

P E N N Y - W I S E

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Summer's over - Fall has begun. Vacations have ended. The kids are back in school. The weather is cooler and more comfortable. The nights are perfect for sleeping. So, welcome back to coin collecting and to P-W 104! It's another big issue with lots of information, some fun articles, and interesting reports - it even provides you with a new variety of 1822 large cent which you can try to duplicate.

There's also reports on ANA and of EAC at ANA. JDW reviews Walter Breen's half cent encyclopedia which has just been released. The calendar of coming events is full. Swaps & Sales offers some choice goodies at prices which fit everybody's pocket book.

This issue also memorializes the recent passing of our beloved member, John S. Ashby, Jr. John was a giant in the field of early American coppers, and he shall be sorely missed.

Yes - P-W 104 is a big issue! - one that you'll enjoy and will get a lot out of. We're real proud that each issue of P-W continues to get better and better, and we think you'll like this one! Turn to the Table of Contents and just look at what you're in for! It's a dilly!!

Thanks to all of our contributors to this issue - we deeply appreciate the promptness which you demonstrated by getting your articles in early - that has helped us a great deal in making this issue ready for you.

We're starting already to make P-W 105 ready for distribution on November 15. So, send us your articles - a lot of you have promised us that you were preparing articles of special interest - so let us see your results! And tell us about your latest research, your recent cherrypickings, any new varieties you've turned up - anything and everything - we're all interested - so let's hear from you NOW!

That's it for this time. Read on - and enjoy while you assimilate!

Best to ya!

Warren A. Lapp, M.D.

Editor and Publisher

and

The Staff of PENNY-WISE

17<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY - 104<sup>TH</sup> CONSECUTIVE ISSUE

EAC DIRECTORY

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p>1. All articles, material, Swaps &amp; Sales, and advertisements for P-W. Deadline: end of month preceding next issue</p>  | <p>Editor</p>                                 | <p>Warren A. Lapp, M.D.<br/>6505 Newmarket Way<br/>Raleigh, NC 27609</p>   |
| <p>2. Information on EAC membership<br/>Current dues \$15. 3rd class mail \$23. 1st class mail<br/>Name or address changes, submit at least 1 mo prior to date of next P-W issue<br/>Lost or incomplete issues of P-W</p> | <p>Vice President and Membership Chairman</p> | <p>Rod Burress<br/>9743 Leacrest<br/>Cincinnati, Ohio 45215<br/>(513) 771-0696<br/>or<br/>EAC<br/>P. O. Box 15782<br/>Cincinnati, Ohio 45215</p> |
| <p>3. All materials from non-EAC sources relating to EAC or any of its members for preservation in EAC archives.</p>  | <p>Historian</p>                              | <p>Peter C. Smith<br/>2424 - 4th St., NE, #12<br/>Minneapolis, Minn. 55418</p>   |
| <p>4. Questions of numismatic nature<br/>Questions for "Ask John" column<br/>Information re: advertising rates</p>  | <p>Treasurer</p>                              | <p>John D. Wright<br/>1468 Timberlane Drive<br/>St. Joseph, MI 49085</p>   |
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| <p>6. All EAC matters not covered above - gripes, complaints, By-Laws, suggestions, comments, general matters, etc.</p>   | <p>President</p>                              | <p>Jeff Oliphant<br/>9454 Wilshire Blvd.<br/>Suite 800<br/>Beverly Hills, CA 90212</p>   |

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# PENNY-WISE



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## COLLECTING 1798 LARGE CENTS

Philip W. Ralls

1798 was a fascinating year in American history. John Adams was early in his only term as president. He was the last president to preside in Philadelphia, which was in the 8th year of its tenure as transitional capitol between New York and the new capitol on the marshes of the Potomac River, Washington. This was a pivotal year in the history of the United States. Adams showed great forbearance and delicacy by preventing war with France. This was the year of the infamous XYZ affair. It seems that many Americans did not take kindly to bribing French prime ministers merely for the privilege of speaking to them. Adams, with bellicose public talk and gentle private diplomatic maneuverings, kept the fledgling nation out of war.

Of potentially greater import was the passage of the Alien and Sedition Acts. These acts, promulgated by the Federalists, essentially made political dissent a crime. It is fortunate, indeed, for our country that public furor ensured their eventual repeal. Thomas Jefferson was busily organizing the Democratic Republicans to combat the Federalist government. By 1798, the independent Adams, who was no political party's lackey, was quite clearly not re-electable, having alienated virtually all of his supporters with his independent policies.

As one can see from the preceding historical summary, 1798 was a pivotal and fascinating time in American history. These historical connections are only one reason to collect 1798 cents. I collect them because 1798 is one of the more interesting years of the Draped Bust cent, in my opinion the most beautiful and fascinating large cent design. 1798 has the largest number of varieties (46) of any Draped Bust year. These are readily classifiable by interesting design characteristics, as we shall see. Additionally, 1798 has the allure of being an 18th century coin. It is, in fact, the least expensive 18th century coin available to collectors of U.S. coinage. Since there are many rare varieties which are not immediately apparent, there is always the good chance that one may find a fascinating rarity unattributed.

### Classifying 1798 Large Cents

One thing that appeals to all large cent collectors is classification and variety attribution. 1798 is a very interesting year as it provides 2 main groups, characterized by different hair styles, which can be further subdivided into 6 distinct groups. George Clapp, in his monumental monograph on 1798 and 1799 large cents, was the first to point this out. The major dividing feature is different hair styles. Style I hair has no curl in the hair to the left of the shoulder (Fig. 1-4). Style II hair has a curl in this location (Fig. 5 & 6). These distinctive hair styles are rather easily recognized. Other distinguishing features include different style letters in LIBERTY and large versus small 8's. Large 8's are considerably larger than the other numerals in the date and are easily recognized. Style I letters are most easily distinguished from Style II letters by looking at the letter R. Style I letters (utilized on S-144 through S-149 only) have an R whose right leg is splayed to the right (Fig. 1). With Style II letters, the leg of the R is more vertically oriented (Fig. 2-6). The overdate group is readily detected by the top of the 7 appearing over the top of a large 8 (Fig. 2). Utilizing these characteristics, the following 6 groups become clear.

## Group Classification of 1798 Cents

### STYLE I HAIR - No Curl Left of Shoulder

1. Large 8, Type I Letters - S-144 - S-149
2. Overdates, Large 8, Type II Letters - S-150 - S-152
3. Large 8, Type II Letters - S-153 - S-154
4. Small 8, Type II Letters - S-155 - S-164, NC1 & NC2

### STYLE II HAIR - Curl Left of Shoulder

5. Large 8 - S-165 - S-167
6. Small 8 - S-168 - S-187

Utilizing this group classification, the attribution of 1798 large cents becomes a relatively straight forward and enjoyable game. Over the past years, I have enjoyed playing this game and have been especially interested in attributing low grade varieties, since this is what one generally encounters in the typical coin show bourse. For this reason, I have developed a low-grade attribution guide which I have found somewhat more useful than the one in PENNY WHIMSY. It is by no means perfect, and I solicit any corrections and/or additions which my fellow EAC members may be able to provide me. This guide is appended at the end of this article.

Now I would like to discuss each of the 6 groups of 1798 cents briefly:

#### I. FIRST HAIR STYLE

##### GROUP 1 - (Fig. 1) Large 8, Type I letters - S-144 - S-149

Group 1 1798 cents are really quite scarce. Even the so-called common varieties (S-145 and S-148) are tough to find in decent condition. Anyone who finds a Group 1 1798 large cent with clean surfaces has a desirable coin. The four difficult varieties in this group (S-144, 146, 147, and 149) account for half of the 8 toughest numbered varieties of 1798 cents. Fortunately, these are quite easy to attribute.

GROUP 2 - OVERDATES - (Fig. 2) - Large 8, Type II letters - S-150 - S-152  
Sheldon 150 and 151 are very tough coins to find. S-151 is one of the tougher R4's of 1798. S-152 is not a particularly difficult coin to obtain in low grade, but obtaining a clean VF or better is extremely difficult.

GROUP 3 - (Fig. 3) - Large 8, Type II letters - S-153 & S-154  
S-153 and S-154 are both moderately difficult R4 coins to obtain. I have found S-153 particularly elusive in choice VF or better.

GROUP 4 - (Fig. 4) - Small 8, Type II letters - S-155 - S-164  
This is the largest group of Style I hair cents. All Style I hair cents are considerably more difficult to find than Style II cents, and they are probably worth a slight premium because of this. S-161 with its fascinating reverse rim break is really the only Style I hair 1798 that is seen frequently. Its perfect die reverse state is fairly common and has given me a thrill on more than one occasion when I thought that I had found a rarer variety. Coins which are much tougher to locate than their rarity would indicate include S-159 (very tough in F or above) and S-158, another difficult R4. S-155, the "common" reverse of 1796, is becoming increasingly difficult to find in any grade.

FIRST HAIR STYLE



Fig. 1



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 2

## II. SECOND HAIR STYLE

### GROUP 5 - Large 8's - S-165 - S-167

This group of 3 coins consists of 2 very common varieties, S-166 and 167, and another very tough R4, the S-165. S-165 is very difficult to find in any grade and is nearly impossible in VF (EF and above are unknown).

### GROUP 6 - Small 8's - S-168 through S-187

This group is the largest group of 1798 cents. Most 1798 cents which you encounter at a coin show will be in this group. Is it worth learning to attribute them? There are three R6's and quite a few R5's - question answered! There are some common coins in this group (S-187, 179, and 184) but there are also other coins which belie their apparent lack of scarcity (e.g. S-175, 168). Additionally, some of the more common varieties are very tough to find in nice condition (S-185 and 186, for example). There are many interesting die characteristics in this group which makes attributing them a lot of fun. I must admit that occasionally a very low grade specimen in this group may give you a headache. Try sorting out S-169 through S-172 in Basal State!

All in all, 1798 cents are a diverse and interesting group. It certainly is more fun than collecting boring old whirlbirds! (Whirlbirds are Liberty Cap cents - especially the 1794's.) I would like to thank Del Bland and Doug Smith, along with many other EACers, who have encouraged, taught, and assisted me in my brief tenure as a 1798 collector.

### Type II Hair Style



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

## LEGENDS, COLLECTING 1798 LARGE CENTS

### Figure 1

Sheldon 148. Style I hair, Type I letters, large 8. Type I letters are most easily recognized by looking at the letter R in Liberty. Notice how the right leg of R is splayed to the right in distinction to the Type II letter used in the other five groups (Fig. 2 thru 6).

### Figure 2

Sheldon 152. Overdates. Style I hair, Type II letters, large 8. Notice the absence of the curl just to the left of the shoulder, characteristic of Style I hair. Contrast this to the presence of a curl to the left of the shoulder seen with Style II hair in Figures 5 and 6. Overdates have either one (S152 - see arrow) or two (S150 and 151) points of the 7 showing above the top of the 8.

### Figure 3

Sheldon 154. Style I hair, Type II letters, large 8. Only two varieties, Sheldon 153 and 154, are in this group.

### Figure 4

Sheldon 157. Style I hair, Type II letters, small 8. Intermediate state of the die rusting in the right obverse field. This is the largest group of Style I hair cents of 1798.

### Figure 5

Sheldon 166. Style II hair, Type II letters, large 8. Notice the curl to the left of the shoulder (arrow). The presence of this curl is the major distinguishing feature differentiating Style II from Style I hair. This group consists of only three varieties, Sheldon 165 through Sheldon 167.

### Figure 6

Sheldon 179 - "the high 98". Style II hair, Type II letters, small 8. This large group accounts for most of the 1798's encountered on the typical coin show bourse. To use the low grade attributing guide included in this article, one must be able to recognize the distinctive date placement seen on this obverse.

## ATTRIBUTION GUIDE FOR 1798 LARGE CENTS

Philip W. Ralls

In order to use this guide, one must be able to recognize the characteristics first described by Clapp to segregate 1798 cents into 6 distinct groups. The major feature is different hair styles. Style I has no curl in the hair left of the shoulder. Style II has a curl in this location. Other distinguishing features include differing style letters in LIBERTY and large versus small 8's. Large 8's are considerably larger than the other numerals in the date and easily recognized. Style I letters are most easily distinguished from Style II letters by the letter "R". Style I letters (utilized on S144 through S149 only) have a right leg whose foot is splayed to the right. With Style II, the leg of "R" is more vertically oriented. The overdate group is readily detected by the top of "7" appearing over the top of "8".

In addition to these characteristics, one must be able to recognize the "LOW 9" (S184 -S185) and the "HIGH 98" (S179) obverses. A brief study of the plates in Penny Whimsy should suffice for this.

This attribution guide has been designed to attribute even low grade cents. Where there are many keys (e.g. Style II hair, Small 8), one should start at the 12 o'clock position and follow the keys around clockwise.

Difficult attributions in low grade utilizing this key occur with the following varieties: S160, S168, perfect obverse die S176, and perfect reverse die S175. It is also difficult to distinguish low grade S165 from S167. Another difficult distinction occurs among S169, perfect obverse die S170 and S171, and S172. In these instances, study of the plates may be necessary with low grade coins.

Here is a brief listing of die cracks which occur frequently and are helpful when present.

1. EYE TO RIM - S167
2. THROAT TO RIM - S185
3. ARC CRACK, LEFT OBVERSE AT 9K - S170

### Abbreviations

PHL	Point of Highest Leaf	HWH	Highest Wave of Hair
FB	Fraction Bar	E1	1st E of Reverse (ED)
PLD C	Point of Leaf Under "D" Central	RB	Rim Break
PC	Past Center	PHL PC	Point of Highest Leaf Past Center
C	Central	LT	Leaf Tip
FPR	Far Past Right	JHF	Junction of Hair and Forehead

If anyone can improve on any aspect of this attribution guide for low grade 1798's, please let me know. I view this project as one that is in evolution and would greatly appreciate any assistance.

STYLE I HAIR - No curl to the left of the shoulder S144 - S164, NC1 and 2

I. Large 8, TYPE I Letters (Long Tailed R's) - R

1. PHL RT. OF "S" / CLOSE DATE - S144 R6 (50-10)
2. PHL LT. OF "S"
  - a. Vert. Rt. Ribbon over "100" - S147 R5+ (40-15)
  - b. Unfinished Hair; "Island" at "E" - S146 R5+ (55-20)
3. PHL PC, RT. FRACT. BAR (FB) TOUCHES//CLOSE DATE - S145 R3
4. PHL LT. OF CENTER "S"
  - a. PLD C// Horned "9" - S148 R2 (65-40)
  - b. PLD Under Uppt.//179 8 spacing - S149 R6 (12-8)

II. OVERDATES, LARGE 8, TYPE II LETTERS (Note: All subsequent are Type II)

1. 2 POINTS OF "7" SHOW ABOVE TOP "8"
  - a. Long FB (Covers part of "1"), PHL Lt. of Center "S" - S150 R5 (45-20)
  - b. Short FB ("1" uncovered), PHL at Lt. Side "S" - S151 R4 (50-20)
2. 1 POINT SHOWS LEFT//8 " (Amer); Berry at E1 outside LT - S152 R2+ (60-40)

III. LARGE 8, TYPE II LETTERS

1. BASE "7" TOUCHES DENTILS - S153 R4- (55-35)
2. "8" EMBEDDED IN BUST - S154 R4 (70-35)

IV. SMALL 8, TYPE II LETTERS

REVERSE KEYS

1. PHL RT. OF "S"
  - a. HWH Under Middle "R" - S158 R4 (55-40)
  - b. RB over "ERTY" - NC2 R7+ (12-5)
2. SINGLE TOP LEAVES (REV. OF '96)
  - a. "1" Tip Nearer Curl than Hair - S155 R3 (70-45)
  - b. "1" Tip Nearer Hair than Curl - S156 R6- (30-12)
  - c. Style II Hair - S178 R6 (35-10)
3. DENTILS ELONGATED BY ENGRAVER'S SCRATCHES AT "ER"
  - a. Point of Curl Present - S160 R5 (60-35)
  - b. Point of Curl Absent - S162 R4 (65-30)
  - c. Style II Hair - S176 R5 - (55-30)
4. 8 (AMER); BERRY AT E1 OUTSIDE LT - NC1 R7+ (10-7)
5. PLD UNDER UPRT // FUSED DENTILS UNDER "9" - S157 R2 (65-55)
6. LUMP, RT. SIDE "O" (ONE), RB AT "ATE" (Usually)  
Perfect Die (No RB) Fairly Common - S161 R2- (65-55)

OBVERSE KEYS

1. RB OVER "ERTY" // PHL FPR - NC2 R7+ (12-5)
2. NO POINT OF CURL
  - a. Scratch, Rt. FB - S163 R5- (30-20)
  - b. Elongated Dentils Over "ER" - S162 R4 (65-30)
3. HIGHEST WAVE OF HAIR (HWH) UNDER MIDDLE "R"
  - a. PHL FPR - S158 R4 (55-40)
  - b. PHL R; Vert. Cracks, Lt. Obv. - S159 R4 (60-30)
  - c. PHL L, PLD NR - S164 R4+ (65-45)

