

PENNY-WISE

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You are now holding in your hands the 56th issue of PENNY-WISE. This is the '76 ANA Convention issue during the Bicentennial year! It's an issue that we're real proud of, and one which I'm sure you'll enjoy.

First of all, there's a lot of convention news contained herein. Secondly, there are a lot of entertaining and informative articles which I'm sure you'll like. David Garvin, who is a chemist working at the National Bureau of Standards, has come up with a real humdinger - an article that's provocative and deserves your earnest consideration and your response - turn to the next page and start reading "PLD VSPC - Does It Exist?". David has also resurrected Bill Parks' Attributor, which is a most valuable gadget which everybody should have, especially the novices.

Walter Breen presents some cogent remarks. Milt Pfeffer continues with his excellent addenda on the half cent sales. Bill Smith comes up with some cents and nonsense. And there's a lot of other good material before, after, and in between. Even Swaps & Sales is booming again!

We regret to say that we still don't have any further material from John Wright on his revision of the Late Dates. John tells us that he is caught up on the next year's material, but he has no plates to include with the article. Gordon Harnack does the plates for John, and since Gordon moved from Indianapolis to Texas, there have been no further plates produced. If any of you want to get along with the revision, then get in touch with Gordon and tell him to print John some pictures.

Be sure to participate in Bill Smith's 1976 large cent census. You'll find the necessary form at the end of this issue, and it is not a numbered page so using the form will not interrupt your sequence of P-W. This census is a valuable record for EAC. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

We're happy to say that Herb Silberman is now back to his daily routine, and he looked in top shape at the ANA Convention. Herb has asked that I convey his thanks to all of you for the many well-wishes he received during his recent illness.

That's about it for this time around. Next issue has already been started, so get your articles and comments to me promptly. The deadline for receipt of all material is October 31.

Have a happy!

Warren A. Lapp, M.D.
Editor

David Garvin

The positions of leaves under the key letters D, S, F and C on the Late Date large cents are essential tools in attributing these coins. Many different positions have been specified, perhaps more than can be located reproducibly.

Let us consider the positions used in John Wright's excellent systematic descriptions of the 1816 to 1825 large cents as examples of current practice (see P-W, vol. IX, pages 3, 120, 242, 205, and 269, and vol. X, pages 3, 70, 115, 118, 123, and 199). For PLD (point of outside leaf under D), thirteen positions are used, viz. NL, NC, C, C+, VSPC, SPC, PC-, PC, PC+, NR-, NR, R and PR. For PLS, there are ten positions, viz. C, SPC, PC-, PC, NR, VNR, R, SPR, PR, and FPR. For PLF there are fourteen: NL, L, NC, VNC, C-, C, VSPC, SPC, PC, NR, R, VSPR, SPR, and R. And for PLC, eleven are used: NL, NC, NC+, VNC, C-, C, VSPC, SPC, PC, NR, and R. (The symbols have these meanings: Left, Center, Right, Near, Very, Slightly, Past, and Far. Plus means "after" or "to the right of", while minus means "before" or "to the left of".

Surely, some of these many designations must be synonyms. But, even after making allowance for that, the space occupied by a letter is still very finely divided. "D" occupies only 3 mm. of space, and each of the other letters about 2mm. Thus, each designated position must be estimated to about 0.2 mm., or 1/125th of an inch. On a well defined object with accurately locatable ends, such measurements are practical, particularly with a magnifier fitted with a scale. Unfortunately, leaf positions are not well defined. One must project a vertical line from the leaf up to the level of the letter. This can be uncertain if done without some mechanical aid. An additional cause of indefiniteness is that the positions of the edges of the letters and of the leaf points may vary with striking and lapping of the field.

This brings to mind two questions: (1) How well would a panel of experts agree on assigning positions on the same coin?, and (2) Can the system be simplified? Concerning the first question, I find it mandatory to assign positions on the coin first, then consult the systematic descriptions in P-W; otherwise, the power of suggestion is too great. Rarely do I get all four assignments on any coin to agree with the given positions. On the second question, simplification may be practical if leaf positions are to be used to divide coins into small groups within which they may be attributed by other features. For the 1816-1825 coins, these features are always present. Interestingly enough, the four positions given by Wright for each of these coins form unique sets within each year, except for reverses B and G of 1822. In principle, then, reverses can be attributed by point of leaf positions alone. Does everybody agree with this?

Here is a way to hunt for a simpler system: try something which is too simple and then refine it as needed. As a starting point, I suggest a five-position system. For "D" these positions could be defined as follows: (1) entirely to the left of any part of the letter, (2) from the left end of the left serifs to the right side of the upright, (3) from the upright to the farthest inside part of the right portion of the letter, (4) from that point to the right, and (5) beyond the letter. All of these designations have well-defined dividing points. It is not necessary at all to guess where the center of the letter might be. Similar specifications hold true for "S" and "C", but a different set is needed for "F". This could be: (1) entirely to the

left of any part of the letter, (2) under the left serif of the foot, (3) under the upright, (4) under the right serif, and (5) to the right of the right serif of the foot. This system may be too simple, but a trial would show how to refine it.

Before making such a trial and developing refinements, I would like to ask the EAC membership two questions: Do you think such a system is worth trying? And, if so, how should these designations be defined?

THE PARKS ATTRIBUTOR

David Garvin

Several years ago, EAC's own Bill Parks, invented a gadget which simplifies determination of the "point of leaf" positions beneath the key letters on the reverses of Late Date large cents. It is also useful for other determinations of the relative positions of two features on a coin. I have tried it and like it, and I think you will too. Bill no longer manufactures his Attributor, but he has graciously given permission for it to be described in PENNY-WISE for use by EAC members. Do-it-yourself directions given below are based both on Bill's description to me and my experience in making one.

(1) Obtain two Whitman plastic snap-together coin holders: one dollar-sized, and one half-dollar sized. You will use one-half of each.

(2) The dollar-sized part forms the top of the Attributor. File off its two raised ridges which would snap into grooves. A medium-sized half-round file works well here. Then cut out the dollar-sized plastic circle. The easiest way to do this is to melt through the plastic with a fine-pointed electric soldering iron - use a pencil-type soldering iron, a gun, or a large iron with a No. 16 wire wrapped around it so as to make a point. After the circle has been removed, smooth the edges of the hole with a file or with emery paper.

(3) Attach a sighting line across the top side of the opening. Use a very thin wire (No. 32 is good), or a thread, or a human hair. The sighting line should run from the exact center of the side having a groove to the center of the opposite side. Sealing wax, epoxy, or other hard-setting adhesive can be used. Scotch tape can be used, but it is not permanent. The best way to attach the line is to start with an extra-long peice of wire, stretch it across the holder, and tack its ends down to a table top or board with Scotch tape. Position the holder, apply the adhesive, and let it set. Then cut off the projecting ends. This completes the top of your Attributor.

(4) Now modify the half-dollar holder. File off $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from each end of both ribs. Then file down the edges of the ribs until the dollar-sized part will slide easily from side to side when the parts are put together.

That's it!

For using the Attributor, place a Late Date large cent, reverse side up, in the half dollar circle and cover it with the dollar-sized part. The sighting line should run from 12 to 6 o'clock. Rotate the coin to bring the point of the leaf under

the line. Judge the position of the line relative to the key letter. The shadow of the line on the surface of the coin can be used to advantage in this test - there is no parallax and it does not shift when you move your head.

If you object to rotating the coin with your fingers, use only the top part of the Attributor and rotate it to the desired position.

The Attributor also works well for judging the relationships such as the junction of hair and forehead vs LIBERTY, stars vs dentils and the coronet, "1" vs dentils, and point of the bust and "edge of curl" vs a numeral. However you use it, the Parks Attributor will help you make fine distinctions between coins, both quickly and accurately.

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I have the 1823 large cent restrike in SILVER in my large personal holdings of numismatic rarities.

The late James Kelly and I both felt that there were not more than 6 to 8 peices of this coin in existence. I am trying to establish just how many are being held in museums and private collections.

Personally, I can say that none have appeared in the leading auction sales for many, many years and none have been included in the fixed price of the largest dealers.

If you have any factual information which I can use in my study to determine the number extant, I would greatly appreciate hearing from you. It has always been presumed that there were twelve such peices in existence, but WHERE ARE THEY?

Frank F. Sprinkle
P.O. Box 864
Bluefield, West Virginia 24701
ANA 6596 (40 years)

* * * * *

MINUTES OF THE 1976 ANA MEETING OF THE EAC

Denis Loring

The meeting in the Regency Ballroom of the Americana Hotel in New York City was called to order by the Secretary, Denis Loring, on Wednesday evening, August 25, 1976 at 7:30 P.M. Approximately 65 members and guest attended. Each person introduced himself and gave a short statement of his collecting interests.

ANA Governor Byron Johnson, speaking on behalf of President Virgil Hancock and the ANA Board of Governors, explained the recently adopted ANA proposals to foster closer ties between the ANA and its specialty subgroups. It is hoped that a copy of Mr. Johnson's report will be received in time to be included in this issue of PENNY-WISE. Your comments are invited. The proposals will be discussed and voted upon at the 1977 annual meeting in Chicago.

The body of the program consisted of three short presentations by EAC members:

1. Jerry Bobbe spoke on the grading and evaluation of Mint State large cents. He emphasized surface, color, and lustre (cartwheel effect), rather than sharpness and "mint red". The standards to be promulgated by the ANA Grading Board were also discussed.

2. Doug Smith told the story of how he started collecting large cents. He described a few of the milestones along the path to his current status as one of the "grand old men" of the early coppers.

3. Denis Loring gave a talk on building a large cent library of significant reference books and auction catalogues. He encouraged the members of EAC to pay heed to the motto of the late Aaron Feldman: "Buy the book before the coin". Walter Breen supplied additional information on references for Colonial coins.

The formal meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M., the members clustering into small groups for buying, selling, trading, admiring, and enjoying.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis W. Loring, Secretary

NAMES OF THOSE WHO SIGNED ROSTER AT EAC MEETING ON AUGUST 25

New York City: Roy Rauch, Warren A. Lapp, David Cardwell, Tom Walsh,
Ed Janis, Doug Smith, Howard Gursky, Milt Pfeffer, Jeff Molokoff,
Anthony Terraneva.

New York State: Chuck Heck, Doug Winter, Don Boller, Doug Walcott,
Frank H. Hutchins.

