

PENNY-WISE

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Directory of Officers	Page	198	
Harry E. Salyards		199	Editor's Introduction
ORIGINAL ARTICLES			
Red Henry		200	Survivorship of Cents of 1801 - 1807
Bob Grellman		204	Late Date Cent Update
Dan Argyro		206	Die States of 1848, Part 6 ✓
John Lorenzo		214	Death of a Die: Maris 46-e ✓
Michael McLaughlin		218	Fugio Files Updated, Part 12 ✓
John Griffee		228	New Jersey Coppers, Part 16: Maris 42-c ✓
Mark Poulin		231	A New Specimen of 1795 NC3
MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP NOTES			
Alan B. Gorski		232	Las Vegas on a Budget: Recollections of EAC '94
Bob Metzger		234	South Central Meeting Report
		235	Obituaries
Rod Burress		235	Candidates for Membership
Greg Heim		236	Early Copper Symposium at ANA
SPECIAL COMMENTARY			
David L. Palmer		237	Elitism in Early Copper
LARGE CENT GRADING QUIZ			
Tom Madigan		240	
MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTOR NOTES			
John W. Adams		254	T. Larkin Turner: Patron Saint of Variety Collectors
Ron Manley		255	The Brobston 1800 "Libekty" Half Cent
Jim Hart		257	Can You Find the Plug?
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR		258	
SWAPS AND SALES		259	
ADDENDUM MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP NOTES			
Ed Masuoka		268	Mid-Atlantic Meeting Report

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Warren A. Lapp, M.D. (1915 - 1993)

INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR

Harry E. Salyards

What drives the urge to collect? What is it that fires the ambition of one person to make a collection of particular objects, while the next person stands by, politely disinterested? Though those questions go to the heart of the issue of WHO will make collections of coins after we're gone, little has been written by way of answering them. And some of what is written is superficial--like, "the reason there aren't more collectors today is that you can't find a 1909s V.D.B. in circulation," or some such; when for 99 people out of 100, the only reason to have EVER LOOKED FOR that 1909s V.D.B. was the prospect of getting something for nothing. But the issue of "what's it worth?" is the most superficial of motivations, the most easily frustrated and quickly played out. Something more than that is at work.

Dr. Sheldon talked about the "Copper Bug" in terms of disease--"getting bit," and so on--but in a manner of pure ease, NOT dis-ease. Even one's collecting mistakes are seen with equanimity; the "bug" having gone dormant, you simply sell that particular, problematic cent. The spirit is, indeed, one of a whimsy. He also implied that this "bug" is different from whatever it is that motivates collectors of other objects. In my opinion, that was merely one-upsmanship, founded in the fact that at least some real scholarship had been done in the field of large cents, unlike all other U.S. coin series at that time. It also flattered his conception of a "science" of cent collecting. But that real question is, how does the "bug" work?

I believe there are two factors operating: serious fascination with what is different; and the urge to completion.

When I speak of serious fascination, I mean the desire to go behind and beyond the object itself; mere awareness of a difference is not enough. The man on the street can see that a 1793 Chain cent is different from the 1993 Lincoln cent in his pocket; but his interest extends no farther than "what's it worth?" Sure, it's "old"; but that may be a minus with him, not a plus, as in "old and dirty." He'll not seek the meaning of the piece: Why that dishevelled woman, Why that 15-link chain, Why that fraction 1/100? Those are the kind of questions collectors ask, and the urge to ask them may be inborn, not "made" at all. I can think of arguments on both sides of the question, but it's perhaps enough to sense their inevitable complexity.

And there is the issue of completion. What makes a collection complete? For the person who wants a 1798 large cent to "fill that hole," it's acquiring a single 1798. For the person who wants all the die varieties, in multiple die states where possible, it may mean a hundred 1798s. Or it may mean an example of each of the major hair styles, date numeral styles, and so on. These are matters for individuals to decide, depending upon their resources, as well as their reading of the reference material on the series. Chance also enters in; should the rarest variety of a given year fall into your lap, you may feel a stronger urge to find all the "mere" R5's! There are no "better" or "worse" ways to achieve "completion," either . . . The man who has the 56 numbered varieties of 1794s in Good has one kind of "complete" collection; the man who has one each of a Head of '93, a Head of '94, and a Head of '95 in VF-XF has another kind of "complete" collection. Each such collection is a personal achievement. Each deserves a respectful examination by fellow collectors.

* * * * *

A New Angle on the Rarity Ratings: Cents of 1801-1807 and a Survivorship Survey

Red Henry

Large-cent rarity ratings have been in use for a long time, but in the last few decades they have become more important to many collectors due to greatly increased demand for (and prices of) the coins involved. The ratings have also become much more objective and accurate, thanks to individuals who have spent years gathering and organizing information. By 1958, Dr. William Sheldon and his associates had studied the 1794 cents so thoroughly that rarity estimates for most varieties of that date, as shown in *Penny Whimsy*, have not changed greatly since. Refinement of rarity ratings has been carried on to the present day, but for at least one group of dates, serious problems have appeared.

Penny-Wise Editor Harry E. Salyards, in his 1992 article *Thoughts on the Rarity Ratings: Cents of 1801-1807*, brought some of these discrepancies to light. As he phrased it, "...either 1801-1807 cents survive in a much smaller percentage of their total mintage than the 1794's, or their population estimates, using current rarity ratings, are still WAY too low." Published response was minimal, either because few people understood the problem, or because few collectors realized how much they are affected by this gap in our knowledge. Should you care? Next time you are shopping for rare cents, just think about where rarity-rating uncertainties will hit you hardest: right in the pocketbook!

Let's develop this problem further, just as an experiment, by looking at some numbers. Consider the most reliable data we have from which to derive current population estimates of the die varieties involved. These figures are the products of long experience and research, and they're the best foundation from which to work. We know fairly well:

- (1) The original mintage of cents dated 1801-07, which totaled 10,144,165;
- (2) The number of known die varieties: 72, and the dies used to make them;
- (3) The approximate *relative* numbers of survivors, at least for the scarce varieties; and
- (4) The absolute numbers of survivors of varieties above R5.

Using this data, let's go through a three-step process to examine the rarity ratings: (A) to use the ratios between rarity ratings to determine the proportion of survivors represented by each rarity rating group (all the R1's, all the R2's, and so on); (B) to apply these proportions to the original mintage, determining what proportion of the mintage—and thus, what absolute numbers—each variety group composed, obtaining an estimate of the average mintage of each R1, R2, and so on; and (C) finally, to multiply those figures by an estimated percentage of the mintage still surviving, and obtain population estimates for cents of each rarity rating for comparison with traditional numbers.

(A) Assuming that traditional rarity ratings are fairly accurate in describing the ratio of survivors among the different varieties, we find (using traditional rarity figures and a maximum of 4000 for the R1's) that survivors, grouped by rarity rating, are proportioned as follows (some figures are rounded in all these tables for ease of figuring):

<u>VARIETY GROUP</u>	<u>MAX. SURVIVORS FOR EACH VARIETY</u>	<u>TOTAL SURVIVORS FOR VARIETY GROUP</u>	<u>EACH GROUP'S PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CENT POPULATION</u>
18 R1 varieties	4000	72,000	61.3 %
16 R2 varieties	2000	32,000	27.2 %
20 R3 varieties	600	12,000	10.2 %
5 R4 varieties	200	1,000	.85 %
4 R5 varieties	75	300	.26 %
4 R6 varieties	30	120	.10 %
4 R7 varieties	12	48	.041 %
1 R8 variety	3	3	.0025 %
Grand Total		117,471	

(B) Now, let's take those survival percentages in the last column, and apply them to the original mintage, to estimate the *average original mintage of each variety*:

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>EACH GROUP'S PERCENTAGE OF 10,144,165</u>	<u>EACH GROUP'S ORIGINAL MINTAGE</u>	<u>AVERAGE ORIGINAL MINTAGE OF EACH VARIETY</u>
18 R1 varieties	61.3 %	6,218,600	345,500
16 R2 varieties	27.2 %	2,709,300	172,500
20 R3 varieties	10.2 %	1,034,700	51,700
5 R4 varieties	.85 %	86,200	17,240
4 R5 varieties	.26 %	26,400	6600
4 R6 varieties	.10 %	10,100	2525
4 R7 varieties	.041 %	4160	1040
1 R8 variety	.0025%	250	250

(C) In order to bring that right-hand column down to the present, we need to estimate what percentage of the mintage still survives. Here comes the big problem. If we accept the usual estimate that 3% of the mintage still exists, we obtain the following estimates of survivors—but note the last column below; minimum and maximum populations so derived are far higher than the traditional ones:

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>AVERAGE ORIGINAL MINTAGE OF EACH VARIETY</u>	<u>EACH VARIETY MINIMUM</u>	<u>EACH VARIETY MAXIMUM</u>
18 R1 varieties	345,500	5201	10,500
16 R2 varieties	172,500	1501	5200
20 R3 varieties	51,700	501	1500
5 R4 varieties	17,240	201	500
4 R5 varieties	6600	76	200
4 R6 varieties	2525	31	75
4 R7 varieties	1040	9	30
1 R8 variety	250	2	8

—and the total of maximum survivors is 306,833, just about 3% of the mintage.

The total of maximum survivors seems reasonable, but the proposed maximum numbers for rare varieties do not. There may be some undiscovered examples—after all, S-234 and S-268 were each considered R6 not so very long ago—but it's hard to believe that so many of the R5 and higher coins are out there somewhere.

In that case, let's re-compute the last table, on the assumption that the numbers of the rare varieties are fairly well known: a generally, but not absolutely, safe assumption. If we limit the varieties of R5 and above to conventional numbers, here is how the 1801-1807 cent population looks (of course, this is in part a re-statement of (A) above):

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>AVERAGE ORIGINAL MINTAGE OF EACH VARIETY</u>	<u>EACH VARIETY MINIMUM</u>	<u>EACH VARIETY MAXIMUM</u>
18 R1 varieties	345,500	2001	4000
16 R2 varieties	172,500	601	2000
20 R3 varieties	51,700	201	600
5 R4 varieties	17,240	76	200
4 R5 varieties	6600	31	75
4 R6 varieties	2525	13	30
4 R7 varieties	1040	4	12
1 R8 variety	250	1	3

—and the total of maximum survivors is only 117,471. What proportion of the original mintage is that? Barely more than 1%! There is the dilemma, in real numbers. Survivorship of the 1801-07 cents, if we are to adhere to conventional proportions among the rarity ratings, is limited to about 1% (taking the conventional numbers literally) or maybe 1.5%, by the maximum numbers of the rare varieties—and even 1.5% seems very low. However, we can reconcile things and reach a more reasonable 3% overall survivorship figure if we slip the reins, so to speak, on the surviving proportions (hence, numbers) of the lower-rarity varieties. We are then saying that we know about most of the rare coins, but some of those common varieties must exist in very large numbers. I think that this is the case. In particular, I believe that there are some "super-R1's" around which dominate the survivors of each year's coinage.

These "super-R1's," for which we presently have no official rarity name, are found in junk stores, antique malls, flea markets, and low-grade coin accumulations all across the country, and they show up in the stocks of general coin dealers everywhere. How many S-216's and S-224's have we seen? How many S-232's and S-258's and S-260's? How many S-273's and S-276's? I believe that a great many more of these varieties, and others, exist than the traditional R1 maximum of 4000 or so. The trouble is that there's no definite data on the proportions (let alone the numbers) of survivors of common varieties. Absolute numbers we can't examine yet, but the above system of approaching the problem could help estimate the numbers if the proportions were better nailed down. I think it is very desirable and quite possible to do that, but we really need to gather some information. So here is a proposal:

An 1801-1807 Large Cent Survivorship Project

No one can examine a significant part of these cents in one brief project, as Sheldon and Breen did with a thousand 1794's, but we can compile reports of the cents we see and attribute over the course of a year or two. We are dealing with several dates, and 72 potential varieties, so to have 1000 cents in the database would be only a good start. 10,000 would be better, and with that many (possibly 3% of the cent population of those years) we could begin to draw some rarity-rating conclusions with the statistical firmness which Dr. Sheldon had for the 1794's!

