items that have been the subject of discussion in recent or not-so-recent issues of *Penny-Wise*. This subject matter helps to bring better understanding and provoke thought within our hobby. Remember, it's not just about the coins, it's also about the materials and people associated with them.

Don't wait, please contact me now via email at webs1873@gmail.com or by telephone (269-217-7700), so that I may register your exhibit. I'm available to help where I can.



EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS AT ANA SUMMER SEMINAR

Jim Carr

Kevin Vinton and I will be offering a course on Early American Copper coinage at the upcoming ANA Summer Seminar. Located in Colorado Springs, Colorado, the class will be offered on the second week of the Seminar from June 24-29 2023.

The class covers a wide variety of topics including grading, counterfeit detecting, errors and attribution. It is a hands on class. We focus on getting coins into your hands and value a lively discourse. Coin camp is an amazing experience and something I think everyone who loves coins should experience at least once.

If you have any questions please contact me.
carrscoins@gmail.com

The course catalog can be found at <https://www.money.org/summer-seminar>

Editor's Note: This scheduling unfortunately overlaps with the EAC Convention in Portland. It certainly gives early copper collectors more than one option in late June 2023. Members unable to attend one should certainly consider attending the other.

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REGION ONE MEETING AT MANCHESTER EXPO

Kevin Winn

We wanted to thank all those members who stopped by the EAC table at the Manchester Coin and Currency Expo on October 14-15.

Region One Chairman Tim Skinski and I were happy to meet and greet all the EAC'ers!

We signed up one new member, David Oppelt, who paid in advance for multiple years, so we know he is serious about early copper. Welcome to EAC, David!

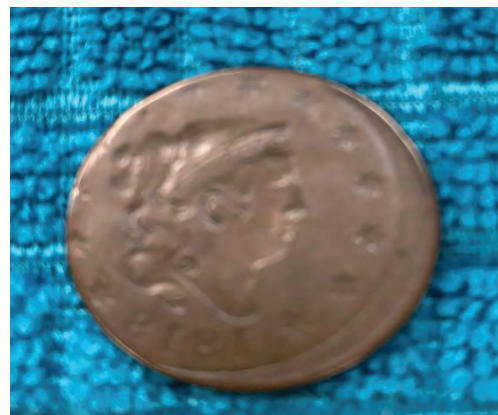
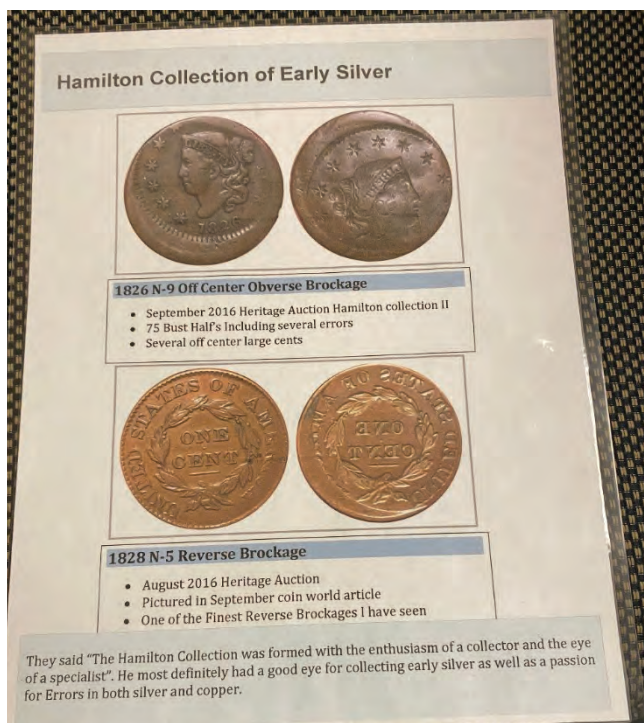
We also wanted to thank Harry and Matt Channell for reprising their wonderful presentation entitled "Whoops! Things that Went Wrong at the Mint." It was very enlightening for members who didn't have a chance to see it at the St. Louis convention earlier this year (like myself). They passed around some great looking brockage errors from their extensive collection, and I learned a lot about how a brockage happens and how impressive these errors can be.

It was a fun and busy weekend, and we are looking forward to the next Expo in the Spring.

Other News: Tim and I will set up a Winter Meeting for EAC Region One (and anyone else) sometime in early 2023. The date and agenda will follow soon so please keep a lookout for EAC Emails. This meeting will be Zoom only.

Please enjoy these photos taken by Tim and me from the October Expo in Manchester:





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Digital reproduction of Henry Voigt's device hub for the 1793 Liberty Cap cent.
by William R. Eckberg

OBITUARIES

WALTER J. HUSAK (1942-2022), EAC #4196

GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

“We have lost a giant.” Such was the common thought woven through the many responses to yesterday’s (Dec.15) sad announcement of the passing of our dear friend Walter J. Husak. I, too, share that sentiment and convey my heartfelt condolences to Patricia, Trina, and son Wally.

I first really got to know Walt in April 1997, when he sweet-talked me out of my prize 1794; the finest known S-40. At the time it was a bit above my scope but, as he was forming what would eventually become the 3rd finest collection of all fifty eight collectible 1794 varieties, well within his. When completed, his collection of 1794s scored only slightly behind those of Naftzger and Sheldon.