New Jersey: Bob Miller, Christopher Fallo, Robert Schonwatter, Mark Ludwig,
Rev. Harry Stewart, Ken Weissman, Herb Silberman, Enoch Blackwell,
Thomas S. Katman, P. Scott Rubin, Bob Yuell, Stephen L. Kopolow,
Harold Flarley (?).

Connecticut: Joe Sabatasse, Bob Meyer, Chuck Funk, A.G. Miller (also of
Paris, France).

Massachusetts: Denis Loring, Philip M. Mann, Jr., William C. Neyes,
Tom Tallarice.

California: David C. Stagg III, Doug McHenry, Walter Breen, W.K. Raymond.

Illinois: Mr. and Mrs. Randall G. Schweitzer, Jerry Bobbe, Myles Gerson.

Florida: Tom Morley, George H. Phillips, Percy E. Lewis.

Pennsylvania: Jim Mace, William Wilt.

Ohio: Gene Braig, Tom DeLorey.

Georgia: Dr. Radford Stearns, John Cogan.

Indiana: Frank Wilkinson

Wisconsin: Ken Bressett

Maine: Charles Blood

Arkansas: Col. Bill Murray

Maryland: Edward J. Fox

Delaware: Jules Reiver

Missouri: Byron M. Stuart, M.D.

Iowa: Michael Alster

Colorado: Rita Hoffman (Kagin)

Virginia: Bruce Burns

North Carolina: Gerald K. McGinty

Not stated on roster as to home state: Byron Johnson (ANA Governor),
Richard Gross (?), G. Lee Kuntz.

RECAPITULATION: 67 signed, representing at least 21 states.

ANA '76 - D.L.'s DIARY

Background: Kenny Goldman, a Boston dealer who usually works alone, has asked me to help him behind his table at the show. Talk about fulfilling a fantasy.....

Thursday, August 19. Off to New York for a few days relaxation (?) with the in-laws. Call it the calm before the (Jackson) Storm.

Friday, August 20. At Stack's, looking at auction lots - not much for my own collection, but some lovely cents, to be sure - the fight for the 186 should be fun.

Sunday, August 22. Paula and I check into the Americana, running into EACers commences immediately. Dinner at the Park Lane with Kenny Goldman and his gorgeous girl, Sandy - she'll be behind the table too.....ahhhhh.....

Monday, August 23. PNG day. Set up the table at 8 A.M. - intra-dealer trading fast and furious - public admission 10 A.M. - CROWDS - can barely walk through the aisles. Jim Ruddy buys a lovely VF35+ woodgrained S-69 while I'm standing at his table, adds 10%, and completes my Heads of '95 - Paula and I have a dinner a deux - married seven years ago today - what a way to spend an anniversary (I love it!).

Tuesday, August 24. First official day - place is pack-ed - plenty of unattributed coppers around (good) - lots of penny people around too (even better) - highlight of the day is a half cent nut and an L/C freak, side by side at the same dealer's boxes, escaping with 1806 G-2, C-2, AU50 and 1796 S-95, VF20, both at common variety prices - nine EACers for gourmet Chinese food (watch those black peppers) at Uncle Tai's - and the auction! Too many happenings to list here, but it sure is fun to watch a certain EACer keep his hand in the air until he buys a lot, and then ask, "How much did I just pay for that?" the 186 flies home to Indiana.....what a coin!

Wednesday, August 25. More of the same.....working behind the table provides a completely different vantage point on the action.....this must be one of the world's easiest ways of making a living.....or else one of the hardest.....Paula flies back home, abandoning me to the show.....Del buys a nice AU 1835 N-3, too bad it's really an N-10.....EAC meeting! Again, too much to relate here (read the minutes of the meeting!)..... did meet one interesting chap who brought a couple of his pennies to show... like 1801 NC2 in AG and 1838 N-14 in F...somebody punch me.....

Thursday, August 26. Many EACers head homeward, but some of us terminal cases stick around...still the crowds come, but the action is slowing perceptibly...Del, Doug Smith, and I chomp steak and hash browns at the Palm...back at the bourse, twenty minutes before closing, a dealer brings his boxes to Kenny's table...all the copper over here, KG.... lovely prooflike AU (all right, Del, XF45H) 1835 Large Date N-1.... whoops, would you believe N-9?.....

Friday, August 27. Slowest day so far, but the crunch should come tomorrow.... my best friend from high school shows up for lunch, backgammon, and general BSing....not much doing in copper for a change - pick up some catalogues for my library....dinner at Thursday's with Sandy (and I was a good boy, Paula) while Kenny is spending money at the auction....good weather for night-walking....still going strong at 3 A.M.....sorry, KG, you'll have to open up without me tomorrow.

Saturday, August 28. Lord, give me strength....mob scene as most of the dealers seem ready to go home, all bought out....tonight, I'm sacking out early, no matter what....chat with Art Kagin about next year's auction.... here's Bill Raymond, on the loose....there went my sleep....

Sunday, August 29. Try to check out before the lines form, and almost succeed... back to the floor for one more go-round as the biggest ANA in history winds down....it's been a fascinating experience being on both sides of the table.... I didn't think it could happen, but I've actually had my fill of coins for a while....time to send these ramblings to the good Doctor Lapp.

Next year in Atlanta, y'all!

SIGNIFICANT DISCOVERIES AT ANA '76

Denis W. Loring

<u>Half cents:</u>	1804	G-5	MS65	latest die state	cherry
	1806	G-2	AU50		cherry
	1808	G-1	XF45		cherry
<u>Early cents:</u>	1796	NC1	F15	owned by collector, not previous publicized	
	1796	S-95	VF20		cherry
	1796	S-96	G5	rev. cracked,	recent cherry
	1798	S-174	AU55+	in auction as AU50	
	1800	S-195	VF30	not previously publicized	
	1800	S-204	AU50		cherry
	1801	NC2	AG3	not previously publicized	
<u>Late cents:</u>	1801	NC3	AG3		recent cherry
	1822	N-4½	MS60+		cherry
	1830	N-4	MS65		cherry
	1834	N-5 3/4	AU50		attributed
	1835	N-9	XF45+	prooflike	
	1835	N-10	AU50	attributed as N-3	

The 1834 N-5 3/4 matches the description of the Fritz coin, but was purchased from a dealer with very few cents in stock and at a low enough price almost to assure that it is a new specimen.

EAC ANNUAL MEETING AT '76 ANA

Robert W. Miller, Sr.

This year, as in previous years, there was an EAC meeting during the 1976 ANA Convention. On Wednesday, August 25, this year's EAC meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. The attendance was large and the audience was filled with new faces. Every one present was asked to introduce himself and to express his collecting preferences. After the last introduction was made, the first of four speakers was introduced. Byron Johnson, a Governor of ANA, presented ideas for bringing the specialty clubs in ANA closer to the parent organization. Mr. Johnson explained that smaller organizations could use the help which larger organizations could offer, such as promoting membership, joint computerized dues collection, mailing lists, and possible publications of news letters. Mr. Johnson's report will be included in this or a subsequent issue of P-W.

Our Second speaker, Jerry Bobbe, spoke on the fine line between a 55-coin and a 60-coin. He noted that surface, color, and lustre were the critical points to observe when grading an Uncirculated coin. On the other hand, the strike is not vital in determining the grade. Jerry explained the importance of the "cart-wheel effect" which only appears on a 60-coin. He also told of recolored cents and said to beware of them. At the end of his talk, various questions were asked from the floor of the new grading standard, and this was answered by him and Denis Loring. Denis then defined MS70, 69, 68, 67, and even 67.3 as per the new grading standard being suggested. Most of those in attendance were horribly confused, if not somewhat amused, so we moved on to our next speaker.

C. Douglas Smith, who has been a friend of copper collectors for more than thirty years, told how he began collecting, while still a young man, by finding Indian Head cents in circulation. After a friend gave him some really old coins, the collecting bug bit him. In 1946, with Charlie Wormser as an advisor, he started on the route of large cent collecting. Not long after, he met Homer Downing, Willard Blaisdell, and Dr. Sheldon, who got him interested in die variety collecting. When the Downing collection was auctioned in 1952, Doug acquired 128 of these cents for only \$5,300. Since that time, his collection has grown by leaps and bounds. Doug expressed sincere enjoyment in collecting, not only deriving pleasure from the coins he has collected, but equally from the friends he has made through the years.

Last of all, Denis Loring spoke of the value of "buying the book before the coin". After listing books basic to the large cent collector, Loring went into the major auction catalogues of importance and told where to obtain them while at the ANA Convention. Denis observed that reprints of most rare books and catalogues are readily available. He also spoke of the ANA library and how to use it by mail.

The meeting ended with the usual look and stare, and the buy or swap of coins, inasmuch as many in attendance had brought lots of coppers with them. We who were there had a great time. Thanks, Herb, for starting it all more than a decade ago; and thanks to all the members who made EAC what it is today.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON THE ANA SHOW

Chuck Heck wrote: "I'm writing a few quick thoughts and comments, now that the ANA Convention is almost over. Of course, the highlight for me was the EAC meeting. I renewed many friendships, and I hope I made some new ones.

Doug Smith's talk was something we cannot have enough of. Past experiences of some of our members can be most rewarding to us new-comers. Jerry Bobbe's advice on Mint State standards was helpful (although I don't have to go to see if the cents in my collection fill the requirements).

One thing did disturb me, however. Why should the panel deliberately refuse to answer any questions concerning the upcoming revisions of Sheldon and Newcomb? Truthfully, I don't believe that it was out of frustration for having been asked so many times before. I think that there were other reasons, and I didn't like it when some of our members expressed an interest and then get 'turned off' faster than they could ask the question.

For me, the real pinnacle of our meeting came about an hour after everything officially broke up. I met Jules Reiver, and we spoke for the next three or four hours about a variety of subjects. I've never had a more enjoyable experience. Reiver's new completed revision for the cents from 1840 to 1857 is truly a superb accomplishment, and I for one would like to see the 'Reiver Revision' published serially in PENNY-WISE. We could all benefit from his great work and experience.

This brings to mind some comments made by Bill Noyes in P-W for July 15, 1976. It seems only natural to me that with a new revision we adopt a new numbering system. Some of the Sheldon 'New Collectibles' are begging for number status. John Wright's four-digit system gives us a date and a variety number very quickly. I like it! As for Jules Reiver's simplified system, I feel that it shows an inherent need for a new numbering system. I know that Bill Noyes argued that Wright's system did not improve on the emission sequence, but I feel that a new revision needs a new system. More on this at a later date."