Send me a list of the 1801-1807 cents you see and attribute. It doesn't matter where they are. Did you see a couple of S-276's at that last local antiques show? An S-260 at the flea market last weekend? How about those boxes with a few low-grade cents on the tables at your local coin club meeting? The shows, small and large, are where the cents will really show up. Make it a habit—keep a little list, and send it in every so often. If we could have even a few dozen enthusiastic cent-hunters sending in data, several thousand cents could be accumulated in the database in a couple of years. I could report 1000 cents myself here in the VA-PA-MD-DC area if I had a year or two to do it. Cents in copper dealers' catalogs could also go into the information, but they would (I hope) be only a small fraction of the total. They would be the scarcer coins, on the average, but they might be included because many of the general dealers' stocks are of disproportionately lower-rarity coins, having been picked over by copper weenies who leave the common cents where

they find them. Cents in collections should NOT be included, unless the collections are general ones (date or type sets); the rare varieties are seriously over-represented in most copper specialists' holdings, such as Sheldon variety sets.

I can keep the records and make occasional reports, preparing the way for some conclusions on down the road. The information will be stored in a computer-based format, making project expansion and statistical research easy, and will be available for other EAC members doing coordinated or subsequent research projects (as well as published in *P-W*). The general objective, of course, is to amass enough data to make a numerical analysis, such as was demonstrated above, meaningful. Cent collectors, dealers, and students could end up with both proportional and (possibly) numerical evidence of the survivorship of the 1801-07 cents. *Some of the guesswork could be taken out of cent collecting—some unpleasant surprises could be avoided in the future—paying rare-cent prices could be made less of a gamble. I believe that this is important for all of us.*

Nothing written here should be taken either as dogmatic or as set in concrete, because these lines of reasoning and analysis are frankly experimental. This project is proposed so that we can learn more about the old cents, and I'm asking for your help. If successful or encouraging, the project could be extended in time or scope—imagine a project like this for the 1798's! EAC members, if you have any cent attributions to report, opinions to express on this subject, additional information which should be considered, or anything to suggest which you feel would make this project easier or more productive, or if you just want to exchange ideas, drop me a line. I'll consider anything you have to say (if it's polite), and will respond to all the correspondence I can. Just think of the goodies you might discover while doing these attributions. Thanks to you all, and good hunting—and send me a list!

Red Henry, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, VA 22604

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LATE DATE CENT UPDATE

Bob Grellman

There are two "new" die varieties in the late date series. Actually we have known about these cents for a long time, but we have mistaken them for die states of other varieties. Fortunately neither of the "new" varieties is rare, and there is a good chance most advanced collections already contain examples of both. The new varieties are 1842 N-3 and 1851 N-45.

1842 N-3 This variety was thought to be a late die state of N-8 with the lines and points of the N-8 reverse die lapped off, so it was delisted long ago. We were wrong. Actually the reverse die of N-3 is a later state of the 1842 N-4 reverse. A careful study of several high grade examples has proven that, once again, Newcomb was correct. So, the 1842 N-3 variety has the obverse of 1842 N-8, later, with the reverse of 1842 N-4, later. The rarity of the N-3 is probably R-2+, possibly R-3, but it is not rare by any means. All the examples of N-8 I've seen have at least a remnant of the point up to right from the right top of N in CENT. All the N-3's I've seen have no trace of this point but do have the minor die marks of the late N-4 reverse. A Phoenix has risen.

1851 N-45 This variety is what we used to call 1851 N-5 with the lump on the base of E in CENT. As with the 1842 N-3, a careful examination of some high grade 1851 N-5 cents has proven it comes with two different reverse dies. The reverse die was changed to the one with the lump on E **before** the second obverse die crack appeared and possibly before the first crack as well. So, the 1851 N-5 has the obverse of N-5, early, without the strong lump on the base of E in CENT. The new 1851 N-45 has the obverse of N-5, later, with the lump on E in CENT. Other minor die marks visible on high grade examples also confirm these two reverse dies are indeed different. Again, this is not a rare variety, probably R-3.

A late date cent checklist, prepared by Mac MacDonald, is presented here for your use. It is an updated, revised version of the one originally developed by J.R. Frankenfield. Eventually we intend to use this form to gather information for a new version of the "Common Cents" census report. For now, just use it as you see fit to help keep track of your collection.

That's all for this report. If you have any coins or information of note regarding the late date cents, please drop me a note. My phone number and address are in "Swaps and Sales."

LATE DATE

1840 - 1857

LARGE CENTS

Early Die State
Middle Die State
Late Die State

E-00
M-00
L-00

N1
PF

Proof
Only

DIRECTIONS

- Make copies of this form for future use.
- Mark net grade of best specimen of each variety you own in appropriate box.
- On separate form, mark number of each variety you own in appropriate box.

371 Business Strikes
14 Proofs
385 Varieties

1840	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	N16	N17	N18	N19	N20	N21	N22	N23	N24	N25	N26	N27	N28	N29	N30
1841	N1 PF	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	N16	N17	N18	N19	N20	N21	N22	N23	N24	N25	N26	N27	N28	N29	N30
1842	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10 L6	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	N16	N17	N18	N19	N20	N21	N22	N23	N24	N25	N26	N27	N28	N29	N30
1843	Un- known	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7 L2	N8	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	N16	N17	N18	N19	N20	N21	N22	N23	N24	N25	N26	N27	N28	N29	N30
1844	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8 PF	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	N16	N17 L26	N18	N19	N20	N21	N22	N23	N24	N25	N26	N27	N28	N29	N30
1845	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	N16	N17	N18	N19	N20	N21	N22	N23	N24	N25	N26	N27	N28	N29	N30
1846	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	N16	N17	N18	N19	N20	N21	N22	N23	N24	N25	N26	N27	N28	N29	N30
1847	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	N16	N17	N18	N19	N20	N21	N22	N23	N24	N25	N26	N27	N28	N29	N30
1848	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	N16	N17	N18	N19	N20	N21	N22	N23	N24	N25	N26	N27	N28	N29	N30
1849	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	N16	N17	N18	N19	N20	N21	N22	N23	N24	N25	N26	N27	N28	N29	N30
1850	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	N16	N17	N18	N19	N20	N21	N22	N23	N24	N25	N26	N27	N28	N29	N30
1851	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	N16	N17	N18	N19	N20	N21	N22	N23	N24	N25	N26	N27	N28	N29	N30
1852	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	N16	N17	N18	N19	N20	N21	N22	N23	N24	N25	N26	N27	N28	N29	N30
1853	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	N16	N17	N18	N19	N20	N21	N22	N23	N24	N25	N26	N27	N28	N29	N30
1854	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	N16	N17	N18	N19	N20	N21	N22	N23	N24	N25	N26	N27	N28	N29	N30
1855	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	N16	N17	N18	N19	N20	N21	N22	N23	N24	N25	N26	N27	N28	N29	N30
1856	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	N16	N17	N18	N19	N20	N21	N22	N23	N24	N25	N26	N27	N28	N29	N30
1857	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	N16	N17	N18	N19	N20	N21	N22	N23	N24	N25	N26	N27	N28	N29	N30

1853 →

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Major Die States of the year 1848, Part 6

Daniel Argyro

N-8 and N-27 are the two most interesting varieties for 1848. With 10 and 15 Die States respectively, they can be quite a challenge. I have described the reverse Die only to ease in identification. The only rare Die State is N-27o, this surfaced at EAC 94. All others are relatively common.

N-8

N-8a Rev: Many lines from ER to dentils. Line midway from I in AMERICA to dentils. Lines at various angles from UN to dentils. Points up to right from stem near C in CENT. Scratch from left upright of E in UNITED to dentils.



N-8b Rev: Additional Die scratch left side E in UNITED to dentils over D.



N-8c Rev: Additional crack, Dentils over
A to MER, from left side of R
to dentils over right side R.



N-8d Rev: Additional crack, ST to dentils
over right side of A.



N-8e Rev: Additional crack, ED to dentils
over left side of S in STATES.
Points at stem gone.



N-8f Rev: Additional crack, from right side of E in UNITED to dentils. This joins scratch from left side E.



N-8g Rev: Lapping removes lines at ERI, and scratch from left side E in UNITED to dentils.



N-8h Rev: Additional crack, left side S in STATES to dentils. This joins crack from D in UNITED.



N-8i Rev: Additional crack, right side T in UNITED to dentils over left side of E.



N-8j Rev: Additional crack, RIC to dentils over left side A.



N-27

N-27a Rev: Several parallel lines over ERIC tangent to top of R. Horizontal line joins right top seriph of T in UNITED to its upright. Lump on top left of T in CENT. Engravers scribe joins tops of UNITED. Scratch joins left upright of N in UNITED to dentils over U.



N-27b Rev: Crack joins top of M from upright to upright.



N-27c Rev: Additional crack from left of M to dentils, from right of M to E to left side R to dentils over right side R.



N-27d Rev: Additional crack from D to dentils halfway to S.



N-27e Rev: Additional crack from over A
in STATES to tops of TE to
dentils over S.



N-27f Rev: Additional crack OF to dentils
over left of A in AMERICA.



N-27g Rev: Additional crack from top left
of O to dentils over left side
of O.



N-27h Rev: Additional crack from left
of U to dentils.



N-27i Rev: Additional crack across top
of ST to dentils over A.



N-27j Rev: Additional crack from dentils
over right side R to IC, this
joins there tops.



N-27k Rev: Additional crack from left side
ST to dentils midway to D.



N-271 Rev: Additional crack from bottoms
IC up through A to dentils.
Scratch from N to dentils is
gone.



N-27m Rev: Additional crack from top left
of A to crack from F to dentils.



N-27n Rev: Die has been lapped. This leaves the field smooth (no flowlines). But all cracks lightly visible.



N-27o Obv: Strong ORB from Star 11.3 to 12.3.
(R-8+) One confirmed

* * * * *

THE DEATH OF A DIE: MARIS 46-e
John Lorenzo

The Maris 46-e obverse is characterized by a long curved neck of the horse's head, a long nose, and the plow beam which ends under the letter A of Caesarea (Jersey: Latin). To collectors and most catalogers, the 46-e die marriage is more interesting for the die clashing of the reverse shield and part of the reverse legend in the K-9 to K-6 area of the obverse, in the field slightly above the rim. Die clashing occurred when no planchet was manually fed into the screwpress and the obverse and reverse dies came together. On higher grade specimens the die clashing can be easily observed to have occurred twice (i.e., two reverse shield impressions are observed in all die states of this Maris variety). This article will explore the die clashing, die states and the eventual die deterioration of the obverse die. Maris 46-e planchets were small, compact and thick, and were made from good copper properly rolled and annealed before striking, making even low grade examples display a semi-gloss surface with considerable sharpness of detail. In the cataloging of the John Garrett '80 collection, Lot: 1443, we observe the statement that the date is obliterated eventually by the clashing. This is not the total picture with 46-e. Due to the combination of die clashing and slow die failure, ten distinct die states have been observed by this writer. I will detail each of these ten die states and, when possible, provide contemporary examples by plate matching with my own specimens. The die states will be listed as D-1 thru D-10. A most common example in large cents is the 1831 N-12 example; the die progression here is similar since a large cud-like break slowly engulfs the entire date area.



State 1

DIE STATE 1 (UNCLASHED OBVERSE)

No double reverse shield die clashing is visible. No apparent die failure above numerals. IB fully struck up. No break to first A visible from rim. Very rare since only die state without clashing. None plated since Spiro Sale (1955). Die crumbling slightly under UM begins since tips of denticles are broken.

DIE STATE 2

Double reverse shield die clashing appears. Die just beginning to fail above date, but all numerals still full. Reverse motto clash, with incuse U and R plainly visible at K-8 on obverse. Break first seen from rim to first A. The break is cud-like during the first half of the distance to A, crack-like the remaining distance.

Plate examples: Shenkel-5462; H. Garrett-1391

DIE STATE 3

Die failure above date progresses downward to top of first seven and the overall direction of the die failure in the date area will be, in general, in a 1 > 7 > 8 > 7 direction. A full cud-like break is now seen from the rim above the first A. The top of the first seven begins to be engulfed, with extensive die sinking in the area leading to swelling on the surface of the struck coins.