STYLE II HAIR - Curl in hair to left of shoulder S165 - S187

V. LARGE 8

1. ARC CRACK, LOWER LT. REV. - S166 R1 (65-55)
2. CRACK "E" (TED) TO LT THIRD LEAF PAIR - S167 R1 (65-55)
3. PERFECT or CRACK, RIM at "IC" TO FIRST RT. BERRY - S165 R4 (35-25)

VI. SMALL 8

OBVERSE KEYS

1. PC BETWEEN "BE"; RB OVER "RTY" (Usually) - S173 R3-
2. ARC CRACK, UPPER RIGHT
  - a. Arc Crack, Lower Rt. Rev. - S186 R2 (60-35)
  - b. Upper Lt. Berry Hangs Down - S187 R1
3. VERTICAL DIE CRACK, RT. FIELD
  - a. Elongated Dentils Over "ER" - S176 R5- (55-35)
  - b. "T" Berry Position (Cent) - S177 R5 (35-20)
  - c. Single Top Leaves - S178 R6 (35-10)
4. HIGH "98" - S179 R1 (65-55)
5. LOW "9"
  - a. Crack, Rt. Stem to "A" - S184 R2 (65-55)
  - b. Bust Incused at "OF", Impressed Dentils at "RICA" (early) - S185 R2 (55-40)
6. PROJECTION, TOP OF "1"
  - a. RB at "U" - S175 R4 (65-35)
  - b. Incusation at Fraction - S174 R2 (65-50)
7. HORIZONTAL CRACK, LEFT FIELD
  - a. Right Ribbon Close to "100" - S181 R4 (65-40)
  - b. Ribbon Not Close, RB at "ATE" (usually) - S180 R6- (35-12)

REVERSE KEYS

1. SINGLE TOP LEAVES - S178 R6 (35-10)
2. ARC CRACK, LOWER RIGHT - S186 R2 (70-35)
3. DENTILS OVER "ER" ELONGATED BY ENGRAVER'S SCRATCHES
  - a. Usually with Vert. Die Break, Rt. Obv. Field - S176 R5- (55-30)
4. INCUSATION (OF BUST) AT FRACTION - S174 R2 (65-50)
5. CRACK, RIGHT STEM to "A" (ICA)
  - a. "IB" Spaced Widely, JHF Under Uprrt., Low "9" - S184 - JHF Under Rt. Side Uprrt. "T" - S183 R6 (50-20) - JHF Under Rt. Foot "T" - S182 R5 (55-35)
6. RIM BREAK (RB) OVER "U" - S175 R4 (65-35)
7. CRACKS OVER "UNITED STATES", "8" LEANS SLIGHTLY LEFT - S168 R4 (60-50)
8. OUTSIDE LEFT BERRY AT E1 TRAPPED AND STEMLESS
  - a. Base "IB" closer than Base "LI"; Date Clear of Rim; Point "1" Slightly Closer H than C - S169 R5- (55-35)
  - b. "LIB" Evenly Spaced; Date near Dentils of Rim; Point "1" about equidistant H and C; Usually with Arc Crack Left Obv Field - S170 R4 (60-40)
  - c. Rim Break Left of "L" (Perfect Die Rare) - S171 R5- (60-30)
  - d. "E" (TES), "E" - S172 R2+ (60-50)
9. RB AT "ATE" SOMETIMES RB AT "U" (Perfect Die Rare) - S180 R6- (35-12)

# NEW VARIETY OF 1822 LARGE CENT DISCOVERED

Dick Punchard

A previously unreported mating of two known dies has been found and confirmed, thus giving us the 14th variety of an 1822 large cent. The coin has the obverse of the 1822 N-8 perfect die coupled with Reverse A of the 1821 N-1 late state, having all the cracks previously described.

The diagnostic features of this new variety include the leaf position at F (left), the berry under the first A of AMERICA (left of right stand), and the proximity of the legend to the wreath. At first glance, the cent could pass as a N-12, but a little closer study proves otherwise.

With this new find, we now know that both reverses of the 1821 cent were continued into 1822. What this new find does to the emission sequence, I'll leave to others to speculate. However, this die pairing makes a very good case for the coin to have been one of the first struck in 1822.

The discovery piece is a pleasing two-tone brown and has smooth surfaces. It grades F15. As in the case of most newly discovered varieties, surely more will surface with time and effort. So, recheck your 1822's, and good luck to you!



(Photos by John D. Wright)

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SING SING FOR A PENNY

Bob Jessen

The phone is ringing off the hook again.

"Ya got yer camouflage coveralls handy?" Meyer pretty much demands.

"Check your calendar, old nimrod - ducks are still two weeks away," I counter.

"Never mind that, and never mind yer machine either; and yer black runnin' shoes - wear 'em. So long. Be out front in 15 minutes."

Meyer's heap careens to a halt in a cloud of dust. He flashes a grin of innocence that bodes ill for the evening. "Get in, it's twilight time." Inside, the dust is even more intense. Muck, ash, mortar, antique do-do - you name it - we've dug through it one time or another, carrying generous samples back to Meyer's wheels.

As we rear off, Meyer anticipates: "Nope, I'm not sayin' where we're goin'. You figure it out - look in there." He waves his hand at a carton in the back seat. Meyer had come upon a dozen or so World War I milk bottles in the mud of the Croton River. That was a year and a half ago. "When are ya going to clean these?" I wheezed. "Really, Meyer, ambiance be damned - we have to breathe." "OK, OK, we'll hose 'em down real soon. Just look in that folder, tucked in the corner." Inside, are two 8x10 photos encased in heavy duty freezer bags. Boy, are the photos old and faded. The first showed a level field about half a mile in length, with houses and the Hudson River beyond. Marching across the view is a regiment of grizzled Civil War types. A hard-to-read corner legend proclaims: "Final Parade, Westchester Rifles - September 15, 1865". Hmm. Well, we're heading west toward the river anyway - not much of a clue there. Meyer's giving me sidelong glances and that damn Cheshire cat grin.

The other shot bears the legend "Officers and Their Ladies - Westchester Rifles". The men look dour and sour, their ladies well-starved and slightly snooty in identical shirtwaists. All are arrayed on bleachers in front of a trim little mansion which I recognize immediately - it's the Warden's quarters at the State Correctional Facility, overlooking the big river. "Madness! Insanity! No way, Meyer!"

"Shhh. We're not shootin' the Warden's lawn - just the field next to it where those flinty lookin' guys were paradin'!"

"What in blazes are you smokin' in that pipe, Meyer? There's a cyclone fence with razor wire . . ."

"There you go again, worryin' 'bout insignificant details! Can't you just see all those guys, troopin' back and forth, and campin' and musterin', and God knows what else? Did you get a gander at those uniforms? - Held together by string, I betcha. Pockets like Swiss cheese. Why, there must be spots out there so thick with lost change that the coins have formed into large, raft-like sheets four to five inches down. Some mostly tokens."

"Tokens?"

"Hard Times tokens! Har! Har!"

Meyer, like the Jordan, keeps rolling on. I merely groan. From over the years, I know that to question him further will risk a night of growls and scowls.

After all, if I have to face the truncheons of aroused guards, I want a smiling Meyer at my side.

We are in town by this time, just a few minutes shy of our objective. Meyer is coming back to earth.

"Yeah, so I'm ridin' by and see this big kid out there, tossin' a Frisbee to a pair o' Dobermans, the guards on the wall payin' 'em no mind. So I go through town and come back for another pass. The main wall on one side is solid. Also, the cyclone fence on two and a half sides has no gate. That leaves the hedge between the Warden's house and the field - must be a hole in it somewhere."

A sharp left, and we're on the perimeter road. There it is! - field, wall, fence, and hedge. In the gathering darkness, it all looks a bit forbidding. My companion already has scouted out a place to park, down a sparsely settled side street where we can make a dash for the hedge. Then the house comes in sight, lit up like a birthday cake.

"Holy cow, a party," yells Meyer. "Watch this." A quick right, and we're headed up the Warden's driveway to a rear parking lot. I hold my breath as we glide past a dozen or so cars near the house and we slip into a corner slot close to the hedge. Off goes the motor. We slide down in our seats and take stock of our position. Meyer's bold stroke has brought us at once closer to our objective and to the jaw of potential adversaries. Quiet is the drill now - whispers are the order of the evening. Meyer grabs for his machine, managing to snag the carton of milk bottles and set them singing. Crouching, we bolt out of the car's doors. Luck is with us - the party is in the throes of disco madness, masking our dash for the bush. Headlights of new arrivals push us deeper into a tangle of briars. Our hedge is at hand - a yard thick and 10 feet high. Where it abuts the fence, there's a slender space. At six feet and 140 pounds, there's room to spare for me. Meyer, however, is no longer the dashing short-stop of our salad days. It's been some 5 years and many beers since he last saw his belt buckle. But he does his Doberman act, and we're through! We leap a shallow drainage ditch into another world.

A sky filling with stars softens the walls and towers etched against them, while off in the west the sun has gone down. A few following clouds are suffused with a pale magenta cartwheel. The closely cropped grass at our feet is hard to see in the growing gloom. Meyer whispers something about there being a full moon in half an hour or so as he claps on the headphones and fiddles with the knobs on his machine. 'Burp, burp' comes faintly from the headphones as we head out. It then occurs to me - the field might be mined with electronic sensors which are activated at dark. Geez. I keep it to myself. 'Burp'. 'Burp'. I remember the Dobermans and hope that I'm stepping wisely. 'Burp, burp, ping, burp, ping' - Meyer swings the dinner-plate-sized sensor slowly back and forth over the signal. 'Ping, ping, ping'. My sharp trowel has no trouble making a perfect circle in the sandy loam which Meyer has marked as "X". Deft digits delve the divot. It's an injun. Back goes the toupe' of grass and on we move, keeping a few hundred yards between us and the wall. 'Burp, burp, ping!'. Another injun, then another. It's pitch dark except for a spreading haze of lunar light in the east. The pings increase in frequency - more injuns. Even though the temperature is around 50, we begin to sweat. This is almost too good to be true - plenty of action and easy digging. Almost too good, but no preparation for what is to follow.

Meyer has just zero-ed in on what proves to be a half dime lying on its edge.

He loves the little devils and puts aside the machine to see if his finger tips can puzzle out the type. 'Ping, ping, ping' - and the machine is going bananas. Meyer grabs for it and the half dime in one motion. He paces it off. The odd electronic sounds are coming thick and fast and merging into notes making music for our ears. Gradually, a lozenge-shaped area roughly 8 by 4 feet is defined. As a sliver of a moon expands on the wall, we both set to with trowels. Two-foot squares of sod are cut, as if from a tray of fresh brownies. Brightening moonlight plays over a mess o' injuns - there are 10 to 15 under each square and in the sod, too. Shake 'em out! There's more half dimes and three centers and a seated quarter comes out of hiding. The treasure trove of Kubla Khan had nothing compared to what is before us - an Easter egg hunt in miniature American bronze.

Now the strong moon throws everything into sharp relief. The field abounds in dips and hollows. Our bonanza is a slight depression next to a wide but shallow cut which could have been an ancient road or camp street. Did we find the site of the paymaster's tent? Over a hundred injuns from just this one spot. Meyer prowls for more. The moonlight has us sticking out like sore thumbs. This moves us hedgeward - a fortuitous maneuver, as it happens. The night has turned splendid. The leather pouches around our necks are plump with injuns and their allies. A bit of lassitude creeps over me. I look at Meyer and can tell that he wants an ice cream cone too.

We switch. I get the machine and the headphones. Meyer's trowel frees a few more injuns and a brace of seated dimes. PING! - sounds like a whopper! Meyer's rough mitts work with the sureness and speed of a surgeon.

"Guess," he says.

"A follis of Anastasius II?" I flip back.

"Close, It's big and I feel two 5's - but no knob on the ear."

"We'll be feeling knobs on ears and surrounding territory if we push our luck and don't call it a night. Let's go get some cones at Swenson's Ice Cream Parlor." Meyer's face looks ashen in the lunar light. I hear a faint 'chickee' and watch him lumber at full speed for the hedge. A glance over my shoulder, and I'm right behind him. Approaching on the perimeter road, a patrol car plays a search light over the far end of the field. Meyer hasn't run 50 yards since a Randall Hoard UNC went for 50 bucks. I overtake him in 10 yards. The beam shifts our way, lending wings to our feet. We throw ourselves into the drainage ditch and flatten out. Meyer sounds like his car and looks like a beached walrus. The light probes the hedge. Our hearts are in our throats, and I suspect we'll be wetting our pants in short order. An answering flash from a tower and darkness again. Mercy! We're safe! No, we're not. They park a 100 feet away and settle back with coffee and doughnuts. Through the cracks in the hedge come a souped-up version of "Red Sails In The Sunset." We play pancake, watch the moon climb, and speculate on tomorrow's headlines: "Big House Break-in thwarted. Local zanies apprehended and incarcerated on the spot". Oh boy!

From Meyer, I hear "Mmm, smell those doughnuts." I can't believe the man - facing imminent lock-up and his family thrown on the dole, yet he dreams of jelly doughnuts! A crowd of party-goers exit and heads for the cars. Our 'guards' finish their repast quickly and drive off. Drenched in a clammy sweat, we back ourselves along the hedge to our slot and wait for the parking lot to quiet down a bit. Meyer catches his machine on the briers. What with his wrestling and cursing, our vows of quiet evaporate. We quickly gain the car and are off in a spray of bluestone. Down the driveway, across the street, and into town we speed. I comment on the lack of pursuit. As we slow down, the headlights of on-coming cars catch the ear-to-ear grin which Meyer sports - a perfect mask of mine.

"Strawberry with sprinkles?" he asks. "Yum," says I.

\* \* \* \* \*

# SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND

Peter Boisvert

I am a recently-joined member of EAC, and this is my first attempt at writing an article for PENNY-WISE. My interest in copper coins is long standing, and residing in the Greater Boston area has proved to be a boon for me in my searches for the early coppers. The New England territory seems to be fairly well-saturated with coppers - in fact, a 1794 S-198 was unearthed recently near the Boston Commons. Just a tip of the iceberg, I'm told.

Most of the goodies, however, lie quietly and unattributed in dealers' cases and inventories. For example, while picking through some mundane U.S. coppers held by one dealer, I came across a somewhat sticky 1794 half cent. On seeing that I was well-armed with reference material, the dealer hastened to assure me that the piece had been studied already and was deemed to be common variety. Still, it was nice to buy a 1794 C-3a in F/VF under type money.

A large cent lot which I bought recently included:

1801	S-219	G	smooth and brown
1811		F	brown
1819		VF	
1830	N-6	XF	glossy, with light granularity
1839		VF	Booby Head, nice.

Two recent Boston shows yielded, after diligent and serious perusal, a beautiful Ryder 16 Vermont piece in brown VF for \$90. Also, I was able to purchase six other Vermont coppers, all very scarce; and a 1796 S-100 in VF jumped into my pocket for under type money. An 1835 N-12 in VF followed suit (sorry, RVP), as did an 1803 S-259 in VF. I also found a real prize - an 1837 Low 20 Hard Times token - a brown Gem - I sure would like to find more like that one!

Us central- and northern-climed Yankees are prideful of our diligent nature. Some of our number would like to do nothing better than to sit around the old pickle barrel (with its brine colored green, no doubt, because of a few coppers nestled at the bottom) and shoot the breeze. I don't suppose that there is any harm in this - rather, it's so much the better if the hobby is furthered by it. Others may feel that their best contributions to the hobby lie in seeking those unattributed coppers, filling want lists, doing 'field search and research', etc.

Coin collectors in Boston are blessed with a coin auction which comes off every Saturday except during the summer. Some remarkable coins have shown up in this auction, viz. a 1787 CONNEC M.7-1 in VG; an 1804 C-5 half cent in XF (right, Bill?); a 1797 S-127 large cent in a nice F; and many other scarce Colonials, Newcomb varieties, etc. There usually are a few EACers on hand to see that nothing goes wanting. There are many wondrous and intriguing coins, ranging from ancient to modern - so that attendance is almost compulsive.

The people of New England are long known for their thrifty ways. Perhaps proof of this is the astounding number of hoards and old-time collections which come to light every year. Whisperings near the Cape of a darn nice half cent collection float on the soft summer breezes. A small date set of bust half dollars yields a satisfying amount of R4+ or better coins. At the present time, my favorite word of mouth is about two old ladies lugging trunks out of a dusty

attic. One is filled with gleaming silver dollars. Another is weighted with . . . lots of old pennies . . . one of the ladies says . . . "and they're all so big!" Spot checking by one who was there yielded a 1798 large cent in AU, among others. And, of course, there is another trunk loaded with coins bearing foreign words, e.g. CONNEC, NOVA CAESAREA, GEORGIUS (I), II, and III, etc.