From Jules Reiver: "It was really a nice ANA Convention. Great to see so many people interested in old copper. It was wonderful to meet old friends again, and to make new friendships. Having completed the initial notes on the late Late Date cents (1844-1857), I brought along the notes. Six collectors brought almost two dozen large cents in that series which they had not been able to attribute, and we quickly found every one. This included a beautiful 1849 cent which Larry Whitlow had quite accurately labeled a new variety. Everybody seemed pleased with the results. There are a few varieties which I have not been able to find, and I'll prepare a list for the next issue of PENNY-WISE."

The unexpected doesn't always happen, but when it does, it generally happens when you are least expecting it. (Frank Muir and Denis Norden)

--THE RAT FINK

Dear People:

Before I get to commenting on the last few issues of Our Own Fanzine (and, as Johnny Adams now admits, that's a description and not a put-down), here is a piece of information, first published in that Other Fanzine, COLONIAL NEWS-LETTER, which fits into cent research like the right key in a lock:

Borrow, or better still, subscribe to COLONIAL NEWSLETTER, c/o James C. Spilman, Box 4411, Huntsville, Alabama, 35802, and make sure you get the May, 1976 issue. Look up pages 543-545. A letter from 'Mr. K' (almost certainly William Kneass, Engraver of the Mint) in FRANKLIN JOURNAL, 2: 97-99, Feb., 1826, reproduced on page 543, describes Adam Eckfeldt's method of hardening dies, which he introduced into the Mint in 1795 and which became standard after that. The method, unlike former ones, involves cold water under pressure aimed by nozzle at the center of the die face, 'and the same mode has been ever since pursued, without a single instance of (die) failure. By this process, the die is hardened in such a way, as best to sustain the pressure to which it is to be subjected; and the middle of the face, which by the former process (dipping the red-hot die into cold water and swishing it about -- WB) was apt to remain soft, now becomes the hardest part... Dies, thus hardened, preserve their forms until they are fairly worn out.' Now, the failure he alludes to is the kind familiar from (among others) 1793 revs. K and L of the Liberty Caps, and 1794 revs. of S-22, 23, 24, 33, 40, 48, and NC6, generally showing up on the coin as a central bulge, where the die has given way in the center. This failure is found on hundreds of Colonial cent dies, and on some half cent dies of 1794 as well as on some half dollar dies of 1794-5; but is rarely found later, and never afterward in such severity as on the 1793-94 reverses. . . . which disappearance of failure, or rather which improvement in die hardening, ties in neatly with Eckfeldt's introduction of the new process.

On Issue No. 53: If you can find an alternative to the U.S. Snail a lais the Pest Awful, please do so. I don't understand the bit about making no charge for advertising, since magazines and newspapers get this service, and they certainly charge for ads - but you would do better with Greyhound bus or even Pony Express!

The 1821 obverses are, to these eyes, easier to tell apart this way: N-1 has final 1 slightly low (base below base of 2); N-2 has 8 low. For 1822, dotted 1's are rather hard to make out unless cent is well enough struck so that the border is clear all the way round. For the same reason, the 'star/dentil' method is hard to use, especially as Wright mentions that dentilation fades for N-11 (which it also does on some other varieties). The N-10 reverse can be identified in a second by top of N above top of I; the N-11 reverse, by base of I below base of R; the others by specified leaf positions.

Hurrah for Jack Collin's proposal to publish a photographic grading guide. It won't really enable collectors to tell a 40 from a 45, or a 50 from a 55, let alone a 60 from a 65 or 70, but for all the lower grade levels - where sharpness counts more than surface and can be photographed - it should enable even neophytes to tell the difference between 10 and 12, or 12 and 15, or 15 and 20, or the whole

range from 20 to 35. It won't do away with That Five-Letter Word, but at least it should give the collector a better break; and the dealer who uses it should get less hassle about returns.

To Mark Ludwig: This is all I have been able to dredge up about James Hillhouse, I am including it here because I think it is of general interest, rather than writing Mark directly:

He was born in Montville, Conn. on October 21, 1754; son of William Hillhouse (1728-1816), a member of Continental Congress 1783-1786, judge of Court of Common Pleas 1784-1806, State Senator 1785-1808, judge of Probate, New London district, 1786-1807. James attended Hopkins Grammar School in New Haven; Yale, class of 1773; admitted to the bar in 1775; joined the Governor's Foot Guards shortly afterwards, eventually becoming its Captain when New Haven was invaded by the Redcoats under Tryon; elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives, serving 1780-1785; in the latter year, joined with two signers of the October 11, 1777 Connecticut fractional notes (Samuel Bishop and JOSEPH Hopkins) and James Goodrich to form the 'Company for Coining Coppers' after his Assembly connections obtained for this firm the franchise to coin coppers. They hired the mechanical genius, Abel Buell of Killingsworth, to engrave working dies, and began operations about October 20, 1785. This was the only legal Connecticut mint; it ceased operations as of June 1, 1787 after James Jarvis (who signed New York notes dated March 5, 1776) bought a majority interest in the firm and converted it to the ostensible purpose of manufacturing FUGIO cents; its total output of legal Connecticut coins was 1,407,000. Hillhouse got off lucky: his interest was bought out (except for the 1/8 part of Jarvis & Co.), so that he was not directly involved in the later Jarvis & Co. illegal manufacture of over 3,000,000 Connecticut coppers using federal copper originally intended for FUGIO cents. The presumption is that he absented himself from the New Haven mint and went back into politics, since in 1789 we find him a member of the state Council, continuing through 1790, when he ran for U.S. Congress as a Federalist and was elected. He served as one of Connecticut's Congressmen from March 4, 1791 through March 3, 1793; one of her seven Congressmen from March 4, 1793 through the beginning of November, 1796, when he resigned to become U.S. Senator, taking the seat of the resigned Oliver Ellsworth on December 6, 1796 and serving through June 10, 1810, being President pro tem of the Senate from February 28, 1801 to (presumably) December 6, 1801, when he was replaced in the chair by Abraham Baldwin of Georgia. On June 10, 1810, he resigned to become commissioner of the state school fund, which post he held until 1825. He had been treasurer of Yale College from 1782 until his death, which took place on December 29, 1827; he is buried in Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven. Some of the above comes from the Biographical Directory of Congress, and the rest is compiled from a variety of numismatic sources.

Steve Blyn might also have mentioned that in addition to the list of Vernon medals in Betts, others are described in the Fonrobert catalogue (also reprinted by Quarterman); and there is also a book devoted to them by one Leander McCormick-Goodheart, which I have not had the opportunity to examine, but which might conceivably list others.

I notice that Jules Reiver is suggesting that people write him with any other information about 1840-1857 cents. Jules, why did you never answer my letters? I wrote you at least three times, and talked with you every time I saw you at a

convention, but I have never heard one word from you. I probably have as much information on every other date 1840-57 as was in an earlier open letter to EAC about the 1843-44 cents; more, surely, about many of these dates, including the numbers of dies made.

See you at ANA."

Walter Breen

HALF CENT HAPPENING

On the evening of November 26, 1976, - it's a Friday and the first night of the Michigan State Show - the Half Cent Clan will meet for a night of Whist, Swap, and Show-and-Tell. Food and free lodging are available, courtesy of Jon Lusk (313) 995-2123 and Jim McGuigan (313) 769-4383. We expect maybe eight people in all, so it should be a great time for everybody!

P.S. Bring your '94's and '95's so that they can be measured and compared.

Write:	Jon Lusk	Jim McGuigan
	P.O. Box 123	P.O. Box 1934
	Ann Arbor, MI 48107	Ann Arbor, MI 48106

PENN-OHIO SHOW Stouffer's Inn Cincinnati, Ohio

EACers and guests are are invited to attend the upcoming PENN-OHIO Show, to be held at Stouffer's Inn, Fifth and Elm Streets, in downtown Cincinnati, on October 1-3, 1976.

There will be a large bourse, including EAC member-dealers Jack Beymer, Chuck Furjanic, and Julian Leidman.

Bourse hours will be as follows:

Friday, October 1	10 A.M. to 10 P.M.
Saturday, October 2	10 A.M. to 10 P.M.
Sunday, October 3	10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

An EAC Midwest Regional Meeting is planned for 3 P.M. on Saturday, October 2. Since no meeting room large enough for our use is available at Stouffer's, we will probably meet in a downtown office building about a block from Stouffer's.

Write or call for more details:	Red Burress
	9743 Leacrest
	Cincinnati, Ohio 45215
	1-513-771-0696

John D. Wright

Bill Noyes does not like the idea of renumbering the cent varieties of 1816-1839. He's not alone -- everybody (myself included) feels most comfortable with the scheme he first learned. For that reason the subject of renumbering must be and was considered at great length before any action was taken. I think it instructional to put forth the historical background of the current ("Newcomb") scheme before going into the pros and cons of selecting a new scheme.

Frank Andrews' "268 Varieties of United States Cents" published in 1881 was the first variety compilation of this series. In it, Andrews laid out in a logical sequence the varieties known to him. The "logic" was something physically more obvious than emission sequence. Varieties were ordered by groups and by features within groups. Generally, 1816-1839 cents were arranged with narrowest dates first, ranging to widest dates last. Later cents were arranged with leftmost dates first, ranging to rightmost dates last. Groups were arranged as Overdates, then Large Dates (or Letters), then Small Dates (or Letters). Variations on this theme were not always the best choice. For example, the 1840 Small Date (like 1841) was listed before the Large Date (like 1839).

Andrews' "An Arrangement of United States Copper Cents 1816-1857" was published in 1883, adding 129 varieties to his earlier publication. These were added to the end of their respective years, thus destroying the "logical" order set forth a mere two years earlier.

C. E. McGirk tried to produce a comprehensive list of large cent varieties in a serial he ran in The Numismatist in 1913-14. Unfortunately, McGirk had no idea of what constituted a "variety" -- assigning distinct numbers for each die break and for each 5^o rotation of obverse/reverse dies. His work was voluminous, confusing at best, a disaster at worst, and was generally ignored by the collecting posterity.