Plate example: Shenkel-5464

DIE STATE 4

Entire top of first seven and top of 1 engulfed in the die failure. The reverse I is the first letter beginning to show signs of weakness in the reverse legend. Clashed URI of reverse motto more visible than on D-2 at K-8 (not shown). Plate example: Frontenac-179



State 5

DIE STATE 5

Same appearance as D-4 except the top of the 8 shows signs of being engulfed (i.e., top loop of 8 is filled in).

DIE STATE 6

Die failure progressing downward to middle of numeral 1. URI of reverse motto appear incused more clearly on the obverse of this die state than any other. Example: Stacks FPL 90:165

DIE STATE 7

The numeral 1 is almost entirely engulfed; only the vertical stem of the first seven is apparent, and the top of eight is still visible but filled in as on D-5. The top of the I in PLURIBUS is starting to fade, the first real sign of the I starting to fade as a whole letter. Plate examples: H. Garrett-1390; Frontenac-180; Oechsner-1286

DIE STATE 8

The numeral one is totally engulfed, but the vertical stem of the first seven remains. The massive die failure has advanced slightly to the left of the date area. Its size is dramatic, extending from K-7-8 along the rim to engulfing half the lower plow handle. Plate example: Weimer/Hirt Collections: Pine Tree March '76 Sale: 2049



State 9

DIE STATE 9

The numerals 1 & 7 are totally engulfed in die sinking. The bottom half of the 8 is visible. On the reverse only a ghost impression of the I is visible. The adjacent B on its left side begins to show signs of fading.

Plate example: None traced



State 10

DIE STATES

X (1)

X (2) Die Break: rim at 180 degrees vertically into juncture of links seven and eight. Lot 2427 NASCA 4/81.

X (3) Die Clash: with Obverse 13.

STRIKE ORDER

X (1) - 14 (1)	X (2) - 12 (2) -BREAK	X (2) - 13 (3) -[CLASH]
X (2) - 14 (1) BREAK-	X (2) - 8 (4) -[CLASH]	X (2) - 12 (4) -[CLASH]
X (2) - 18 (3) -[CLASH]	X (2) - 8 (5) -BREAK	X (2) - 13 (4) -[CLASH]
X (2) - 20 (3) -[BREAK]	X (2) - 11 (3) -[CLASH]	X (3) - 13 (5) CLASH - CLASH
X (2) - 20 (4) -FAILURE	X (2) - 11 (4) -FAILURE	X (3) - 13 (6) -BREAK
X (2) - 12 (1)		

POPULATION / CENSUS / WEIGHTS

- X-8 Rarity 3: 38MS, 7AU, 5XF, 9VF, 1G.
Weights (Grains): 150.4, 167.5, 150.0, 157.4, 153.5, 150.1.
- X-11 Rarity 4: 22MS, 3AU, 9XF, 2VF, 1F, 3VG.
Weights (Grains): 149.7, 151.5, 182.6, 134.3, 141.9, 135.4.
- X-12 Rarity 3: 31MS, 7AU, 9XF, 6VF, 1VG.
Weights (Grains): 147.2, 143.4, 169.5, 148.1.
- X-13 Rarity 3: 77MS, 18AU, 16XF, 7VF, 3F, 1VG.
Weights (Grains): 138.2, 149.8, 146.1, 153.9, 165.1, 161.7, 182.6, 168.9, 157.5, 141.9, 138.1, 164.8.
- X-14 Rarity 8:
Weights (Grains):
- X-18 Rarity 7: 1VF, 2F, 4VG.
Weights (Grains): 129.6.
- X-20 Rarity 6: 4VF, 6F, 2G.
Weights (Grains): 149.2, 104.9, 136.8, 163.1.

SPECIMEN BANK (PLATES)

X-8	Pine Tree	2/75	Lot 495
		10/75	Lot 651.
		2/76	Lots 2174, 2175, 2199U.
	Superior	2/74	Lot 162.
	N.E.R.C.A.	3/78	Lot 558.
	NASCA	4/81	Lot 2420.
	RH (?)	2/78	Lot 28.
	Kagin's	8/83	Lot 273.
	Bowers & Ruddy	11/73	Lot 281.
		3/81	Lot 6
		7/81	Lot 385.
	A.B.&M.	8/83	Lot 160.
		11/88	Lot 3524.
		3/89	Lot 5179.
		6/89	Lot 2036.
		3/90	Lot 1144.
	J. Lepczyk	9/83	Lot 12.
	E.A.N.	1/91	Lot 113.
	H. Melnick	11/83	Lot 143.
	SDS, Inc.	10/88	Lot 1311.
		3/90	Lot 2524.
	Stack's	6/73	Lot 860.
		4/74	Lot 82.
		3/75	Lot 740.
	E.A.N.A.	10/91	Lot 254.
	X-11	Pine Tree	10/75
2/76			Lot 2177.
NASCA		4/81	Lot 2427.
Kagin's		9/78	Lot 1757.
Stack's		3/75	Lot 741.
		2/77	Lot 69.
		2/82	Lot 279.
Bowers & Ruddy		10/80	Lot 1502.
A.B.&M.		8/83	Lot 161.
		8/89	Lot 4256.
		3/90	Lot 1145.
Paramount		11/77	Lots 39, 40.
H. Melnick		11/83	Lots 146, 147.
Rarcoa		7/84	Lot 1503.
SDS, Inc.	8/90	Lot 2522.	

X-12	H. Melnick	11/83	Lots 149, 150, 152.
	Bowers & Ruddy	1/75	Lot 53.
		2/76	Lot 1031.
		5/77	Lot 4.
		10/78	Lot 37.
		6/81	Lot 2019.
		7/81	Lot 982.
	N.E.R.C.A.	7/78	Lot 10.
	Kagin's	10/76	Lots 1248, 1742.
	Auction '80		Lot 1.
	Pine Tree	10/75	Lot 661.
		2/76	Lots 2178, 2179.
	Stack's	11/74	Lot 375.
		6/75	Lot 193.
		4/88	Lots 113, 2042.
	NASCA	4/81	Lot 2432.
	A.B.&M.	11/88	Lot 3535.
3/90		Lot 1146.	
SDS, Inc.	3/90	Lot 2528.	
E.A.N.	1/91	Lot 117.	
X-13	Pine Tree	2/75	Lots 51, 496.
		10/75	Lots 667, 668.
		2/76	Lots 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184.
	NASCA	4/81	Lots 2433, 2438.
	A.B.&M.	9/88	Lot 3130.
		11/88	Lots 3530, 3539.
		3/89	Lots 5136, 5137, 5180.
		9/89	Lot 24.
		6/90	Lot 4010.
	Stack's	11/74	Lot 377.
		3/75	Lot 742.
		6/75	Lot 197.
		2/77	Lot 71.
		9/79	Lot 624.
		12/83	Lot 418.
		Bowers & Ruddy	6/75
	11/76		Lot 362.
	6/77		Lots 2248, 3128.
	12/77		Lot 5087.
	2/78		Lots 24, 25, 27.
8/78	Lot 69.		
2/79	Lot 1469.		
1/80	Lot 878.		
10/80	Lot 1503.		
3/82	Lot 1050.		

	Kagin's	9/78	Lot 1760.
		2/82	Lot 88.
		8/83	Lots 277, 280.
	N.E.R.C.A.	7/77	Lots 10, 11.
		7/78	Lot 18.
	Superior	4/73	Lot 73.
		6/75	Lot 519.
		7/75	Lots 60, 61.
		10/79	Lot 40.
		7/84	Lot 7.
	Paramount	7/77	Lot 21.
	H. Melnick	11/83	Lot 154.
		2/84	Lot 344.
	SDS, Inc.	3/90	Lots 2529, 2530.
	E.A.N.	1/91	Lot 118.
	E.A.N.A.	10/91	Lots 258, 259, 260.
X-18	NASCA	4/81	Lot 2452.
	A.B.&M.	11/88	Lot 3553.
X-20	NASCA	4/81	Lot 2459.
	A.B.&M.	11/88	Lot 3558.

COMMENTARY

The work horse of the ring dies, its longevity no doubt due to few major injuries and damage it received during its use.

Reorganization of the strike order will no doubt occur.

X-8

A Bank of New York Hoard variety, it was tallied at 189 specimens.

Usually well struck in uncirculated condition, I have never seen an example without the big die break on obverse, this being the 8 (5) - X (2) die state, although at least one has survived in the 8 (4) - X (2) die state.

FINEST KNOWN: Member of BONY Hoard, MS.

X-11

A Bank of New York Hoard variety, it was tallied at 132 specimens.

A very sharply struck variety in uncirculated condition, although in the final die state of the obverse the die failure in the exergue could be mistaken for wear.

FINEST KNOWN: Member of BONY Hoard, MS.

X-12

A Bank of New York Hoard variety, it was tallied at 264 specimens.

FINEST KNOWN: Member of BONY Hoard, MS.

X-13

A Bank of New York Hoard variety, it was tallied at 726 specimens.

This variety suffers from a large number of striated planchets.

FINEST KNOWN: Member of the BONY Hoard, MS.

X-14

Currently (1992) unique.

FINEST KNOWN: Unique, VG.

X-18

An extremely rare variety, probably less than 12 have survived.

FINEST KNOWN: A.B.&M. 11/88 Lot 3553, VF.

X-20

The most common non-Bank of New York Hoard variety using the X reverse.

FINEST KNOWN: E.A.N. FPL, VF.

REVERSE Y

Regular Die: Closed chain of thirteen links successively overlapping from the outside in a counterclockwise direction. Within links a raised circular band incused with STATES on the left and UNITED on the right; separated by two RAISED EIGHT POINTED STARS. WE ARE ONE in three lines within band. Letters of WE touch band second E low. Third E touches band.

DIE STATES

Y (1) Lot 1504 Bowers & Ruddy 10/80.

Y (2) Die Break: inside link seven extending into link eight. Lot 283 Stack's 2/82.

Y (3) Die Clash: with Obverse 15.

Y (4) Die Chip: inside link seven. Lot 2445 NASCA 4/81.

STRIKE ORDER

Y (1) - 15 (3)
-[CLASH]

Y (3) - 15 (4)
CLASH-CLASH

Y (2) - 15 (3)
BREAK-

Y (4) - 15 (4)
CHIP-

POPULATION / CENSUS / WEIGHTS

Y-15 Rarity 4: 1AU, 3XF, 25VF, 13F, 8VG, 1G, 1AG.

Weights (Grains): 160.8, 122.9, 130.9, 155.07, 145.3, 159.4.

SPECIMEN BANK (PLATES)

Y-15	NASCA	4/81	Lot 2445.
	Stack's	2/82	Lot 283.
		12/83	Lot 420.
	Coin Galleries	4/82	Lot 1726.
	Bowers & Ruddy	10/80	Lot 1504.
	SDS, Inc.	10/88	Lot 1313.
		8/90	Lot 2524.
	A.B.&M.	11/88	Lot 3544.
	E.A.N.A.	10/91	Lot 265.

COMMENTARY

Y-15

Reverse with both eight pointed stars strong is infrequently met with after Y (2).

A single type variety.

FINEST KNOWN: A.B.&M. 11/88 Lot 3544, AU.

REVERSE Z

Pattern Die: Closed chain of thirteen links successively overlapping from the outside in a counterclockwise direction. Within the links are two RAISED RINGS of decreasing size, with STATES to the left and UNITED to the right; separated by two cinquefoils. On each side of both cinquefoils are four dashes in a diamond configuration. WE ARE ONE in three lines within raised rings. All letters and ornamentation within rings is incused.

DIE STATES

Z (1) Lot 2410 NASCA 4/81.

Z (2) Die Clash: with Obverse 19.

Z (3) Die Crack: rim at 180 degrees extending vertically. Lot 117 Stack's 5/76.

Z (4) Die Failure: affecting first 3 links. Lot 421 Stack's 12/83.

STRIKE ORDER

Z (1) - 1 (1)

Z (1) - 19 (1)

Z (3) - 19 (2)

Z (1) - 12 (4)

Z (2) - 19 (2)

Z (4) - 19 (2)

-(CLASH)

CLASH-CLASH

FAILURE-

POPULATION / CENSUS / WEIGHTS

Z -1 Rarity 7: 1AU, 1VF, 3F.

Weights (Grains): 150.2, 144.7.

Z -12 Rarity 6: 3VF, 5F, 1VG, 1AG.
 Weights (Grains): 175.7, 157.7, 163.7.