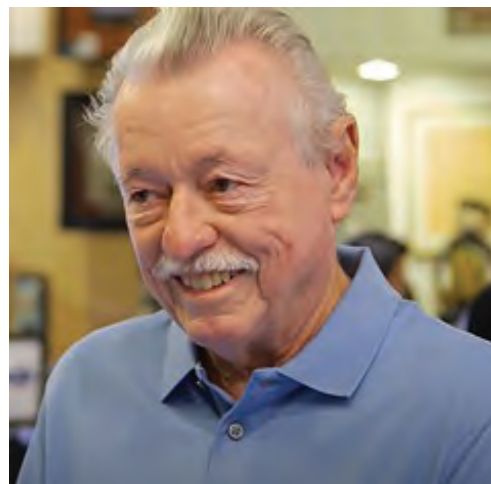
After selling his collection in 2008 Walt began slowly working on another; a severe case of the “collecting bug” indeed. Just a few days ago Walt phoned me from an airport in Texas to report acquiring CC-1 of the S-19b. This brought his new collection to within one of completion; needing only the elusive S-18a. This second collection of 1794s contains 23 of the finest known as well as four of the finest known available to collectors.

Walter’s abundant passion for copper was evident in everything he did. He often seemed to me to be like a “kid in a candy store.” As an anecdotal example I submit this brief story: At the EAC convention in West Palm Beach on May 5, 2006, in exchange for an S19a, S59, or S63 I wanted, I proffered an MS60 S-223. I asked for an additional \$\$ amount in order to “balance the deal.” After a day of haggling the gap between us had narrowed to \$2,000. Walt then proposed a “coin toss” resolution which, if he lost, would constitute his agreement to the additional \$2,000 and, if he won, would seal the deal on an “even up” basis. A coin (large cent) was flipped onto the carpeted dining room floor of the Marriott Hotel. HEADS it was; Walt had lost. He extended his hand to me and graciously said, “It’s a deal.”

I will all surely miss this true Legend of the Copper World.

--Al Boka

Walt Husak was born on May 27, 1942 and he passed away this week on December 15. He and I met over a coin at an auction in 1997. Obviously, I was the under-bidder. However, both my wife and I received something much more precious than an addition to the coin collection -- we received an incredible 25 year friendship with Patricia and Walt Husak.



Friendship is a cool word. It can cover a very broad range of experiences. It was coins that brought us together but it was the love for living a life with joy that defined our times spent together.

Unfortunately, while in the hospital, his gentle heart simply gave out.

To a GIANT of a friend, a glass of very old single malt scotch held very, very high.

--Chuck Heck

“Walter was one of the nicest people I’ve ever met. He was a people person who could talk to anyone at any time. I remember once we were taking a subway uptown from the ANS. Walt started talking with this girl about how he collected large cents. *I’m thinking to myself - what are you doing? - you never talk to strangers on the subway about what you do!* That was Walt.

--Jim Neiswinter

Today the world of early copper is a more somber place. That is because the legendary collector and EAC member Walt Husak has left us.

What made Walt so special? I will try to explain within the context of my limited ability to adequately describe this fellow with whom I felt such kinship. Of course, Walt’s collecting ability was special. His top-tier collection of early-date cents (1793-1814), which he sold at auction in 2008, was great enough to be the pinnacle of anyone’s set. Walt’s enthusiasm for early copper was also very special. Every discussion that I had with Walt over the years since we met, in 2001, eventually turned to large cents, and he could recall specific coins and specific situations with a verve and clarity that challenged me to keep up. He elevated my game

with his anecdotes and with his collecting philosophy. Another measure of Walt's enthusiasm for collecting is the fact that immediately after the sale of his collection, he began building another magnificent set! But, what was most special about Walter was his capacity for camaraderie. He mingled effortlessly among all of us within EAC. He created no barriers. It did not seem to matter if the item I wished to discuss was worth \$10 or \$100,000. He always gave generously of his time and his attention.

I have a couple of personal anecdotes to share. I still vividly remember my first encounter with Walter. I was attending my first EAC convention, in Fredericksburg, VA. I had my 14-year-old daughter along, because she was on spring break. We combined my EAC meeting with a tour of Washington, D.C. and other nearby historical sites. While we were checking into the hotel, Walt & Patricia Husak approached us, introduced themselves (1st names only), and asked if we were there for the convention. I answered affirmatively. A short but pleasant conversation ensued, and then we went our separate ways. That evening, I attended my first-ever Large Cent Happening. One of the varieties being featured was 1794 S-59. As I leaned in to get a close look at the dozen-or-so coins crowded under the lamp, I became aware that the coin in the center of the crowd appeared to be a glowing red GEM 1794. My immediate verbal reaction was "WOW!" to which the table attendant responded, "Oh yes, that is Walt's coin." I immediately recalibrated my impression of the kind gentleman who had approached me in the lobby earlier! "Here we have a copper connoisseur," I remember thinking. This impression has never been diminished. What was truly hilarious about this situation was that Walt's coin, for all of its splendor, was not the "star" of the show. Someone had brought a GOOD-4 coin to the Happening, and that coin possessed a previously unseen cud at the lower reverse. Numerous other EAC members crowded around to gawk at this late die state. I remember thinking "There is a lot that I have to learn about this large cent collecting!"

On another occasion, my partner Susan and I were planning a short trip to the central coast of California, with a primary goal of doing a little wine tasting. I knew that Walt & Patricia lived near Solvang, so I reached out to Walt on fairly short notice, to see if they might have time for a visit. With no hesitation, he warmly invited us to stop by their little ranch, and gave us a quick tour of the home and the "shop," where some of his vintage vehicles were stored. Walt took great pride in his cars (which were collectibles also), but his first

love was the Big Cents. The four of us visited a group of local wineries, where Walt and Patricia were always recognized by the owners and we were treated to first-rate service. Then, much to our surprise, we were treated to dinner at one of Walt's favorite hangouts, an Italian restaurant near Solvang.