In 1927, B. Max Mehl reprinted Andrews' 1883 booklet, adding new discoveries to the end of the already-once-jumbled lists. Though it no longer represented a "logical sequence, the Andrews list was as easily useable as the McGirk list was confusing.

In 1940 Howard R. Newcomb culminated several years of work and tried to find a publisher for his United States Copper Cents 1816-1857. In it he added a fourth layer of 206 more varieties to the ends of the Andrews listings and renamed Andrews numbers to Newcomb numbers (eg: A6 became N6). The book was published in 1944 and Newcomb died in 1945.

Since that time still more "new varieties" have turned up (five before 1840, many after), adding a fifth layer to the sediment. This makes for a long line (1881-1976) of "ancestor worship" and speaks strongly against upsetting a long-established numbering system.

But the "system" has outgrown its usefulness. It no longer presents a logical sequence as was first designed. A good case in point is 1835, which comes in three basic types (called I, II, III here). Let's sift through the various layers for this one:

Base layer: I (A1), II (A2-6), III (A7-8)
Second " : I (A9), II (N10-13), III (N14-17)
Third " : II (#18)

Still, the System is the System, and old ways die hard. Fortunately, the Newcomb book has been out of print for ten years (reprinted 1956 and 1965), so the "simultaneous confrontation" of two numbering systems is fairly minimal just now. If the numbering system is ever to be revised, no time will ever be better than now.

Old collectors (myself included) learned the varieties by N-numbers, just as Beistle-numbers were "the thing" for halves before Overton came out. The new collectors will learn the system that is (A) most readily available, (B) easiest to remember, and (C) easiest to use. If the new is superior to the old, it will take root and flourish -- as did Sheldon (1949) over Doughty (1890). If the new is inferior to the old, its "newsness" will not keep it from falling into oblivion -- as did McGirk -- perhaps later to be briefly unearthed for historical interest only.

I have discussed the "renumber/don't renumber" question with many people. The great majority of them concur that a renumbering is required to restore a logical pattern. Most also concur that the changeover would be difficult for us who were weaned on Newcomb numbers.

With all this as input I chose to renumber the 1816-1839 series, and I am still convinced that this is the best course. The numbering scheme initially chosen was selected because it offered all of the following advantages over others considered.

1. It minimizes old-vs-new confusion. While "#6" can only be the old (Newcomb) system, "#2507" can be nothing but a new system designation.
2. It identifies (partially) at a glance. While you need to know your Sheldon series to know whether S-144 is a 1797 or a 1798, there is no question to the year of #2603 -- the first two digits tell you.
3. It restores a logical sequence. This would be true of any logical renumbering scheme, but untrue for retaining the Newcomb numbering.
4. The sequence chosen is (as close as can be reconstructed) chronological. Thus, #3103 was likely struck before #3104. I agree that omission-sequence is some part guesswork -- but it's guesswork with an abundance of clues, and such "guesswork" usually comes pretty close to the mark.
5. It is open-ended. There is room for new varieties to be added for each year. True, this starts the sedimentation cycle all over again, disrupting the built-in logic. But better one layer of sediment than six, and man would be a fool not to leave room for change. The "last word" will never be written. But the "most current word" should be couched in the most easily-understandable terms -- and that is most certainly not the Andrews numbering sequence.

Disadvantages of the initially-chosen scheme include its length and the ambiguity for 1817, 1818, and 1819. For the former, most ad-copy listings would still

carry the date for the benefit of the non-specialist (how often do you see "S-203" listed, as opposed to "1800 S-203"?). Thus, "1816 W-1607" becomes bulky. For the latter, other context is needed to identify "cent 1807" as either an 1807 cent or the 7th variety of 1818 cent.

I want to hear more input on the renumbering topic. I have heard a few say "don't", several say "you must", but no real dialogue on what to choose if we do renumber. Outside of a long discussion with Jules Reiver at ANA '72 (Jules there suggested the preliminary scheme I chose), I've heard only sporadic comments.

Variants proposed include the ones listed below.

1. Retain Andrews sequencing.
2. Add a "W" to current proposal (W-1603).
3. Hyphenate the current proposal (16-03).
4. Number serially from 1 (1816 = W-1 thru W-9, 1817 = W-10 thru W-27, etc.).
5. Number serially from 301 (1816 = W-301 thru W-309).
6. Resequence logically, but retain the open-ended sequence (1817 = W-1 thru W-17).
7. Pick another scheme — you name it.

Perhaps Bill Noyes' tickler will bring out a more solid consensus for one or another. I solicit each of your suggestions/preferences/recommendations -- please write me. The admonition I once saw at a highway intersection in New Mexico applies equally here: "Choose your road carefully. You're going to be on it for a long way."

John D. Wright
1468 Timberlane Drive
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

DICK PUNCHARD REPLIES TO BILL NOYES

(Refer to last issue of P-W, Vol. X, No. 55, page 187.)

"In defense of John D. Wright's 'labor of love' on the middle date series, I see a great benefit to all large cent collectors, both old and new. Not only is John correcting errors in Mr. Newcomb's work, but more importantly he is providing us, like Dr. Sheldon, with a numbering system which we can easily adopt. This, I believe, is John's ultimate goal. Surely, you will agree with me that most advanced large cent collectors, when they get together, use Sheldon numbers in lieu of date and variety.

As someone suggested in a back issue of PENNY-WISE, why not put a "W" in front of the variety number? One has only to meet the man to know the reason. This, my friend, is no 'ego trip'!"

HALF CENT CATALOGUE SALES: ADDENDA

Milton B. Pfeffer

1807 G-1, C-1

Add the following Uncirculated offerings: (27) Elmer S. Sears 488 (October 1, 1909); (28) W. Hesslein 987 (Sept. 24-25, 1926); (29) Gen. W. D. McCaw 2140 (T. L. Elder, Nov. 22, 1930); (30) T. L. Elder 1192 (Oct., 1933); (31) M. H. Bolender 667 (March 14, 1936), "finest known"; (32) B. Bluestone 538 (March 4, 1942); (33) Hollinbeck-Kagin 572 (Sept. 18, 1961); (34) Cornell-Oglethorpe 524 (Stack's, May 30-31, 1975), dark.

The AU50 Anderson-Dupont 1093 was resold as lot 839 in Stack's sale of March 15, 1975.

The early obverse die state shows a perfect die, without any rim breaks. However, it is a very shallow die and poorly made, so the impressions from it lack full dentilation and appear to be softly struck at the border and at the central hair locks (Helfenstein-Judd 122; NN 59th sale 1136). The stem and top of the 7 are recut. Query, whether there are bulges present in the field, around the portrait, at the very outset? In its intermediate state, the milling has all but disappeared, and the curls are weaker yet. A thin, irregular, long crack is seen below the bust to the right on the 7, passing through the upper serif of the 7, to the O in the date (Beck II 1457). Rusting is present. Bulging surrounds the portrait. In its late state, there is a line break over LI (Merkin 61, Sept., 1968), and the border is even weaker.

I believe that Gilbert erred in saying that "a break at the border above TY is found on some specimens of this date". None of the catalogues confirm such a break. Purely as a hunch, it seems that Gilbert was momentarily confused with the rim break over TY in 1808 G-1, which he described immediately after his discussion of the 1807 half cent. Or, perhaps he meant the break over LI.

Comm. Eaton said that the top of the 8 is sometimes recut. I did not find any reference to this, except perhaps Rarcee 1066 (Jan. 4-7, 1973) where a difference in the top loop of the 8 is noted but is not described as a recutting. In one example, the two loops of the 8 are the same size, while in the second example, the top loop is smaller.

The early reverse die state does not necessarily begin where the 1806 G-3 ended. There was a recutting of some of the letters of the legend (ERICA and TATES) before the 1807 coins were struck, in order to strengthen them. But die wear is evident on the blunted leaves and weakened dentils. All the reverse dentils rarely show. In its late state, the signs of the recutting have faded; the letters of the legend are weak, especially at the tops of the letters; and there is a bulge at the lower half of the coin, following the wreath. The reverse, even in its late state, is sharper than the obverse (Essex Inst. 94; L. Merkin 262, Sept. 11, 1974; N. Smith 51).

G-1
1808 C-1, not in Gilbert, new

No other offerings. P-W, July 15, 1973, p. 173, noted Jim McGuigan's finding of a fourth specimen, which he grade as VF30.

Query, if this variety was referred to by Paul M. Lange in his auction of May 12, 1928, where lot 93 was described, as follows: "1808, Not in Gilbert. LIBERTY very large. Brown. RRR. VF"?

Both Walter Breen (P-W, May 15, 1968, p. 6) and Roger Cohen (AMER. HALF CENTS, p. 55) have noted the absence of parallel die alignment in this variety, which caused the right-sided weakness, and also caused the reverse to crack very quickly. Because of the rarity of the variety, the actual course of die deterioration is difficult to chart.

The early obverse die is perfect, and it must remain so, since it is also found unbroken in the early state 1808 G-1 variety. The right side os weak, as may be seen in the Cohen plate coin.

The early reverse die state is perfect, but this is more conjecture. Perhaps the die broke on the first strike. The reverse is quite weak on the right, just as the obverse is. Roger Cohen's book identifies two cracks, which (with equal speculation) I consider an intermediate state: (1) a large heavy crack from the border over N of UNITED, through the tops of NITED, ending at a dentil midway between D and S; and (2) a heavy crack from the next dentil to the first S in STATES, thence through the tops of STATE, thinning out after the A. The late state of the reverse die shows additional cracks, Roger Cohen tells me, but I have no note of them.

1808 G-1, C-2

The early obverse is unbroken (the Brobston VF; "Dupont" 1094; Ruby I 250). Apparently, the brief use of this die to strike the new variety, C-1, did not cause significant deterioration. A later die state is seen in the heavy break over TY (the Brobston F; Alvord 132; "Dupont" 1095). Next, a crack shows through BERT, which becomes heavy around E and R (Ruby I 251; B. Bluestone 999, June, 1946; Cox 193). Terminally, the rim breaks over BE. Rusting is also seen in the later states.

The early reverse state, usually, but not always, shows a weakness around OF and the nearby leaf-tip; and always shows a flaw from the right stem end to the right foot of the final A in AMERICA. These also appear in the later 1808 G-2 strikes. The die is unbroken (the Brobston VF; "Dupont" 1094). The weakness around OF is seen before any of the obverse breaks (Hollinbeck-Kagin 1141, Feb. 29, 1972). A "thorn" projects from the fourth outside leaf on the right. It is not a crack in the working die, but rather a blemish that resulted from a crack in the master die.