Z-19 Rarity 5: 1XF, 12VF, 7F, 8VG, 2G.
 Weights (Grains): 122.1, 142.2, 146.7.

SPECIMEN BANK (PLATES)

Z-1	NASCA	4/81	Lot 2410.
	Bowers & Ruddy	10/80	Lot 1496.
		12/77	Lot 5086.
Z-12	A.B.&M.	11/88	Lot 3515.
	NASCA	4/81	Lot 2455.
	A.B.&M.	11/88	Lot 3536.
Z-19	NASCA	4/81	Lot 2455.
	Bowers & Ruddy	10/80	Lot 1505.
		Stack's	2/77
		12/83	Lot 421.
		4/88	Lot 2045.
		10/89	Lot 213.
	Kagin's	9/78	Lot 1766.
		10/76	Lot 1251.
	A.B.&M.	11/88	Lot 3556.

COMMENTARY

Z-1

The elements on this die were hand engraved which lends credence to the probability that this die was a pattern. Against this however, the proportion of survivors of this variety in lower grade attests to their circulation. Perhaps a "production pattern" designation to this die would not be inappropriate.

Specimens of this reverse exist aligned bookwise on this variety.

FINEST KNOWN: A.B.&M. 11/88 Lot 3515, AU.

Z-12

Another very rare variety, with some examples showing the dies aligned bookwise.

FINEST KNOWN: ex-Pullen, VF.

Z-19

The most common of the varieties using Reverse Z. Some specimens have the dies aligned bookwise.

FINEST KNOWN: Stack's 2/77 Lot 77, XF.

REVERSE ZZ

Regular Die: Closed chain of thirteen links successively overlapping from the outside in a counterclockwise direction. Within links a raised circular band incused with UNITED on the left and STATES on the right; separated by two incused cinquefoils. WE ARE ONE in three lines within band. Letters of WE touch band. Third E touches band. All letters inside band except the O are blobby.

DIE STATES

ZZ (1) Page 153, Colonial Newsletter.

STRIKE ORDER

ZZ (1) - 23 (1)

POPULATION / CENSUS / WEIGHTS

ZZ - 23 Rarity 8: 1VG.
Weights (Grains): 159.0.

SPECIMEN BANK (PLATES)

ZZ-23 Colonial Newsletter Page 153.

COMMENTARY

Discovered in late 1963 by Ted Craige. Currently (1992) unique.

FINEST KNOWN: Unique, VG.

APPENDIX: GRADING FUGIO CENTS

The grading criteria for Fugio cents are straight-forward, however, their application to any particular specimen is influenced by a host of factors: poor planchet preparation, quality of strike, and the use of dies long after their serviceable life, among others. The general criteria are as follows:

GOOD

Dial Side: All major design elements (sun and rays, dial and base, letters and date) will mostly be outlined against the field, with little or no interior detail visible.

Ring Side: Rings and central band well outlined against the field. Only stray letters on the band will show, and the central letters (WE ARE ONE) will be weak.

VERY GOOD

Dial Side: Interior detail of design elements becomes visible. The eyes in the sun and some ray detail are apparent. Stray numerals on dial, with a partial lower baseline, some ornaments on the bottom of the base are visible. Letters and date strong.

Ring Side: Central letters still weak, and most band letters show, though weakly.

FINE

- Dial Side: Eyes in sun easily visible, about 10-25 percent of ray detail visible. Numerals on dial weak, excepting those on right side which do not show. Lower baseline complete with partial upper baseline. Most ornaments on base show. Some cinquefoils may begin to show detail.
- Ring Side: Most band letters show and central letters strong. In some cases upper or lower cinquefoil on band becomes visible.

VERY FINE

- Dial Side: Sun's detail becomes full (eyes, nose and mouth distinct). Detail from tips of rays reach almost to surface. Numerals on dial strong excepting right side which is weak. On some specific varieties right side numerals will not show in lower VF grade. Upper baseline almost complete, with ornaments beneath showing strong detail, with the exception of the last ornament on the right. Most cinquefoils will show some detail in upper VF grade.
- Ring Side: All letters on band and central area should show and one cinquefoil shows fully in upper VF grade (generally the cinquefoil between the letters S and U).

EXTREMELY FINE

- Dial Side: Virtually complete ray detail with only isolated spots of weakness. All numerals on dial should show, with ornaments between the numerals on the right side of the dial showing weakly. Both base lines complete and all ornaments below show strongly. Most cinquefoils show full detail. Cross-hatching in the letters of the exergue begin to show. In the lower XF grade three of these four diagnostic points may apply.
- Ring Side: All letters and both cinquefoils show strongly.

The above grading criteria are only a general description of the wear imparted to the detail of a Fugio cent in the grade described. In grades above fine, special attention should be given to the surfaces of the coin.

EPILOG

With this issue of Penny-Wise the "Fugio Files" comes to an end. Of course, during the time that the update '92 was being presented a number of corrections, additions, deletions etc. have occurred. I would like to thank those that have already written with information to share, and I would like to invite those others that have a fascination for the Fugio cents series to write.

I would like to begin a tally of Fugios by variety (and die state if possible) in collectors' cabinets. The tally should include weights in grains, diameter, and die axis if possible.

I would also like to receive any other information that changes or is at odds with the update '92. If you choose to participate I promise to respect your anonymity. Because of this research, I sometimes like to reference specific Fugios, for one reason or another. Those that send in a listing of their collection, please

letter/number combination of your choice. Of course, if you find this too invasive let me know and I will use your information just for the tally; but the information is important.

Once again, I would like to thank those that have sent me tallies and information.

* * * * *

NEW JERSEY COPPERS, PART 16: MARIS 42c

John Griffee

The 'c' reverse appears with three different obverse dies and all three have become rare combinations--41c, 42c and 44c.

Dr. Maris, in his 1881 book, A Historic Sketch of the Coins of New Jersey, said the 42c variety was "rare" and although a lot of additional 42c's have been found in the 113 years since the book was published, it is still a rare coin, though maybe not the R6 past numismatists have claimed.

There are two specific features of the 'c' reverse that set it apart from all other reverses.

The 'pales' are perpendicular lines or stripes on the shield. They are generally arranged in groups of 3 or 4 vertical lines with six sets of pales per shield. The 'c' reverse is the only die where there are 7 sets of pales.

Also, there is a die break on the shield resulting in a small dot-like cud or round lump of metal on the lower left side near the first star. This defect is on every 42c and 41c I have ever seen in person or on catalog plates. The cud always seems to be the same size. Why? What could be the reason why there were not additional die cracks or deterioration before the die broke or became unusable? Any comments?

On the obverse, you should look at auction catalog plates of high quality coins and see the differences: Stack's, Foreman, 5/89, 41c, lot 1389; B & M, Quartette, 3/91, 42c, lot 1377; and B & R, Garrett, 10/80, 44c, lot 1441. On 42c the horse's ears are vertical with the right ear directly above the eye. On 41c, the ears are vertical but the right ear is slightly left of the eye, whereas on 44c the ears are leaning to the right about 15 degrees AND the right ear is slightly to the right of the eye.

The plow beams, plow handles and positioning of the plow handles are different on all three die varieties--just one of the things that make New Jersey state coinage collecting so interesting.

Listed below are all the 42c's in auction catalogs I own where I do not know the present owner or location of the coins. If you own one of these coins, or know of someone who does, please let me know. The greater the input the more accurate the condition census will be. A 'P' means the coin was plated, 'L' is short for "Lot" and 'FPL' is "Fixed Price List".

NY Coin, Parmelee	6/1890	Fair	--	L414
Chapman	4/04	G	--	L436
Chapman, Stickney	6/07	Fair	--	L296
Schulman, Spiro	3/55	G	--	L1530
Harmer-Rooke	11/69	VG / Fair	--	L204
Stack's, Kissner	6/75	G	--	L115
B&R, Garrett	10/80	VF	P	L1439
Stack's, Bal. Robison	5/82	G	--	part of L117
B & M, Cohen	1/85	VG	P	L2361
B & M, Cole	1/86	Fair	--	part of L1201
B & M, Taylor	3/87	F12	P	L2223
Stack's, Foreman	5/89	VG	P	L1392
Stack's Steinberg	10/89	G	P	L130
Stack's, Hessberg	6/91	F	P	L1307

From information obtained from N.J. collectors known to me, and I do not list any owner without permission, I have compiled the following condition census for 42c.

1. VF30 Noted Western collector
2. VF20 Don Mituzas, FPL, 2/88, #149; B & M, Norweb, 10/87, L1346; Fred Baldwin, 1961
3. VF25 triple struck Bill Anton; B & M, Quartette, 3/92, L1377; Henry Garrett
4. VF Bill Anton
5. VF Bill Anton
6. VF Bill Anton
7. VF gashed B & M, Garrett, 10/80, L1439; Henkels, Maris, L433
8. VF NJHS, bequest of Frederick A. Canfield, Dover, N.J. 1927
9. VF rough Mike Ringo, FPL, 4/92, #60; B & M, Frontenac, 11/91, L171; F.C.C. Boyd; Ryder; Elder, Miller, 4/20, L1766
10. VF / F Stack's, Hessberg, 6/91, L1307
11. F15 - VF20 Ray Williams; B & M, Quartette, 3/92, L1378; Henry Garrett; Stack's, Foreman, 5/89, L1391; Stack's, Bareford, 5/84, L164; Schulman, Spiro, 3/55, L1529
12. F - VF Northeastern collector; Stack's, Robison, 5/82, part of L112
13. F - VF Richard August; Bob Vlack
14. F12 double struck B & M, Taylor, 3/87, L2223; Richard Picker; Stack's, Mass. HS, 10/70, L99; William Summer Appletone; Maris
15. F12 John Griffree; Don Mituzas; Tony Terranova; B & M, Taylor, 3/87, L2224
16. F12 Jeff Rock; Steve Colestock; Long Beach Show, 10/89
17. F12 Scott Barnes
18. F Tom Rinaldo; Stack's, Early Am. Coins, 3/94, L343; Rush Smith; B & M, Miller, 11/92, L2372; Tom Rinaldo; B & M, Frontenac, 11/91, L171; Boyd; Ryder, 1920; Elder, Miller, 4/20, L1766

- 19. F Steve Tanenbaum
- 20. F / VG Ray Williams; Don Mituzas; B & M, Saccone, 11/89, L1609; Harry Resigno; B & M, Dodson, 6/84, L3204; Stack's, Kissner, 6/75, L114; Damon Douglas
- 21. F / AG Sinking Spring, Pa. collector; Jeff Rock, FPR #8, Spring/93, #196
- 22. VG John Lorenzo; Tony Terranova; GNA, NY, 11/87
- 23. VG N.Y. collector #4
- 24. VG N.J. collector #4
- 25. VG B & M, Cohen, 1/85, L2361
- 26. VG Stack's, Foreman, 5/89, L1392; Stack's, 12/86, L906
- 27. VG double struck ANS; Henry Grunthal, 1945
- 28. VG6 / AG3 Roger Moore; Don Mituzas, FPL, 1/93, #110; B & M, Quartette, 3/92, L1376; Henry Garrett
- 29. VG / Fair Harmer, Rooke, 11/69, L204
- 30. G - VG porous Jeff Rock
- 31. G Stack's, Steinberg, 10/89, L130
- 32. G double struck John Griffee; David Palmer; Bill Anton; Bruce Kesse; Stack's, Kissner, 6/75, L115; Damon Douglas
- 33. G Chapman, Mills, 4/04, L436
- 34. G. Schulman, Spiro, 3/55, L1530
- 35. G Stack's, Bal. Robison, 5/82, part of L117
- 36. G holed ANA; Norweb donation
- 37. AG3 / G6 Peter Scherff; Ed Sarrafian
- 38. AG ANS; Henry Grunthal, 1945
- 39. Fair NY Coin, Parmelee, 6/1890, L414
- 40. Fair Chapman, Stickney, 6/07, L296
- 41. Fair B & M, Cole, 1/86, part of L1201

Now comes the hard part--to be, or not to be, a R6. Maris 42c has been considered a R6 (13 to 30 pieces) but there are forty-one coins listed above! Allowing for the possibility of some duplication AND I'm sure there are some in collections not known by me, I estimate the total known coins will number about the same.

The rarity factor for 42c should be changed to R5 (31 to 75 pieces).

