

PENNY-WISE

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INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR: THE EAC DEALER

Harry E. Salyards

How many of you are in this club -- indeed, how many of you are *still collecting at all* -- because of an EAC dealer? I am, and I suspect my experience is not unique.

As a senior medical student in the fall of 1973, my then-new bride and I attended a local coin show on a whim. I hadn't done a thing with coins since about 1965. The only thing I clearly remember about that show was that one of the dealers had an 1827 quarter -- and he ended up smirking at me. I recall that it was priced somewhere in four figures, when I couldn't afford anything even in three figures; and it was when I thanked him and handed it back that he smirked. I obviously wasn't fair game -- just yet.

That changed by the late 70s, with a good income and a somewhat unfocused collecting style. Still, I didn't lose much, because I refused to play the "Gem B. U. Game." But by the time of the Cincinnati ANA in 1980, I was awfully tired of "pushy money." I remember looking at a Barber Quarter that was a nice slider (I had learned enough to spot that kind of item, by then), a coin worth a couple of hundred dollars; I asked the dealer, who I noted had exchanged his usual rumpled Western shirt for the "three piece suit look" how much he wanted for it. "Twenty-two," was all he said. Now I *knew* he didn't mean \$22 -- but \$2200?! I think my mouth fell open. When you combine that experience with the mail-order VF Shield nickel that didn't even have full rims; or the handful of folks who knew I was a physician, and who seemed to think that "M.D." was a compound abbreviation for "Mucho Dinero" and "Mighty Dumb," I was about ready to chuck coin collecting entirely when I met Tom Reynolds.

Now, for me, the particular Godsend was Tom. For others of you, it was probably someone else from among that select coterie that we call "EAC Dealers." Like "AU-50," the title is more conducive to a mental image than a glossary definition. I obviously *don't* mean the aggressive new member-dealer who comes on like a blast of hot air through "Swaps and Sales" for the year of his trial membership, and then decides to move on to bunko a different audience. I *do* mean the man or woman who is always more ready to talk coins, to educate the prospective consumer, than to make a quick sale; the dealer who truly buys and sells any given coin at the same grade; the dealer who's more than willing to carry your debt interest-free for a mutually-agreeable time. These are the people we see on EAC bourses year after year -- and we grow so accustomed to their fair dealing that we run the risk of forgetting just how exceptional they are, in the overall population of coin dealers. And so to them I say, thanks.

Please note: Due to the poor quality reproduction of my introduction to the May issue, pages 139 - 140 have been reprinted and included with this issue. Please make the substitution in your copies.

PROOF, BUSINESS STRIKE or RESTRIKE?

THE PROOF HALF CENT QUESTIONS

Rick Coleman

On May 11, 1831, Alexis de Tocqueville, a well-born young Frenchman, landed in New York City after an Atlantic passage of some 40 days. With his travelling companion, Gustave de Beaumont, they travelled throughout America, studying the inhabitants, the cities, the institutions and the customs. From Tocqueville's correspondence and ultimately from his classic analysis of American society, Democracy in America, we get a picture of what America was like in 1831. Too bad he did not pay a visit to the mint. If he had, we might have been able to resolve the question posed by Ron Manley in the last PW. Did they make any business strike half cents in 1831?

There are other questions that are equally difficult to answer about proof half cents. Why were they made at all if half cents were so unpopular? And, why were seven sets of restrikes made when the mint could hardly give the things away to banks and other customers?

I am not able to answer all of these questions. However, the research that I have been doing during the last 18 months has yielded some interesting results. I have been fortunate to have received a great deal of input from two collectors with a substantial number of proof half cents in their holdings. Several other collectors have contributed useful information. Additionally, Del Bland has contributed his data base to the project. The results to date are summarized in Table 1.

The data summarized in Table 1 are constantly being updated. Only verifiably different coins are listed as individual examples. By verifiable, I mean that they have been photographed, seen or known to have been in collections such that duplication in the data base would be unlikely. Unlikely but not impossible. I must assume that I have some duplication in the data base. I must also assume that there are coins that I have not listed. As a result, I feel that the number of examples that I list for each date and variety is close to correct for the higher rarity coins. Once 30 or more examples exist, the risks of both duplication and omission become greater. I would hope that my estimates are correct plus or minus 20 percent.