Walt was a Class Act; A true gentleman and a true Giant among copper collectors. He embodied so much of what each of us aspires to be that I will be forever grateful for the gift of his friendship. He will be sorely missed, but his legend will live on.

--Dennis Fuoss

The EAC community has lost one of our greats. I knew Walt for many years. He was my close friend. Not only did Walt have a passion for our precious coppers, his passion for coins extended far beyond that. We also shared a passion for cars. Walt had a 1953 Cadillac convertible that I saw when I visited his lovely home a few years ago. He considered that car to be the prize of his car collection.

Walt leaves behind his loving wife, Patricia, and his two children, Trina and Wally. My deepest sympathies to all of them. Wally bears a striking resemblance to Larry Ellison of Oracle. I mention this only because I told Walt, Trina, and Wally about this over drinks following a Goldberg auction - all of them enjoyed the story and had a good laugh. Such fun and a fond memory.

Walt lived large with his many travels with Patricia. A life well-lived.

Walt was a direct descendant of a man who was on the Mayflower. That man was not one of the Pilgrims; he was a cook on the ship. An American lineage going back to 1620 is nothing short of incredible.

Walt and I kept in regular contact over the years. And I had the honor of buying my highest CC 1794 - a Sheldon 27 - from him some time ago. I had many other dealings with Walt as well and always found him to be impeccably honest and ethical - including full disclosure of all material facts, including any conflicts of interest that may have existed. Suffice it to say that were he still here, I would do another deal with him without hesitation.

Let's all hoist a drink in honor of Walt.

Rest in peace my dear friend.

--Scott Barrett

No one had more fun than Walter and his enthusiasm was contagious. He brought positive energy into any room. For all his accomplishments in coins and in life,

he was accessible to everyone. He always welcomed new collectors even if they were to be competitors. I have many personal stories. My dad was a private pilot and worked with a company that flew stunts for movies and provided planes for air shows. When my dad learned that I was friends with the owner of HK fittings, the premier provider of precision parts for aircraft, it was like telling him I was hanging out with Tom Cruise. No wonder so many loved Walter. Here's something—his kids loved him. Wally and Trina both collected coins with him. Trina travelled to many shows with him. What a treasure. I will miss Walter terribly. But how lucky I was to have known him.

--Chris McCawley

This is truly sad news. Walt was one of the first persons I met when I started collecting large cents. He truly was a legend in collecting but above that, he was one of the kindest and most generous persons I have known. Always willing to spend time with you to discuss coppers. I will miss having him at our lobby get togethers at EAC, and I will miss his warm and happy smile. Rest easy my friend.

--Chris Pretsch

I remember meeting Walter at EAC 2018 in Michigan. We chatted at the Boyz of '94 meeting and I asked him what his favorite variety of '94 was. He said that one coin he really loved was the Lord St Oswald S-67 with the four "tears" seen on Lady Liberty's cheek. We talked about how the tears can only be seen on a high-grade coin and how "cool" a feature that is. We toasted. Walt just had such an easy going way about him, one of the kindest persons I've known. I will miss him greatly.

--Larry Schafer

In the sadness we feel with Walt's death, we want to express the honor, the respect, the friendship, and the affection we have had in knowing and having time with him over the decades. Seeing Walt and Pat at an EAC convention was always eagerly anticipated and will be well remembered. Rest in peace, dear friend.

--Mike and Deb Lawrence

Harry, here is a fond memory of Walt: During this week in Long Beach we were the "Burbank Boyz of '94" Walt reserved a table for us all to display our collections. He was and always will be my friend!

--Dan Trollan



Walter Joseph Husak (1942-2022)

Walt Husak died of heart complications late in the afternoon of Thursday, December 15, 2022, at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara. Within hours, his friend Al Boka sent out a notification to other friends and fellow collectors around the country. Soon tributes were coming in from many of them.

Walter Joseph Husak was born in Chicago on May 27, 1942. His parents were Walter and June Blake Husak. At the time of the 1950 Census, they were living in Los Angeles with the father listed as a salesman for a sign company and the mother as a waitress in a restaurant. Later in the 1950s, Walter was a teller at the Merchants National Bank in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Walt began collecting Lincoln cents and Buffalo nickels when he was twelve. While on a visit to his grandparents' Iowa farm, he was given a few old coins for doing chores.

A boy's coin collection may not survive when his interest turns to girls or cars. Walt got married and had a child. His collection was sold so he could buy a 1957 Triumph sports car. Nine months later in 1963, with his second child expected, he sold the Triumph to buy a more practical family car, a 1954 Cadillac convertible.

Walt's first marriage to Irene Catherine Ferris produced a son, Wally, and daughter, Trina, and ended in divorce in 1967. With his second marriage to Patricia, he added her children to his family.

In 1959, Walt began work in the aerospace industry. After working for others for twenty years, he took a chance with his own business and became successful. Husak had various corporate interests in the aerospace industry. He is listed as president of W & T Holdings, Inc. (1984); HK Aerospace, Inc. (1992); and W & M Property Management Corp. (2013).

Walt ran the Los Angeles Marathon six times and

finished four times. While on a training run in 1988, he passed a gas station and noticed a familiar car for sale, his old 1954 Cadillac. He bought it a second time and had it restored for pleasure trips in the California wine country.

His drive to collect returned in 1980 when he acquired an 1804 large cent. This casual interest in large cents grew and he aspired to complete a set of 1793 to 1814 large cents by Sheldon variety. This would be a total with edge varieties of 302 pieces. He succeeded in getting all but the S-15, S-79 and S-80. The known examples of those were held in strong hands and not available.

He selected coins in choice condition or coins with great pedigrees or both. Those coins that are not the finest known were often high in the condition census.