Any additions or corrections to the above census would be helpful--send facts to me at 946 General Whiting Blvd., Kure Beach, NC 28449.

I pledge that any collector of N.J. coppers who sends me a list of their holdings by Maris numbers will receive, if requested, a copy of my inventory, including St. Patrick's. Be sure to advise me if I can list your name on the Condition Census list, otherwise, only your state will be listed.

* * * * *

ANSWER TO "WHERE IS THE PLUG?"

Between the points immediately to the right of star number seven on the obverse, and directly under the crotch of the ribbon on the lower reverse, .06" in diameter.

A NEW SPECIMEN OF 1795 NC-3

Mark Poulin

I wish to report a new discovery of a 1795 NC-3 I purchased unattributed at a Connecticut flea market.

Approximately the bottom third of the obverse is slightly raised with this effect being a little more pronounced in the left lower field. This seems consistent with the swelling and regrinding Bill Noyes describes for some examples of the S-76b, though perhaps more so. There is also a die crack extending from about 6:45 on the rim to the hair--about 1/16 of an inch left of the anterior margin of the hair behind the lower bust. Except for the top half of the 5, the date is almost completely invisible.



The reverse, as illustrated, is characterized by extensive die failure. There is heavy sinking along the borders from just after the second S in STATES to O in OF. Also, from R in AMERICA to the left ribbon end. There is also an arc-like swelling that comes down from the top of the coin and ends rather strongly under AM of AMERICA. Again, this seems consistent with what little can be seen on the discovery piece.

As far as assigning a grade to the coin, I lean toward Good-4. I think that by sharpness the coin is a couple of points higher, but with some minor defects. Del Bland has graded the coin as AG-3. It is still the FINEST KNOWN of this R8 variety!

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

There will be an EAC meeting at the N.E.N.A. Convention, at the Royal Plaza Hotel. Marlboro, Massachusetts, beginning at 1 P.M. on August 27, 1994. Theme: "This One's Got to Be Better Than Last Year's". All are welcome.

* * *

There will be an EAC meeting at the Illinois Numismatic Association State Show and Convention, Holiday Inn City Center, 500 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria, Illinois, October 7-9, 1994. The meeting is scheduled for 11 AM on Saturday October 8, in the Seminar Room. John Wright will speak at the meeting, and will also attribute large cents on Saturday and Sunday--Stop by his table and talk about early copper!

* * * * *

LAS VEGAS ON A BUDGET: RECOLLECTIONS OF THE 1994 EAC CONVENTION

Alan B. Gorski

The last time I attended an EAC Convention was about seven years ago. Back then you could buy relatively nice Sheldon large cents in good to very good condition (depending on rarity) for under \$100. However, since that time the price of nice large cents has really gone up. Quite frankly I didn't know what to expect. My budget for large cents is rather limited and I wasn't sure what awaited me. Would there be anything at the convention that I could afford?

You see, my large cent collection consists mostly of well worn Sheldon varieties and admittedly some of them are really "scudzy." (Although I do have a few nice ones.) I get real thrill out of scrounging around looking for large cents on the verge of being unattributable and identifying them correctly.

So, with some apprehension, I made my way through the glittering lights and slot machines of the Aladdin Hotel and found the EAC bourse. Much to my delight, you still can buy reasonable looking Sheldon varieties for under \$100.

As you can imagine, one of the high points of my day was coming across a plastic bucket of large cents labeled "\$8 each." Wow, what a bonanza. Somewhere near the bottom of this cache was a well worn large cent. LIBERTY on the obverse was completely gone and only an outline of the bust remained. Fortunately about 2/3 of the date was still there. On the reverse, the center of the wreath was worn smooth (die swelling?), but UNITED STATES OF AMERICA was still faintly visible.

After about 20 minutes of comparing the coin with the photographs in Penny Whimsy, I decided that it had to be an S-196, 1800/179 overdate (for reasons that are now obvious to me) because of the position of the second zero. If it had been an S-194 or S-195 there would have been no way of telling since they share a common obverse and there wouldn't have been enough of the reverse left to make a distinction. Even though I own an S-196 (which is in much better shape), I bought the coin anyway. The price was right and I had fun attributing it. Perhaps I reasoned that I had already "invested" too much time and effort not to buy it.

Is this coin collectable? I guess so. It's attributable; but just barely. How valuable is it? Well, that all depends on the buyer. I would have bought it without hesitation for \$6 but probably not \$12. Pretty small potatoes when you consider the hammer price of some of the coins sold at the Sale. But more on that later.

Which brings up an important point regarding price. It doesn't matter whether you spend \$20 or \$20,000 for a coin, you need to feel that you are getting a good value for your money. Otherwise, every time you look at that "overpriced coin" you will be reminded that you "paid too much" whether you did or not.

Besides buying a few large cents I came away with a few other nice things. I bought a copy of CQR from Jack Robinson (which replaces my 1986 edition). Chris McCawley, who got me started in the first place by selling me a copy of Penny Whimsy in 1984, gave me a nice "three headed" commemorative copper medallion. The obverse depicts Washington, Jefferson, and Franklin. The reverse depicts three large cents.

One humorous comment overheard while wandering the bourse compared collectors to "vacuum cleaners." I've never really thought of myself in those terms before, but I guess in a way it's true. Once coins go into a collection they seldom come back out. The only exception to this "rule" is when someone auctions off their collection or upgrades their collection and swells their lower grade coins.

I wish I could have attended all of the educational sessions, but the ones I did attend were quite good. Dennis Loring's session on grading was excellent. Grading really is something that you can do for 30 years and still learn something. I like his method of grading. Instead of making a snap judgment, he determines the high and low grade that the coin "isn't" and then narrows the grading range. For example, you wouldn't grade a coin with extremely fine detail that is slightly off-color with some surface roughness an EF. But it isn't a Very Good either because it has strong features and isn't dinged or scratched. It could be Very Fine but that's a bit of a

stretch. It's just too hard to be comfortable with that grade. It could qualify as Fine but it's a little nicer than that. The reverse is problem free. Now we've narrowed the range. The most likely grade is probably about an F15. Looking at a lot of coins graded by experienced EAC members helps. After you've graded and compared grades for a while, it becomes a "gut feeling."

Saturday night was the big night . . . Sale Night! This year the sale featured some of the nicest coins I've ever seen. One of the many privileges of being an EAC member is getting the chance to examine these beauties before they find new homes.

I would have liked to bid on some of these coins but they were way out of my price range. They were just too darn nice. Later that evening I joined the applause with the sale of a spectacular coin that sold for \$20,000!

Looking around the room during the sale I didn't see many people bidding. Only a select few. If body language is any indication of mood I'd say that there were a lot of people who would have liked to bid on something but there was nothing in their price range either. Is the EAC sale turning into a "spectator sport?"

I suppose if I were a serious collector, I wouldn't want to waste my time waiting for the "financially challenged" to haggle over lower grade coins. Perhaps I'm being overly critical and shouldn't cry foul. Actually, there were quite a few nice coins for under \$100 in the late dates. I hope that the sale organizers don't push the minimum bid up too high.

In retrospect, my trip to Las Vegas was a Win-Win-Win situation. I got to vacation with my parents (I don't get to see them very often and they always did want to see Las Vegas), went to the Hoover Dam (I'm an engineer), enjoyed a relaxing / well deserved vacation, and attended yet another EAC convention.

So you can pick up where you left off and there still are nice coins out there for people on a budget.

* * * * *

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING REPORT

Bob Metzger

A combined Colonial Coin Collectors Club and EAC Region 6 meeting was held on Saturday, April 30, 1994 at the Tarrant County Convention Center in Forth Worth, Texas, during the Texas Numismatic Association's 36th Convention. The following members and guests were present:

William B. Yates
Randy Bond
Norma Mather
Barbara Edwards

John Smedley
Ron Blaha
Jerry Clemons
Ed Jasper

Scott Brockleman
Fred Gowdy
Jerry Williams
Bob Metzger

After the usual round of introductions, Bob Metzger reported on the April 21-24 EAC Convention in Las Vegas, emphasizing the outstanding variety of educational programs and exhibits. Due to time constraints caused by the preceding ANA Roundtable meeting, only one of the two planned slide shows was presented. Bob Metzger narrated the pre-federal portion of the ANS-produced *America's Copper Coinage, 1783 - 1857*, and there was a high level of audience participation, both with questions and answers. Despite being forced to adjourn after only 45 minutes, everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the meeting and the program.

* * * * *

The Early American Coppers Club was saddened to learn of the passing away of two members--James R. Holcomb #3094 and George Sukenis #3386. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to their families.

Pete Smith also wrote, noting that the June issue of The Numismatist (page 869) listed Dwight Hostetler as deceased. Dwight held EAC membership #511. Pete stated that he had roomed with Dwight at one of the EAC Conventions: "I remember him as being very friendly and talkative." Our sympathies go to Dwight's family, as well.

* * * * *

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 September 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.

NAME	CITY, STATE	MEMBER #
Kenneth W. Miller	Mechanicsburg, PA	4178
Bruce Paulhamus	East Ridge, TN	4179
Bill McKivor	Seattle, WA	4180
Bob Huisman	Manassas, VA	4181
Bob Bowser	Hudson, OH	4182
Richard B. Terry	Palo Alto, CA	4183
Joshua Cantor	Santa Ana, CA	4184
Dr. Ronald G. Reinbold	Salix, PA	4185
Ray Gatzke	Ira, MI	4186
Dirk George	Victorville, CA	4187
Gregory D. Field	Charlotte, NC	4188
Norman Ritchie	Northwood, OH	4189
R. Clark Smith	Tokyo, Japan	4190

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THE EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS CLUB
presents:

**THE INAUGURAL EARLY AMERICAN
COPPER SYMPOSIUM**

Held in conjunction with the
103rd American Numismatic Association Convention
Detroit, Michigan

Wednesday, July 27, 1994
7:30 PM

SPEAKERS FOR THE EVENING WILL BE:

John Wright - Keys to Attributing Die Varieties of
1838 Large Cents

Bob Grellman - A Discussion on the Large Cents of
1840-1857

AND MUCH MORE!!

For more information, please call or write:

Gregory S. Heim, EAC 3619
P.O. Box 4595
Warren, N.J. 07059-0595
(908) 754-2980, 10AM to 10PM ET

SPECIAL NOTE:

I need copper related items to award as door prizes for the symposium. If you have any catalogs, books, tokens, medals, supplies, etc. relating to Early American Copper you wish to donate, please give them to me today. If you do not have these items in your possession, you may mail them to me at the above address. I will be at the upcoming Garden State Numismatic Association show on July 7-10, and of course, the ANA at Detroit. If you would like to donate something, but have no material, a cash donation would also be very much appreciated. With ALL donations, you will be issued a receipt of confirmation, and you will be announced as the donor unless you wish to remain anonymous. Thank you.

SPECIAL COMMENTARY: ELITISM IN EARLY COPPER

David L. Palmer

I feel it necessary to address what appears to be a pervasive attitude within certain factions of EAC. It is an attitude that, allowed to go unchecked, will destroy an organization that I believe is the best from an informational and social point of view.

Let me say first that I have no personal vendettas or problems with any individual who belongs to EAC. Most everyone has been kind and helpful as I have pursued my collecting interests. Those that haven't, I don't bother with -- thank the Good Lord they are miniscule in number. As I was to only two EAC conventions prior to Las Vegas, I had not been privy to a number of things going on, but read P-W with great interest each time it arrives. I have spoken to many "Fringe" EAC'ers over the last two years who have expressed concern over the direction certain individuals seem to be trying to take the rest of us. That direction is the "elitist" attitude that many of the dealers and some collectors have affected recently.

This "elitist" attitude takes the form of dealers paying little or nothing for lower grade cents, even rare ones. Worse yet is the "experts" among us who grade so utterly harshly that any cent, you, the great unwashed masses, have is crap.