Table 1. Summary of Proof Half Cent Data Base

Date	Originals		Series VII Restrikes		First Restrikes		Second Restrikes	
	#coins	Rarity	#coins	Rarity	#coins	Rarity	#coins	Rarity
1831	15	6	-	-	37	5	6	7
	[+20 circ.'s]	[5+]						
1832 C-1	4 or 5	7+	-	-	-	-	-	-
1832 C-2	9	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
1832 C-3	3?	8-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1833	50+	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
1834	21	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
1835 C-1	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
1835 C-2	11	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
1836	39	5	-	-	17	6	6	7
1840	34	5+	2	8	4	7+	19	6
1841	40	5	-	-	6	7	16	6
1842	18	6	-	-	20	6	12	7-
1843	30	6-	3	8-	15	6	7	7
1844	31	5+	-	-	5	7+	18	6
1845	19	6	1	8+	5 to 7	7	21	6
1846	25	6	-	-	4	7+	20	6
1847	20	6	3	8-	3	8-	29	6-
1848	16	6	7	7	35	5	8	7

Table 1. [continued]

Date	Originals		Series VII Restrikes		First Restrikes		Second Restrikes	
	#Coins	Rarity	#Coins	Rarity	#Coins	Rarity	#Coins	Rarity
1849 [Small Date]	20	6	1	8+	29	6-	-	-
1849 C-1 [Large Date]	3	8-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1850	22	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
1851	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
1852	1	8+	3	8-	60	5	10	7
1854	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
1854 [80% Cu, 16% Sn, 4% Ag]	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
1855	40[?]]	5[?]]	-	-	-	-	-	-
1856 B-1 [rust pit]	11	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
1856 B-2a[Cu] [no rust pit]	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
1856 B-2[Cu/Ni] [no rust pit]	60+[?]]	5[?]]	-	-	-	-	-	-
1856 B-3	60+[?]]	5[?]]	-	-	16[?]]	6[?]]	-	-
1857 B-1 [dot on A]	4	7+	-	-	-	-	-	-
1857 B-2 [rev., '56]	20+[?]]	6[?]]	-	-	16[?]]	6[?]]	-	-

In general, more examples appear to exist than are reported by Breen¹. This is not surprising nor does it reflect negatively on Breen's work. Breen's encyclopedia was a great start. Continued study and photography of individual examples will enable me to home in on the number of examples extant. The exact number will always be in question.

I have reviewed my data base in light of Ron's article and list below the number of circulated proofs that I have been able to identify:

<u>Date</u>	<u>No. of Circulated Proof Originals Identified</u>
1831	20
1836	2
1840	3
1841	5
1842	5
1843	2
1844	4
1845	1
1846	1
1847	4
1848	2
1849 [small date]	1

Clearly, there is something different about 1831. Ron's suggestion regarding die rotation as a method for differentiating between proofs and business strikes is interesting but probably will not answer the proof v. business strike question.

My observations at the half cent happening in Cincinnati and subsequent examinations of 1831 Originals have led me to believe that the coins were all struck at approximately the same time. I have not seen any examples of the 1831 Original which were struck from rusted, repolished, reground or reworked dies. I have to believe that the total number of strikings were probably completed in one day.

Perhaps not all examples received multiple strikes from the dies. Perhaps the coins latest in the run began to lose the prooflike appearance and were culled for circulation. Who knows?

Ron's observation that there are no known uncirculated business strikes is a good one. My inspection of Norweb:78 leads me to believe that it is a slightly circulated proof. The others that I have examined just look like worn examples of the same item. Perhaps the only distinguishing feature of any of the coins is that some were "bronzed".

Things changed dramatically after 1831. Andrew Jackson was reelected, land was being sold by the government at a phenomenal pace. The government was actually free of debt and showed a surplus of \$20 million by 1836! The prosperity made many things possible. Certainly the mint was becoming more sophisticated by 1836. New coins and proof coins were all in the works.

Then disaster struck. In the summer of 1836, Jackson issued the Specie Circular, which provided that purchasers pay for public land in either gold or silver. Land prices sagged, speculators abandoned their holdings to the banks. By the Spring of 1837, all the banks in the country closed. Panic ensued and a depression began which lasted until 1843.