Add the following higher-grade specimens: AU grades: (27) T. L. Elder 1334 (May 25, 1940); (28) Hollinbeck-Kagin 1141 (Feb. 29, 1972); (29) Kagin 983 (Nov., 1973), ex "a 1972 sale", but not sounding like the Hollinbeck-Kagin 1141. EF grades: (30) T. J. Clarke 236 (P. M. Lange, June 14-15, 1939); (31) H. T. Howard 1569 (T. L. Elder, April 10-12, 1930, who said, "I sold one once at auction, Unc., for \$100., on East 23rd Street".); (32) Bowers and Ruddy, Rare Coin Review No. 24 (Aug., 1975).

1808 G-2, C-3

Add these additional Unc. offerings: (26) H. C. Miller 1046 (T. L. Elder, April 13-14, 1917), small dent over E in LIBERTY; (27) Gen. W. D. McCaw 2142 (T. L. Elder, Nov. 22, 1930); (28) T. L. Elder 1492 (June 19-20, 1936); (29) Sol Kaplan 367 (Nov. 18, 1944), ex Dr. G. P. French and T. J. Clarke, sales not specified; (30) Essex Inst. 96 (Stack's, Feb 6-8, 1975), inverted reverse; (31) Stack's 840 (March 15, 1975), recolored; (32) Rarcoa, Rare Coin List, Summer, 1975, p. 3, and Winter, 1975, p. 3.

The Dr. G. P. French 373 (1917) probably appeared again as Sol Kaplan 367 (Nov. 18, 1944), where it was said to be also ex T. J. Clarke, but this cannot be the same specimen which appeared later as lot 456 in A. Kosoff's T. J. Clarke sale of 1956. The French coin was probably resold as Armand Champa 592 in the American Auction Ass'n sale of May, 1972.

The early state of the obverse die is not defined by the cataloguers. Having been used for the first time, it is probably sharp (Alvord 133). But it is not clear whether the rust pits in the field, to the right of the face, looking vaguely like a line, are seen in the earliest use of the die, or whether they develop later. The same is true for what appears to be rusting to the left of the ribbon. It is possible that the die rusted before being put into the press, and with continued use, the rust pits faded away. It is equally possible that the die was not in continuous use, and that rusting gradually developed in it, so that later uses show advanced pitting. There is an isolated report that weakness in LIBERTY is evidence of a late die state (S. W. Freeman 1058, Kreisberg & Schulman, May, 1958). This may be only an idiosyncratic strike, rather than a die state.

The reverse die, in its early state, shows all the features of the late G-1 use, i.e. the break from the fourth outside leaf on the right, and flaw at the right stem end. All berries are visible (L. Merkin 115, March, 1967). One also sees the thorn from the fourth outside leaf on the right. The weakness at OF, at the top of the nearby leaf, also seen in the late G-1 strikings, is not always present in the early state G-2 examples, leading me to believe that it was due to a poor alignment of the dies, which gradually developed with use. The same weakness appears in G-2, after a short while (1966 ANA Conv. sale 1398; and Kreisberg 2379, Nov. 29, 1969), but it is not always present.

In the late state, only seven berries are visible (Ruby I 254, 255). The first outside berry on the left and the first inside berry on the right get weak and finally disappear altogether. Two breaks appear. The first one starts at the border, left of T in UNITED, and then penetrates to the I (of UNITED), finally reaching the wreath (W. W. Neil 2238; Ruby I 254; and Gilbert's book). The second break is seen from the second inside leaf of the left branch of the wreath extending to the stem of the berry above (ANS example; Roger Cohen's book). According to Comm. Eaton,

T in STATES is sometimes seen recut, but which of the T's is not specified (THE NUMISMATIST, Nov., 1921, p. 520).

G-3
1809 C-1, Not in Gilbert, new

The early obverse die state is unbroken and it remains so during its short use in this variety. Comm. Eaton noted a recut 7th star in this die during its G-3 use. Roger Cohen confirms this finding for the present variety as well (AMER. HALF CENTS, p. 57). Comm. Eaton also suggests that the 6th star may also be recut. This finding is not confirmed by the cataloguers either for this variety or for G-3. Later die states are not discernible, apparently, because of the limited number of specimens that are known.

The early reverse die state is perfect, although the cataloguers have not so stated, since it is also found unbroken in the early G-3 strikings, which came later. Roger Cohen reports the RI (In AMERICA) are recut, and that the lines are visible at the top and bottom of the legend (Op. cit., p. 57). In its intermediate state, there is a heavy crack over the top of MERI (Merkin 67, Sept., 1968). In its late state, I have seen the crack extending beyond the C in AMERICA.

1809 G-1, C-4

Unc. grades: (20) A. L. Doherty 1155 (M. H. Bolonder, June 11, 1932), designated G-1 and clearly identifiable as that variety from the description, despite an erroneous reference to "9 over 8"; (21) B. Bluestone 313 (Jan. 13-14, 1939); (22) Hollinbeck-Kagin 199 (Jan. 10, 1973).

AU grades: (23) A. Kreisberg 28 (Nov. 27, 1972), AU50; (24) NN 102 (Dec. 3, 1944), AU55.

It is difficult to detect the die states, because neither die broke. The hub defect across the neck and throat is not a die break. Since there are reports that the entire date is recut (Lahrman 99 and Dpherty 1155) and the 6th star is "always" recut, and that the 10th star is also found recut (Comm. Eaton, NUMISMATIST, Nov., 1921, page 518; Dec., 1921, page 564), it is possible that the extensive recutting shows the early state; and that with use, the signs of recutting fade (except for the "inner circle" in O of date), which identifies the late state. As I said earlier, the uneven strikes may also evidence the late state.

An equally valid theory, however, is that the recutting of the numerals 1, 8, and 9, and of the 10th star, was done in the late state of the die, to strengthen it. The cataloguers have not supplied the necessary information to reach a decision.

The reverse die states have been largely ignored by the cataloguers. It would seem that the reverse is unbroken, both in its early and later use. Possibly the uneven strikes identify the intermediate or late states.

1809 G-2, C-6

Uncirculated grades: (29) B. Bluestone 922 (Sept. 9-10, 1932); (30) B. Bluestone 494 (Nov. 28, 1933); (31) and (32) (Jan. 13-14, 1939); (34) B. Bluestone 79 (April 16, 1940); (35) B. Bluestone 1281 (Sept. 10, 1941); (36) B. Bluestone 543 (March 4, 1942); (37) M. H. Bolonder 589 (Feb. 15, 1943); (38) Sol Kaplan 368 (Nov. 18, 1944) ex Dr. G. P. French and T. J. Clarke, the sales not specified; (39) and (40)

1949 ANA Conv. sale and 983 (F. J. Katen, Aug. 21-25, 1948); (41) D. Dreiske List No. 10H; (42) 1968 ANA Conv. sale 71 (A. Kosoff, Aug. 20-24, 1968); (43) Hollinbeck-Kagin 196 (Jan. 10, 1973); (44) Pine Tree 54 (Feb. 21-22, 1975); (45) Cornell-Oglethorpe 525 (Stack's May 30, 1975); (46) Pine Tree 131 (1975 GENA Conv. sale, Nov. 20-22, 1975).

It would appear that in the early state of the dies there is reverse peripheral weakness at the dentils and the tops of the letters of the legend (Pine Tree 131 and Beck II 1458). As usual, uneven strikes are seen. Beck II 1458 is weak at the right stars.

Perhaps the T. J. Clarke 239 is ex Dr. French; and, if so, it reappeared as lot 368 in Sol Kaplan's sale of Nov. 18, 1944.

It is curious that when cataloguers believe they have found a new 1809 half cent variety, a coin with a G-2 reverse is usually involved. For example:

(1) Thomas L. Elder, in his F. R. Kimball sale of 1921, described (under lot 993) an 1809 half cent as G-3 over G-2, graded EF.

(2) The Rarcoa catalogue for the 1973 FUN Conv. sale, in lot 1069, described the 1809 there offered, as follows: "This piece has Gilbert obverse #1 in an early die stage, not mentioned, wherein the 'O' has not been recut in the date and die crack across the throat is still there but not quite visible. The reverse is Gilbert #2 with the large tilted 'T' in UNITED. Also has a faint crack running across the tops of 'STATE'. Graded MS60."

(3) Will W. Neil, writing in *THE NUMISMATIST*, vol. 4, May, 1927, page 280, said: "Half Cent. 1809 - Not in Gilbert. Similar to G-2, except right standard of U in UNITED has an extra top struck over first top at a 45-degree angle, both showing plainly." Not graded.

My guess is that they were all G-2's.

1809 G-3, C-2

The prior article omitted, by typographical error, number 7, the Gen. W. D. McCaw 2145 (T. L. Elder, Nov. 22, 1930), an Unc. The following should also be added:

Unc. grades: (17) W. Hesslein 992 (Sept. 24-25, 1926); (18) T. L. Elder 1190 (April 3-4, 1936); (19) T. L. Elder 267 (June 19-20, 1936); (20) S. Kaplan 369 (Nov. 18, 1944) ex Dr. G. P. French and T. J. Clarke, called the "finest known", but sales not specified, possible either Clarke 240 or 241 (P. M. Lange, June 14-15, 1929), and possibly reappearing as 1946 ANA Conv. sale 1386 (Numis. Gal.); (21) B. Dreiske List No. 10H.

AU grades: (22) Dr. G. P. French 8 (B. Bluestone, Feb. 17-18, 1933); (23) Stack's 841 (March 15, 1975) ex Anderson-Dupont 1100.

The two T. James Clarke coins sold by Paul M. Lange (June 14-15, 1929) as lots 240 and 241 might very well have come from the Dr. George P. French collection. The Sol Kaplan sale of Nov. 18, 1944, described the specimen there offered (lot 369) as ex French and Clarke. Also, the 1946 ANA Convention sale 1386 was said to be ex French. Neither catalogue identified the sales.

A further example where the reverse of this variety was specifically singled out as being stranger than the obverse is M. H. Bolonder 195, Aug. 1, 1938, graded F over VF.