In my limited experience of 14 years (and many mistakes) I have bought coins commercially graded VF-20 or better (no rim knocks, porosity, verdigris, scratches etc.) put my conservative eye to it -- called it F-12 or F-15 only to be told later by some self-appointed expert that it really only grades VG-8. When I protest they say maybe VG-10. I am reminded of an incident a number of years ago where I bought a 1798 Large cent graded by a NON-EAC dealer as "almost XF". I bought it for just under "Grey Sheet" VF. It turned out to be an R5+ variety. Needless to say I was walking on air for about a month due to the "cherry" ("RIP" as NON-EAC'ERS would call it). When an opportunity presented itself for me to be in the same room with (4) of the pre-eminent names in copper I seized it -- partly to meet these men I'd only read about, partly to "learn from the Masters" and partly gloat with the "big boys" that I too could find a "cherry".

Imagine how dejected I became when my "cherry" (my grade F15) was nipped to death ("VG-8 at best") by three members of the EAC GRADING COMMITTEE. Walter Breen saw it before these three gentlemen, congratulated me on "a great buy on a nice early cent": quote his, emphasis mine. Had WB not said that first, I might have quit collecting right then and there and slunk back under the rock I crawled out from. Thank you Walter.

Fast forward to 1986 and "The Robbie Brown Sale" comes up. As I marvel at all the lovely cents I know I could never afford, I notice a 1798 cent that looks like it could be the twin sister of mine (same variety, too). I go to my collection to make sure mine is still there; it is. I compare copper to photo and conclude we have a match (not scientific, but effective). I call my wife in (she has no interest in copper and has been trying to figure out what my problem is) and ask her to compare. Surely

this is the acid test (she always says "you paid how much for that ugly thing?"). For the first time I can remember, she says "where did you get this one? It's nice!" She compares the two and concludes they are both nice! I say "do we have a match?" She says "they could be twins". I finally looked at the description and RSB's coin is graded F15!?! I asked other EAC'ers and their opinions agreed, and yet the "Powers That Be" graded mine at virtually half of what the RSB coin was graded. By the way, the other opinions included two people who saw the RSB coin "in the copper."

There are a number of dealers in EAC who seem to want to cater only to those with a lot of money to spend on coins. There are many EAC'ers that have considerably more discretionary capital than I. After much discussion with others whom I have called "Fringe" EAC'ers, I believe that the "norm" is collecting on a budget. Some have bigger budgets. Do not misunderstand; I am not of the ilk that begrudge the wealthy among us. Three cheers to REN for the set he assembled over time with much love and patience! I would be one of the first to give RSB a standing ovation for assembling a set such as his, not once, but twice.

What I do resent, is the attitude that they are the only customers worth bothering with by these dealers.

I have painstakingly assembled the best set I can afford. I've made some smart buys and some stupid ones. I have stupidly passed on a couple of coins that I will always regret not buying. Jim Long seems to be the only dealer who caters to us "Fringe" collectors. Many of us would rather nobody see our collections unless they share the same belief that any coin you took the time to search for, spend the money on, and put in your collection is worth looking at. If I can afford choice VG-8 and someone else can afford MS-65, and someone else can only afford Fair-2, why should they be looked at differently? I question the motives of someone who does this, as I think we all should.

This reminds me of another incident that took place at a Maryland show a few years ago. I "cherried" an R5+ 1796 large cent that had AU detail but was pitted (not horribly). Cherried was probably not correct, as the NON-EAC dealer had it attributed properly but priced incorrectly. After careful study and checking the attribution I determined that the piece was way under-priced at \$100.00 so I bought it (didn't even haggle). Knowing that S-85 usually comes on pitted planchets, I didn't have a problem with the piece. To find an S-85 in F12 or above with choice color and surfaces would be worthy of a write-up in P-W, in my experience. Trying to be realistic and conservative, especially as I had the monetary room to be, I graded the piece VG-8, 42 points less than its sharpness grade. I had seen only one that was choice for the grade and it was VG-10. Therefore I concluded that my new piece was an "average VG-8" per Robinson Copper Quotes or better. I showed it to five EAC dealers, four of whom told me I paid "too much" or "all the money" for it. The fifth dealer said "Want to sell it? I'll give you \$400.00 for it". Interestingly, none of the dealers looked in CQR for a number on which to base their opinions. That fifth dealer hit CQR right on the money for VG-8 Avg. -- He would not have offered more than he felt he could sell it for, so possibly he grades it a notch above VG-8. Are he and I crazy and the four dealers right? OR the other way around? Do they know how tough it is to find a choice-for-the-grade S-85? Do they care? OR is it typical for

them to downplay something I have because I'm not a name in EAC -- certainly not a name associated with big money?

How does the above translate? It comes down to collectors of lower grade coins wanting to sell at some point, whether it be duplicates or front line pieces and getting less than they should, and getting discouraged and not collecting anymore. Many of these people are not yet at their prime earnings age. At some point in time, if treated properly, they will have more discretionary income. Where will they spend it? With dealers that pooh-poohed everything they collected previously, or with dealers that treated them like the valuable customers they are? So far, the informational side of EAC has far outweighed the negatives of the elitism. Will that last? I haven't a clue. I hope it will, and the elitism is squashed now, before it further splinters the club.

Maybe my additional interest in Colonial coin collecting has led me to be more tolerant, or maybe the fact that I have cherished a couple of NC's from the vast majority of large cents these people wouldn't even look at, let alone buy, has fostered this attitude. I would like to own nothing but choice VF20 and above, but I made a decision in 1980 to collect the Sheldon series by die variety. In looking through the census information available then and now, I realized it was not possible for me to set that goal, as there are a whole bunch of varieties not available or even known to exist in so high a grade.

I have no problem whatever having a Fair-2 sit right next to a choice VF20 in my collection. The VF20 makes the Fair-2 all the more ugly until I pick it up reexamine what it is, where, why and how much I got it for. If I believe it was one of my mistakes, it will always be a thorn in my side until I get rid of it (when I can afford a better one).

Until that time it is MY piece of crap and how dare you put it down!?

One of the things I got from reading Penny-Whimsy was that each of these little round hunks of copper has a history all its own -- each one is unique! Maybe my coin was one that George Washington or Thomas Jefferson held or spent along their life's path -- Who am I to say it is not worth collecting because it is Basal State?

If Jack Beymer felt that way in 1979, 1795 NC-3 probably would have been discovered by someone not quite so picky or worse, never discovered at all.

To you large cent collectors with small budgets, HANG IN THERE! The pickings are meager at best at shows today, but a variety collection of some magnitude can be assembled, even today, with patience, love of the sport of the hunt, a little spending cash, perseverance, and a realistic goal to collect the best you can find and afford. Don't let others tell you how your collection should be assembled. When you go to sell, try to find a dealer that finds a value in all large cents -- you may not agree on a price, but at least he will understand and appreciate where you are coming from.

* * * * *

LARGE CENT GRADING QUIZ

Tom Madigan

OK, boys and girls -- sharpen your pencils, its time for a quiz!

One of the first steps in writing my grading book was to have my coins graded by a few experts in such matters. Well, so far, one of them has. He is well known, well respected, and very conservative!

Then it occurred to me it would be fun to photograph the choicer ones, set them out in the pages of Penny-Wise, and give you all a quiz on grading them -- see how you all do in comparison to each other and this mystery person.

So, you will find photos of 41 obverses and 37 reverses, each numbered Obv. 1, Obv. 2, Rev. 1, Rev. 2, etc, and a separate sheet at the end where you fill in your answers, your name if you want, fold the paper as marked and staple shut, grab a stamp, lick and place in the appropriate spot, and walk to your nearest post box and drop it therein. Is this easy, or what?

I will tabulate your answers, figure out the percentages of the various grades given to each coin, give the expert's grades, and publish it in the next issue. OK?

Things to bear in mind:

- 1) They are all jumbled up and not in type or grade order (well, I didn't want to make it too easy);
- 2) You are grading the sharpness, do not subtract for rim dings or other little flaws;
- 3) Not every grade is represented for each type;
- 4) There may be more than one photo of each grade;
- 5) Do not subtract 5 points cause you don't own it.
- 6) Have fun!

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Patron Saint

Over the years, centdom has accorded many firsts. These include Cogan's popularizing auction in 1858, Levick's photographic plate of 1793s a decade later and Crosby's pioneering monograph on 1793 published in the AJN in 1869. If asked to name these firsts, most EAC'ers would score 100 percent.

However, if asked to name the first variety collector or the first variety collection sold at auction, most cent enthusiasts would draw a blank. Ironically, the most tradition-conscious group within all of U.S. numismatics has been missing the very beginning of its tradition.

The answer to one question and perhaps both is Dr. T. Larkin Turner. He sold his entire collection at auction on February 14 and 15, 1866. The cents alone occupied most of the second day, with over 600 pieces described in a staggering 395 lots. For sheer numbers, excepting only the disposition of hoards, the Turner collection was not matched until well into the twentieth century.

The set contained a full run of dates from 1793 to 1857 but, then, so too did Cogan's sale of November, 1858. The difference is the depth: Larkin's collection contained 10 1793s (four chains, 6 wreaths), 34 1794s, six 1799s (including one described "not entirely uncirculated" that fetched a lavish \$16.00), 29 1800s and so forth.

Because the cataloguing is terse, one could argue that the multiple examples of one date were duplicates, not varieties. However, the first day of the sale, which features colonial coppers, George II half pennies in quantity, store cards and Canadian tokens, reveals the owner as an individual blessed with abundant curiosity. The nature of his tastes argues against his being a mere filler of holes, as do the thirty years he devoted to the hobby. If EAC would like to have a patron saint, Dr. T. Larkin Turner is a reasonable candidate for the office.

Why has it taken Dr. Turner so long to file his claim? The auctioneer, Samuel Hatch, was on the obscure side and probably slow to spend his own money on excessive printing. In 20 years, we have encountered only three copies of the Turner catalog and two are in institutions. Fortunately, one of these two is at the American Numismatic Society, where it is freely accessible and will amply repay the curiosity of those who peruse it.

John W Adams
1994

SOME OBSERVATIONS REGARDING THE BROBSTON 1800 "LIBEKTY" HALF CENT

Ron Manley

According to Roger Cohen, Jr.¹ Joseph L. Brobston was an advanced collector of half cents from Philadelphia during the period from 1920-1950. Brobston's collection contained most of the proof-only dates and was complete in the varieties of business-strike half cents known at the time. One of the prized specimens in Brobston's collection, according to Walter Breen², was an 1800 half cent with the top of R in LIBERTY missing.

Although Brobston believed his coin to be an example of a second 1800 obverse, today the coin is recognized as only an unusual specimen of the only 1800 variety, the result of a filled die. The coin was sold as part of Brobston's collection in 1963 by Stack's in their Fixed Price List No. 69. Thirty-odd years later this coin was again offered for public sale, this time by Bowers & Merena, as Lot 31 of the Wally Gilligan collection³. Both sides of the coin are plated as 2X enlargements in the sale catalog.

In his half cent encyclopedia² Breen lists the 1800 half cent as two subvarieties different in their planchet types. Briefly, 1800 Breen-1a (B-1a) is described as using spoiled cents as planchet stock. B-1a exists in two die states: State I, the unruled early state, and State II, the ruled early state. Both die states have strong full dentils and are listed as extremely rare, with B-1a listed as R-7. The other subvariety Breen-1b (B-1b) used Boulton & Watt planchet stock in its preparation. It is found in three die states. Die state III is characterized by weak dentils and reverse letters, the result of regrinding and repolishing both dies to remove rust and clash marks. Die state IV has partial rim breaks, or crumbling at dentils, and the final die state V is described as having continuous rim crumbling. The majority of survivors are from the later die states with weak dentils and reverse letters. This subvariety B-1b is common, listed as R-1.

Regarding the Brobston coin, there appears to be confusion about the die state, and presumably planchet stock, of this historic half cent. Breen described it as a B-1b specimen of Die State III². Mark Borckardt, a B & M cataloguer, listed the coin in its recent sale (Lot 31) as subvariety B-1b, Die State II or III³. However, he also noted "full obverse and reverse denticles. The reverse die file mark from the top of F in HALF is visible, equivalent to Breen's Die State 2."

I believe that neither of these descriptions of Brobston's 1800 half cent are correct. This coin, to this author's eyes, is an example of the extremely rare Die State I, and therefore presumably is a B-1a, on spoiled cent stock. My reasoning is as follows.

The coin obviously has full clear dentils, as evidenced by the enlarged plates and B & M's cataloguer's description for Lot 31³. This alone should eliminate Die State III and later states as possibilities. Furthermore, all the reverse letters, including OF are sharp. The reverse die file mark from the top of F in HALF is still visible.