It is not difficult to imagine that a few half cents dated 1831, proof or otherwise, were spent during those times to buy milk and bread. By 1840, however, things were improving. Texas was an independent country. The idea of "manifest destiny" was becoming popular. The idea of "proof sets" also apparently became popular at the mint as Breen reports². The existence of the proof originals seems well documented and straightforward.

Exactly when the practice of making Restrikes began is a question which continues to beg for an answer. The dates 1831 and 1836 were probably restruck the first time for inclusion in presentation sets for foreign dignitaries. No one knows exactly when they were made. Cohen suggests the period between 1839 and 1854. I initially thought it likely that these two dates were restruck in the earlier part of the time frame suggested by Cohen, perhaps between 1837 and 1839. This would coincide with the striking of several of the newer coin designs and dovetail with the new idea of making "proof" or "presentation" sets.

However, I recently acquired an 1857 First Restrike, [ex. W. Raymond, W. Breen]. I noticed polishing marks on the rims that were nearly identical to those on an 1836 First Restrike which I have examined closely. These polishing marks appear circumferentially on the obverse and reverse rims of both coins. It is possible that they were made using the same process, twenty years apart from each other, but not likely. More likely, the two coins were made at nearly the same time, perhaps in the 1858 to 1860 time frame.

The First Restrikes of the years 1840-49, 1852, 1856 and 1857 include both common and rare Restrikes. Why there are so many 1848's and so few 1847's remains a mystery to me. Perhaps the dies were confiscated before more 1847's could be made. Unfortunately, these coins are rarely available in a large enough quantity to make meaningful comparisons possible.

The Series VII Restrikes reported by Breen⁴ may have been struck after 1856 or 1857, but when? We know that the practice of making Restrikes was temporarily stopped in 1860 when James R. Snowden, Director of the Mint seized the dies. New information has been reported to me regarding these large berry restrikes which will be the subject of another article. Certainly more detailed study of these large berry reverse "restrikes" is needed.

I have observed the die scratches which Breen reports as diagnostic for these coins on a number of large berry coins dated 1848. Ironically, the coin pictured by Breen on p.422 as an "Original" [ex. Anderson-Dupont:1145, R.E. Naftzger, Jr.] has the die file marks which are diagnostic for a "Restrike". I have not seen any 1848 large berry coins that do not have these die file marks. I have not seen any other date large berry coins that do have the die file marks. This includes the 1852 in the Eliasberg sale, Lot 476. Comparison of that coin with the other known examples of 1852 would certainly help sort out the mess.

Exactly why Restrikes were made may have several answers. Breen⁶ reports the shenanigans during the 1858 to 1860 period. Enter Dr. Henry R. Linderman, circa 1867. Now things got really interesting. Between 1867 and 1868 he probably resurrected the Restrike business both for profit and the enhancement of his personal cabinet. The original sale of his collection by Bangs & Co. in 1887 was halted when government officials seized the 1831 and 1836 Second Restrikes as "counterfeits". He had retained two each of these rare pieces. The coins were eventually returned and auctioned at a later date.

The Second Restrikes are the focus of my current studies. I had originally intended to try and trace the provenance of the six examples each of the 1831 and 1836 Second Restrike back to Dr. Linderman and the Mint. In doing so, I became sidetracked with the somewhat larger task of identifying all of the proof half cents. I am not sure that either task is possible to complete.

It appears that three separate sets of Second Restrikes were made. Those sets are described as Series IV, V and VI by Breen⁷. They are described by different planchet weights, surface and striking characteristics, and by progressive deterioration of the dies. I believe that one correction needs to be made to those descriptions. Coins in Series IV are described as weighing between 77.2 +/- 0.6 grains each. However, a group of coins ranging from 83 to 87.5 grains, e.g., Norweb:103, 86.9 grains, Starr:874, 87.5 grains, Stack:82, 86.4 grains, Stack:95, 83.5 grains and several others that have been reported to me appear to comprise Breen's Series IV. These are clearly different than the

thick planchet Series V "jumbo" proofs and were a much earlier use of the dies than the Series VI coins, which often are weakly struck due to die failure.