Walt was an excellent photographer who documented his own collection while it was raw. He also documented raw coins for Alan Weinberg.

Husak was an active participant in Heritage, Goldberg and Stack's auctions as he was building his collection. As a good client, they reserved bidder number 94 for him. He returned to Heritage when it was time to sell. With his collection stalled and real estate debts to pay, he consigned his collection to Heritage for auction on February 15, 2008. The collection was legitimately described as the finest collection of early large cents ever offered at public auction.

Heritage produced a colorful forty-page prospectus to create interest in the sale and that interest brought in collectors from around the country. The auction catalog included 301 lots and 414 pages with a full page devoted to each coin and color photo. Cataloguing was done by Mark Borckardt with additional commentary by Denis Loring. On the day of the sale the auction room was packed with 200 potential bidders. The Husak collection was dispersed among 168 successful bidders.

At the sale, two large cents each sold for \$632,500. They were lot 2014, a 1793 Liberty Cap cent, S-13, PCGS AU-50, and lot 2050, the finest known Starred Reverse cent, S-48 PCGS AU-50. Lot 2192 was the famous 1799 "Abbey cent" pedigreed back to an 1864 sale of coins of Lorenzo Abbey. It sold for \$161,000. The sale realized about \$10.7 million which was about double the cost to assemble the collection.

After the sale he established the charitable Liberty Cap Foundation. He is listed as CEO with Martin A. Logies as agent. This presents a virtual museum for his collection.

He was not done collecting but started over specializing

in the cents of 1794. By 2022 his was the finest current collection and third behind Naftzger and Sheldon for historical collections. No trades with the ANS were required for the formation of his collection.

Walt appeared in an episode of the "Reality" TV show, *Pawn Stars*, that aired on January 29, 2018. He offered a 1792 half dime for sale identified as the Garrett specimen in a PCGS MS-65 holder. The boys in the shop declined to pay the asking price. A different Garrett, Jeff Garrett, was also called in as an expert.

Viewers of the show may be aware that some of the scenarios are contrived and set up in advance. Husak did not own the coin at the time. It had been in unsold inventory for Steve Contursi and Rare Coin Wholesalers.

Following his death, tributes flowed in from friends he had made in the hobby. There was no unkind word to be said about him.

--Pete Smith

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HOWARD SPENCER PITKOW (1941-2022), EAC #5486

Dr. Howard Pitkow died November 5, 2022. Holder of a Ph.D. in Medical Physiology from Rutgers, he taught physiology and endocrinology for 40 years at the Temple University School of Medicine. In retirement, he rekindled his interest in numismatics, and contributed numerous articles to *Penny-Wise* documenting the progress of his various collections. He clearly had been in failing health for some time, for his online obituary uses the phrase "even throughout his illness," and when he submitted his last article to me for the January 2021 issue, he explicitly stated that it was his last contribution. In that article, he noted in conclusion, "One can hope, dream, and strive in order to attain certain goals in life. This also becomes applicable in the field of numismatics...Finally, the meaning and value of life, metaphysically speaking, depends on the reality we create inside our own brains. In other words, life is what we project and want it to be. Only, YOU the reader will have to determine that for yourself."

On a personal note, I will never forget the fact that he was one of VERY FEW people who actually called me to express his condolences when my brother died unexpectedly in 2017.

--Editor

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DAVID LAWRENCE LISOT (1953-2022), EAC #5806

As widely reported in the general numismatic press, videographer David Lisot died October 15, 2022. While his membership in other numismatic organizations was commonly noted, his membership in EAC was seldom if ever mentioned. David was an active member of this club, however, and from 2005 through 2015 recorded all presentations at the EAC Annual Conventions. These are archived on the Newman Portal, nnp.wustl.edu > [library](#) > [multimedia](#), under “D” for “David Lisot Video Library.” A brief scan of the offerings includes Jim McGuigan on half cents (2005), “The Large Cent Die State Project” by Messrs Gander, Heck, and Warshawsky (also 2005), Mike Packard on “The First Copper Coins Struck by the American Colonies (2006), Jack Robinson’s 25-year perspective on “Copper Quotes” (2007), and many, many more, up through Pierre Fricke on the Fugio Coppers (2015). I know for

a fact that David’s gentle and soft-spoken approach put many an apprehensive speaker at ease. The resultant treasure trove of information stands as an enduring tribute to the memory of David Lisot.

--Editor

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ED JASPER, EAC #620

Your Editor learned, in a Christmas note from Linda Hodge, that Ed Jasper had died. Ed was seen frequently in the company of the late Stu Hodge, at EAC Conventions in the ‘80s and ‘90s. Indeed, he was a “regular” prior to Stu’s death in 2003, but infrequently seen thereafter. Like Stu, a resident of the Dallas area, his name appears on the roster of attendees for the Dallas EAC in 2008 but not the Dallas EAC in 2015. I have been unable to locate a published obituary.

--Editor

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HARD TIMES TALES

HT 580

Ray Rouse

A Hard Times Token, HT 580, in Steve Hayden’s recent auction caught my eye. This is a GREAT TOKEN with many tales to tell.

First of all, the Hard Times number, 580, is out of sequence with the other Connecticut Hard Times Tokens. Why is this?

Second, Rulau did not provide a rarity rating for this token. How scarce is it?

Third, both firms listed on the token—Chamberlain Woodruff & Scranton (and) Hotchkiss Hall & Platt—were not only in the same building but they were both in the same business, dry goods and groceries. Thus, they were in competition with each other. How strange



is that?

Fourth, although Rulau tells us that it comes in both a plain edge and reeded edge variety, Steve Hayden reports that all these tokens have a reeded edge*. Who is right?