These facts indicate that neither die had been reground or repolished when this coin was minted. Hence, it must either be State I or II. I should mention that the details pointed out by Mark Borckardt in his B & M catalog description (full denticles, reverse die file marks visible) as "equivalent to Breen's Die State 2"³ are actually part of Breen's description of Die State I², the unrusted early state, not State II, the rusted early state (although either die state is supported by these characteristics).

Since the Brobston coin's surfaces are not entirely original, having been lightly burnished, and since Breen's description of the coin as State III is misleading, it is not surprising that the true die state was unclear. There is, however, another way to distinguish between these die states that has not yet been addressed. As Cohen pointed out¹, apparently, the reverse die was prepared quite a bit earlier than its first use and it was allowed to rust. Die defects that appear to be deep rust spots, exist on the reverse die running from the E in UNITED through the wreath to the C in CENT. The die defect below the E in UNITED to the wreath gradually enlarges from State I to State V. This is apparent to an observer studying either Cohen's plates for the Early, Rusted, and Late States¹, or Breen's plate coins for States I, II, IV, and V^{2,4}. The reverse of the Brobston coin matches the die defect shown for State I!

Finally, the weight of the Brobston coin suggests it was not minted on Boulton stock. Its weight of 87.6 grains³ is substantially heavier than the 82.5 grains averaged by 1800 B-1b specimens struck from Boulton planchets². The Brobston coin's weight agrees well with the 87.35 grains of Lot 96 from the Cohen Sale⁵, a 1800 State I specimen and the Early State plate coin in Cohen's book.

In conclusion, observations have been presented that the Brobston 1800 "LIBERTY" half cent is an extremely rare State I specimen, presumably minted on spoiled cent stock. It should therefore be properly described either as a Cohen-1, Breen-1, or Breen-1a variety. A final speculation: perhaps few specimens with the filled die are known because they are a small subset of a very rare die state rather than of a common one.

REFERENCES

- ¹ Cohen, Jr., Roger S.: *American Half Cents, the "Little Half Sisters"* (second edition), Arlington, Virginia, Wigglesworth & Ghatt Co., 1982.
- ² Breen, Walter H.: *Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents 1793-1857*, Southgate, California, American Institute of Numismatic Research, 1983.
- ³ Auction Catalog, *The Burke & Clemente Collections*, Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, Bowers & Merena, Inc. 1994.
- ⁴ State V is illustrated for the 1800 reverse in Reference 2 using the enlarged plate coin for the 1802 B-1, C-1 reverse.
- ⁵ Auction Catalog, *The Roger S. Cohen, Jr. Collection of Half Cents*, Beverly Hills, California, Superior Stamp & Coin Co., Inc., 1992.

* * * * *

CAN YOU FIND THE PLUG?

Jim Hart



At one of our local coin shows, I found this nice 1824 N-2 cent in a 2 x 2 holder. A quick check with CQR showed the coin priced at about a VF-30, when the cent looked more like an AU piece to me. The dealer took my lower grade 1824 cent in trade, plus cash. I could hardly wait to get home to check the coin out in detail. It appeared to have been cleaned and recolored, but I still found it attractive. I showed the coin to Don Hansen of the Coin Depot in San Gabriel, California; he took a good look at it and told me the coin had been expertly plugged. I showed the coin to numerous EAC members at Long Beach, Las Vegas, and elsewhere, with only a few noticing the plug--even after I told them about it. I also had a verbal opinion from ANACS at the Long beach show, describing the coin as cleaned and retoned with no mention of the plug.

Fred Truex and Phil Moore both told me they had seen the coin on a local bid board with a hole in the upper portion. I decided to take the coin back to the dealer from whom I had purchased it. He had sold the coin I had traded to him but offered me a refund. I decided to keep the coin with a partial refund. Look at the pictures taken by Bill Noyes--can you find the plug? It's just as hard to locate on the photos as on the coin.

Editor's note: The answer to the question appears on page 230.

* * * * *

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JIM HART writes,

You can update Fred Truex's earthquake report (in the May Penny-Wise) to over 8000 aftershocks. I work for Caltrans and we were sent out to the field to find earthquake damage. It gets scary when you are under a damaged bridge and hope a strong aftershock does not bring it down on your head. They are talking about the need to "seismic retrofit" over 1000 bridges in the Golden State.

* * *

JEFF ROCK writes,

In the last C4 Newsletter I had what I call "a cheap, blatant rip-off of Denis Loring's popular ANA Diary," which dealt with the EAC convention. Looks like even us hard-core colonial people had a blast in Vegas!

On the school front: Because college funding is so tight right now I've decided to stay here in San Diego and get my M.A. from SDSU [where I did my undergraduate work]. That'll be two more years of research and skill acquisition, which will make me a stronger candidate for a Ph.D. program, as well as give me the opportunity to make more contacts with people in the history profession other than numismatists! Looks like it'll be enjoyable and will still allow me gloating privileges in regards to the weather come November or December!

* * *

KERMIT WASMER writes,

I am very much into the large coppers and enjoy the membership. I got to meet many members at the EAC Convention in Las Vegas in April. I am hoping our state show and convention can become a regular meeting place each year for EAC. Its dealers are always welcome. Unfortunately we are bumping heads with Long Beach this year and won't see Reynolds or McCawley at our show. Maybe next year. I am attending Denis Loring's class on coppers in Colorado Springs in a few weeks and feel it should be a real education. My books are set up for major varieties (about 80 holes). I need nothing after 1804 (no junk). I've had to settle for some AG's--G's in the early dates. Four or five coins are still attainable on my budget, so I don't have far to go. My wife and I spent a weekend with John Wright last summer and consider Joe Tomasko a good friend . . . I met March Wells in April and he has offered his support.

Editor's Note: Kermit is president of the Illinois Numismatic Association; they are sponsoring an EAC meeting at their fall show, on October 8; for details, see the "Announcements of Upcoming Meetings."

* * * * *

SWAPS AND SALES

EAC'ers are invited to submit their ads for inclusion in this column. Ads up to twelve lines are free. ADS LARGER THAN 12 LINES MUST BE SUBMITTED CAMERA-READY, AND PAID IN ADVANCE. A full-page ad is \$80, one-third page is \$30. Ads should be limited to early American Coppers or tokens. Deadline for material to appear in the September 15, 1994 issue is August 31, 1994. All ads must include the individual membership number of a current member in good standing. Copy should be sent to the Editor, Harry E. Salyards, 606 North Minnesota Avenue, Hastings, NE 68901.

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BOB GRELLMAN, EAC #575 P.O. Box 951988 Lake Mary, FL 32795-1988
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For Sale: Deluxe hardbound copies of the Attribution Guide for United States Large Cents 1840 - 1857. The reference for attributing late date large cent. Autographed on request. \$70 postpaid.

Attribution Service: I offer an attribution service for late date large cents. I will attribute your cents for \$1 each plus return postage. This charge includes crud removal when necessary, and I'll include my opinion as to sharpness and net grades if requested. No quantity limit, fast service, lifetime guarantee.

Want Lists: Send me your want list for late date cents. I can help.

* * * * *

Want others think of "The CENT Book": Mabel Ann Wright, EAC #78

TOM DELOREY: I especially like the historical notes at the beginning of each date. It lends a warm, human touch that is missing from most numismatic literature published since Sheldon.

WARREN LAPP: I can see now why it took so long to get it into print. John didn't leave out a thing. I am amazed at the photos. The book is perfect in every way, which is what I would expect from JDW.

HERB SILBERMAN: Your book is beautiful! I congratulate you on the content.

TONY CARLOTTO: The CENT Book is fantastic. The year-by-year history is a very nice touch and keeps you reading.

SEE FOR YOURSELF -- BUY YOUR OWN. See "The CENT Book" ad in this section.

* * * * *

WILLIAM C. NOYES, EAC #363 1600 West 92 Street Bloomington, MN 55431

Forget what others have said, the experts have spoken -- the Noyes books won the 1992 (U.S. Large Cents 1793 - 1814, \$130) and 1993 (U.S. Large Cents 1816 - 1839, \$105) Early American Coppers literary awards — accept no imitations! Order both today for \$190 postpaid. From: Lithotech - Noyes, 1600 West 92nd Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55431.

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GARRY APELIAN, EAC #2686 910 Revere Road Glenview, IL 60025
(708) 724 - 7242

For my personal collection and research I wish to hear from any and all EAC'ers with counterstamped half cents. I am using as my reference "American and Canadian Countermarked Coins", by Gregory Brunk. I am looking for any varieties in the book or any unlisted varieties. Please write or call and discuss what you have. I will trade, swap or buy.

* * * * *

PAUL LANGSETH, EAC #2976 P.O. Box 464 Parker, AZ 85344
(602) 669 - 6158 work / (602) 669 - 9425 home

1794	S-68	strong obverse break, strong reverse strike, no rim nicks, light porosity, 12 net 7	\$ 720
1795	S-73	ex-Van Cleave	750
1795	S-76a	ex-Matthews, great color	395
1796	S-94	10-sharpness, rim nick reverse between D and S. Reverse strike stronger on right side. Light porosity. Olive brown. Net 5 or 4	700
1798	S-149	Smooth brown choice Fair.	295
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1807	S-272	Sharp Good-4.	1950

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* * * * *

ED SARRAFIAN, EAC #1628 P.O. Box 864 Glenview, IL 60025
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Wanted to Buy: Machin's Mills halfpence. High Grade or Rare Die Varieties. Please write with price desired.

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Superior Jack Adams, 5/92, prl	20
Stack's Starr II, 12/84, prl	20
Superior G. L. Kuntz, 10/91, xprl	20
Superior G. L. Kuntz, 10/91, xprl, hardback	55
Mid-American Cu.Spec., 9/90, prl, some writing	6
B & M ANA Centennial, 8/91, prl	20
Superior Mendelson, 2/91, prl	25

* * * * *

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P.O. Box 1483

Winter Park, FL 32790
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- 1827 N-12, Good 6+/5-, Grellman attribution, R6, \$750.
Late die state, crack prominent between 1 and 8,
attractive color and surfaces, no porosity or corrosion;
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- 1830 N-10, VG7/G5, R4+, \$125.
Porous fields, no corrosion, rim dent at star #3.

* * * * *

JOHN O. DUNLEAVY, EAC #3967

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Hemet, CA 92544
(909) 766 - 8051

For Sale: New Jersey copper:

Maris 55-m, R4, VF - EF, previously lot #2040 of the 1976 Pine Tree Auction EAC
Convention Catalog, where it is plated. \$425.

Please send for free price list of many other New Jersey and colonial coins.

* * * * *

JOHN SHAPE, EAC #916 (resigned) 29216 -- 39th Ave. South

Auburn, WA 98001

Several years ago, I was a member of EAC. My interests at that time were large cents and half cents. I have since gone on to other interests, but I still have all of the issues of Penny-Wise that I received -- November 15, 1979 through November 15, 1988, inclusive. Thinking that these issues might be of interest to newer members, I will entertain an offer for them. Thank you.

* * * * *

GARY A. TRUDGEN, EAC #1889 3103 Chatham Rd.

Endwell, NY 13760

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1793	u/a	Half Cent	VG	rough surfaces, bold date, net G4	\$1100
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OR TRADE BOTH FOR

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Would the successful bidder(s) of lots #299 & #300 in the 1994 EAC Sale please contact me. I would very much like to obtain die state and rotation information on these two pieces.

* * * * *

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- 1825 C#2 R1 AU50 \$500 Brown with choice, lustrous surfaces.
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- 1816 N3 R5- F15 275 Brown with choice surfaces.
- 1817 N11 R1 AU50 550 Brown with choice, lustrous surfaces.
- 1819 N2 R1 F12 29 Brown with choice surfaces. State II.
- 1828 N12 R3+ VG8+ 110 Brown with smooth surfaces.
- 1829 N1 R3+ F12+ 65 Brown with choice surfaces.