I only can wish the readers of this article the very best of good luck in regard to their collecting problems. It is the active interest in old coppers which keeps this hobby of ours alive. By doing what you must, i.e. 'your share' (perhaps some might say 'your obligation'), everyone will ultimately benefit.

\* \* \* \* \*

### THE CHAPMANS CRITIQUE FROSSARD

Bob Vail

If any one thinks that the grading controversy is a modern phenomenon, just browse through a few of the H. & S. H. Chapman bid books of some of the old coin auction sales. Listed below are Frossard's descriptions and Chapmans' comments on some of the George W. Merritt large cents in Frossard's second sale, dated January 3, 1887.

<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Date of Coin</u>	<u>Frossard's description</u>	<u>Chapmans' comments</u>
80	1793	Slightly rubbed	Battered.
82	1793	Showing a few marks of circulation.	Been in acid and field is re-tooled.
83	1793	Four very short nicks in hair.	Cuts
85	1793	Splendid, uncirculated.	Slightly rubbed on hair.
87	1793	Extremely fine and rare.	Very Fine and rough surface.
88	1793	Hair rubbed in center.	Very Good - slight burnish.
89	1793	Very Poor, but date visible.	Date tooled.
91	1793	Very nearly uncirculated.	Very Fine - has been cleaned.
92	1793	Planchet slightly rough.	Mis-struck - defective planchet
94	1793	Fine, but somewhat corroded.	Good
96	1794	Totally uncirculated.	Slight polish.
98	1794	Magnificent specimen.	Scratch out 'magnificent'.
100	1794	Very Fine.	Fine.
104	1794	Very Fine.	Fine.
106	1794	Fine uncirculated cent.	Very Fine.
110	1795	Barely uncirculated.	Fine - rough surface.
113	1795	Uncirculated.	Obverse slightly rubbed.
118	1796	Barely circulated.	Tooled and burnished.
132	1799	Strong, very little circulation.	Cross out 'strong', Bottom of 9's do not show.
138	1801	Fine and good color.	Cross out 'Fine'; burnished.
145	1804	Steel color - almost proof.	Surface has been corroded and it has been badly burnished.
147	1804	A strong Fine impression.	Cleaned in acid and burnished.
151	1806	Excellent impression and Fine color.	Dark, Very Good.

\* \* \* \* \*

## BLIND PIG FINDS ACORN - EPISODE II

Phil Ralls

Some of you may remember Episode I of this saga - when I found the ex Proskey-Hines-Sheldon-REN:436 S-120b. That coin surfaced as 'XF+' and unattributed in a dealer's case - the coin really is AU55, second finest known.

This time I was making the rounds at the Long Beach show and was shown an 1830 N-8 in EF and a nice, unattributed 1800 over-date. Both coins were nice and reasonably priced, so I bought them. The 1800 over-date coin was F15 and clean, and was priced at less than \$100. I assumed at a glance that it was a S-196 and pocketed the coin along with the 1830 N-8.

Minutes later, Del Bland and entourage walked by. Del asked: "Hey, Phil, have you bought anything?"

"Not much," I replied, "some low grade Newcomb varieties, etc. The best coins that I got were an 1830 N-8 and an 1800 over-date - it's probably a S-196 - all of them are."

When you say something like that to Del Bland, you have to show him the coins. Del looked at the coins for less than 1/10 of a second and asked, "How much do you want for the over-date?"

Since I hadn't really looked at the coin, I shot back a ridiculous price. "\$300.," I said, jokingly. Quicker than you can say 'Jack Robinson' (who also just happened to be present in this little knot of EACers), Del pulled out three crisp \$100. bills and handed them to me with a typical devilish grin on his face. "O.K. by me," he said.

I was greatly taken back, but I asked "What is it?". "A S-195", said Del.

Looking very worried, I did a quick double-take and said, "If it's the S-195, I want to keep the coin." Then I shoved my hand containing the money back at Del. He just laughed, accepted the money, and gave the coin back to me. Then, everybody including me started to laugh.

Del had turned the tables on me for my joke price of \$300. He had made me react with horror at the possibility that I had committed the cardinal error that no EACers wants to make - selling a rare coin without attributing it! I had to chuckle at Del's joke, however - he had really gotten me! I had jammed my common 1800 over-date piece back in my pocket, again without really looking at it. Of course it was a S-176, or maybe a S-194. It couldn't have been a S-195 - else it would have been in the Condition Census! Oh well, score one on me for Del!

I continued to wander around the bourse - I really didn't find much else. About two hours later, I sat down at Doug Bird's table and started to look at my purchases. I got around to my 1800 over-date. Again, I had to smile - boy, had I been had!

Since I collect 1796-1798 Draped Bust cents, I can attribute them by sight. Not so with 1800 - a tough, tough year. This coin I had didn't match S-196, however. It didn't match the S-192, 3, or 4 either. It seemed to match S-195! I looked it over very carefully. It was S-195! This was a better joke than I

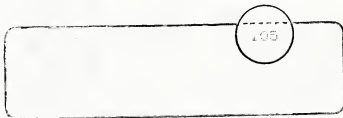
thought - and I liked the result much better too. A really great S-195 now resides in my set!

Later on, I ran into Del Bland again and asked, "Why didn't you tell me that the coin really was the S-195?" He just laughed and said, "I thought that I did!"

It just goes to show you - it's better to be lucky than good. Even a blind pig occasionally finds an acorn!

\* \* \* \* \*

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S-17	2	AG-3/0	150.00	S-104	68	AG-3	80.00	S-190-	126	G-6	50.00
S-18b	3	AG-6/2	350.00	S-108	70	G-6	175.00	S-191	127	F-15	200.00
S-19b	4	AG-2	225.00	S-109	71	VG-8	300.00	S-192	128	F-15	225.00
S-20	5	AG-3/2	200.00	S-111	72	VG-7	300.00	S-193	129	AG-3	30.00
S-21	7	VG-10+	300.00	S-112	73	35/7	750.00	S-194	130	AG-3	25.00
S-22	8	VF-20	700.00	S-120b	76	VG-7	75.00	S-195	131	AG-3	100.00
S-23	9	AG-3	200.00	S-121b	77	G-5	45.00	S-197	132	VG-10-	75.00
S-30	14	VF-30	1150.00	S-127	79	AG-3	70.00	S-197	133	VG-10-	75.00
S-32	16	G-4	70.00	S-128	80	VG-8	75.00	S-199	134	G-6	50.00
S-41	18	AG-3	60.00	S-128	81	AG-3	25.00	S-201	136	G-6	175.00
S-43	19	F-12	325.00	S-130	83	VG-10	125.00	S-202	137	AG-3	40.00
S-46	21	AG-3	50.00	S-131	84	G-5+	75.00	S-203	138	G-5	50.00
S-47	22	F-12	600.00	S-131	85	G-5+	75.00	S-204	139	G-6	60.00
S47	23	VG-10	350.00	S-134	86	G-5	70.00	S-205	140	AG-3	25.00
S-49	24	AG-3	60.00	S-137	88	VG-8	85.00	S-206	141	G-6	60.00
S-51	25	AG-2	80.00	S-138	89	G-5	50.00	S-207	142	VG-7	75.00
S-54	26	G-4	80.00	S-138	90	AG-3	20.00	S-208	143	AG-2	20.00
S-55	27	G-4	80.00	S-140	91	AG-3	25.00	S-205	144	AG-3	25.00
S-56	28	AG-2	40.00	S-141	92	VG-8	250.00	S-209	145	AG-3	20.00
S-57	29	G-6	80.00	S-145	93	AG-3	30.00	S-209	146	VG-8	70.00
S-58	30	VF-20	750.00	S-148	94	G-6	50.00	S-209	147	VG-7	50.00
S-58	31	G-4	80.00	S-150	95	AG-2	50.00	S-211	148	VG-7	70.00
S-59	32	AG-3	65.00	S151	96	AG-3	60.00	S-212	149	VG-8	90.00
S-64	36	G-6	300.00	S-155	98	AG-3	40.00	S-212	150	G-6	50.00
S-69	40	VF-20	700.00	S-156	99	AG-3	350.00	S-213	151	V3-7	50.00
S72	41	AG-3	65.00	S-157	100	VG-10	100.00	S-214	152	VG-10	125.00
S-72	42	VF-20+	800.00	S-158	101	AG-3	35.00	S-215	153	VG-7	225.00
S-73	43	G-4	250.00	S-159	102	VG-8+	125.00	S-216	154	F-15	125.00
S-74	44	G-4	100.00	S-160	103	G-6	150.00	S-219	155	AG-3	30.00
S-75	45	G-5	125.00	S-162	104	AG-3	40.00	S-219	156	G-5	50.00
S76a	46	AG-3	125.00	S-163	105	AG-3	75.00	S-220	157	G-5	45.00
S76b	47	VF-25+	750.00	S-165	106	VG-10	200.00	S-222	158	VG-10	75.00
S-77	48	VG-7	200.00	S-166	107	F-15	160.00	S-223	159	VG-8	80.00
S78	49	VG-8	200.00	S-167	108	F-15	175.00	S-223	160	G-5	25.00
S-78	50	EF-40	1500.00	S-168	109	F-12	225.00	S-224	161	VG-8	40.00
S-82	52	AG-3	100.00	S-168	110	G-5	45.00	S-225	162	F-12	110.00
S-83	53	VG-7	250.00	S-170	111	AG-3	35.00	S-227	163	VG-10	75.00
S-84	54	VG-8	225.00	S-172	112	F-15	275.00	S-226	164	F-15	175.00
S-84	55	G-6	150.00	S-173	113	G-6	45.00	S-228	165	VG-7	45.00
S-85	56	AG-3	125.00	S-174	114	G-5	30.00	S-228	166	AG-3	20.00
S-86	57	AG-3	150.00	S-175	115	VG-8	150.00	S-229	167	G-5	25.00
S-87	58	VG-7	150.00	S-179	116	VF-25	450.00	S-230	168	VG-8	35.00
S-88	59	VG-7	210.00	S-181	118	VG-8	150.00	S-231	169	VG-8+	60.00
S-89	60	VG-8	210.00	S-182	119	G-4	100.00	S-232	170	AG-3	12.00
S-91	61	F-12	450.00	S-184	120	F-12	150.00	S-132	171	VG-7	30.00
S-91	62	G-6	130.00	S-185	121	VG-10	135.00	S-233	172	VG-10	80.00
S93	63	AG-2	25.00	S-185	122	G-5	30.00	S-234	173	VG-7	70.00
S-98	64	AG-2	50.00	S-186	123	VF-20	300.00	S-235	174	F-12	160.00
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A HALF CENT CONDITION CENSUS FOR THE SMALL COLLECTOR  
Part 3

William T. Jones, Jr.

The proof-only issues of 1836 half cents, i.e. the decade from 1840 through 1849 and the 1852 half cent, have always presented a dilemma for the average collector. Unlike the previous gaps in the half cent series such as the hiatus from 1812 to 1824, there are coins available for most of the "missing" years during the 1830's and 1840's. The problem is to afford them. The price of one or two of the proof coins from this era can easily be greater than an entire collection of circulated half cents.

In addition, many copper collectors have a phobia about proof coins. Many of us, in the words of Dr. Sheldon, view proof coins as "medals" which are "polished-up portraits" of coinage. Many of us "prefer the honest and humble coinage itself". (PENNY WHIMSY, page 39)

Furthermore, all of these dates were restruck by the United States Mint in the 1860's when the ethics of our mint officials were at a low level. During this period, almost any coin including the 1804 silver dollar could become available for a price; and this heritage has tarnished the image of these coins for me. Nevertheless, the debate over the desirability of these coins will continue; and those of us who are unwilling or unable to lay down \$2,500. or more for each of these pieces will continue to stay on the sidelines.

The business-strike dates for the late date half cents were issued from 1849 to 1857, excluding the 1852. All of these coins are common by half cent standards and are only scarce, relative to one another. Since these pieces received limited circulation, they are seldom seen in less than VF condition from honest wear. The dies for all of these coins were produced from a pair of hubs which limited the yearly die variations to the style of the date and to some minor adjustments made by the die sinker after the dies had been made.

1849. The business strikes of this issue have a very large date which distinguishes them from the rare proof-only pieces which have a very small date. The 1849 along with the 1850 and the 1857 is one of the three "key" dates of this era. The coin is often available in VF or EF condition, but an unusually large number of 1849's seem to have rim nicks. I would be interested to know if any EAC members have an explanation as to why the 1849 half cent is plagued by this problem.

1850. I have found that this coin is the scarcest of the braided hair half cents. Most of these coins are poorly struck, especially on the obverse, giving the available pieces an appearance of more wear on the coin than actually occurred.

1851 and 1853. These two dates are the most common of the braided hair half cents and are the pieces most often offered as type coins. I have found that the 1851 is slightly more common than the 1853. The 1853 half cent is often weakly struck in the areas around the stars.

1854. This coin is less common than the 1851 and 1853 half cents, but it is not as hard to locate as the 1849 and 1850 issues. It is interesting to note that the hub scratch in back of Miss Liberty's ear was corrected by the die

sinker for this year only on the face of the working die. All of the other business strike dates of this type display this feature.

1855. This date is about as scarce as the 1854 and it comes fairly well struck. The hub scratch noted above reappears and continues to be found on the rest of the half cent series. The two 5's are slanting, as they are on the large cents of the same date (the slanting 5's are attributed to the Chief Engraver, James Longacre).

1856. This date is scarcer than the previous four issues and could be considered to rank in scarcity with the 1849 half cent. The striking, although not as bad as the 1850 half cent, is not as good as the 1854 or the 1855 issues.

1857. This coin is somewhat over-rated, at least by half cent standards. Although the mintage was fairly small (35,180) and a large number of those coins were said to have been melted down at the mint, the survival rate for those pieces which were released was higher than average. Defect-free circulated coins are seldom seen in less than VF30 condition, and the striking for the 1857 is better than it was for many of the other braided hair half cents. The only common area of striking weakness is at the center of the obverse for the letters 'TY'. (Note the plate coin in Cohen's book, 2nd ed.) The 1857 half cent is usually available for about 30 per cent more than the common date pieces of this era.

Undoubtedly, many 'old time' collectors have found some of my rarity estimates to be over-stated, and some new collectors may have found that some of the coins which I have rated as common are really hard to locate. This is indicative of the problem which faces all of us: a shortage of decent copper (or of any collectors' coins) available on the market. The reasons for this shortage are many, and I hope to cover them in an article to be published in P-W later this fall.

In conclusion, I believe that in the years to come we will continue to see a paradoxical situation: - the rarity ratings for many varieties will continue to fall, and there will be fewer nice coins available in the market place.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### A SPECIAL OFFER FROM MID-AMERICAN RARE COIN AUCTIONS, INC.

Mid-American Rare Coin Auctions, Inc. is pleased to announce its upcoming "San Diego Sale" to be held in conjunction with the September 28-30, 1984 San Diego Show. Included in the public and mail bid sale will be several nice Colonials, 56 Half Cents, and 83 Large Cents. Among the Half Cents will be two 1793's, no less than twelve Liberty Caps, an 1805 Cohen 2, and several high grade examples of the Draped Bust and later date Types. In the Large Cent section, a 1794 "Starred Reverse" will be offered, along with a Condition Census Sheldon 208, a Proof 1837 Newcomb 8 (ex-Starr), an 1850 Newcomb 11 (ex-Starr), and two other Proofs in a special ANACS graded section. Mid-American Rare Coin Auctions, Inc. is offering a copy of their catalogue free to EAC members who write and request one. A total of 1400+ lots of United States coins will be offered in a large 160 page catalogue. Take advantage of this special offer by writing to Ron Guth, c/o Mid-American Rare Coin Auctions, Inc., #6 Chevy Chase Place, Lexington, Kentucky 40502 or call 1-800-223-5954. The number of catalogues is limited and will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following comment from Frank Wilkinson was received with the article printed below: "Roger Cohen and I have taken a lot of flak, either directly or indirectly, for being interested only in Condition Census half cents. We also have noticed that some coin collectors regard their coins with religious awe. So we are adding some levity to the pages of P-W and are giving some recognition to some very low grade half cent varieties. None of the owners of these coins have been identified by name, nor are they easily identifiable by the descriptions we have given to them. You might like to include this little foreword to our article so as to let the members know what they are about to read."