The Series V Second Restrikes, my personal favorites, give you the most value for your money. At 95.7 to 98.1 grains, you get nearly 50% more copper than in some of the lightest Series VI coins. Clearly, these were made with the customer in mind!

The Series VI coins seem to be more "plentiful", if that is a term which can be applied to proof half cents without sounding ridiculous. There are more than three times as many examples of the 1802 half dime than there are of the 1843 Second Restrike. I have commented on more than one occasion that the only things more scarce than proof half cents are proof half cent collectors.

Some of the features which I have observed on a few proof half cents remain unexplained. There are planchet flaws on the rims of some examples that appear, at first glance, to be rim dings. However, identical rim dings are too much for me to buy. There are also curious circumferential slices on several examples that appear to have occurred during the planchet-making process. Perhaps it was just too dark for the workers to see these defects before the coins were struck.

I hope to explain some of these features as I examine more examples. Let me know if you have any!

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¹ Breen, W., "Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents, 1793-1857", [1983].

² Ibid., p.374.

³ Cohen, Jr., R.S., "American Half Cents, the Little Half Sisters", Second Ed., [1982], pp.117 and 127.

⁴ Breen, W., "Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents, 1793-1857", [1983], pp.384-385.

⁵ Ibid., p.422.

⁶ Ibid., pp.464-465.

⁷ Ibid., pp.384-385.

THE NEW JERSEY 21- O REVERSE DIE STATES

ROGER A. MOORE

In the March 15, 1996 Penny-Wise (1), a letter to the editor by Tom Madigan indicated the need for a slight correction in John Griffiee's discussion of the New Jersey Maris type 21- O which had appeared in the January 15, 1996 Penny-Wise (2). The gist of the correction was John's listing of the Saccone specimen (3) as having a reverse "O" which was free of any die break. As Tom correctly pointed out, a die break does appear on this specimen between the second star and the "P", extending on to the "L". In addition, the die break is discussed in the cataloging. Both Tom's letter and the superb cataloging of rare New Jerseys by John Griffiee, lead me to re-evaluate the die states of my own 21- Os, as well as other 21- Os that have been plated in auction catalogs.

A)



B)



Figure 1: A) Obverse and B) reverse of the New Jersey Maris Type 21-O.

Not very much is known about the 21- O. Walter Breen (4), as well as William Anton, Jr. (5), attribute the mint site of the 21- O to Rahway, New Jersey under the direction of Thomas Goadsby and Albion Cox. However, in Michael Hodder's authoritative exploration of the no-coulter die families of New Jersey coppers (6) indirect

evidence exists possibly linking the "21" obverse with the Morristown mint under the direction of Walter Mould. By implication other pairings of the "21" obverse, including the 21 - O, could also arise from Morristown. However, Michael kept his speculations in the paper somewhat ambiguous simply because, as yet, no hard proof for the actual mint site exists (7). In any case there are four known pairings of the "21" obverse - the 21 - N (a rarity 2), the 21 - O (a rarity 5), the 21 - P (a rarity 5), and the 21 - R (a rarity 7). The reverse "O" is presently known only to exist paired with the "21" obverse (see figure 1 A and B).

Table 1 - PLATED APPEARANCES OF THE 21 - O.

Auction	Lot #	Die Break
Schulman 3/1955 (Spiro)	1475	*-P-L
B&M 6/1984 (Dodson)	3162	*-P-L
Stack's 10/1984 (Picker)	197	*-E*-P-L
B&M 1/1985 (Cohen)	2344	*-P-L
Stack's Coin Gall. 8/1985	1468	*-P-L
B&M 3/1987 (Taylor)	2186	*-P-L
B&M 10/1987 (Norweb I)	1332	*-P-L
Stack's 9/1988 (Oechsner)	Same as Schulman 3/1955	
Rosa Amer. 1989 (FPL)	148	*-E*-P-L
	149	P-L
Stack's 5/1989	Same as B&M 6/1984	
B&M 11/1989 (Saccone)	1576	*-P-L
Stack's 5/1991 (Picker)	178	*-P-L
Stack's 6/1991 (Hessberg)	1288	*-P-L
B&M 3/1992 (Spring Quart.)	1331	P-L
Stack's 1/1993 (Starr)	995 (describe only)	*-P-L
M&G 10/1995 (Griffee)	Same as B&M 6/1984	

Tom Madigan's exhaustive exploration of New Jersey copper die states (8,9) indicates that no perfect die state of the "O" reverse is known to exist. In evaluating each of the plated specimen in available auction catalogs (see table #1), Tom's statement would seem to be correct. However, there is an earlier die state than the one he lists as die state I. In Tom's description of die state I, a die break is seen extending through the second star through the P to the top of the L. An example of this break is shown in figure 2 - A.