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Arlington, VA 22202

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1817 N-16 "15 stars" XF-40 net F-15 porous, very LDS, break over A & M, blk. \$ 50
 1824/2 XF-40 net VF-25 lite porosity in places, glittering black 229
 1828 N-5½ AU-55 net VF-35, porous in places, gold color pretty as such 90
 1832 N-3½ AU-55 net AU-50, brown / gold 235
 1833 N-5 XF-40 net VF-30 some specks obv. brown / gold 80
 1846 N-3 PCGS XF-45 glittering lite BN net 40 plus 79
 1848 N-32 R6 PCGS VG-08, Pretty unimpaired example, lite BN, quite choice 175
 1847/7 N-31 R5 F-12, chocolate, lighter highlights 45
 1850 (N-24) R6 VF-25 net AG-3, line over N clear, corroded, dark green, found near where Gen'l Braddock died, Farmington, PA. Postage, any order, \$3.00 extra. 29

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- 1) 13 half cents, 1804 to 1857, sharpness of AG to VF, all holed \$ 95.00
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- 3) 1811 C-2, AG3 \$ 60.00
- 4) Low 49, sharpness of EF45 but holed and plugged \$ 45.00
- 5) New Jersey M. 39-a, AG3 \$ 14.00
- 6) New Jersey M. 46-3, AG3 \$ 14.00

Satisfaction guaranteed. Please add a bit towards shipping.

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(410) 360 - 6815

Send for price list of colonials, half cents and mostly large cents for sale.

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MIKE BRISTOW, EAC #1578 5838 Deerpark Lane Paradise, CA 95969
After 2:00 p.m. PST (916) 877 - 1808

- 1805 small 5 Half Cent C-3 detail a VG-10 typical dark and porous \$500
 - 1786 Vermont RR-6 G+ obverse / AG reverse planchet flaw where date should be; top half of obverse tree and mountains clear, half of plow all clear. Only quarta and a few stars visible. Nice color. \$ 75
 - 1786 Connecticut M-5.5M R-5 VG smooth with most legends and date readable \$ 135
 - 1835 N-11 R-5 F-15 nice color and surfaces, small dent \$ 700
- Others available. Send want list or ask to be included on price list mailing.

* * * * *

SCOTT BROCKELMAN, EAC #3200 P.O. Box 2114 Hurst, TX 76053
(817) 595 - 4468

- CONN 1787 33.19-z.1 OBV G REV VG \$25 N.J. 1787 64-T VF but CLND w/rim nicks \$ 75
 - 1795 S-78 F OBV REV BIT WEAKER W/lite verdigris still attractive NET VG 10 \$175
 - 1802 S-240 NICE NO PROBLEMS F 12 \$200 1838 N-6 XF 45 NICE \$ 75
 - 1817 N-10 LDS W/RIM BREAK AT STAR 3 AU NET 45 for SURFACES SCARCE DIE STATE \$200
 - 1821 N-2 XF DETAIL NET 35 FOR SURFACES A VERY ATTRACTIVE SCARCE COIN \$650
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 - 1853 N-6 NICE AU \$150 1837 FEUCHTWANGER CENT EX B&M XF \$ 85
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 - HTT LOW #111 CH AU 55' \$ 90 HTT LOW #112 XF - AU WEAK STRIKE \$ 65
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SEE FOR YOURSELF -- BUY YOUR OWN. See "The CENT Book" ad in this section.

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MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL MEETING REPORT

Ed Masuoka

The meeting was held at the Suburban Washington-Baltimore Coin Show at Festival Hall in Baltimore, Maryland on Saturday March 26, 1994. The following members and guests were present at the meeting:

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Ed Masuoka | Mike Packard | Craig Sholley |
| Mark Switzer | Jay Switzer | Mark Carpenter |
| Enoch Blackwell | Burnett Anderson | James Reese Jr. |
| Tom Wagemaker | Alfred Burke | Joe DeMeo |
| Donald Neiman | Ken Seachman | Walter Reed |
| Patrick Dobale | Henry Hettger | Darwin Palmer |
| John Kraljevich Jr. | Dan Sorkowitz | Stan Stephens |

After the customary introductions, Craig Sholley gave an interesting presentation on the incorporation of minting technology from Europe in the Philadelphia Mint from 1792 - 1837. His talk discussed how the following processes were improved over time: preparation of die stell, hubbing, and striking the coins. He also documented the contribution of the European mints in improving these processes. After Craig's talk the members broke into small discussion groups to look at coins. An announcement was made about the Early American Copper Symposium at the upcoming July ANA convention.

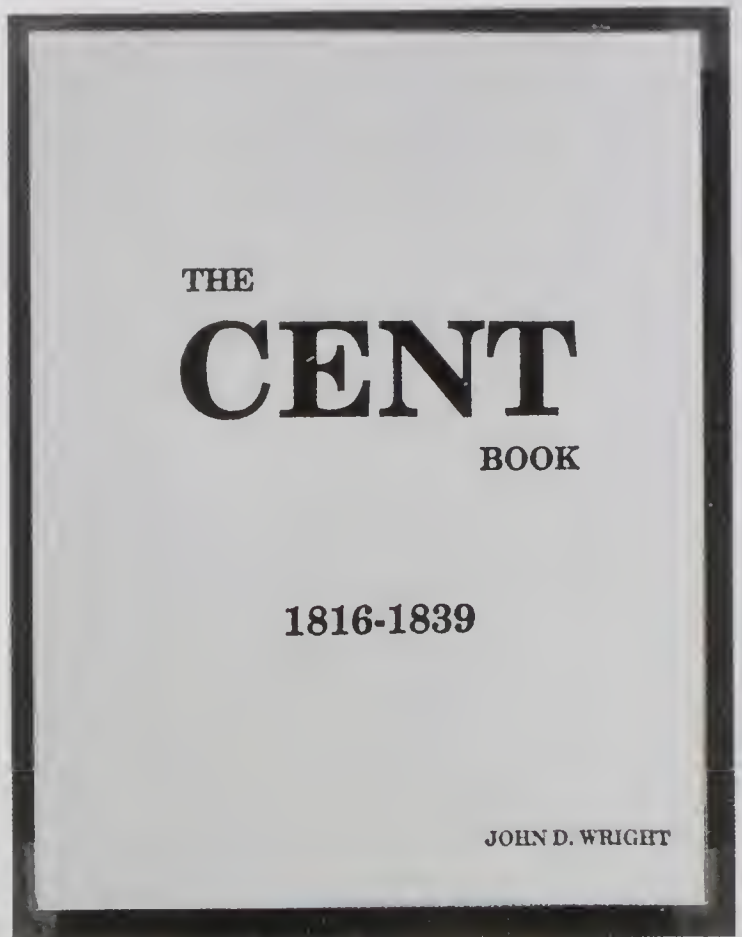
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1820	N-6	Late	VG 10	C	85.
	N-7 III		VF 30	A	150.
	N-8	Early	VF 30	C	225.
	N-8	Med	VF 20	A	50.
	N-9	V. Late	F 25	C	165.
	N-10 b		VF 25	C	80.
	N-10 c		VF 25	C	80.
	N-11 b		VF 20	C	60.
	N-13 c		VF 25	C	90.
	N-15	Med	VF 30	C	150.
1821	N-1 c	Late	F 15	A	200.
	N-1 c	V. Late	G 4	A	50.
	N-1	Latest	AG 3	A	50.
	N-2 b		F 12	C	160.
1822	N-1	Late	G 6	A	10.
	N-3	Early	VF 35	A	175.
	N-3 a/b		VF 20	C	60.
	N-4	Early	VF 30	C	140.
	N-4	Late (re-engraved)	VG 7	S	15.
	N-5	Late	F 12	A	25.
	N-7	V. Early	F 15	C	140.
	N-7 1/2	Early D. Struck	VF 25	A	300.
	N-7	Early	F 12	A	90.
	N-7	Late	VG 10	A	70.
	N-8 I		VG 10	C	140.
	N-8 I-II		F 12	C	185.
	N-8		VF 20	C	325.
	N-10 b		F 15	C	50.
1823	N-2	Med	VG 7	C	160.
	N-2	Late	G 4	C	75.
	N-2	V. Late	VG 7	A	125.
1824	N-1	Early	VG 7	A	20.
	N-1	Med	VF 20	A	140.
	N-3	Early	VF 25	C	200.
	N-3	Early D Struck	F 12	C	65.
	N-3	Med	VF 25	C	200.
	N-3	Late	VF 20	A	100.
	N-4	V. Early (P.O.D.)	VF 35	C	225.
1825	N-1	Med	VG 10	A	115.
	N-1	Late	VG 7	A	80.
	N-2	V. Late	F 12	C	40.
	N-4 b		VF 30	C	225.
	N-6 b		VF 30	C	200.
	N-8 b		VF 25	C	140.
	N-10 I		VG 10	C	90.
1826	N-1 II		VF 35	C	225.
	N-3 b		VF 20	C	125.
	N-3 c	Late	VG 10	C	40.
	N-5 a		VF 20	A	90.
	N-5 1/2		VF 25	C	125.
	N- 5 1/2 c/d		F 15	C	90.



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I have decided to publish the 13th Edition of CQR for delivery around Long Beach time, i.e. about the first week of October 1994. The Walter Dudgeon Sale will be held on July 30, 1994, and I feel that the data coming from the sale will be an important addition to CQR.

As in the past, I would appreciate any and all comments regarding CQR, and especially, the reporting of transactions. I have a lot of help from the membership with suggestions and data, but with the market as sparse as it has been in the last couple of years, the more data reported, the better.

I am very interested in any comments relating to Condition Census, new additions to the CC, comments relating to Rarity Ratings and anything else that could be useful to make CQR better and more accurate (a relative term).

The 12th Edition of CQR is available for \$30.00, or the 12th and the 13th Edition of CQR (to be published as stated above) are available for \$50.00. Any new EAC members joining during 1994 may obtain the 12th Edition alone for \$20.00 or the 12th & 13th both for \$40.00. Just give me your membership number when you order.

A Continuing POLICY for First Time Subscribers - I offer a "no questions asked" refund on any subscription purchased per the above paragraph if you are dis-satisfied for ANY reason within 60 days of the time you receive your CQR. Just return the CQR to me - I'll even re-imburse you for the postage to return the CQR!

We offer the "Jack H. Robinson Sale" catalog for \$30.00, postpaid. This is for the original softbound version. For those that may want a copy of the catalog, without a cover, for three ring binder use as a reference work or whatever - from original print signatures, these are available for \$20.00, postpaid. Both come with Prices Realized.

We offer BOTH original three ring binder volumes of the Grellman loose leaf "Attribution Guide for United States Large Cents 1840 - 1857" with the "Quick-finder" supplement for a postpaid price of \$85.

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* * * * *

No. 19.—*Double Chin*.—Obv. Head very similar to last, the hair somewhat shorter, profile fine and the chin slightly double [not accurately depicted in illustration]. The word LIBERTY is closer to the milling than to the hair. Figures of date are regular and further removed from bust than on No. 18.

Rev.—*Rev. A*.—Maris No. 2. R¹.



No. 20.

Rev. B.

No. 20.—*Double Chin*.—Obv. Same as No. 19.

Rev.—*Rev. B*.—ONE CENT stands high in wreath. The dividing line of fraction is nearest denominator. A M of AMERICA are widely separated. A slight crack extends from milling between M and E of AMERICA to T of CENT. Inclination of wreath stems, 104°. Length from point of union of stems to terminus, right stem : 3½; left stem : 2¾. This reverse is not mentioned by Maris. R².

from CENTS OF THE UNITED STATES, by Francis Worcester Doughty, 1890, p.16



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126 54 spaces: 1-1/4 x 1-1/4: U.S. Large Cent Size	\$40.
127 40 spaces: 1-3/8 x 1-3/8: Most ancients	\$40.
128 24 spaces: 1-7/8 x 1-7/8: silver dollar & crown size	\$40.
129 15 spaces: 2-3/8 x 2-3/8: Medals and 2 x 2 holders	\$40.
130 6 spaces: 4 x 4: Medals and Multiples	\$40.
131 1 space: Display and jewelry size	\$40.

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MINI-DIPLOMAT "2": Exterior dimensions: 9-1/2 x 7-1/4 x 1-1/2 111 Case with 2 trays	\$110.
MINI-DIPLOMAT "1": Exterior dimensions: 9-1/2 x 7-1/8 x 1 Case with one built-in velvet lined half size tray.	
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137 12 spaces: 1-7/8 x 1-7/8	\$30.
138 6 spaces: 2-3/8 x 2-3/8	\$30.

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