A little research provided some answers. While there are dozens of Hard Times Tokens listings with Rulau Hard Times numbers of 500-something, when you look at them, what you find are counterstamps on both American and foreign coins. The apparent explanation is that Rulau was not aware of this token, or did not know that it had been issued in the Hard Times era, until after he had numbered all the Connecticut Hard Times Tokens he knew of and had moved on, giving his sequential numbers to other states. Thus, he gave it an unused number among a range generally used for counterstamps. In short, HT 580 is rare as an actual TOKEN with a 500 number and not just a counterstamped coin.

How rare is it? Q. David Bowers list HT 580 as a R7** but he does not tell us if it has a plain or reeded edge. His primary concern seemed to be that Rulau had given a number, HT 581, to a Chamberlain Woodruff & Scranton token that Rulau described as made of copper, while Bowers thought Chamberlain Woodruff & Scranton tokens came only in brass.** Well do they come in copper? Are there both plain and reeded edge examples? What can you find?

As to the two competing businesses in the same building the answers can be found in the local paper, the New Haven *Daily Herald*. The paper reported that the firm of Chamberlain Woodruff & Scranton was formed January 1, 1836 and that the firm Hotchkiss Hall & Platts was established January 4, 1836.*** This strange situation can be explained by the fact that Horace Hotchkiss and his brother Samuel Hotchkiss owned the building*** and they were probably anxious to have it used so it would generate some income.

Horace Hotchkiss put up \$10,000 to start the Chamberlain Woodruff & Scranton business and just three days later he organized the Hotchkiss Hall & Platts firm.*** Thus it is believed that Horace Hotchkiss was the instigator who commissioned this two-firm token to be struck.*** However, the situation of two competing firms occupying the same building did not last long. On March 1, 1836 Horace Hotchkiss reported the “termination” of the Hotchkiss Hall & Platts grocery business in the local paper.*** Thus the firm lasted less than two months. The firm of Chamberlain Woodruff & Scranton was also short-lived. A May 23, 1837 ad in the New Haven *Daily Herald* announced a “distress sale for cash” by Chamberlain Woodruff & Scranton “owing to the depressed state of the money market.”*** This announcement ties HT 580 DIRECTLY to the events of the Hard Times period as it comes only 13 days after specie payments were suspended: May 10, 1837, as noted on Hard Times Tokens 65, 66, 67, and 68. A later news release noted that the firm of Chamberlain Woodruff & Scranton was dissolved July 25, 1837.***

HT 580 is important. I know of no token that can tell the story of the Hard Times period any better. We know the token was ordered in January or February of 1836 when both firms were starting in business and that the last firm collapsed shortly after May 10, 1837 “owing to the depressed state of the money market.”***

* Steve Hayden, MAIL BID SALE # 49, Closing December 11, 2022, Lot 413

** A *Guide Book of HARD TIMES TOKENS, Political Tokens and Store Cards, 1832-1844*, Q. David Bowers, p. 122.

*** *Standard Catalog of United States Tokens, 1700-1900*, Russell Rulau, pp. 133-4.

Rulau notes that much of his information on this token came from Wesley Cox personal correspondence and unpublished manuscript material, 1998-2000.

* * * * *

COPPER or CONVENTIONS?

John Hoskins

I live in Colorado - not a hotbed for early copper collectors. Of course, my state does offer a few numismatic touchpoints: the ANA headquarters with its busy summer seminars is just a couple hours down I-25 in Colorado Springs, the Denver Coin Expos and numerous local coin shows on the front range offer

something every month, and of course there are a few notable EAC personages scattered around the state; but honestly unless the ANA brings the Big Show to Denver, I don't have much access to hands-on copper camaraderie.

Local shows don't bring a critical mass of copper

enthusiasts together – they just aren’t dense enough with old cents and new stories to escalate my interest in the hobby. The pandemic really highlighted this and brought it home to me in particular. Now, for many in EAC, keeping up with each other on the phone or on email is sufficient, but it just doesn’t satisfy me.

I have found that attending, in person, four or five larger events per year is enough to maintain my “minimum effective dose,” ensuring I sustain a state of copper euphoria year-round. This elevated state involves looking forward to the next auction or acquisition, contentedly idling around in my collection in preparation for trips, and more importantly for our esteemed editor’s interest, noodling about in various research interests and half-finished articles. The crux of the treatment is simple: in-person attendance keeps me *engaged and committed to our hobby*. (Regardless of some reader’s assumptions about my mental state, let’s go with the more typical definition of “committed” here.)

At the beginning of the pandemic, after the first few conventions shut down, I took a moment to consider what I was missing most, and my initial thoughts revolved around the physical: the neat rows of early dates, colonials, etc., patiently resting in the dealer and enthusiast cases. Seeing, examining, and discussing them in myriad detail over the course of two, three or four days certainly made me happy and scratched a collecting itch I had long harbored, but I assumed that itch was the underlying disease and not just a symptom. The inherent error in this assumption revealed itself at last year’s Chicago ANA, where I only had one night to visit, but more directly by my experiences at the Baltimore show at the end of 2021. Several people I was looking forward to seeing in Chicago couldn’t make it for various reasons, and with my time there so short, it wasn’t satisfying, even after so long away since the beginning of the pandemic. Plenty of time to pick at the coppers in the cases just didn’t address my underlying disease. Worse to come: just before the Baltimore show, I experienced damage to a nerve in my larynx that left me unable to speak temporarily. Well, I could speak in a low hoarse whisper, but I sounded like COVID patient zero, which did seem to impact my interactions with attendees and dealers...