When I wrote in my prior article that the early obverse die state shows a perfect die, I should have added "probably". I found no report of this. The die may have started to break earlier, in the new variety, C-1, but I found no report of this either. The only other things would add is that the 6th and 7th stars should be watched, as possible evidence of the late obverse state. Comm. Eaton said that these stars were always recut (THE NUMISMATIST, Dec., 1921, p. 564), but this was based upon his observation of only five specimens. The "Dupont" 1100, resold as lot 841 in Stack's sale of March 15, 1975, seemed to show only the 7th star recut. However, I could only examine the coin through a "2x2".

1809 G-4, C-3

The obverse break through the first two stars on the left is also found, in a late state, extended into the third star (Cornell-Oglethorpe 527). The top right stars are usually weak (NN 56th sale 441), and it is probably easier to find an Uncirculated specimen than a lower grade with all the stars struck up and sharp.

The following Unc. graded examples may be added to these previously listed: (31) Dr. G. F. E. Wilharm 1856 (B. M. Mehl, Feb. 15, 1921); (32) M. H. Bolonder 1905 (Jan. 17, 1933); (33) B. Bluestone 495 (Nov. 28, 1933); (34) T. L. Elder 1494 (June 19-20, 1936); (35) M. H. Bolonder 1546 (Oct. 22, 1938); (36) B. Bluestone 315 (Jan. 13-14, 1939); (37) Kagin's 51 (Calif. Num. Conv., Jan 3-4, 1975); (38) Stack's 4 (Metro. N. Y. Num. Conv., April 3-4, 1975); (39) Cornell-Oglethorpe 527 (Stack's, May 30-31, 1975); (40) Dr. D. C. Montgomery, Jr. 1047 (Bowers & Ruddy, NASC Conv. sale, Feb. 20-22, 1976).

1809 G-5, C-5

Add the following Uncirculated offerings to the 33 previously given: (34) L. H. Low 57 (May 25, 1920); (35) Dr. G. F. E. Wilharm 1857 (Feb. 15, 1921); (36) M. H. Bolonder 296 (March 25, 1933); (37) B. Bluestone 626 (July 15, 1933); (38) T. L. Elder 609 (May 14, 1938); (39) B. Bluestone 759 (Jan. 13-14, 1939); (40) B. Bluestone 131 (Jan. 20, 1940); (41) B. Bluestone 473 (Sept. 14, 1940); (42) M. H. Bolonder 24 (Oct. 31, 1944); (43) S. Kaplan 370 (Nov. 18, 1944) ex Dr. G. P. French and T. J. Clarke; (44) M. H. Bolonder 119 (April 13, 1945); (45) A. Kreisberg 19 (Oct. 2, 1959); (46) Hollinbeck-Kagin 574 (Sept. 18, 1961); (47) A. Kriesberg 108 (Nov. 30, 1964); (48) Quality Sales 17 (Sept. 13, 1971); (49) Hollinbeck-Kagin 197 (Jan. 10, 1973) "rubbed"; (50) Paramount 55 (Grand Central Conv. sale, Nov. 7-10, 1974); (51) New England Rare Coin Galleries, Catalogue Vol. 3, p. 8; (52) Stack's 842 (March 15, 1975); (53) Paramount Rare Coin List No. 11 (Sept.-Oct., 1975).

The Sol Kaplan 370 (Nov. 18, 1944) said to be ex Dr. French and T. J. Clarke may be the same specimen offered as Dr. French 374 (U. S. Coin Co., Dec. 5, 1917), or Dr. French 1056 (Henry Chapman, Dec. 19, 1927), or T. J. Clarke 457 (A. Kosoff, 1956).

The figure 9 in this 1809 variety was thought by someto be "retouched" (David Preskey, COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL, Feb., 1881, page 20), or "double cut", making it look like a 9 over 8 (J. W. Hasettine in his Sylvester O. Crosby sale of 1883, lot 1675). That explanation was apparently accepted by Henry Chapman, who called this variety the "so-called over 1808" (as, for example, in the George H. Earle, Jr. sale of 1912, lot 3634).

Another explanation which was offered, and the one now generally accepted, is that the 9 was erroneously punched upside down, and later corrected, giving a 9 over 6 look, in much the same way that one of the 1806 half dollar varieties has the 6 impressed over an inverted 6 (Bangs & Co. sale of June 4-5, 1885, lot 831). Thomas L. Elder at first held to the so-called 9 over 8 theory (Peter Mougey sale of 1910, lot 304), but later changed to the inverted 9 theory (H. C. Miller sale of 1917, lot 1047).

(To be continued)

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. AUCTION SALE

July 9-10, 1976

Stephen A. Levy

The Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Coin Convention Auction was conducted this year by Paramount. The coppers, catalogued by Ron Howard and Ray Merena, seemed to be consistently overgraded by about five points. Using Paramount's grading, the prices realized, some of which were knockouts, are from my notes of the sale. A few of the more reasonably priced lots were picked up by EACers.

The prices of the coppers were nothing, however, when compared with those of the Walking Liberty halves which often went for two and three times catalogue. Among these were a MS65 1918-D at \$775.; MS65 1919-D at \$2,800. (with a small scratch and a planchet defect!); MS65 1919-S at \$2,200.; and a MS65 1921-S at \$9,500. You EACers who also collect halves would be well advised to buy some more before other dealers mark up their stock!

Some of the more significant cents sold in the sale were:

Lot	1. 1793 Chain America, Sheldon-3, VF20	\$2,600.
	2. 1794 S-21 MS60	2,500.
	This was the Naftzger 343 - EAC '75	
	10. 1798, 8 over 7, Third Rev., EF40 S-152	710.
	18. 1802 S-232 AU55	1,000.
	40. 1814, Plain 4 S-295 MS60	1,350.
	42. 1814, Cresslet 4 S-294 AU55	1,100.
	50. 1820 LD MS60	310.
	51. 1821 AU50	180.
	56. 1823 ND EF40	475.

A hearty welcome is extended to the following NEW MEMBERS:

- #591 Harold E. Bates
- #592 Alvin W. Davis
- #593 Joe Elliott, 1600 "I" Ave., New Castle, IN 47362
- #594 Wallace G. Lee
- #595 John W. Sacher, 205 First National Bank Bldg., Celina, OH 45822
- #596 Norman Brauer
- #597 Gerald M. Klaassen, Jr., 145 Ridgewood St., Kalamazee, MI 49001
- #598 J. Frederick Lechary, 940 Stanford Ave. #101, Baton Rouge, LA 70808
- #599 Daniel S. Smith, 5 Alrick Rd., Quincy, MA 02169
- #600 Paul E. Hopkins, P.O. Box 5094, Terre Haute, IN 47805
- #601 Paul Dornbes, 1618 Dennis Dr., Wickliffe, OH 44092
- #602 Kenneth H. Wolfgram, 21104 White Fir Ct., Cupertino, CA 95014
- #603 Earl E. Morton, 106 Iron Gate Rd., San Antonio, TX 78213
- #604 Phillip L. Mossman, 13 Longmeadow Dr., Brewer, ME 04412
- #605 Mark S. Funaiolo, 5627A Persimmon, Shaw AFB, SC 29152

THE NATIVES ARE RESTLESS - Changes of address:

- John Grellman, Jr., 310 Janice St., Prattville, AL 36067
- John Dirnbauer, 2170 Midhurst Rd., Downers Grove, IL 60515
- Thomas S. Katman, 3 Saxeny Dr., Cinnaminson, NJ 08077
- Brian Altman, 314 Cranford Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
- David W. Fischer, 6003 Preakness Place, Centerville, OH 45459
- Mark Ludwig, 388 Frances Place, Wyckeff, NJ 07481
- Darwin Palmer, 1400 Whispering Pines Ct. #22, Silver Spring, MD 20906
- Art M. Kagin, Suite 600, 606 Capitol City Bank Bldg., Des Moines, IO 50309
- William G. Mani, 5635 Clover, N.E., Louisville, OH 44641

UNITED STATES LARGE CENTS 1793 - 1857

by Warren A. Lapp and Herbert A. Silberman

This anthology, seventh in the series of "Gleanings from THE NUMISMATIST", contains over 100 articles published between 1895 and 1971 on U.S. large cents and half cents, including articles by Charles Steigerwalt, George H. Clapp, Howard R. Newcomb, and Charles E. McGirk. It makes interesting reading and a valuable reference. Just the book for your numismatic library!

This book may be purchased for \$35. from Quarterman Publications, Inc.
5 South Union Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts, 01806.

THE CLEARWATER COIN SHOW AND THE NOFAL-KLING AUCTION - A REPORT

Ronald John Guth

The Nofal-Kling auction, held in conjunction with the Clearwater (Fla.) Coin Show from July 2 to 4, 1976, attracted a few EACers to the Sheraton Sand Key Hotel in the lovely Clearwater Beach area. Although the bourse was seriously lacking in U.S. copper, the auction offered many rare and high grade coins. Here is one collector's view of the goings-on, though seen through somewhat amateurish eyes.

When I first arrived at the show and attempted to enter the bourse, I was promptly turned away by the security guard who informed me that no one could enter without a ticket for a door prize. So, after a few minutes, during which I was stuck for three chances on a gold piece, I returned to the entrance, tickets in hand, and was permitted to enter. I noticed that the security guard had sort of a smirk on his face when I returned, like he thought it was all sort of funny.

The bourse was quite crowded with collectors, but the going was not too bad since the lack of copper immediately eliminated most tables. I did see one table with a nice collection of large cents - although large cents are not my specialty, nonetheless, I found the display to be quite striking. It was at this table that I met EACer Larry Nilson. He informed me that he was trying to sell his large cent collection but wanted to do so as a single lot. During our conversation, I asked Larry if he had seen any other out-of-town EAC members who had come to attend the auction, and he pointed out Jim McGuigan to me. I knew that Jim was a very knowledgeable half cent collector; and, since half cents are my specialty too, I planned to look him up later.

In my tour of the bourse, I saw only one half cent of any significance and that was a 1794 C-4a in VF20, but it was damaged by two nicks on the reverse and the rim. I did cherry an 1809 C-2 in G6 - although the coin is only an R3, for me, it had to be the find of the show.

Being somewhat disappointed by the scarcity of half cents, I went to look at the half cent lots in the auction; and it was there that I met Louis Kling, one of the consignors. These lots which I looked at were all nice; they were properly graded - the cartwheels on the MS65's were really beautiful; and all of the lots did well in the auction later that evening. Although I didn't look at the 1853 half cent being auctioned, I was told later that it appeared to have been recolored - this is not unexpected, since the 1853 half cent is extremely rare in brilliant Mint State.