#### A HALF CENT CONDITION CENSUS IN REVERSE

Being "A Few Rare Dogs" by two Half Cent Outcasts

- 1793 All varieties - too many good candidates.
- 1794 C-3a Steve Fischer reports that he found one unattributed in the stock of Richard Gross. Its grade was G, but it was so pitted that he declined to purchase it. This is one of the few rare half cent varieties which is generally nice, even when it is only G or VG.
- 1794 C-3b A Southern Californian found this coin and has been advertising it in P-W. It is still the worst known despite the discovery of a third specimen.
- 1794 C-6 Ron Guth had one for sale a few years ago which would have graded G except that it had been broken in half.
- 1794 C-7 The famous college student found one with the high relief head and the cent-type reverse so that its attribution was simple enough. The coin would have been graded 3/1, but it was black, bent, and porous.
- 1795 C-2b Ron Guth found this coin in 1977. The coin is of G to VG sharpness and it has excellent color, but basically it is well-mangled. Reportedly, RJG paid a famous Maryland collector a fortune to take it off his hands.
- 1795 C-3 No question about this one: the top honors belong to the Ruby coin, and it is plated in the Ruby catalogue. This coin had an awful case of cancer, although the cataloguer said it had been in a fire. The coin has been expertly recolored, but the coin is ugly. The Alford coin would be in contention, but no half cent collectors we know would admit to owning such a monster.
- 1795 C-6b Lusk - college student - reasonably famous New Jersey collector. The coin has the sharpness of AG3, but it is bent and has been polished. This is another coin which was sold before the final breakup of the magnificent college student collection.
- 1796 C-1 This is the Ruby coin, the plugged one. Both Ruby coins were plated, but since this is the worst No Pole, you'll have no trouble in determining which one we're referring to.
- 1796 C-2 This is the coin in the 1976 ANA sale and was plated in the sale catalogue. The coin has three 8's stamped into the obverse and the reverse is smooth. The coin brought \$400. at that sale from a prescient fellow who knew that 'worst knowns' would become famous and valuable some day.

- 1797 C-3c This coin is listed in The Top Ten as BS1. We have a pressing. The discoverer sold it via John Wright to the Great Shal, who became ill from rabies.
- 1802 C-1 There are two excellent contenders for the top spot here. The first candidate is a 3/ or 4/1 which was purchased unattributed by its current owner. He noticed that if you turn the slick reverse to a point just so in the light, you can see that it has reverse A. The second candidate is a coin owned by a famous Midwest collector. It has punctures on its obverse and reverse. The coin has some merit for keeping it out of first place - it has the undertype of an 1801 cent showing.
- 1803 C-2 Here we have another tie. The first was in the first line set of a famous Michigan collector for several years. The coin would be graded G or VG except for a small hole right through the center of the coin. The other candidate is a late state example which Lusk and McGuigan tried to sell at \$22. for years. We think that they paid WKR \$18. for it. It would be graded G except that it is dark and its surface is blistered, as though it had been burnt.
- 1804 C-2 The worst coin here is the HAS-DWL-JRM-Virginia copper specialist coin. The DWL-Pennsylvania collector coin had this position sewed up, but the Penny collector says his coin is far better than the HAS coin. The HAS 1804 C-2 is the worst known. The coin is lower than any of the 9 others which we have either seen or have heard about from reliable sources.
- 1804 C-4 The leading candidate that we are aware of here is the one which WKR unloaded late one night at the end of one of the famous half cent 'happenings'.
- 1804 C-7 The famous college student took a studybreak one day and found one of these in a dealer's stock at a coin show in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The coin would have graded VG but someone who didn't like its Spiked Chin chose to remove the spike and a quarter of the face. The coin is incredibly ugly. The dealer sent it to a Cohen protegee who is known for collecting such creatures, and it is said that he was very glad to get it for about fifty bucks.
- 1805 C-2 We recently saw this coin in a very high-powered Whist match, and it required the keen eye of John Wright to point out that the coin has a plug in its center. The coin would be a VG, but it has been pounded severely on the obverse.
- 1806 C-3 This coin is owned by a Cohen protegee. It is so worn that one can barely see the BE of LIBERTY which is necessary to attribute the piece.
- 1808 C-1 This coin, ex Fred Borchardt-Steve Fischer-Richard Gross-Maryland collector, actually lives in Virginia. The coin reportedly was attacked by an ice pick some time back.
- 1831-Original The Miles coin, through several intermediaries, to the real dog, Wigglesworth. The coin has been poorly recolored and has scratches on the reverse. Nonetheless, it grades at least a 10 or 15.

The authors are interested in any information that would lead us to believe that we have overlooked some rabid dog. But we are not interested in hearing from any of the current owners of the above coins who want to claim that their piece is not as bad as so-and-so's coin. Nor do we want to be called a so-and-so. And we will not accord first place to any coin which one of our contemporaries has mutilated or has carried around as a pocketpiece so as to wear it down a bit in order that it could become first.

Frank Wilkinson  
W 348 Owen Hall MSU  
East Lansing, MI 48825

Roger S. Cohen  
4701 Sangamore Road  
Bethesda, MD 20816

\* \* \* \* \*

#### NEW CANDIDATES FOR EAC MEMBERSHIP

The following persons have applied for membership in EAC since the last issue of P-W. Provided that no adverse comments on any particular individual are received by the Membership Committee before the November issue of P-W, all will be declared elected to full membership at that time. Chairman of the Membership Committee is Rod Burress, 9743 Leacrest, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45215.

	Member Number
Kelly, William J.	Lansdale, PA 2133
Weeks, William L.	Warner Robins, GA 2134
Craft, Rickey M.	Jacksonville, NC 2135
RoeLOfs, Reigh L.	CAnoga Park, CA 2136
Gaffney, Thomas D.	Amherst, MA 2137
Goetz, Jack	Artesia, CA 2138
Menzel, Raymond R.	Wheaton, IL 2139
Courshon, Leo	Lyons, IL 2140
Farr, Don	Miami, FL 2141
Deruyter, William A.	Ocracoke, NC 2142
Savage, Thomas S.	Pasadena, CA 2143
Fogarty, Michael Leonar	New York, NY 2144
Bennett, Allen	Apple Valley, CA 2145
Vesely, Steve	Joliet, IL 2146
Starrett, Kenneth E.	Wheeling, IL 2147
Quain, William Joseph	Chester Springs, PA 2148
Russell, Richard E.	Danville, IN 2149
Porter, William B.	Washington, DC 2150
Enders, Howard C.	Tenafly, NJ 2151
Munz, Charles E.	Teaneck, NJ 2152
Marshall, James M.	Johnstown, PA 2153
Kraft, Gordon II	Bay City, MI 2154
Thompson, Michael	Goshen, NY 2155
Goldberg, Leonard S.	Arlington, VA 2156

\* \* \* \* \*

Any philosophy that can be put in a nutshell probably belongs there.

..... THE RAT FINK

## RARITY- THE NEED AND A PLAN FOR CHANGE

John G. Fettinger

When Dr. Sheldon presented his SCALE FOR RARITY, no explanation was offered for the progression factors of 3 and 4 used on R8 and R7 respectively nor the lower 2.5 factor adopted for R6 and R5. On the individual variety ratings themselves, he merely commented that they "should be accepted in charity for what they are, namely, an author's best guess on the subject." In the intervening years as additional specimens were discovered, variety ratings have been revised and the scale has been amended with (+), ( ) and (-) suffixes to compensate for the inflated prices currently demanded for large cents. No one has implied that these revisions represent an ultimate nor that the subdivision of the rarity levels into thirds has corrected the scale's progression inconsistencies but the need for change was obvious. However, having accepted the concept of change, rather than attempt repair of the original scale, is it not prudent to consider the merits of an entirely new rarity scale?

The following is offered in the hope for cooperative endeavor from which a new universally accepted rarity scale may emerge. As a beginning, let us consider the features which might be incorporated in such a scale. It should:

1. Be easy to understand and use.
2. Be based upon a uniform progression.
3. Have a wide range and contain sufficient subdivision levels.
4. Have convenient mid-scale specimen counts.
5. Have potential for broad numismatic application.
6. Relate to a table of value premiums.
7. Be structured similar to Dr. Sheldon's SCALE FOR RARITY.
8. Present minimal transition problems.

These features are not necessarily arranged in an order of importance and there are probably other elements which should be included. If you feel there is any serious omission, please speak up so provision can be made.

Many members may regard Dr. Sheldon's scale as too well established for change but in reality the inconsistency of his progression factors are like a ruler divided into inches of different length. On the other hand, a scale based upon a uniform progression throughout its entire scope would be simple to understand and the value premiums which this supports would be uniform in their relationship with each other. The problem in developing such a scale is the selection of a progression factor which yields sufficient specimen counts at higher rarity levels, has countable mid-range maximums and develops estimated counts of over 50,000 for the lowest level of rarity. A uniform progression factor of 2.5 produces specimen counts which are too low for the higher rarity levels whereas a 3.5 factor which solves this problem yields a R5( ) maximum that is too high for actual counting. A factor of 3 (see proposed scale) seems to develop specimen counts which are reasonable for all levels while creating an increment structure similar to Dr. Sheldon's scale.

PROPOSED RARITY AND VALUE SCALE				
Rarity Level	Adjectival Term	Specimen Counts		Value Premium
		Minimum	Maximum	
RB(+)	Unique &	(1,3333)	1	140.6X (*)
RB ( )	Nearly		2	93.8X (*)
RB(-)	Unique		3	62.5X (*)
R7(+)	Extremely Rare		4	46.9X (*)
R7 ( )		5 to	6	31.3X (*)
R7(-)		7 to	9	20.8X (*)
R6(+)	Very Rare	10 to	12	15.6X
R6 ( )		13 to	18	10.4X
R6(-)		19 to	27	6.9X
R5(+)	Rare	28 to	36	5.2X
R5 ( )		37 to	54	3.5X
R5(-)		55 to	81	2.3X
Specimen Counts Are Estimated Below This Level				
R4(+)	Very Scarce	82 to	108	1.7X
R4 ( )		109 to	162	1.2X
R4(-)		163 to	243	X
R3(+)	Scarce	244 to	324	X
R3 ( )		325 to	486	X
R3(-)		487 to	729	X
R2(+)	Not So Common	730 to	972	X
R2 ( )		973 to	1458	X
R2(-)		1459 to	2187	X
R1(+)	Common	2188 to	2916	X
R1 ( )		2917 to	4374	X
R1(-)		4375 to	6561	X
C1(+)	Very Common	6562 to	8748	X
C1 ( )		8749 to	13122	X
C1(-)		13123 to	19683	X
C2(+)	Extremely Common	19684 to	26244	X
C2 ( )		26245 to	39366	X
C2(-)		39367 to	59049	X

(\*) These value premiums are speculative and have been listed for comparative purposes only.

As you can see, a progression factor of 3 generates a uniform table of minimum and maximum counts that has potential for broad numismatic application. To facilitate comparison with Dr. Sheldon's scale, the highest rarity level has been maintained at R8. R1 is followed by C1 and C2 to denote more common rarity levels. If these are considered awkward, R10 to R1 can be substituted, the last two levels may be omitted, or the (+), ( ) and (-) subdivisions may be changed to a scale with 30 separate rarity levels. Nothing is carved in stone and may easily be changed.

Some of the more interesting features of this scale are:

- A. The maximum specimen counts of (+), ( ) and (-) at any level are 3 times higher than the count for the same step in the next higher rarity group.
- B. The minimum to maximum specimen count spread at the ( ) level is always one third of the total count spread of its respective group.
- C. The minimum to maximum specimen count spread of any (-) suffix is always 3 times greater than the (+) count spread of its respective group.
- D. The 81 maximum specimen count for R5(-), although slightly higher than the 75 maximum in Dr. Sheldon's scale as amended, is still convenient for counting.
- E. The 59,049 maximum specimen count at C2(-) is large enough to encourage scale adoption by other numismatic disciplines.
- F. The X value premium at any (+), ( ) or (-) level is directly related to the maximum count of its respective subdivision and is approximately 3 times greater than the premium of the same subdivision in the next lower rarity group.
- G. The X value premiums at R5( ) and higher rarity levels are greater than those generated by the specimen counts in Dr. Sheldon's scale which should encourage adoption whereas the premium reductions for R5(-), R4(+) and R4( ) are small enough to be accepted.

While none of these features separately or collectively mandate the choice of a rarity scale based upon a progression factor of 3, they do provide a comparative basis by which other alternative scales with uniform progressions may be judged. No provision has been made for grade rarity within a variety as this is best accommodated by amendment to the condition census values.

Perhaps I have placed too much emphasis upon the features of simplicity and overall uniformity. However, if we continue to endow the rarer varieties with such outrageous premiums as are demanded today, the levels of rarity and the value premiums which they support deserve justification in a manner readily understood and accepted by all. It is my most sincere hope that this proposal will stimulate sufficient interest to encourage the adoption of a new rarity scale.

IN MEMORIAM

John S. Ashby, Jr.

1924 - 1984

On 12 July 1984, we buried my friend, John Ashby. For the large church funeral, John's wife Marge selected pallbearers from family, friends in his Optimists' chapter, friends in his church prayer breakfast group, and coin friends.

John was born on April 12, 1924 in Chicago, raised in Chicago, and was graduated from Dartmouth College. He served as a Pharmacists Mate, USMC, during World War II, moved to Indianapolis in 1949, and was recalled to active duty for the Korean conflict. He was an avid sportsman all his life, playing football in college, winning many trophies in squash over the years, and a few golf trophies. But his consuming sports love - as with any true Hoosier - was I.U. basketball.

John's hobbies were never half-way. He moved from a 100-bird aviary for show parakeets, to twenty tanks of freshwater show fish, to a passion for Lincoln memorabilia that led to a 'Lincoln Room' in his home, and finally to coins, settling into early American coppers. The coin involvement began in 1965, when one of his daughters chose coins as a merit badge project in Girl Scouts. John sold life insurance, a product needed but disliked by all; and he welcomed the contrast of selling coins, a product which his friends eagerly sought. His insurance agency was allowed to atrophy as his emphasis shifted more to coins in the mid to late 1970's. John chose not to compete with his customers and confined his personal collection to error cents and half cents.

John was active in church work, being an Elder in the largest Presbyterian church in Indianapolis, and several of his closer friendships grew out of their regular prayer breakfasts. He was a past president of his Optimist chapter and he was heavily involved for over eight years in work with prison youth.

John was a very strong promoter of the EAC organization and he numbered several hundred of us among his friends. He appreciated the many cards and telephone calls from you, his friends, during his long illness. During the last two years, what at first seemed an eye problem developed into a malignancy that two operations could not arrest. On the night of 9 July 1984, John left behind his worldly goods, a loving wife, a mother, a sister, two grown daughters, three grandchildren, and many hundreds of friends. We all hurt at our loss, but I praise God for the privilege of being one of those friends whose life was touched by John S. Ashby, Jr.

- JDW

\* \* \* \* \*

NOTICE

Anyone having unfinished business with John Ashby, please drop me a note with the particulars at the address below. Such things have been held in abeyance the last few months while we attended to more pressing matters. We now have the help and the time to research and resolve John's unfinished business, and we appreciate your reminders and your patience.

Marge Ashby  
P.O. Box 20403  
Indianapolis, IN 46220

From - Joseph Tomasko, Jr.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN S. ASHBY, JR.

As we all know, each of us must walk down our own road or pathway in life. Our path crosses those of many others; and where those footways become parallel, hopefully a friendship has been made. Well, I lost a good friend in the passing of John S. Ashby, Jr., but how fortunate I was to have known him! We all share in the sadness of John Ashby's death. Yet, his friendly style and positiveness of character have made those who knew him more enriched in their lives from their acquaintance with him.

It was John Ashby who got me to join EAC. Early in 1978, when I knew that I would be collecting copper coins, I sought someone who had material to sell and knowledge to share. I answered one of John's advertisements, and this was the beginning of frequent letters and many telephone calls between us. Like many people, I was hesitant about joining a club such as EAC; and for many months, John would ask if I had become a member yet, and if not, what was I waiting for? Finally, he told me that if I did not sign up for membership that he was going to do it for me. I told John that it wouldn't be necessary for him to do that, and I then became involved with EAC. That was the kind of person that John Ashby was.

About December, 1978, I started saving John's letters and notes. Initially, his letters spoke only about the coins which we collected. It wasn't until June of 1979 that I first met John Ashby personally. He had introduced me to several people by this time, and our correspondence was no longer limited to our collective coins but now included our collective friends as well. During the summer of 1979, I learned that John's father was bed-ridden in a Chicago hospital. When John would come to Chicago to visit him, we sometimes made arrangements to meet for part of the day. Later, I learned that John had other relatives in the Chicago area and that he loved to play golf.

In November, 1979, John wrote me "Don't forget that you've got an invitation to stay with me when the Indiana State Coin Show is on!" John Ashby extended his unflinching courtesy to me on every occasion; he gave me his trust and his confidence; and he opened his door to me as if I had been a lifelong friend.

By 1980, scarcely a letter passed between us without the mention of John's father. During 1980, John also encouraged me to write my first article for P-W and he said that I should write about the various EAC meetings which I attended. Here are some excerpts from John's letters during 1980:

- May 16 - "I'm up to my ears in work. Have a tough time getting out to the golf course these days."
- June 8 - "Who knows, you might end up being the greatest numismatist in history!" (wishful thinking or encouragement?)
- June 20 - "Yes, my friend, I'll get to your home one of these days. Not till after your sister's wedding though."
- July 1 - "I take it that you are making plans for the ANA in Cincinnati . . ." (my first one)
- October 1 - "It's amazing how you can come up with at least two different prices."
- October 24 - "I have put the name of your friend, Don Valenziano, on my mailing list."
- November - "Dad's dying."