Suffering, I still attended the show, and while I had access to coppers and colonials at one of the best of the initial post-pandemic shows, very well attended and exciting with large inventories and lots

of activities, I couldn’t effectively communicate with my fellow enthusiasts. I was able to view all kinds of absolutely beautiful and interesting “things,” but I was unhappy and completely unsatisfied. I couldn’t share experiences, explain interests, make jokes or participate meaningfully. That last bit was the most disheartening – it was almost like I wasn’t really there. After a few months, the underlying neuropathy in my larynx sorted itself out, and I was back to normal in time for the 2022 EAC convention.

The EAC at St. Louis was such a thrill and passed by way too quickly. Taking time afterwards, I reflected on how I actually spent my time at the most recent EAC and compared it to 2021’s Chicago and Baltimore shows. It was then that I realized something (obvious to many readers I suppose) – it honestly wasn’t the coins that I missed, it was the people – they were my cure.

At the most recent EAC and Chicago ANA, I spent more time talking to people in the absence of coins than I did in the vicinity of display cases. Time spent in the bar, lounge, and hallways was better remembered than with a loupe to my eye. I learned all kinds of things about people I never would have learned except by just “being in the moment.”

I *know* I spent an hour pawing through the Rucker collection at Chris’s table; I was *happy* to examine a Starred Reverse; I was *pleased* to find a condition census Vermont that filled a void for me at Tony Terranova’s table.

But I *remember* hanging out with David Fanning before and after the show; I *remember* sitting down with Bill Mitchell and discovering shared experiences; I *remember* hanging out in the airport with a bunch of EAC’ers and making jokes until our flights; I *remember* learning about families and upcoming vacation plans; I *remember* spending time with people I hadn’t had time to before but had always hoped to. Enjoyment is great; memories are forever.

These last few paragraphs aren’t news to most/all of us, and have certainly been written and published in different venues previously, but with the waves of the pandemic seemingly behind us, the importance of face-to-face and personal interactions required reflection for me. These big shows, with all their crowds and displays, rumors and revelations, aspirations and disappointments, are touchstones not just for our hobby, but for our lives. For me, I can’t wait for the next one – Chicago, Baltimore, Portland, maybe even Denver, wherever. I’m looking forward to seeing my friends.

* * * * *

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 consideration. 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.

* * * * *

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>
Albeert Yundt, Jr.	Lynn Haven, FL	6970
Alan Goldsmith	Los Angeles, CA	6971
Dennis Parker	San Diego, CA	6972
Aaron Gonzalez	San Antonio, TX	6973
David Oppelt	Newington, CT	6974
James Nicholson	Sheboygan Falls, WI	6975
David Mullins	Van Wert, OH	6976
Alex Schultz	Highlands Ranch, CO	6977
Robert Dalessandro	Williamsburg, VA	6978
Glenn Watson	Milford, DE	6979
Finley Steinvurzel	Charleston, WV	6980J
Gary Coates	Roxboro, NC	6981
Thomas Vincent	Salem, OR	6982

Returning Members

Jerry Karinsky	Tully, NY	5736
David Widener	Augusta, GA	6488

* * * * *

Errata

In the October issue, the following new members' numbers were mis-entered. We apologize for the error.
The correct numbers are below.

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u>Member #</u>
Nancy Kuebel	Newport, KY	6966
John Barkley	Fort Collins, CO	6968
Duff Tillotson	Columbus, WI	6969

RARE BUT NOT VERY PRETTY CORNER

My First Early Copper

Jon Truskey

I'm still optimistic that there are a few members out there who would like to see their early copper collecting stories in print in this corner. I always like to hear about interesting copper finds, and I don't think I'm alone. Especially among this audience. Today, I'd like to share how I became interested in these rarities.

Back in the mid-1980s, like many others, I mainly collected Lincoln cents and some Jefferson nickels. I used to frequent a coin shop that had a "bid board" on their back wall. On it they would display coins for sale. One could put in a sealed bid over a few weeks' period.

That is where I won my first early copper. It was a 1797 Draped Bust large cent. At the time I knew absolutely nothing about them except for the limited information gleaned from my copy of the *Red Book*.

What jumped out and caught my eye was the number "17" in the date. I had seen a lot of coins from the 1900s, and some from the late 1800s, but in my mind, stuff from the 1700s was an entirely different animal. On a whim I put in a bid and won the coin for \$15, which seemed like a lot at the time, but it was such a "cool" coin.

From my research in William Noyes' *United States Large Cents* book, I am 98 percent sure it is a Sheldon 139. Even though a S-139 is considered "very common" on the Sheldon scale (R-1 with 2000+ examples estimated) it is definitely rare compared to my Lincoln

cents.

One day I was carrying it around with me in its cardboard holder to show a friend. On the way, I had to stop in an auto parts store to get some motor oil. The proprietor and a couple of his friends and customers were gathered around the register looking through the change.

The owner came up with a penny from the 1930s. They were all commenting on how old the coin was, so I asked to see it. I commented that it was a nice find but it was really not that old.

They glanced at me with puzzled looks and asked what I meant. I took that opportunity to take out my 1797 and say, "Now this is an old penny." None of them had seen anything like it before. The store owner even commented something like, "Wow! Does that really say 1700 something?"

In retrospect, I guess it was that "wow" factor that initially attracted me to these pieces of history. I still experience that feeling whenever I hold one of these early coins.

If you would like to see your story in print in *Penny-Wise*, please contact Harry Salyards hesalyards@gmail.com, or myself truskeyfarm@gmail.com. We would love to see them!



* * * * *

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

John Bailey writes,

I find it interesting that 20,855 1909S V.D.B. cents have been slabbed at PCGS.

I added up all the half cents PCGS has slabbed: 26,936 total. That is all dates combined.

I will have to give this some thought before making a conclusion. Your thought?