After renewing a friendship over dinner with a local dealer and swapping stories with him, I set out for the auction. On my way there, I ran into Jim McGuigan and introduced myself as a member of EAC to him. I saw his eyes light up when I mentioned half cents, but when he recalled that he had brought only a few with him, he calmed down and introduced himself to me. I have corresponded previously with other EACers, so I knew of Jim's fame and I felt quite honored to be on the way to a big-time auction with him. We also were joined by Ricky Gross, who is the owner of the only 1794 C-3 with large edge lettering. Incidentally, have any more been found yet?

Jeff Means, a local dealer and auctioneer, sold the lots before a good-sized crowd; and he did a fine job of calling the lots in spite of microphone problems and the fact that the auction was held in the hall. After watching the half cents and a few large cents go down, I made one more round of the bourse and found an 1854 C-1 - it's in a low grade, but with an even lower price - a nice coin for future trades. Then I said my final goodbyes, presented the security guard with my door-prize tickets as something to remember me by, and returned home to St. Petersburg with pleasant memories after having had a good time.

Jim McGuigan had arranged to come to my home the next morning for a trading session, so I wanted to prepare for his visit. He arrived about 11 A.M., and we proceeded to examine each other's wares. Jim is a sharp trader but very easy to deal with, what with his fairness, his CORRECT grading, and a realistic idea of what each coin is worth. I was able to glean a 1797 C-1 struck over a TAL token, an 1806 C-2 in VG7 but dark, and an 1808/7 C-2 in G5. In return, I parted with my 1802 C-2 in G6 (ex Gene Braig), an 1804 C-11, and an 1825 C-2 in VF20. All in all, it was a nice trading session, broken occasionally by stories, questions (mostly mine), and comments by the presiding Ricky Gross who kept asking me what I wanted for my 1804 C-13 in AU50 (the coin has been recolored - Ricky calls it a "repro" - at first, I thought that he meant "reproduction").

My only wish is that we had more EACers in this area, especially half cent nuts. Just one EACer alone would probably double the amount of copper in this area!

Folks! These good times which you read about in P-W are true! Varieties are the spice of life for EACers! Please keep EAC alive and well for us little guys, as IT keeps us alive and well!!

GET YOUR ISSUES OF P-W BOUND INTO BOOK FORM!!!

Paul W. Paterson, of 276 Riveredge Road, Tinton Falls, New Jersey, 07724 has been performing a valuable service for many EAC members over the years by arranging to have their issues of P-W bound into book form. The results are beautiful, and each book becomes a valuable record on early American coppers which can be referred to over and over again.

All the issues starting with Volume I, No. 1 and running through the last issue of Volume IX (November 15, 1975) can be bound into two volumes.

The cost is only \$15. per volume, plus \$2. for return postage and insurance.

Paul's bookbinder has been threatening to retire and to discontinue his services, so act quickly! You'll be glad that you did!!!

THE N.W. ANTIQUE SHOW

Dick Punchard

On occasion, I accompany my wife, Rainy, to the second day (Saturday) showing of antiques by local dealers here in the Twin Cities. Sometimes, one or two of these exhibitors will have a few old coins on display in their showcases. Such was the case on July 31, 1976. While Rainy browsed around to see if anything worth-while had been overlooked on the previous day, I walked up and down the aisles, trying to spot any familiar 2x2 cellophane holders containing large coppers.

My search ended abruptly when I came upon an open, loose-leaf notebook containing plastic pages, one of which was filled with Late Date large cents. Most were well-worn except for three: an 1831 and two 1838's. Whipping out John Wright's condensed guide, I was able to identify the 1831 as the N-11½ (reverse die break). The 1838's were impossible to attribute in the poor light, even though the coins were VF and EF. So, after forty-five minutes and three stops by my spouse at that particular table, the dealer and I arrived at a price for all three coins, after which Rainy and I left for home.

I sat up until after midnight that evening, trying to attribute the second 1838. I was quite sure that the first 1838 was the N-4, State I; but the other 1838 really baffled me. I swear that a person can go half blind, just looking at this series. Eventually, I narrowed my choices down to either the N-9 or the N-14. Not having an N-9 in my collection, for purposes of comparison, didn't help. And I knew that both Howard R. Newcomb and John D. Wright had stated that the N-14 came with a break at the sixth star which my coin didn't have. Although some had been previously reported, it was later determined that they had been mis-attributed. Still, my coin had the raised center at the lowest curl.

The next morning I telephoned John Wright in Michigan and described my coin to him. He suggested that I compare the piece to the colorplate photo of the N-9 in the Nofal-Kling catalogue of July 3, 1976, and if my coin didn't match, ship either the coin or a pressing to him. I made a pressing for myself and mailed off the coin to John the next day.

The following Monday morning, John called and informed me that I was the proud owner of an 1838 N-14 perfect die VF20, tied for first place in the Condition Census with another (with the break), and would I mind if he kept the piece for his collection.

I thanked him heartily for confirming my hopes, but I denied his request. However, I did say that he could hold the coin for an up-coming meeting in Chicago in August, which he planned to attend.

The copper has been returned to me now, along with John's commentary to a most happy fellow. No doubt this variety won't be the last one to appear, but at least it can be said that it was the first to be reported.

* * * * *

FINAL GRADING SYSTEM FOR CATALOGUES

Greg Germain

Having recieved some responses to my article (P-W, May 15, 1976, Vol.X, Issue 54), I thought it best to answer all the questions which were sent to me. Then, Walter Breen visited me and showed me the way to grade books as book dealers grade them. Adding a few explanations, I have revised my grading system into a form which I feel is much better than my previous one. Amongst other changes, I have completely eliminated Grades 6 and 7, as these are now taken care of by various suffixes.

Here is a definition of the new system:

Mint, or as Mint (-):...Unused; or Very Slightly used, with no appreciable signs of handling.

Used:.....Self-explanatory.

XF copy:.....Totally unused or perfect, as Mint perfect.

VF copy:.....Unused but not perfect; must be very close.

F copy:.....Used, with no appreciable signs of handling.

G copy:.....Used, but very clean.

Reading copy:.....Used and worn; average used condition.

Binding copy:.....Well used and worn.

Cull copy:.....Partly or wholly unreadable.

Foxed:.....Discoloring of paper by age; on white paper, usually giving a yellow appearance.

Corners bent:.....Check all four corners on cover.

Wrinkled:.....Pages have rippling waves usually caused by dampness.

Soiled:.....Dirty due to mishandling or improper storage.

Stained:.....By water, food, grease, dark finger marks, etc.

Shaken:.....Pages or binding loose, but still intact in spine.

Pages or cover loose:....As above, but disjointed from spine.

Corners chipped:.....Torn covers.

Faded:.....Print or paper is far too light.

This is how the system is used:

There are two major categories: (1) Mint, and (2) Used.

For each category, there are certain grades: Mint has XF, VF, and F; Used has G, Reading copy, Binding copy, and Cull copy. For each grade of Used, there are certain suffixes which apply, e.g. G has Foxed, Faded, and Corners bent; Reading copy has Wrinkled, Soiled, and Stained; while Binding copy has Shaken, Pages or cover loose, and Corners chipped. Each category also has a given number or letter:

1 = XF

2 = VF

3 = F

4 = G

5 = Reading copy

6 = Binding copy

7 = Cull copy

A = Foxed

B = Faded

C = Corners bent

D = Wrinkled

E = Soiled

F = Stained

G = Shaken

H = Pages or cover loose

I = Corners chipped

To write an entire grade under the new system, you would combine the numerical grade with the letter suffix, e.g. 4AB would indicate that the catalogue is G, Foxed, and Faded.

The following chart should help in making the explanation clearer:

CHART

<u>Condition</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Suffixes</u>
M	1. XF copy	No suffixes may apply except "Foxed". in some cases of VF copy and F copy, but NONE in XF copy.
I	2. VF copy	
N	3. F copy	
T		
U	4. G copy	A. Foxed B. Faded C. Corners bent
S	5. Reading copy	D. Wrinkled E. Soiled F. Stained
E	6. Binding copy	G. Shaken H. Pages or covers loose I. Corners chipped
D	7. Cull copy	Part or wholly unreadable

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Some people, in responding to the last grading article, raised some questions. I hope that the following will answer those questions.

Question: Why do you use grades 1 through 9 rather than Unc. through Basal State?

In your preface, you mentioned that you couldn't recognize a VF from an XF or a F. Why not continue with such grades? After all, paper money is graded as Crisp, Unc., etc.

Answer: Well, for two reasons: (1) Book dealers grade XF, VF, F, G, Reading copy, Binding copy, and Cull copy. Any change would be in direct contrast to their system. (2) Because people will then adopt numbers to the grades, e.g. if the grade was between XF and VF, people would soon use VF30; if the grade were between 30 and 40, they would use 35; and between 35 and 40, they would use 37. Dr. Sheldon's grading system is great until it is used out of proportion as many dealers and collectors have done. Whenever I see an ad listing MS40 or XF/AU47 or something similar, I think to myself: "I wonder what grade it really is?" I feel that if the system were used as it was meant to be, there

wouldn't be any problem. But so many dealers who have never even read a copy of PENNY WHIMSY use their own system; and when it fails, they try to put the blame on Dr. Sheldon's system when the one they were using is an entirely different one. By using a number grading system, no one can blow the system out of proportion.

Question: You have offered a grading system on the basis of condition, but you have completely ignored such other factors as (A) presence or absence of Prices Realized; (B) coin plates; and (C) the importance of the sale based on the cataloguing or the collection being sold. How about these items?

Answer: I should have stated that my system was for the purpose of grading the state of preservation of the catalogue and that alone. If one wishes to record the presence or absence of PR or the names of buyers, this can be included by adding:

- P = Priced
- p&n = Priced and named
- pp = Printed prices
- P&N = Printed prices and names.

To include whether or not coin plates were included, you would have to add something such as "six plates, nice quality" or if you were more familiar with printing, you might say "six beautiful plates, shot on a 300-line screen".

As for noting the importance of a sale, this becomes an individual preference. I can't say whether the Naftzger sale is better than the Ruby sale or one from the country of Gaben. The Naftzger and Ruby sales might be important to me, but how important would they be to someone who collects Gaben 100-franks? I do use a system of my own which indicates how important the sale is to my way of thinking. It is as follows:

- * = Decent sale
- ** = Better sale
- **** = Excellant sale
- ***+++ = Reference collection

Question: How would you grade a catalogue with annotations?