A)



B)



Figure 2: A) Close up of the typical die break between the second star through P to the top of L in the "O" reverse. This is considered to be the Madigan die state I but an earlier die state exists. B) Close up of the earliest known die state of the "O" reverse with a die break existing only between the P and L.

However, pictured in figure 2 - B is an even earlier die state which includes a break limited to the area between the P and L. Of interest, table one indicates that there are two other coins, besides mine, which have this limited break. These include the Rosa Americana 1989 fixed price list coin (Lot # 149) and the Bowers and Merena 3/1992 Spring Quartette coin (Lot # 1331). The latter coin was cataloged as having the typical die break but the plated picture seems to have the die break limited to the space between P and L.

Therefore, I would propose that the present Madigan die state I be changed to include only those coins with a break between P and L. Die state II would become the typical and more common break between the second star and the P and L. Die state III would include those coins with extension of the break through the E to the first star. The latter is shown in two coins: the Stack's 10/1984 Picker coin (Lot # 197) and the Rosa Americana 1989 fixed price list coin (Lot # 148).

I would appreciate it if anyone with a New Jersey Maris type 21 - O would evaluate the die state of the reverse and let me know of any that show an early (or earlier) die state.

Happy Hunting!!!

Acknowledgement: I would like to thank Phil DeVicci for the technical help provided in performing this paper's photography.

References:

- 1) Madigan T, Letter to the Editor, Penny-Wise, March 15, 1996, Consecutive Issue # 173, Vol. XXX, pp 121-122.
- 2) Griffee J, New Jersey Coppers, Part 28: Maris 21-O, Penny-Wise, January 15, 1996, Consecutive Issue # 172, Vol XXX, pp 5-8.
- 3) Bowers & Merena Auction Catalog, The Saccone collection, 11/1989, Lot # 1576.
- 4) Breen W, Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins, Doubleday, New York, 1988, pp 78-80.
- 5) Anton Jr. W T, A Modern Survey of the Copper Coinage of the State of New Jersey, The Colonial Newsletter, July 1975, Vol. 14, Serial No. 44, p 501.
- 6) Hodder M, The New Jersey No Coulter Die Families, The Colonial Newsletter, October 1993, sequential pages 1416-1424.
- 7) Hodder M, Personal Communication.
- 8) Madigan T, Die States of New Jersey Coppers - A Preliminary Listing, Penny-Wise, September 15, 1994, Consecutive Issue # 164, Vol. XXVIII, p 302.
- 9) Madigan T, The New Jersey Files - An Attribution Guide, with Information on the Die Stages, the Condition Census, and Updated Rarity Ratings, Madigan Press, 1995

CORRECTION

Del Bland

I have had a chance to re-examine lot 125 of the RSB II Auction, the 1796 Sheldon-90, and part of the edge has been filed, something I missed when cataloging the coin. This filing is not visible when looking only at the obverse or reverse, but it is worth a 5 point deduction in grade. Instead of EF-40, this cent is now graded VF-35, with a 10 point deduction from the EF-45 sharpness. It is still fifth finest known by 20 points as the next best example known is F-15.

NEW JERSEY COPPERS, PART 32: MARIS 3C

John Griffie

When someone says the New Jersey coppers all look alike you can say, "don't you believe it" and use Maris 3C, the rare 1786 Immunis Columbia, as your example.

It has been written, but not proved, that Walter Mould, former employee of William Wyon's mint of Birmingham, England, carried the dies to America when he emigrated. When writing the historical background for the 1989 newly discovered AU example for the Bowers & Merena Saccone catalog, Michael Hodder said, "There is absolutely no historical documentary evidence to substantiate it." "William Wyon's records were destroyed in a fire, so whether Mould actually worked for him or not can never be known from that source."