My Reply:

It's pretty simple, John:

All half cents are scarce-to-rare.

All 1909-S VDB cents are common.

I really do believe that the day is coming, when all the people who were plugging coins into Whitman folders between 1945 and 1965 are gone, that a great many "key" coins in all series, 1892 to date, will sell for far less in constant dollars than they do today.

Thanks for your input!

* * *

Jon Truskey writes [regarding varieties],

If you think about it, I doubt that the Mint workers ever intended to create any varieties or sub varieties.

They were probably just trying to make a certain quantity of a recognizable half cent for each year, and the varieties came from the subtle differences probably accidentally incorporated into them by the die makers.

My Reply:

Absolutely! They were manufacturing coins for commerce, period.

The rising price of copper in 1795 dictated the change from thick to thin planchets.

Sometimes planchets that had been prepared earlier got left "in the bottom of the barrel," only to be retrieved later, and coined along with lighter-weight ones.

Add in cut-down "spoiled" large cent planchets, cut down TAL tokens, and any other miscellaneous odds and ends, and you have a perfect mishmash of copper used to coin half cents in the 1790s.

All the subvarieties are in the eyes of the catalogers, whether that means Breen et al, or a Third Party Grading Service.

* * *

Jack Conour provided the image of a unique "Chain cent"



The "Cookie" Chain Cent Uneaten 06

Ex: Pillsbury & C&H 11/24/06 by Linda Conour, to Jack Conour 11/24/06; Rarity 8+ with unusual "funny head" & double date

* * *

Dave Lange writes,

As per usual your October 22 editorial message was spot on and to the point --- in other words, you agreed with me! I, too, have spent much of my life seeking many coins I desired rather than those touted as the hot items underrated and cited to go up in value most quickly. After building the most complete USA Type Set my budget could accommodate, taking advantage of the vast knowledge acquired in my chosen career --- coins, of course --- I was able to build the what I considered the best quality pieces from among the countless auctions both Numerically and Details graded from the various grading services. I became adept at selecting the best-value-to cost entries among them all. In fact, some Details graded coins proved to be my most attractive entries.

When my Type Set had progressed beyond the coins that are reasonably obtainable (Small Eagle 25c or 50c, pre-1834 gold pieces---the usual suspects)---I decided to declare it "complete" from a realistic perspective and just treat myself to some of the same coins I sought as a child, but could now collect from my childhood dream list of what was too much to hope for at the time. A collector of nearly 50 years by then (since 1965), I was now attracted to the traditional "keys" such as the fabled 1909-S V.D.B. I had owned a complete set of Lincolns uncertified that included this issue I was quite certain would grade MS-64 BN (it did to a subsequent owner after the auction company effectively killed it to me as an AU-55!). The buyer actually reached out to me and apologized for his easy profit, surprised that something

like that could even happen to a skilled professional just innocently trying to put complete his own set! Oh well, live and learn! I later rebuilt a complete, “raw” set of lightly circulated pieces that I still have, and my AU-something specimen looks just as good as I imagined within its old Whitman Bookshelf album. I may never get that one certified, though I believe all owners of key coins are very wise to do so, if only for ease of selling in the coin market. I’m not too worried, as I had initially bought it from an old-school dealer of the 1980s who always knew his stuff when we just had to learn the old-school way. Thanks, Wayne!

Subsequently, I completed my nice, circulated sets of problem-free Indian Cents, Liberty Head or “V” Nickels, as we called them back then, Barber 10¢, 25¢ and 50¢, as well as all the other popular sets through Peace Dollars.

Dad was always a supporter of my hobby when I was young, though he himself was never a collector and seemed always more concerned about having change for the parking meter. He’d take me to downtown San Francisco every fourth Saturday so I could shop at the Emporium Department Store, then just down the street from what would subsequently become the Old SF Mint Museum (the building dated to 1874). Somewhat dilapidated by the 1960s, it still spoke of its former grandeur, and I was always awestruck at the grand stairway in front. I came to know it intimately, examining its brass boilers and even a machine-gun training gallery for the G-Men Treasury Agents of the 1930s. Years later the staff let me run free through its aged but handsome library of the nicely-bound leather volumes that greatly added to my early books.

After all that, the actual Coin and Stamp Dept. of The Emporium seemed modest, but not to a coin-crazy kid of the 1960s. It was actually one of many C & S franchises staffed by employees of Robert Friedberg and his original partner, Samuel Minkus, stamp man supreme. The hired clerks, who were quite knowledgeable at the

NYC Home office in mighty Gimbels (who actually traded such prizes as vintage proof gold coins---so I later learned while researching my later book on Friedberg, his empire of 38 franchises and his very successful Library of Coins Albums).

You may have heard of my recent health ups and downs over the past few years. Some of my friends already know, while some may not. I’ve been a cancer patient off and on since 2018. Surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy did what they could, and I was declared either “cured,” or at least “in remission” at the end of 2019. Well, a much fiercer case returned at the beginning of 2022 and just about knocked me down some months later. That led me to surrender my 40+ years of writing about USA coins for *The Numismatist* and left me somewhat bereft of joy for several months until I realized it was not just going away this time but instead went to my cerebellum. Suffice it to say, I heartily DO NOT recommend it as an adventure for any researcher such as myself.

All those who care about me have been great, and I’m getting the best of care. But it’s going to be a recovery of some duration, so I apologize to my many eBay buyers of coin boards and albums as well as my longtime readers of my many books and my quarterly COIN BOARD NEWS, which had to be suspended until further notice. ALL older issues (#1 through #64) are available to anyone for free at the Newman Numismatic Portal. My entire collection of coin boards fortunately was scanned in high-resolution by me a couple years ago, and may be viewed and studied at the EPNES under letter C of the Image Collection area DWL COLLECTION OF COIN BOARDS by all publishers.