Answer: This is a real toughie. I spent a long time in thinking about this question. One would have to indicate what annotations there are, how neatly they were done, and on what subject. If the buyers' names are listed, it might possibly raise the value of the catalogue; if the annotation says only "Meet me for lunch", it probably would decrease both the grade of the catalogue and its value. I think that the annotations should be listed separately, keeping in mind that the system is for grading the condition of the catalogues and not determining their value. Of course, an important annotation might raise the value, but how could it raise the condition? I think that any points such as this one should be listed separately.

I hope that the introduction of my new revised grading system and the above questions and answers have cleared up some of the confusion raised by my previous article on catalogue grading.

CENTS & NONSENSE

William R.T. Smith

1. The 1977 EAC convention will be held in Chicago. Pending completion of arrangements, a tentative date of the weekend of March 3, 4, 5, 1977 has been set. Jerry Bobbe will be the bourse chairman, and Chuck Harrison will be in charge of security. If an auction is held, most likely it will be handled internally. I hope to have a greater emphasis on exhibits at the convention, so start thinking what you might want to exhibit. Also, the Chicago International Coin Fair will be in Chicago that weekend. More details will follow in succeeding issues of PENNY-WISE - so watch this column!

2. From all reports, the recent Cape Kennedy auction was a travesty from start to finish. To assist the cataloguer, cents for grading were mailed to three EAC members. Their gradings were ignored, but the cataloguer used their names in an effort to lend some authenticity to his catalogue. The three members' comments about this included: "disappointed", "embarrassed", and "disgusted". There was a lot of overgrading plus the ignoring of recoloring jobs and a probable retooling job. Most of the lots went to the book at very high prices - sounds like someone else we all know, here in the Midwest.

3. Lot 558 in the Stack's auction dated May 31, 1976 was the "virtually Uncirculated" S-13 from the Dr. French collection. I didn't like the color of the coin at the time. Gordon Wrubel under-graded everyone by calling it VF35. Nevertheless, it sold not to the book at \$10,000. but to a dealer at \$16,000. He finally traded it to another dealer who couldn't sell it because no one liked the color. So that dealer sent it off to an expert repairman, who first stripped the surface, only to discover that it was partly wax. So if you want to buy an S-13 in VF35 with beautiful color and lots of pits and a few scratches, one is now for sale by a south side Chicago dealer.

4. Part of the fun in collecting coppers certainly centers about the personalities of the collectors and their nicknames. Mine was upgraded recently from "Alphabet" (because of all these initials) to "The Jolly Inventor!". Doug Smith no longer needs to be called "Non-Alphabet"; and Dr. French, "The Jolly Extrovert!", will have a counterpart. He may end up with two counterparts, since he was also known as "The Jolly Abortinist". And now we have an EAC member who is planning a career in obstetrics and gynecology and who may soon be known as "The Great Abortinist!".

Now, again, Greek mythology has entered the scene. Dr. Sheldon's favorite character was Prometheus, who was punished by the gods for giving man the gift of fire. As a scientist, Dr. Sheldon considered himself a Promethean in the context of his philosophical studies in personality theory. With this background and with the Greek symbolism that is present on the early copper half cents and large cents, it seems inevitable that a few nicknames be derived from Greek mythology. The Greek gods had an organizational structure (a pecking order), which all started with Zeus, the king of the gods who resided on Mount Olympus (now designated as somewhere on the West Coast). Hermes, his messenger, appears to be located in a southwestern suburb of Chicago, where he lets his mercurial tempera-

ment run free. Now, before any of you gets too smug, remember that a few more aliases will be released next issue.

5. To Milt Pfeffer and all those keeping records on half cents, the 1805 G-4 in my collection was purchased from Stack's sale of February 4, 1972, Lot 222. I graded it VG10, sold it to Douglas Robins, Inc. - hence offered by them as F-VF.

6. My nomination for "High Class Dealer of the Year" award goes to Frank and Laurese Katen. While checking my library against the current auction catalogues for numismatic literature, I discovered that a copy of Dought's book purchased from the Katens' September, 1975 auction was a reprint of 1934 with the reprint title page torn out, rather than original copy as listed in their catalogue. At this late date - eleven months later - the Katens accepted the return of the book for full refund. It is certainly refreshing to know that there are folks like the Katens still around.

7. Well - the telephone report on the ANA auction just came in, so I can stop all this writing that was done in these waiting hours. It's really much less nerve-wracking to be there!

8. P.S. Late word from the ANA convention is that the thirteenth known specimen of S-96 has appeared, thus lowering the rarity to R6+. While on this subject, my own records of counting the S-17a's show 47 specimens, which would lower that variety from R5+ as assumed to R5. This variety, the S-17a, known also to some as the Hays-4, was listed in PENNY WHIMSY as R6.

ALLEN TATE NEVER HEARD OF U.S. LARGE CENTS

Brian Altman, M.D., who is doing a Fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology in Philadelphia until June 30, 1977, sent the Editor an insert published in the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY for July, 1976, as follows:

"Coppers on her eyes? Why? When I was a boy, I heard people say that the way to keep closed the eyes of the dead was to put pennies on them. They must have been English pennies; ours are too small to have sufficient weight. Putting coppers on the eyes is a symbolic act, the final shutting off the king of the senses. Beauty thus becomes blind and incapable of projecting herself upon nature, or may one say of seeing herself in nature?"

Allen Tate, MEMOIRS AND OPINIONS
Chicago, Swallow Press, 1975"

Just to keep the record straight, it was reported in P-W quite a few years ago that U.S. large cents were placed on the eyes of the dead so as to hold the lids shut. The coins were not usually removed, even when the body was interred. Such use of the coins gave rise to an expression of extreme contempt for any individual who was particularly disliked, namely: "he was mean enough to steal the pennies off a dead baby's eyes".

THE BICENTENNIAL CENSUS

William R.T. Smith

It's time for the third census of large cents dated from 1793 to 1814 to be taken amongst our membership. I believe that the last census was taken in 1973. Since that time, there have been many significant auctions as well as many new discoveries. I certainly expect to find that more specimens of each variety will be reported this year as compare to three years ago.

A form is included with this article for you to list your Sheldon varieties by grade. I would like to encourage everyone to list his collection as of October 1, 1976. Otherwise, he should note the date that his census listing was taken. Also, please make every effort to grade realistically according to Sheldon standards, as was done in the Naftzger sale or the Ruby I sale. Both catalogues are well plated and offer an extensive range of grades for comparison.

On any cents which you feel are at Condition Census level but which are not included in Loring's census data, you should list the pedigree of the coins, if possible. This will assist the effort being made to update the top six specimens of each variety.

The listings which are received will be received in complete confidence, and any summaries that are made will not reference the individual collectors. Please indicate on the census form your willingness (or unwillingness) to have Condition Level cents identified to those working on the new census. A comprehensive report will be made in a future issue of PENNY-WISE.

* * * * *

THE JOHN HAYS MONUMENT AT CLIFF MINE, PHOENIX, MICHIGAN

John D. Wright and his family spent two weeks during August on a camping trip in the upper peninsula of Michigan. One of the sights they saw was the John Hays Monument at the Cliff Mine in Phoenix, Michigan. John sent the Editor a postcard which shows the plaque on the monument. The plaque reads as follows:

On November 18, 1844
On the bluff west of this point,
Named the Cliff Mine,
Pure Metallic Copper
Was First Discovered
In the World, By
John Hays
Of Pittsburg, Pa.

Erected July 31, 1930
Keweenaw Historical Society

On the back of the card, John wrote: "Evidently, this plaque refers to metallic copper. Higly was much earlier. I saw one nugget of pure native copper, weighing nearly 1,00 pounds, while there."

Phoenix is in Keweenawland, which is Michigan's copper country.

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* * * * *

SWAPS & SALES

This column is open to all EAC members for listing their duplicates for swap or sale. The first twelve lines, whether used for print or for spacing are free. Additional lines will be billed to you by the Treasurer at 25¢ per line. Full page ads are \$15., payable in advance. Only ads suitable for offset printing are acceptable. If coin plates are desired, an additional charge of \$5. is required for cost of the screen necessary to reproduce the plate. All ads to be included in the November 15 issue should be forwarded to Warren A. Lapp, M.D., 731 East 22nd Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11210. Ads received after October 31 cannot be included.

CHUCK HECK	P.O. Box 524	Amityville, New York 11701
FOR SALE: Large cents		
1798	S-181 VF25 Late state, has been cld, now a pretty brown \$115.	1805 S-269 VG8-10 \$20. 1806 S-270 VG8-10 32. 1807/6 S-273 AG3 8. 1807 S-275 AG3 8. 1810 S-283 AG8 wk. dt. 10. 1836 N-3 XF40 wk. strk. 32. 1855 N-9 F12 knob on ear 16.
1798	S-182 VF25 obv. & rev. scr., lt. tan 43.	
1800	S-210 G4-5 145.	
1801	S-222 VG8 16.	
1803	S-248 G5 20.	
1804	S-266 F15 obv. & rev. bk.; badly pitted 110.	

Just bought a new car, and am hoping these L/C "help" with the payments. I know these coins are worth these prices!

JOHN S. ASHBY, JR.	Box 20403	Indianapolis, Indiana 46220
Home: 317-251-4345		Office: 317-253-0053

First Offer on Choice Large Cents - Properly Graded According to B&D.

1794	VG	\$50.	S-22	1834	VF	\$10.
1802	VF	40.		1837	VF	9.
1805	VF	35.	pitted	1838	VF	10.
1807	VF	35.	scale on obv.	1839	EF	Booby Hd. 30. Sl. pitted
1809	F	75.	pitted	1843	EF	20. "E" scr. on rev.
1812	F	20.		1844	EF	20.
1814	F	20.		1847	EF	20.
1816	VF	15.		1849	EF	20.
1818	EF (2)	20.	each	1850	EF	20.
1819	VF	10.		1851	EF	20.
1825	EF	25.		1852	EF	20.
1827	EF	25.		1854	EF	20.
1829	EF	15.	corr.	1855	EF	Sl. 5's 20.
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1796	NC4	F12	tied for finest known
1822	B-13	VG7	CC5 of seven known
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