December 11 - "Yes, I realize that I still haven't visited you in Chicago."  
December 12 - ". . . Joe, you and your nice family have a Merry Christmas  
and a joyous New Year."

I hope that you can understand how the nature of our letters had changed. My only regret is that we didn't get together more frequently. John Ashby was a joy to be with, and I'm very proud to have had those personal letters from him.

The early part of January, 1982 saw bitter cold weather with heavy snow here in Chicago. John was down in Florida preparing for the F.U.N. show when his father passed away. Traveling into the Chicago area was very difficult, compounded even more by the nature of the trip. To what degree this affected John's health; we can only speculate. In June, 1982, John failed for the first time to put out his monthly price list while he underwent the first of many operations which would prolong his life, yet inevitably take it. The last time I saw John alive was during the Indiana State Numismatic Association meeting in 1983.

Even in the face of adversity, John had a positive outlook. Despite his failing health, he remained as optimistic as anyone, and he encouraged others to continue their collecting which they so enjoyed. In my last letter from John, which was one of great length I might add, John said, "I am slowly getting more unstable as far as my walking due to the damage of the right inner ear. I certainly hope that this is corrected, because I would look rather odd on the golf course this coming summer." In the same letter, John went on to talk about the Civil War and his visit to a battlefield near Chattanooga, Tennessee. He spoke of his wife caring for him and her elderly parents. John hoped that I would keep my friendship with John Wright and with Ken Mote. He said that Joan and Ron Widok were especially nice people. This was John Ashby, Jr.

As you walk down the path of life today, you'll notice that a set of foot-prints is missing - the Lord is carrying John Ashby!

\* \* \* \* \*

ROD BURRESS                      9743 Leacrest                      Cincinnati, Ohio 45215

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Jeweler's tissue 4x4 inch	Box of 1,000 sheets	\$6. 250 sheets \$2.
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Wooden stick Q-tips	\$4.00 per 500	\$7.50 per 1,000
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Heavy Duty 28 lb. gray coin envelopes	Box of 500	\$6.75
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(from P-W 1979-1980 revision by Denis Loring) .. 33 pgs. \$2.65		
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Add \$1.65 per order for shipping. Shipment by UPS - you must give a street address, not deliverable to P.O. Box number.

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## BREEN'S ENCYCLOPEDIA - A REVIEW

John D. Wright, NLG

The promised book has finally arrived! The 'comparative review' which I envisioned two years ago of Roger Cohen's and Walter Breen's half cent books can now be done. But how does one compare 131 pages of well-presented research material and excellent photographs against 501 pages of well-presented research material and phenomenal photographs delivered almost three years later? That Breen's book was 30 years in preparation is evident from its content. At first impression, the title ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HALF CENTS seems presumptuous - the subject appears too narrow for a cyclopedic coverage. But a review of the contents shows the book to be all that it claims - an encyclopedia.

Over the last 13 years, Cohen's two editions have become the standard, the latest word, and the wordbook of a new cult of collectors. I can't see that changing any more than I could see Mercedes running Ford out of business. Nobody is going to carry a six-pound book around a coin show. But many people - I for one - will want a reference that, in enjoyable clarity, covers more than they ever wanted to know about half cents. To coin a pun, Breen has really done it up brown. Cohen's book contains little not found in Breen, and Breen's book has much not found in Cohen. I would want both books. But if you must choose, balance your wants against your wallet. Do you prefer what you need for \$25., or everything for \$60.?

Specific information on rarity and condition census is more complete and clearer in the Breen book, and is more current in the Cohen book - an anomaly attributed to the fact that Breen's manuscript was completed before Cohen's second edition (January, 1982).

As an object, Jack Collins has raised Breen's manuscript to a true art form. His lay-out is eye-appealing and easy to follow, his photography is awesome - at a crystal-clear 3-inch diameter - and his attention to the technical details of production are meticulous. This insistence on perfection is the main reason that the book took almost 3 years from announcement until delivery. The only quality compromise is the card-paper cover (a cost measure), which seems cheap in contrast.

The manuscript itself covers not only hard core variety information, but also such related topics as a literature survey, a detailed discussion of minting processes, half cent pre-history (1783-1793), a fully readable discussion on "The Bottom Line" - dollars for half cents, leading into discussion on rarity, condition, and a fairly comprehensive photo-grading guide for half cents. Much of the background information alluded to in other publications has been included here in all its gory detail. Practically nothing was left out, from excruciatingly detailed pedigrees, to detailed enumeration of die states, to the fabric of flan stock for various varieties, to discussions on related pieces such as the Smith counterfeits, the Washington half cent, the Edward copy 1796, the 1837 token, and the proof half cents struck in 1857-1860. The final chapter, aptly titled "Whoops", covers every form of mint error - most of them came on half cents. And then the "piece de resistance" - eleven superb color plates of two-inch images of the most awesome date set of half cents imaginable. If your budget permits \$60. for a coin book, this is the best \$60. book you will ever find. You won't carry it to coin shows, but you will thoroughly enjoy it at home.

\* \* \* \* \*

EAC MEMBERSHIP STATE-TISTICS - 1984

William J. Parks

The more things change the more they stay the same. For the last two years we've had members in only 49 states. Then with Consecutive Issue No. 100 WE MADE IT--we had members in ALL states with the state of Montana finally joining our ranks. Then before our 101st Issue we lost our two North Dakota members so we are again back to members in 49 states.

Total membership increased from 1224 in 1983 to 1239 in 1984. The first place changed back to California with 141 members and New York went to second place. Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and New Jersey held their 3rd to 6th places respectively. Massachusetts just edged Michigan out of 7th place.

The 1983 report appeared in PENNY-WISE No. 98 (Vol. V×II, No. 5) p. 260, 15 September 1983.

Below are the membership figures, computer obtained, by states, as of September 1st, 1984:

1. California	141	Georgia	18	Dist. of Columbia	6
2. New York	126	Missouri	17	South Carolina	6
3. Pennsylvania	89	North Carolina	17	Louisiana	5
4. Ohio	78	Kansas	16	Nevada	5
5. Illinois	74	Iowa	12	Hawaii	5
6. New Jersey	63	Oregon	12	Vermont	5
7. Massachusetts	51	Tennessee	11	New Mexico	4
8. Michigan	50	Wisconsin	10	Nebraska	4
9. Texas	48	Alabama	9	Alaska	3
10. Florida	44	West Virginia	9	Idaho	3
Maryland	39	Oklahoma	9	South Dakota	3
Virginia	38	Arizona	9	Utah	2
Connecticut	34	New Hampshire	8	Rhode Island	2
Indiana	27	Delaware	8	Montana	1
Colorado	26	Mississippi	8	North Dakota	0
Kentucky	19	Arkansas	8		
Minnesota	19	Maine	7	Canada	2
Washington	18	Wyoming	7	Japan	1

Membership total for 1979 was 569 with members in 46 states. In 1980 we picked up 146 new members for a total of 715 with only two states missing: Montana and South Dakota. On September 1st of 1981 we had 960 members, an increase of 245 over a year ago with Montana and Utah missing. September 1st of 1982 found us with a membership of 1127; an increase of 167 and only Montana missing. Members totaled 1224 on September 1st of 1983, an increase of 97 members and again Montana was the only state missing.

This issue of PENNY-WISE is our seventeenth anniversary issue. "We've come a long ways, Baby" from a humble beginning of just a handful of members. All of this is due to many dedicated members. "EXCELSIOR"! Forward and onward. To them this issue is dedicated.

\* \* \* \* \*

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# WALTER BREEN'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF UNITED STATES HALF CENTS 1793-1857

An outstanding contribution to numismatics, this book boasts innovative features far beyond anything hitherto attempted in any research work on American coins, giving a new meaning to "state of the art," in a format equally usable by beginner and by advanced specialist. Among these features:

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- Manufacturing processes in use at the Philadelphia Mint during the period of half cent coinage are analyzed in detail in their historical context — accounting for numerous peculiarities of planchets, dies, and striking.
- Every variety and every subvariety (intentional change in edge or planchet stock) are described in unprecedented detail, some appearing for the first time in print.
- Every variety and subvariety will appear in 3" enlarged photographs, using the finest known specimens and the finest photography in the history of American numismatics.
- Condition Census coins are listed in meticulous detail with their historic pedigree chains, some going back to the 1860's. Many of these have never before been published; others embody corrections to previous references. This is the most comprehensive listing ever attempted in this denomination. "Condition Census" here does not mean only the top six; in some dates as many as twenty are included.
- A unique system for photographing the entire edge of a coin was developed specially for this volume. The edge photograph shows as a continuous ring without visible distortion affording instant identification of the six different edge devices found on half cents.
- All die states are described in logical progression, some for the first time in print.
- In a radical departure from previous reference works, a verbal grading system is photographically standardized.



- Values are indicated in terms of auction results of many high grade examples over the years and decades, in line with Breen's position that the ultimate basis of coin values is auctions, not dealers' fixed price offerings.

- For the delight of mint error fanciers and the utter astonishment of everyone else, the most extensive collection ever assembled of major mint errors in this denomination is illustrated and analyzed in depth.

- Previous literature on half cents is surveyed in detail, with local color and "human interest" features, settling ancient controversies, clearing up earlier plate errors and descriptive errors which had been for generations perpetuating confusions, putting numismatic ghosts to rest.

- The history of the denomination begins with the first half cent made for the Confederation (the 1783 Constellatio Nova Copper 5 Units), and continues to the end of manufacture of restrikes (July 30, 1860).

- Over a dozen hoards are described; part of the 1833 hoard of blazing red Mint State specimens is illustrated in full color.

- Famous concoctions, such as the "1793" Washington, the "1806" Washington, and the "1796" Edwards copy are analyzed in unprecedented detail.

- Coverage of proofs is more comprehensive than that in Breen's Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins, 1722-1977, using data hitherto unavailable, illustrated coins not then known to exist.

- Proofs are illustrated along with business strikes from the same dies, to dramatize more vividly than any words the differences in striking quality, and permanently easing the task of dealer or collector in distinguishing real proofs from early strikings for circulation.

- History of the proof restrikes is told in greater detail than anywhere previously. Controversies about these coins, raging since the 1870's, are settled here for good. The Mint's officials and workmen responsible for them are named; the store where they were clandestinely peddled by the Mint's night watchman is located: a stunning piece of detective work.

- As a bonus for the aficionado of beautiful half cents, there is a date set of extraordinary examples of every date from 1793 to 1857, photographed in full color, using technical finesse and aesthetic discrimination to produce results of breathtaking beauty, far beyond anything, previously attempted in American coin catalogues or specialized reference works.

- The term "Encyclopedia" has been previously used for many works not one tenth as comprehensive in breadth or depth of coverage of their chosen series as this one. This book is an object lesson in how a numismatic reference book can and should be done from now on; a labor of love, a marriage of technology, art, economics, history and logic. It will be indispensable for the numismatic sections of public libraries everywhere.

- Regular copies retail at \$60.00. There is also a deluxe limited printing, bound in full leather covers boasting embossed die-cut medallions of the 1793 design (enlarged to silver dollar size), and with glossy color photographs rather than the regular illustrations, available at \$300.00: one of the most luxurious numismatic books ever produced.

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BACK ISSUES OF PENNY-WISE AVAILABLE

The following back issues of PENNY-WISE are available for purchase:

#90 May 15, 1982	#98 September 15, 1983
91 July 15, 1982	99 November 15, 1983
92 September 15, 1982	100 January 15, 1984
95 March 15, 1983	101 March 15, 1984
96 May 15, 1983	102 May 15, 1984
97 July 15, 1983	103 July 15, 1984

The price for each issue is \$1.75. Multiply the quantity ordered by \$1.75 and then add \$.50 for shipment. Shipping is done by United Parcel Service, so you must furnish a street address for delivery. Make your check payable to EAC and forward to Rod Burress, 9743 Leacrest, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215.

\* \* \* \* \*



PENNY-WISE celebrates its 17th anniversary with this 104th consecutive issue! That's a lot of years and plenty of issues!

EAC AT ANS

Colonel Bill Murray, NLG

Richard G. Doty, American Numismatic Society representative, spoke briefly to the EAC meeting held on July 29 at the ANA's annual convention in Detroit. His subject was the conference on "Early American Coppers" to be held at ANS in New York City from Friday, November 30 through Sunday, December 2, 1984.

It is noteworthy that the ANS chose "Early American Coppers" as the topic for this event, the first of a planned annual affair. It is hoped that many members of EAC will be able to attend. The speaking slate is now firm, Doty said (see schedule on page 314 in this issue of P-W). Not surprisingly, the roster of those presenting the twenty-minute papers sounds suspiciously like a select committee of EAC members - not quite, perhaps.

In order to properly plan the conference, Doty asked that those planning to attend please write him. Arrangements for housing and social functions need to be considered early, if these activities are to be adequately coordinated. If you are interested, and I suspect that many EACers will be, write to him at:

Richard G. Doty  
American Numismatic Society  
Broadway at 155th Street  
New York, NY 10032  
Telephone: (212) 234-3130

Doty also urged EAC members to prepare exhibits for the affair. He emphasized: "Exhibits are considered a very, very important part of the conference. We need more."

He stated that security would be tight. Potential exhibitors are asked to communicate with him as soon as possible at the above address or telephone number. We all know that many members of our organization not only have significant material to exhibit but also the skill to prepare fine displays of early American copper. If you are such a person, please support this worthwhile project by exhibiting.

Doty asked the speakers to submit their papers to him no later than September 15 since it is hoped to publish them in the Spring, 1985, which is a tight time table for "an academic-oriented organization".

\* \* \* \* \*

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## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

ATTENTION! LAST MINUTE NOTICE!!  
YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION IS INVITED!

The 2nd annual Greater Cincinnati Numismatic Exposition is being held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 14-16, 1984 at the Drawbridge Convention Center in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky, near the Cincinnati Airport. Take I-75 and exit at Exit 186. The show will be open from 10 A.M. to 7 P.M. on Friday and Saturday and from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. on Sunday.

Over 100 national dealers will be in attendance at the show. Auctions by McLaughlin & Robinson of Vienna, Virginia and by Columbia Auction Galleries of Cincinnati will be held at 7:30 P.M. on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Also included at the show are exhibits sponsored by the Cincinnati Numismatic Association; authentication seminar by John Hunter, formerly with ANACS; and various club meetings including EAC's, from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. on Saturday.

EACer Paul Padgett, of 2200 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati 45206 - telephone (513) 861-5506, is general chairman of the exposition.

\* \* \* \* \*

The EAC Upstate New York Section will hold a regional meeting at 2 P.M. on Saturday, September 29 at the Meeting House of the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, 310 Genesee Street, Utica, New York. The Meeting House is located adjacent to the parking lot at the rear of the Institute. The EAC meeting is being held in conjunction with the Fall Convention of the Empire State Numismatic Association, which is meeting September 28-30 at the Sheraton Inn, 200 Genesee Street, Utica.

Topic for the EAC meeting will be "Attributing Half Cents and Large Cents". It is hoped that members will contribute hints, keys, shortcuts, suggestions, or whatever for attributing the early coppers. A slide projector, screen, and overhead projector will be available. Refreshments will be served.

\* \* \* \* \*

The next scheduled meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Region of EAC will be held at 1 P.M. on Sunday, October 31, 1984 at the Sheraton Inn in New Carrollton, Maryland. Planned events include a slide show and a small bid-board of early American coppers.

\* \* \* \* \*

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF FALL MEETING IN THE NY-NJ REGION

Frank H. Stillinger

A regional meeting has been scheduled by the New York-New Jersey Section for Saturday, November 3, 1984. This event coincides with the Grand Central Coin Convention, at the Omni Park Central Hotel in Manhattan, located at 7th Avenue and 56th Street. The meeting is expected to begin at 1 P.M. The speaker and principal subject for consideration have not been finally selected, but they can be expected (as usual!) to generate a lively and informative session.