That’s it, Harry. If I attempt to type just one more letter, I’ll collapse. Best wishes to all my friends in EAC.

And we send our best wishes to *you*, my friend!

* * * * *

Walt Husak



We have lost a Giant. A man who was
Honorable, **U**nique, **S**incere, **A**ccessible, **K**ind.
HUSAK

■ The Boyz and Girlz of '94

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William Corbin
Mike Demling
Terry Denman
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Tom Evert
Dennis Fuoss
Bim Gander &

Cindy Murray
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Cecelia Hannigan
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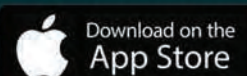
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SWAPS AND SALES

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 April, 2023 issue is March 31, 2023.*** 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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John D. Wright, EAC #7 1468 Timberlane Drive St. Joseph, MI 49085

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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

* * * * *

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

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

The medals are offered at \$5.00 each, plus postage. ALL PROCEEDS TO EAC!! Please place all medal

orders, and/or inquire about available *P-W* issues: bimgander@gmail.com

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* * * * *

PROVENANCE GALLERY OF 1794 LARGE CENTS

Order your copy of the reference book featuring the most coveted and prolific date among the early United States Large Cents. The book includes an overview of the formation of the US monetary system and the first Philadelphia mint, as well as the production of what many consider the ultimate numismatic subject: the Cents of 1794. It includes a brief history of large cent collecting and their collectors, descriptions of collectible obverse & reverse designs, and colorful photographic plates of each coin featured in the 1794 Provenance Exhibit at the 2004 EAC Convention in San Diego. Prologue by John W. Adams. **\$45 post-paid.**

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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.

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* * * * *

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.

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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)

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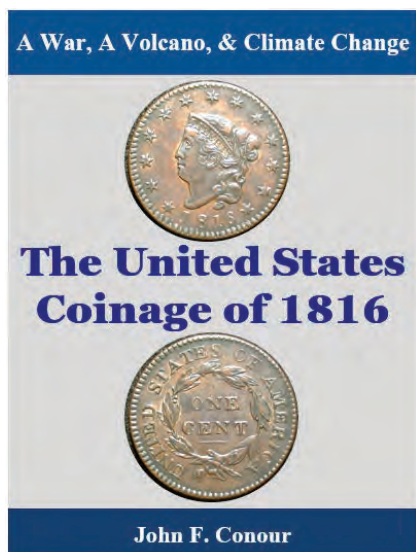
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John Wnuk, EAC #6895

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

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

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

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Tom Webster, EAC #5752

(269) 217-7700

P.O. Box 19308, Kalamazoo, MI 49019

webs1873@gmail.com

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rjc463@gmail.com

201-264-2427

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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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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:

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S-8 (lot 110)
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Ray Rouse, EAC #2675

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* * * * *

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For Sale: Middle Date Large Cents

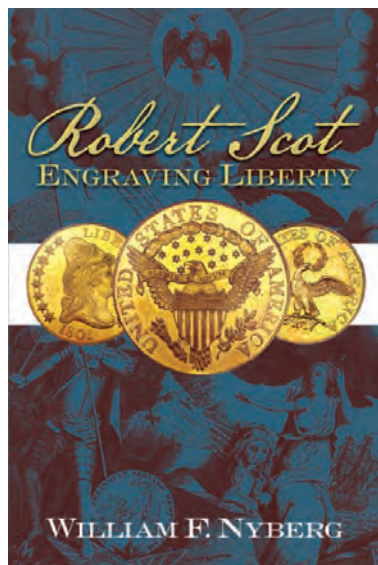
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* * * * *



Robert Scot: Engraving Liberty, a book by

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This is a comprehensive biography of the U.S. Mint's first chief engraver. Robert Scot also created important engravings throughout the American Revolution, and he was instrumental in the growth of illustrated books in early America. Complete listing of Scot's engravings including paper money, coins, seals, medals, copperplate book illustrations, maps, and federal revenue stamps. Color photographs and a bibliography of all sources. Paperback, 252 pages. Available at the publisher American History Press, along with Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other internet retailers.

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MS66 Brown PCGS. CAC
High Condition Census
Original Mint Red Remains
Realized \$240,000



1795 B-5b, C-5b Half Cent
MS66 Red Brown PCGS
Incredible No Pole, Thick Planchet
over 1795 Cent
Finest Known of the Sub-Variety
Realized \$444,000



1796 B-1a, C-1 Half Cent
MS63 Brown PCGS. CAC
The Third or Fourth Finest
1796 No Pole
Breen *Encyclopedia* Plate Coin
Realized \$552,000



1805 B-1, C-1 Half Cent
MS65 Brown PCGS. CAC
Condition Census
Medium 5, No Stems
Tied for the Finest Certified B-1, C-1
Realized \$22,800



1808/7 B-1, C-1 Half Cent
XF40 PCGS
The Finest Known Example
From the Missouri Cabinet
Realized \$180,000



1831 B-3*, C-SR15 Half Cent
PR66 Red Brown PCGS. CAC
The Second Finest Second
Restrike Rarity
Ex: Eliasberg Collection
Realized \$66,000



1836 B-1*, C-EO12 Half Cent
PR65+ Red PCGS. CAC
Extraordinary Original Proof
The Only Full Red 1836 Half Cent
Realized \$132,000



1842 B-1*, C-PO3 Half Cent
PR66 Brown PCGS. CAC
Impressive Original Proof
Second Finest at PCGS
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Terminal Die State.



1835 N-18 Rarity-4+. VF Details
(PCGS).
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Ex Norweb.



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