\* \* \* \* \*

ANS CONFERENCE - Nov. 30 - Dec. 2

Richard G. Doty of ANS recently released the program of speakers and their topics which will be presented at ANS's "Coinage of the Americas Conference", to be held at the American Numismatic Society, 155th Street and Broadway, New York City, as follows:

Friday, November 30

- 1:00 Elvira Clain-Stefanelli: The Cent and the Money Economy of the Early United States  
1:30 Ron Guth: The Copper Coinage of Vermont  
2:00 Donald C. Partrick: The "Washington The Great" Cent  
(2:30-2:40 - Break)  
2:40 Eric P. Newman: Circulation of Non-Federal Coppers in the Early United States  
3:10 P. Scott Rubin: Establishing Pedigrees on 1792 Copper Patterns

Saturday, December 1

- 1:00 John Adams: Early American Coppers - the Collectors and the Tradition  
1:30 R. Tettenhorst: Overstrikes and Other Anomalies on Early Half Cents  
2:00 Roger Cohen: Original and Restrike Half Cents  
(2:30-2:40 - Break)  
2:40 Walter Breen: Robert Scot's Earliest Device Punches  
3:10 Denis Loring: Emission Sequences on Early Cents: Numismatists as Detectives  
3:40 George Ewing: Origins of Edge Lettering on Early American Copper Coinage

Sunday, December 2

- 1:00 Cory Gilliland: American Copper Coinage Design in Relation to Early American Art, 1793-1857  
1:30 David Cohen: The Randall Hoard  
2:00 Pete Smith: Die Progression on Turban Head Cents  
(2:30-2:40 - Break)  
2:40 Jules Reiver: Die Varieties in the Late Date Cent Series  
3:10 Herbert A. Silberman: Commentary: Early American Coppers

\* \* \* \* \*

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REPORT OF SOUTH DAKOTA EAC REGIONAL MEETING

Tom Reynolds

The South Dakota Coin and Stamp Association's annual show was held in Brookings, South Dakota on June 22-24. An informal gathering of EAC members and guests was held on the morning of the 23rd with the following in attendance:

Tim Conner	Glenn Jones
Max Gors	Mr. and Mrs. H. Lee Martens
Jan Jackson	Tom Reynolds

Max and Jan are from South Dakota, Glenn is from Minnesota, the Martens are from Wyoming and Tim and I are from Nebraska.

The usual topics of grading, planchet problems, availability of copper and collecting interests were discussed. Max displayed his collection of half cents and large cents. Max also passed around several close-up pictures that he had taken of several of his coins. The quality of photography was outstanding and was a first time effort.

\* \* \* \* \*

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\* \* \* \* \*

## MID-ATLANTIC EAC REGIONAL MEETING

Mike Packard

The Mid-Atlantic EAC Region held a meeting on July 14, 1984 at the Sheraton Inn in Lanham, Maryland. The following members and guests were present:

Russell Aldrich	Carl Ostiguy, Jr.	John Pryor
John Bergner	Mike Packard	Kermit Smyth
Roger Cohen	Bill Porter	George Waingold
Joe Kane	John Nicholas	Bob Younglof
Dave McGuinness	Jack Robinson	

After introductions, discussion centered on the recent sale of the Starr estate. Roger Cohen brought along to the meeting his Newcomb date set which included some of the 'Lesser Starrs'. Roger indicated that prices at the sale were strong, and he related how he repurchased for a little over \$300, a coin which he had sold back in 1953 for \$13.50. The coin had appreciated in value at an average rate of about 10 per cent per year over the thirty-one year period.

The next speaker was John Nicholas. He indicated that Ted Naftzger had allowed him to win a few lots and John seemed pleased with his new acquisitions. He spoke at some length about a pricing system which he had developed for the Newcomb series, and he said that the prices at the Starr sale were generally in line with what his system predicted. The major exceptions were the 'finest known' coins and in a few instances where two collectors each had to have a particular coin, e.g. the 1830 N-9. John indicated that he was planning to describe his system in an article for publication in PENNY-WISE.

Jack Robinson said that he thought that there were some real bargains amongst the Mint State late late dates. The rarities among the late late dates showed strong collector interest, he added.

Joe Kane, Regional Chairman, suggested that a bid board-type auction be held at future Mid-Atlantic EAC regional meetings. Response to this was enthusiastic, so we decided to try it out at our next regional meeting which will be held at the Lanham Sheraton Inn on the weekend of October 20th. Bid board rules are as follows:

1. There will be a maximum of 30 lots on any bid board.
2. Members may submit a maximum of 3 lots.
3. Members are allowed to specify reserve bids.
4. Lots should be given to Joe Kane or mailed to him at Box 599, McLean, Virginia 22101.
5. Bidding is only by EAC number. Hence, only EAC members may bid.
6. Bidding will close approximately 10 minutes after the close of the regional meeting.
7. Payment for lots will be made to Joe Kane who will pay Consignors.
8. When lots must be mailed to bidders, postage and insurance fees will be added to bid charges.
9. Postage charges will be subtracted from payment to consignors when settlement is made by mail.
10. No commission will be collected.

Jack Robinson of McLaughlin and Robinson Coins, Inc. indicated that he would be willing to hold the lots at his table prior to the EAC regional meeting so that members unable to attend the meeting would be able to bid on the lots if they attended the show prior to the regional meeting.

Future Mid-Atlantic EAC Regional Meetings will be held during the weekend of October 20 at the Sheraton Inn in Lanham, Maryland and in January, 1985 at Wilmington, Delaware.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### P-W REPRINT SET STILL AVAILABLE

The first reprint set of PENNY-WISE, Vols. I-IV, comprising issues 1 through 21, more than 700 pages, originally published in 1967-1970, is still available. The sets have been reprinted on a Xerox 9210 copier, are printed on both sides of each page, and are of excellent quality. The reprints measure 8½x11 inches, are collated, unbound, and appear as originally issued.

Of 100 sets reprinted, only 14 are still left and the first 14 checks take them. Each set is \$25. postpaid. Make your check to Early American Coppers, Inc. Be sure to include your name, address, and zip code. Forward your order to EAC, c/o John Wright, 1468 Timberlane Drive, St. Joseph, MI 49085.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### COUNTERSTAMPED LARGE CENTS WANTED

For Personal Collection

I enjoy collecting counterstamped large cents! When I was a kid I purchased Maurice M. Gould's personal collection - this was in 1956 - adding to it the Gildbody collection and, in the meantime, several hundred others. I desire large cents, any dates, counterstamped with name, or names and addresses, or logotypes (not stray marks or initials), including such often-seen items as VOTE THE LAND FREE, Dr. G. G. Wilkins, Devins & Bolton, and so on, as I collect these by dates as well. I also am desirous of purchasing any dates of Washington-Lafayette counterstamps on large cents. I am not looking for bargains and am willing to pay "retail" as these are for my own collection. Please describe and price, or just ship with an invoice to my personal attention. I will pay promptly for items purchased and will return postpaid any items not desired. Please help!

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\* \* \* \* \*

HALF CENT WHISTING IN DETROIT

Dr. Wallace Lee

My first Whist match! My first ANA convention in Detroit! My first big chance to meet a lot of really enthusiastic copper collectors. And this is my first letter to PENNY-WISE.

All of the above events made up a great week in Detroit for me. It started off on Wednesday with Auction '84, where I was able to snag a couple of proof half cents to add to my collection. Then, on Friday night at the Lepczyk sale, I was able to obtain some Michigan obsoletes and Michigan nationals which I also collect.

P.N.G. Day was Friday, and the show opened on Saturday which is a perfect time since more people can attend from out-of-town without missing too much work time. I had a great time at the convention, renewing old memories and finding some real gems which I felt that I couldn't live without.

On Saturday night, my wife Sue and I hosted a half cent happening at our house to which 23 enjoyable people came. Those present were:

Jon Lusk	John Wright	W. K. Raymond
Don Valenziano	Mabel Ann Wright	Sally L. Lusk
Roger Cohen	Frank Wilkinson	Deborah Cohen
Jim McGuigan	Stephen Fischer	Larry Eckert
Gene Braig	Sue Lee	Peter Huntoon
R. Tettenhorst	Jan Matthews	Mrs. Thompson
Wally Lee	John Brugg	Lloyd Thompson
Marv Evans	Richard S. Shimkus	

Sue fixed Sloppy Joe's, salad, cheese and crackers, nuts, and refreshments, etc. and then we all gathered around the table for the main event: a Whist match between Jon Lusk and Wallace Lee. Jon got off to a fast start with his beautiful 1793's, and the conversation began picking up in tempo. As the coins were passed around the table for the judges to make their selections, each would add an interesting comment about each coin. One coin in particular was thought by some to have been re-tooled (Dr. Lee's 1794 C-4a); but Roger Cohen enlightened us by saying that "it was an early strike and thus had deep hair lines." Wow! he almost lost me on that one, but it was finally agreed that the coin was authentic in its detail, thus giving me a winner.

I was amazed to find that some of the coins were recognized as to their previous owners. I had several coins which were traced back to their original owners for me, and my 1803 C-3 was thought to be the Dupont coin.

I finally caught up to Jon in my scoring about the 1800 era, and we battled on. Jon and I had figured on going all the way to 1857, but by the time we got to the 1809 coins (which is only 66 out of 99 varieties), we were starting to wear down. At that stage, I was ahead. It was after 1 A.M.; there was an EAC meeting at 9:30 the next morning; and we all felt that we should get in a few hours of sleep, so we mutually agreed to quit. A lot of fun, and an education, to boot.

ANA finally wound down to the banquet on Tuesday night. It was a great meal with even greater speakers. I won a third place for my exhibition of Michigan obsolete currency and for my encased postage. So, until the next ANA - just wait - wait - wait!

\* \* \* \* \*

MINUTES OF THE 1984 ANA-EAC MEETING

Denis W. Loring

The 1984 ANA-EAC meeting was opened at 9:30 A.M. by EAC Secretary, Denis Loring. A moment of silence marked the passing of John S. Ashby, Jr., one of EAC's best-known members and perhaps its greatest supporter.

In traditional fashion, members introduced themselves and stated their collecting interests.

Dick Doty described the ANS symposium on early American copper coinage to be held in New York from November 30 to December 2. Details appear elsewhere in this issue.

Walter Breen displayed an unbound copy of the new half cent encyclopedia. The book should be available for general distribution on August 15 at a price of \$60.

Denis Loring spoke on the early date revision. It has been decided that Walter Breen will write a magnum opus on early cents, much along the line of the half cent book. Denis Loring will supply the basic information on rarity, Condition Census, and die states. Del Bland will contribute his extensive research on pedigrees. The book is targeted for publication in 1987. Interim updates will be published in P-W.

Jack Robinson discussed his new price guide on large cent varieties, COPPER QUOTES BY ROBINSON. Detailed information on his work may be obtained from Jack at Box 564, Vienna, VA 22180.

Colonel Bill Murray raised the possibility of ANS publishing in its MUSEUM NOTES selected articles from PENNY-WISE. This issue will be discussed with the staff of ANS.

A general question-and-answer period followed. The meeting adjourned at 11 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis W. Loring  
Secretary

\* \* \* \* \*

At a subsequent date, Craig A. Whitford also supplied the Editor with a similar report of the meeting, for which we say thank you. His report added the following information:

"It was mentioned that EAC '85 will be held at the same time as the Michigan State Numismatic Society's Spring '85 convention.

The layout of the Early Cent Revision book will start each mintage year with variety number 1. The quality will be the same as Walter Breen's new masterpiece on half cents, and last but not least - the size will be BIG!

Jack Robertson stated that his COPPER QUOTES which covers large cents from 1816 to 1839 is a list to be used only as a guideline and is by no means cut in stone. He asked for assistance from the EACers in making the guide as accurate and complete as possible. Jack mentioned that his next COPPER QUOTES will cover the Newcomb late date cents, then onto half cents. When

all the guides are compiled, they will be published in book form.

The Worst-Known Half Cent Census is currently being compiled by Frank Wilkenson and Roger Cohen. How about holding an Anti-Whist match? Who knows what the future holds.....

Closing remarks and comments included, of course, the famed 'Starr Wars' sale of earlier this year, and we're all told to watch for the sequel, 'Starr II', later this fall.

And a closing comment..... How about a Duplicate Whist Match, Seconds against Seconds, or the 'Greedy opposed to the Needy'?"

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ATTENDANCE AT 1984 ANA-EAC

The following members and guests signed the roster at the EAC meeting held in conjunction with ANA '84.

Dick Doty	Bill Panitch	Gary E. Lewis
John Wright	Mike Sugamele	R. Tettenhorst
Denis Loring	Del Bland	Dr. Wallace Lee
Jon Lusk	Jack Robinson	Ray Medhurst
Sally Lusk	Jack Beymer	Gene Yotka
Roger S. Cohen, Sr.	Raymond M. Ironi	Steven Fischer
Deborah P. Cohen	Ray R. Irvin	Michael Whelan
Mabel Ann Wright	Gene Braig	Cal Wilson
Daniel Presburger	Marv Evans	Alan Kaufman
Walter Breen	Donald F. Priebe	Ken Mote
William D. Gibbs	Bob Shalowitz	Jim McGuigan
Frank Wilkinson	Kerry K. Wetterstrom	Steve Hayden
Tom DeLorey	George Fuld	Craig Whitford
David T. Alexander	Doris Fuld	Tom Matthews
Bill Murray	Paul Munson	Bruce Reinoehl
Les Heilbronner	Jackson C. Storm	Don Boller
Richard S. Shimkus	Tom Fitzgerald	Jerry Siciliano
Don Valenziano, Jr.	Mark Borckardt	Dwight Hostetler
Irvin Ratcliffe	Ron Guth	Larry Briggs
Enoch Blackwell	Bob Rhue	Tom Wehner
R. W. Julian	Dave Reid	Jim Matthews
Dick Johnson	John Sundt	Joe Falater
Daniel Carroll	Larry Bilbee	Vincent W. Alones
Lloyd Thompson	Jim Lambert	Dan Lucas

The above people represented 22 states. There were 15 from Michigan; 11 from Ohio; 8 each from New York and California; 6 from Indiana; 3 from Illinois; 2 each from Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia, Colorado, and Florida; and 1 each from Iowa, Arkansas, Utah, Connecticut, Washington, Arizona, Kentucky, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and West Virginia.

\* \* \* \* \*

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\* \* \* \* \*

Denis W. Loring

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, it's time for my annual ascension to the #2 man in Kenneth Goldman, Inc., as the ANA issues its clarion call. My 37-year streak of missing Detroit must end; I think that I'll hold down the jogging to daylight hours this week. Let's set the stage:

1. Starr Wars was only six weeks ago. I'm not fully recovered yet, so the ANA carries a small anti-climactic tinge. Of course, there's always the chance that all sorts of neat late dates will emerge from the woodwork.
2. The Washington and New York shows these past two weeks were less than thrilling, possibly presaging a ho-hum ANA. The downslide in gold and silver prices won't help. Auction '84 is a humdinger, though. Will it catalyze the show or siphon away funds?
3. The physical arrangements this year have a little wrinkle - the Westin, the convention hotel where all the club meetings are being held, is five blocks away from the bourse. Strolling at night in downtown Detroit, especially with a few large coppers in one's pocket, is not high on my list of favorite things to do. So I'm staying at the Hotel Pontchartrain (as are many of the dealers), right across the street from the bourse. Unfortunately, the Westin is the primary focus for the informal comings and goings which are such a big part of ANA. Can't win 'em all!
4. Whether or not the buy-sell activity is there, I'll be plenty busy: I'm an exhibit judge again, plus meetings of EAC, NLG, Numismatic Bibliomania Society, Society of Bearded Numismatists, a session with ANACS on grading early copper, and heaven knows what else. The six days should be pleasantly full.
5. I don't get to leave the office back home this time. Enough is going on to require daily telephone check-ins, and I'm dragging along a folder of work on drafting Treasury regulations for the new life insurance tax law. Fun, fun, fun. At least I can do it behind K.G.'s table.

Sunday, July 22. George and Martha Ewing are in town for a while. We're having our floor re-done tomorrow, so I offer George a little workout in helping me clear a few rooms of furniture. This was absolutely nothing to do with ANA, except the price of his sweat was this paragraph. Talk about working cheap!

Wednesday, July 25. No particular last minute activity. I have a half-dozen duplicates to take along, plus a few of George's. Supposedly, a couple of dealers will have some long-buried (figuratively, I trust) LC's waiting for me. We shall see.

Thursday, July 26. 7 A.M. limo, 8:15 plane, and we're off.....the plane has a capacity of 102 and a passenger count of 15. Is this an omen?.....Another omen: I left my tax material on my desk in the office. Unfortunately, my conscience must be hyperactive today, so I call my secretary and have her Express-mail the stuff to the hotel..... first stop is the Hyatt Regency, Dearborn, for a small slice of Auction '84..... pleasant chat with Bob Rose of Renrob..... here's Del ..... the copper part of the auction takes ten minutes, and we're off to downtown Detroit..... check in, pick up registration material and photo I.D., all hassle-free for a change, check out the ANA auction lots..... familiar faces start to appear..... my plans for an afternoon jog are thwarted by the rain, and this hotel

doesn't have a health club..... so I borrow Ken Hallenbeck's room key at the Westin and pump some iron..... run into Tom Noe in the weight room and Lee Bellisario in the sauna..... Japanese dinner with Ken and the Gwyn Houston company..... back to Ken's room to buy a bunch of insurance medals (It's a Small World department: I was doing reinsurance business in Fort Wayne, Indiana at Lincoln National Life yesterday, where Ken worked for 20 years!)..... win a little from Gwyn at Chinese dominoes, then lose it back (plus interest) at backgammon..... quick call to Paula..... back to the Pontch to write the diary and to pack for tomorrow..... ANA #16, here I come.....

Friday, July 27. Up at 6:30..... standard mega-calorie PNG day breakfast..... doors open at 8..... gee, where are all the nice coppers?..... the dealer pace is a good bit less frenetic than usual..... here's a nice 1817, a little rub but plenty of red, 'just brought over from England'. Price is OK, so I buy..... Ken seems to be doing fine as usual..... Jim Payette has a nice S-224 with the rim breaks..... now I do..... in comes the public..... up and down the aisles we go..... while I sip my Diet Coke lunch, I attribute the 1817, and it turns out to be N-15..... Del and John Wright take appropriate notes; the official grade is 60-..... Jim McGuigan isn't doing too much, so I relieve him of his VF30 S-109..... various EACers around, diligently hunting, but I haven't heard any screams of delight yet..... Fred Weinberg shows me an S-251 with a double-struck obverse and full brockage reverse. Tettenhorst will love it (he does)..... take a break to examine the Lepczyk lots, including a cherry AU S-215, newly CC4..... back to the show..... no insurance medals around, but Rossa and Tannenbaum promise me a few tomorrow..... this show isn't gonna set any records..... the clock chimes 5:00..... Ken and I move to our ANA location, pack it all up, and head on home..... five-minute breathing space and it's on to the auction..... Bill Raymond shows me some pictures of his two-year-old son KC and says "put that in your diary". The kid is cute, and Bill's bigger than I am, so you read it here first..... the S-215 brings \$2,700., with yours truly in second place..... better luck with the MS63 1835 N-6, which joins my 1, 2, 5, and 7 (does this mean that I'm collecting 1835's?)..... Tettenhorst and I enjoy dinner in Detroit's best restaurant..... his dessert is a ball of house-made ice cream entitled - and this is straight from the menu, folks - "Quadruple Chocolate Suicide". One little taste and I can feel my arteries harden..... no place in particular to go for a night's entertainment, so I might as well head back to the room and figure out what happened today..... Paula had a bad day at work. Unfortunately, they haven't yet figured out how to transmit hugs over the phone..... lousy start to the weekend.

Saturday, July 28. 6:30 A.M. again..... breakfast with Tony 'Lifestyle' Terranova, the world's fastest eater..... the 8 A.M. crowd is sorta thin..... four hours of cruising ensues. I won't say that the cherry tree is totally bare, but my number I find is a 30N7 in Fine..... Kenny buys a big proof type deal..... 12 noon, and here comes the teeming throng..... whoops - here's another 30N7, better than the first one..... that VF S-89 which I spied yesterday has disappeared..... same lunch as yesterday..... if this first-day crowd is any indication, we'll be playing poker in the aisles come Monday..... I spy an interesting 1796, but the table's unattended. Think I'll hang around..... here he comes..... good move, DL. The '96 is an NC4 in G6..... guess the tree isn't bare after all..... haven't heard of any other big (?) finds..... Tom Werner has most of the MS Naftzger sale coins which he bought a few ANA's ago; I pull out the 179 and 194 for a hard look..... wonder if Kenny still has the type coins..... Heritage shows me a gorgeous 1809 cent, newly imported from Europe, but wants more

than twice what the Starr coin brought, so I'll hold off for now..... time for the judges' meeting, where I sit right now, pen in hand..... 14 exhibits in Class 1; might as well get started..... so much for the rest of the day. I'll come back tomorrow morning before EAC for a second pass..... quickie dinner at Koney Island Inn is best forgotten..... the lobby of the Westin sets a new standard for confusion..... time for the Bibliomanics..... Walter Breen has an unbound copy of the new half cent book, WOW! Meeting breaks up about 10:30..... know what's missing this year? The late night informal get-togethers. The two-hotel set-up certainly doesn't help. Nothing doing down in the Pontch bar, and scenic downtown Detroit is hardly the place for a pleasant late-evening stroll. Oh well, back to the room. Whoopie! Here I am, first full night of ANA, Saturday night yet, and I'm reduced to watching a late-night Charles Bronson movie. It's gotta get better.

Sunday, July 29. Real lazy this morning: stay in bed until 6:45 (it's Sunday)..... back to the exhibits at 8:10, and I'm the only one there for a while..... an empty bourse room is cavernous indeed..... no clear winner among the Class 1 exhibits. I'll be meeting with the other judges at 3 P.M. This could get sticky..... hey - it's EAC time! Great meeting! Read about it elsewhere in this issue..... back to the bourse at noon..... Starr didn't break me totally, so I spring for the 179. Then Tom comes down on the price of the 194. Gotta think some more..... Kenny's still got the type deal..... Tettenhorst cherries a real goodie: the only Gilbert variety he lacked. There goes a happy man..... Bill Panitch follows the Ashby tradition and relieves me of most of yesterday's purchases..... the room's very quite..... ahhh, Kenny's smiling. Bye bye, type coins..... speaking of type coins, yesterday I bought two LC's, a Draped Bust and a Turban Head. When I asked the prices, the dealer picked up his faithful Grey Sheet, checked the G and VG columns, and quoted accordingly. The Draped Bust was a 1796, the Turban an 1809. Don't you just love it?..... thirty minutes with my fellow judges, and ladies and gentlemen, we have a winner!..... Kenny and Sandy are running around, so I spend the rest of the afternoon minding the store..... another thrilling solo dinner at Nemo's Saloon (where is everybody?)..... Numismatic Literary Guild bash is a fun affair, with an all-EAC table right up front: the John Wrights, the Bill Murrarays, Walter Breen, Tom DeLorey, Paul Munson, and yours truly..... back to the room..... either Paula's out gallivanting somewhere (sorta hard to believe at midnight on Sunday) or our phone's broken..... bet tomorrow will be a real yawner.

Monday, July 30. 6:45 wake-up call again, but I'm up at 6. P did leave the phone off the hook..... two-hour breakfast with Del, Jack Robinson, Ken Bressett, and the ANACS people to discuss grading. Meeting to resume this afternoon..... a little backgammon with Jack and it's on to the bourse..... ho-hum..... The Great Shal adds an XF S-91 and a VF S-89 (there it is!) to his 1796 hoard..... now that 194 is pulling me back to Tom Werner's table. It's as nice an 1800 over-date as I'll ever see..... oh well, what's a few more megabucks among friends?..... Tom Matthews likes the VG S-97 that I bought at Grey Sheet Bid. I quote him \$75. (just for reference, COR lists VG7 at \$150.). He declines, and counter-offers \$100, which I accept. "I do strange things sometimes," he observes. Little did I know how right he was. Tom Matthews - remember that name..... John Wright takes my duplicate 1883 Andrews..... the Heritage 1809 is "for sale", price chopped in half..... guess I'll spring for another one. Boy, this is fun; sorta like falling off a ten-story building. Wonderful trip until you land..... think I'll call my secretary and see what's doing in reinsuranceland (actually, I'm not too motivated and manage to postpone calling until it's too late, so why bother?)

..... another hour with the ANACS people. Jackson Storm and I discuss the disposition of his early cent collection, virtually complete from 1794-1814..... those Diet Coke lunches are doing a number on my kidneys.....Charlie Barasch relieves me of the S-26 from the ANA auction..... time to go home and put on a tie (yuck) for the Judges' Dinner, a properly sedate affair..... some backgammon with Jack..... SOB meeting short and disappointing (nobody had a suite, so we held it in a standard meeting room - much too sterile)..... one more day, and several irons still in the fire. Tune in tomorrow.....

Tuesday, July 31. Up at 6:30 without an alarm, just like a normal work day..... talk with Paula. Let's just say that I'm glad ANA '85 doesn't encompass a weekend..... wander over to the Westin one last time..... back after breakfast to pack..... these insurance medals are heavy..... not much to do until 10:30, so here's a quick analysis of the show:

Winners: collector-oriented dealers, the innermost wholesale circle, and the very top-end carriage trade investment dealers.

Marginal: most second-tier dealers. Typical reaction: "this is a good coin show, not a good ANA coin show".

Losers: the get-rich-quick-in-1980 dealers, and the silver dollar shleppers. Wish I had a nickel (1950-D?) for every person who approached our table with "Would you like to see some dollars or Walkers?"

Unknown: the bullion boys.

Ah, 10:30 approacheth. Let's get back to the good stuff.....

. . . . . \* . . . . .

It's now 9 P.M., on the plane back to New York. I'm still not quite sure that the last eleven hours really happened. I think that they went something like this:

10:30 I pick up Jackson Storm's cent set, and we retire to a back room to discuss the deal.

11:00 We agree on a purchase/consignment arrangement, and I take the coins.

11:30-12:30 After I've pulled out a few 'reserved' items, Jack Robinson has first crack at the box, leading off with a S-95 in F15. Jack's enjoying himself, kid-in-the-candy-store style.

12:30-1:30 We shift from Jack's table to Kenny's, and continue. I call John Wright over; he joins the fun.

1:30 Bob (father) and Tom (son) Matthews wander by. I ask Tom if he'd like to fill some holes in his want list. Tom Matthews - "I do strange things sometimes." Remember? He asks about a few varieties, then has a different idea. "How much for the box?"

"Let's try that again, please."

"Sure, I'm serious. How much for the whole thing?"

1:45-2:00 Jackson and I confer and come up with a number. He disappears. Tom pulls up a chair, so does his father. John Wright acts as aide and consultant. I hand them the boxes.

2:00-3:30 The boxes.

3:30-3:45 Negotiation.

3:45 The handshake.

3:45:01 The smiles. All around, Big ones.

3:50 Tom and Bob depart for a golf tournament, boxes in hand.

- 4:00 Jackson re-appears. I hand him a check. Within five minutes we're both placing calls to our wives.
- 4:15 Back to the table, to reflect and to recuperate. A virtually complete set of early cent varieties has just changed hands. At the public bourse. Right here. In two hours.
- Yes, Tom, you do do strange things sometimes. Glad that you're a part of EAC. You fit in just fine.

So how was ANA '84? Saw some friends, went to meetings, roamed the bourse - had fun. Oh yes - added Mint State examples of 1798, 1800/179 and 1809 to my date set, cherried a Condition Census NC, and negotiated the sale of a nearly complete variety set of early cents.

See you in Baltimore.....

\* \* \* \* \*

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR NEW JERSEY CENT SURVEY

Two collectors of New Jersey Colonial cents are attempting to compile a census of New Jersey cent varieties. If you have any New Jersey cents which are attributed by Maris number and graded for condition (PHOTOGRADE may help here), please send this information, please include this also.

All information received will be compiled and published or distributed at a later date. Names and addresses of respondents will be kept strictly confidential. Thank you for your help in this endeavor.

Scott Barnes, EAC 1267  
Kirk Schlemmer, EAC 1818

Scott Barnes  
142 Franklin Street  
Auburn, NY 13021

\* \* \* \* \*

JACK and MARK R. BORCKARDT 1016 Tiffin Avenue Findlay, OH 45840

The Collectors Cabinet and Fort Findlay Enterprises would like to include your name on our mailing list.

Our quarterly price lists feature over 500 copper, nickel, and silver coins, including a nice selection of early coppers. Please mention your EAC number to receive all of our lists. Thank you!

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## PENNYMANSHIP TO THE EDITORS

From JEFF HAWLEY: "I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude for the recent reprinting of the early issues of PENNY-WISE. As a beginning collector and a student of numismatics, I find these issues exactly right for me; and I am making my way through them steadily in my spare time. It is a great bargain for \$25. So, to the people who put this project together and to the people who wrote the articles starting back in September, 1967, I want to say 'thank you very much!'"

From STEVE BRINKMAN: "Having my article 'Finding a Fugio' printed in PENNY-WISE 103 provided a great deal of satisfaction for me. PENNY-WISE is one of the few publications that I read in its entirety immediately after I receive it.

However, I would like to cite a couple of differences between the printed article and my original copy. First, the Kessler Fugio variety that I was fortunate enough to find was 1-Z.1, not 10Z.1 as printed. Additionally, the last sentence in the third from the last paragraph was printed as 'I had found me a Fugio'. My original copy read: 'I had found my Fugio.'

I am eagerly awaiting P-W 104. You are all doing a remarkable job."

From BOB JESSEN: "My title for an article in this issue of P-W is 'Sing Sing For A Penny', not 'Tales of a Digger'. The title of my first story was 'Muck and Meyer' and it appeared in P-W 101. Admittedly, each title is a small play on words. The next one (if you can stand any more) will be 'The Lure of Old Copper'."

From JOHN FETTINGER: "Perhaps I have offered the members more than they may wish to consider about the subject of rarity in my latest article published in this issue of P-W. However, as the time approaches for publishing the respective large cent studies and while the photographic grading guide continues in development, I feel that the standards for rarity should be reviewed also.

In the interest of brevity, I have omitted the actual calculations on which my proposed scale and its value premiums are based as I feel that the concept's simplicity can stand as presented. If there are any questions, I shall be pleased to share information with any one wishing to become involved in this endeavor."

From DAVID M. GALE: "Charlotte and I were pleased with the response to our full-page ad which appeared in the last issue of P-W. Those EACers who did not respond to our photo offer are still invited to request a free copy of our catalogue. Photo service will be available to our customers at a nominal charge."

From COL. WILLIAM BAIN MURRAY: "At the EAC-ANA meeting in Detroit, I spoke to Dick Doty of ANS who said he believed that PENNY-WISE should be reported in ANS publications - not just abstracted. John Wright said that if ANS wanted the information, they had it, since ANS regularly receives and is on the mailing list for P-W. I pointed out (and this was re-enforced by someone else in attendance, I forget just who it was) that ANS does not have personnel to do this work, that it depends on volunteers from outside its walls. Denis Loring, who is going to be busy with ANS in preparation for the EAC conference which ANS is planning for November 30-December 2, said he will speak to ANS about this. I will be visiting ANS myself in the next month or so, and I'll also see what I can discover. What it means, I'm sure, is for some one to volunteer to

determine what articles in P-W are of sufficient scholarly merit for ANS to republish them. I would volunteer, but I feel that someone with more depth of knowledge in the subject should do it."

From BOB PARSON (he was the first secretary of EAC): "P-W 103 has proven to be just as enjoyable as all the previous 102. I found a 'Penny-Wise' ad a few days ago and thought you might like to add it to your collection. It is enclosed. (Thanks, Robert - WAL)

Like the rest of the membership, I trust that my dream of an authoritative, photographic EAC 'grading' guide can one day be finished. I beg semantics, however. It should be a condition guide, in my opinion, because the overall state of a coin's preservation should be its condition - why else do we have a Condition Census?

The major portion of the guide, of course, should concern grading, which should be nothing more than the amount of circulation wear a coin has endured. This should be easy enough to define and to photograph, since this can be totally objective. Striking quality, lustre, color, defects abnormal to the grade, flan qualities, and all the other subjective areas should have nothing to do with the grade, but should require a further explanation in addition to the true grade definition to arrive at an overall mental condition picture in the mind of the reader. In fact, enlarged photos of the accepted color meanings, degrees of porosity, granularity, striking quality, defects, and abnormalities should complete the guide.

To me, it is far more meaningful, honest, and descriptive to call a coin 'VF25, black, heavily porous' than to call it simply VG10. In fact, an honest brown VG10 coin would be preferable to my taste."

\* \* \* \* \*

#### COMING IN THE NOVEMBER P-W

For lack of space in this current issue, the following articles have been held in reserve and will appear in the November issue of P-W - something to look forward to:

- "The Top Ten" by Roger S. Cohen, Jr. - a continuation of the series
- "Results of a 1794 Large Cent Enthusiasts' Survey" by Carol M. Fiese
- "Take Another Look at the Late Date Large Cents" by W. M. Weeks
- "A Year of Horseheads" by Harry J. Rescigno

P-W apologizes to the above four authors for delaying publication of their material and to the EACers who look forward to articles such as these.

\* \* \* \* \*

RICK DE SANCTIS c/o The Cash Stash Coins Key Colony Beach, FL 33051  
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Buying and selling strictly graded half cents by Cohen variety number.  
Free price list. Member ANA, EAC, others. We need your duplicates.  
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\* \* \* \* \*

SWAPS & SALES

EAC members are invited to submit their ads for inclusion in this column. The first 12 lines, including lines used for spacing, are free. If your ad exceeds this limit, the treasurer will bill you for your entire ad, based on a pro-rated scale. Effective with the November, 1984 issue, a full-page ad will be \$60. Deadline for receipt of copy is end of month preceding date of next issue. Ads must be sent directly to Warren A. Lapp, 6505 Newmarket Way, Raleigh, N.C. 27609.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHARLOTTE and DAVID GALE 2404 Berwyn Road Wilmington, DE 19810

FOR SALE: 1786 NJ copper, Maris 21-N, R2, EF45/AU50. Lovely rich chestnut obverse, light brown reverse. Struck boldly and a tad off-center (affecting only the obverse denticles). Stands out in a group of pedigreed, high-grade NJ coppers (also for sale). Ex Yale University, ex Coin Galleries, ex Sherr (lot 3161 comes with ticket). Color, surface, strike, and off-center 'defect' combine in a rare, mysterious beauty. Must be seen! \$880.

REQUEST FREE CATALOGUE listing hundreds of Colonials, tokens and medals.

\* \* \* \* \*

ED SARRAFIAN 9414 Nashville Morton Grove, IL 60053

I am interested in buying your AG to F Vermont coppers. Please write with price desired.

\* \* \* \* \*

ROBERT VAIL 10514 Coloma Road Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

The following are non-porous unless noted:

1797 S-128 or S-134	AG3	\$15.	1801 S-213	AG3 or 1802 S-242	
1798 S-185	G4	20.		G4	\$15.
1798 or 1800 readable date,			1806	AG3 or 1807 S-271	G4 17.50
sl. porous		8.	1807	S-273 or 1812 S-288	AG3 10.
1800 S-194 or S-207	AG3 s.por.	12.	1812	S-290 or 1814 S-294	G4 17.50

Postage extra.

Nice starter set. Take all 15 coins for \$180. Postage extra.

\* \* \* \* \*

JIM CASSIDY Box 684 Largo, Florida 33540

1795 S-75	6 4 Swollen in curls,		1832 N-1	8 4	\$ 7.
	rev. center smooth	\$150.	1833 N-1	VG	7.
1795 S-76B	8 4 Fine porosity	130.	1837 N-3	VG cleaned, toning	7.50
1806 S-270	Fine	115.	1838 N-2	Fine	7.35
1811 S-286	Fair	20.	1838 N-6	VG Rim Dings	5.50
1818 N-1	Good	7.	1839 N-11	Abt. Good	4.
1821 N-2	Abt. Fine	28,50	1842 N-6	Abt. VG Soft Detail	6.25
1824 N-2	G-4 porous	7.	1845 N-5	Fine Porous	6.25
1825 N-2	G-VG porous, cleaned	7.70	1847 N-6	Fine Dark, Scratch	6.25
1828 N-10	Good	7.	Please include \$2.00 postage, thank you.		

\* \* \* \* \*

## HALF CENTS For Sale:

1793 C-1 VF35 (Rev. rim break)		1808 C-3 VF30	\$265.
F AME	\$6,500.	1828 C-1 MS60+ red & brn.	575.
1795 C-5b VF25	2,650.	1829 C-1 MS63 red & brn.	Write
C-6a VF35	2,350.	1831 C-1 EF40 Original	7,350.
1802 C-2 VG10	900.	1832 C-2 MS63 red & brn.	800.
1804 C-4 VG8 sharpness of F		1849 Original sm.date, lg.berries	
with sev.sm.rim bumps	360.	Proof60 ex Alvord	4,000.
C-10 EF40	175.	1855 C-1 MS63 well struck;	
C-11 VF35	375.	red & brn.	475.
1805 C-3 VG7	340.		

## LARGE CENTS For Sale:

1794 S-29 VF30	\$1,650.	1805 S-267 VF30	450.
1797 S-135 MS63 red & brn;		1806 S-270 EF40	950.
weakly struck at 11:00 on		1814 S-295 MS63+ lustrous	
obv. and 7:00 on rev.	3,950.	bluish brown	5,950.
1798 S-170 EF40	1,750.	No Date Reverse brockage VG10	265.
1800 S-203 VF25	525.	1832 N-3 VF30	65.
1801 S-223 VF25 1/000	365.	1834 N-1 MS63 lust.bl.-brn.	1,000.
1802 S-237 EF40	625.	1838 N-4 MS63 lust.bl.-brn.	675.

PRICE LIST: I publish a price list of early U.S. coins periodically. If you would like to receive a free copy, send me your name and address.

SHOW SCHEDULE: I will be attending the following shows over the next few months: Sept. 28-30 - San Diego; Oct. 4-6 - Long Beach; Oct. 14-16 - MANA at Philadelphia; Oct. 26-28 - Chicago; Nov. 2-4 - Pittsburgh; Nov. 16-17 - Boston. Stop by my table (or have me paged) if you would like to see anything in my inventory or if you have any early U.S. coins for sale.

\* \* \* \* \*

RAYMOND SMITH c/o The Copperhead P.O. Box 32145 Euclid, Ohio 44132

FOR SALE: - Colonials (Glossy)

1785 Vermonts Ch 35/35 holed at 12:00; expertly plugged			\$300.
1787 N.J. M-63Q VF20 faintly porous, dark, medium gouge obv.			80.
1786 N.J. M-14Y VF20 sm. clip 9:00, sl. weak at center obv., glossy brn			130.
1773 Virginia halfpenny VG10/18 strong date			39.
Washington double head cent VG+ pitting			35.
1723 Rosa Americana 2 pence Utile Dulci G4			45.
1783 Georgius Triumpho VG10+ problem-free			52.

Half Cents

1803 C-1 G6+ no problems	\$35.	1825 C-2 Ch.VF30 nice	\$60.
C-1 VG10+ faintly gran.	45.	1855 C-1 XF45 ft.hairline scrs.	40.

Large Cents

1794 S-28 VF20/G6+ X-mk rev.	\$125.	1811 S-287 F12/20 dark	\$125.
1795 S-76 G4/BS1 lt.scrs.	45.	VF20/25 very dk but	
1796 S-89 AG3/BS1 '96' show	50.	glossy, from my own coll.	210.
1805 S-267 VF30/20 detail, grey,		1812 S-290 F12	48.
lightly granular	58.	1813 S-292 G4+	35.
1806 S-270 F12 detail, pitting	48.	1814 S-294 VG8+	38.
1809 S-280 G4+ holed	35.	1853 N-1 AU50 clnd, porous	30.
1810/9 S-281 G6/8	40.	1800/179 S-196 VG10	35.
		1807/6 S-273 G6+ strong overdate	38.

\* \* \* \* \*

DWAIN A. HICKS

414 Knollwood Drive

Middletown, NJ 07748

I would like to purchase a copy of EARLY ENGLISH COUNTERFEIT HALFPENCE STRUCK IN AMERICA by Robert A. Flack, published in 1974. Please quote condition and price.

\* \* \* \* \*

BRUCE A. TUCKER

P. O. Box 43624

Birmingham, AL 35243

LARGE CENTS - For Sale

1803 S-258	VF20	moderate porosity	\$20.
1822 N-2	EF45	choice	165.
N-2	EF45/AU55	partial subdued mint	
		red on reverse	185.
1849	VF20		12.

\* \* \* \* \*

JAMES MARSHALL

37 Hillcrest Drive

Alfred, NY 14802

New member wishes to purchase a used copy of the following books: PENNY WHIMSY, Newcomb's U.S. LARGE CENTS, Cohen's U.S. HALF CENTS, and Crosby's EARLY COINS OF AMERICA. Please state condition and price.

\* \* \* \* \*

CRAIG A. WHITFORD

P.O. Box 14225 Lansing, MI 48901

(517) 482-8374

FOR SALE - Half Cent 1855 C-1 AU50 \$95.

Large Cents:	1854 VF25	\$25.	1857 Large Date	VF25	\$45.
	1856 VF35	35.	Small Date	VF20	50.

LITERATURE - Auction Catalogues:

A. Kosoff 8/21-24/49 ANA sale/F.T. Starr Cents EF+ NPRL \$25.

A. Kosoff 2/1-2/63 The Lahrman Collection Mint, w/ mailing envelope, NPRL 25.

New Netherlands 38th 8/16-21/52 ANA Sale/H.K. Downing coll.

Abt. EF, NPRL 40.

Stack's 11/11-13/54 Anderson/Dupont, Part II Half cents VF+ NPRL 15.

\* \* \* \* \*

1831 Cohen 1 "Original" Half Cent in Very Fine (30/30).

A new example of this very scarce and desirable coin made its appearance at the recent American Numismatic Association Convention in Detroit, Michigan. To our knowledge, it is a previously unknown specimen with no prior pedigree or history. It does not match any of the photographs in our plate files, nor is it included in the Census which appeared in COIN WORLD a year or so ago. The condition is Very Fine (30/30). The color is an attractive and pleasing original brown and tan. The surfaces display a few contact marks (as expected for the grade), but it lacks the distracting defect (such as digs, gouges, scratches, etc.) that are found on so many of the known specimens. Overall, it is comparable in grade to the Lauder coin, which sold in late 1983 for \$5280. (the Lauder coin was cleaned at one time, and had an unnatural orange color; this example has NOT been cleaned). Our asking price is \$5500. and we invite interested parties to contact Ron Guth, c/o Mid-American Rare Coin Auctions, Inc., #6 Chevy Chase Place, Lexington, Kentucky 40502 or call 1-800-223-5954 for more details.

\* \* \* \* \*

DENIS W. LORING P. O. Box 363 New York, NY 10101

1793 S-2 G4 \$1,100. 1793 S-6 VG7 \$600.  
S-4 G4 1,100. 1797 S-136 VF25 325.

The coins listed below are all exceptionally choice. Nearly all are CC.  
Some were acquired at ANA; others are duplicates from my collection generated  
from purchases at ANA and Starr. Your inspection is invited.

1794 S-71 XF45, probably finest known of the late die state, ex French-WHS \$2,750.  
1798 S-167 MS60 ex REN 482 3,000.  
S-172 XF45 some lustre, ex CDS 1,100.  
1800 S-192 VF35 ex DP 1,000.  
S-203 XF45 some mint color, ex REN 518 1,500.  
1801 S-221 MS60 ex REN 534 2,800.  
1802 S-226 MS60 ex REN 541 2,250.  
S-235 XF40 prooflike 650.  
1809 S-280 MS60/60+ ex Starr 48 7,000.

\* \* \* \* \*

RICHARD E. CROSS c/o Cross Coin Company Scranton, PA 18504  
P. O. Box 158

HALF CENTS

1. 1794 C-1a F-15 R-3 \$650. 7. 1795 S-75 VG-10 R-3 \$325.  
2. 1806 C-1 AU-50 R-1 295. 8. 1796 S-83 VG-8 R-5- 260.  
3. 1811 C-2 F-15 R-3 450. 9. 1796 S-87 VF-20 R-3 650.  
Nice surfaces 450. 10. 1796 S-91 F-15 R-3 495.  
4. 1828 C-3 AU-55 R-1 125. 11. 1798 S-147 VG-10+ R-5+ 425.  
5. 1832 C-3 AU-55 R-1 125. 12. 1798 S-171 F-12 R-5- 350.  
6. 1853 C-1 AU-55 R-1 125. 13. 1802 S-236 VF-30 R-1 395.

FREE PRICE LIST: Send name and address to receive current price list.

\* \* \* \* \*

JAMES LIVINGSTON 825 Oak Street San Francisco, CA 94117

1793 1/2cent electro VF \$90. 1802 S-230 F12 lt.graf.obv. \$40.  
1795 C-1 VG10 rev.pitt. 160. S-241 AU50 lt.por.on 1/2 obv.  
1804 C-6 Sp.Ch. EF45 300. rev. very nice 450.  
1794 S-24 VG10 250. 1807 S-271 VG8 nice 40.  
S-24 3/1 Str.Hd. 40. 1812 S-289 VG8 Typ Plan. but OK 30.  
S-41 Fr2 20. 1834 N-1 VF25 SD/LS/SL Write  
1795 S-78 2/1 17. 1837 N-6 AU55 much mint lustre 220.  
1801 S-223 VG7 C'stmp 15. 1838 N-6 XF45 85.

\* \* \* \* \*

HERBERT J. ROSEN "Curio Corner" 337 Route 46 Rockaway, NJ  
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and hundreds of die varieties - available at CURIO CORNER --  
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\* \* \* \* \*

EUGENE STERNLIGHT 161 NE 38th St., Apt. 6A Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33324

1828 half cent 12 stars	BU63	\$525.	1803 S-256 F12 porous	50.
New Jersey copper	VF	120.	S-258 AG3	10.
Conn. copper	F	120.	S-260 G4	18.
Conn. sm.Hd.var.	G5	30.	S-261 G4 porous	15.
1795 S-76	G4	85.	1810 S-284 AG3	10.
S-78	G5/Fr2	50.	1833 BU65 Blazing olive surf. 1,200.	
S-78 Plan.cp.	AG3	30.	1846 VF	10.
1796 S-81 VG8 Rev. mk.		125.	1848 AU55	110.
1802 unattributed VF20 Choice		200.	1850 BU63 Choice	400.
S-236 G4		20.	1851/81 BU63 Choice	600.
1803 S-243 F12		75.	1855 BU63	400.
S-255 F15 re-tooled		75.	1857 BU60 S.D. Re-colored	225.
S-256 VF20 few mks.		150.		

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TOM REYNOLDS P.O. Box 24529 Omaha, NE 68124 (402) 895-3065

1793 S-13 R4- AG3	\$800.	Brown with nice surfaces.
1794 S-55 R3 VG8	150.	Tan and smooth. Minor pits.
1794 S-63 R3 VG8	150.	Chocolate with nice surfaces.
1797 S-120b R2 VG8	105.	Gripped Edge. Nice.
1797 S-141 R5 G4	95.	Brown with slight roughness.
1798 S-165 R4 VG8	115.	Brown and smooth. Choice.
1801 S-223 R1 VF20	250.	1/000. Brown and smooth.
1802 S-237 R2 F15	135.	Brown and smooth. Nice.
1810/9 S-281 R1 VF20	225.	Brown and smooth. Nice.
1813 S-292 R2 VF20	325.	Brown and smooth. Choice.

SEND NAME AND ADDRESS TO RECEIVE FREE PRICE LIST.

\* \* \* \* \*

ALLAN F. VOSS 479 DeWitt Ave. Belleville, NJ 07109 (201) 759-7434

CHOICE LATE DATE LARGE CENTS: All coins are choice and accurately and conservatively graded and attributed.

1834 N4 EF40	\$65.	1850 N9 EF40	50.
1838 N3 VF20	15.	1850 N13 EF45 R6	110.
1838 N4 VF20	15.	1851 N11 VF35	35.
1838 N9 EF40	60.	1852 N17 VF25	20.
1842 N3 VF20	20.	1853 N6 EF40+ R5	60.
1843 N2 VF25	25.	1853 N25 EF45+	85.
1843 N9 VF30	40.	1854 N13 AU55+	145.
1843 N10 EF40+	70.	1854 N19b MS60 R4	240.
1844 N5 VF35	42.	1854 N20 MS60 R4	190.
1848 C31 EF40+ R6	95.	1856 N7 EF40+	55.

All postpaid and insured.

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And now, the summer is over...Where did the time go? On a sad note, we will all miss John Ashby - a fine gentleman, a contributing member of EAC, a hard worker, an honest coin dealer, a knowledgeable collector, and a friend - he fought a hard fight!

By the time that this hits the streets, the auction at Cincinnati will be in progress or history, depending upon timing. It will have been interesting. Certainly not to rival the famous Starr sale, but it will have contained 536 lots of collector-oriented early copper - 4 Colonials, 82 half cents, 5 cents of 1793, 24 Liberty Caps, 259 Draped Bust cents, 31 Classic Heads, 91 middle dates, and 38 late dates - all attributed and properly graded!

It will have been an auction with something for everyone who collects early copper. If you didn't participate, you probably should have - if not as a buyer, then as a seller. We had expected to offer something over 200 lots, but look what happened! I need feedback from those who did participate. Is this the sort of thing that we should continue? How often? What can we do better? etc.....

COPPER QUOTES BY ROBINSON actually got published on time! The middle dates were released, and the feedback is being received - all helpful and friendly. The price is still \$20. for a subscription through 12/31/84, and ask anyone who has a subscription - Is it worth it? New subscriptions received by September 30 will get a copy of the 4/30/84 Shelton variety CQR (as long as they last) and the Middle Date release.

The schedule is still to have the Late Date release in the mail about the end of October, and the Half Cent release around the end of November. The consolidated CQR should be published right around the end of December.

I am still a strong buyer of decent Early Copper - so, if you have something to sell, let me hear from you. I also have a decent selection of items which will be coming into the market in the near future; and if you would like to be on my mailing list, please let me know. Due to the pressures of CQR and other business areas, I have not published a list since March, 1984, but I expect to remedy the situation with an expanded list sometime in late October or early November.

The Grading Committee is expecting to meet again soon, and it can handle additional coins at this time. Questions are cheerfully answered at no charge. The fees, which include confirmation of attribution, grading, the certificate, and postage, are:

<u>Coin Value</u>	<u>Fee</u>
\$ 0-200.	\$ 7.50
201-500.	10.00
501-1,500.	15.00
over \$1,500.	1 per cent of value per CQR to a maximum of \$50.

\* \* \* \* \*

GILBERT A. SMITH, JR.

P.O. Box 6091

Greenwood, IN 46142

Phone (317) 882-2638

FOR SALE: 1796 C-2 HALF CENT -- full head, full Liberty, date gone but some vestiges are visible with concentrated viewing. Reverse 50% visible and attributable to 1796 reverse. Smoothish patina on coin. (from ground?) ANACS would not render a certificate (date gone), but did call the coin genuine. Asking \$700. Would consider trade for high grade large cent or ?  
 WANTED: Holed, Cull, Dateless, Draped Bust or Liberty Cap Cents.