In any event, with the obverse showing a seated Columbia holding the scales of justice, collectors should have no trouble identifying new found examples.

Listed below are the 3C's in auction catalogs I own where I do not know the present owner or location. If you own one of these coins, or know of someone who does, please let me know.

A 'P' means the coin was plated. 'L' is short for "Lot" and 'FPL' is "Fixed Price List".

Henkels, Maris	6/1886	Unc	P	L352
Stack's, Hall	5/45	AF	—	L43
Stack's, S. F.	5/46	AF est.	—	L691
Schulman, Spiro	3/55	F	P	L1430
Stack's, Roper	12/83	EF	P	L297
Stack's, Bareford	5/84	VF altered date	P	L100
B & M	9/85	AU reverse damaged	P	L1382
B & M, Norweb I	10/87	VF20	P	L112
Stack's Steinberg I	10/89	VF	P	L989

The most recent auctions of Stack's (Starr) and B & M (Saccone) called Maris 3C a R6 (13 to 30 PCS.). With the small number of coins listed below, it is highly unlikely that the rarity designation will ever change from R6.

1. Unc Henkels, Maris, 6/1886, L352
2. MS60 Groves collection; Stack's, ANA, 8/76, L61
3. AU Noted Western collector; FCC Boyd estate
4. AU 55 - 58 Tony Terranova; B & M, Saccone, 11/89, L1551; Jim Pappas &
5. AU reverse scratched B & M, 9/85, L1382; B. Max Mehl, Ten Eyck, 5/22. L?; Carl Wurtzbach (exhibited ANA, 19120; NY Coin, Parmelee, 6/1890, L367
6. EF Bill Anton; B & M, Garrett, 10/80, L1389; Edouard Frossard, April 5, 1883
7. EF Stack's, Roper, 12/83, L297
8. VF35 Groves collection, Richard Picker
9. VF30 B & M, Norweb I, 10/87, L1305; Chapman, Andrew Zabriskie, 6/09, L?

- 10. VF Noted Western collector, FCC Boyd estate
- 11. VF Stack's, Steinberg I, 10/89, L112
- 12. VF altered date Stack's, Bareford, 5/84, L100; B. G. Johnson estate
- 13. F Schulman, Spiro, 3/55, L1430
- 14. F Stack's, #78, S. F., 5/46, L691; Crosby plate coin
- 15. F Stack's, Hall, 5/45, L43
- 16. VG - F Stack's, Starr, 1/93, L989; Stack's, FPL, 1992; Stack's, Steinberg I, 10/89, L113; Stack's, bal. Robison, 5/82, L69; Stack's, Robison, 2/82, L167; Bill Anton; Dr. Harold Morrison Smith

Maris 64u Corrections

Coin #8 Pedigree should read: Roger Moore; M & G, Griffee, 10/95, L107; Newport Beach Show, 10/88, L1255

Addition:

New Coin #38 AG Chris Young; Steve Hayden; Tom Rinaldo

Old coin Numbers 38 - 43 become 39 - 44

Maris 51 g Corrections

Coin #20 Pedigree should read: Jeff Rock; M & G, Griffee, 10/95, L85; Don Mituzas; Ed Stecewitz; B & R, N.Y. Library, 10/82, L2073

New coin #31 AG/G Chris Young; Jay Goodfellow

Maris 16J R6 Corrections

Coin #10 Pedigree should read: Roger Moore; M & G, Griffee, 10/95, L24; Richard August; Mike Ringo

New coin #21 VG Ray Williams; Tom Rinaldo

Old coin #'s 21 - 29 become #'s 22 - 30

New coin #30 AG/Fair Smythe, #142. 9/95, part of L1039

Old coin #30 becomes #31

Maris 24R R5 Correction

On list of auctions where present owners not known:

Delete: B & M Mass HS 11/94 P L3104

Maris 12I R5 Corrections

From list of auctions where present owners not known:

Delete: Colonial Trading Co. 7/94 F+ - L?

Coin #14 Pedigree should read: M & G, Griffee, 10/95, L17; Jeff Rock, FPL #7, 10/92, #105; Superior, 5/91, L3; B & M, Von Buckenback, 11/86, L2741; Stack's, Coin Galleries, 8/85, L1459

Coin #16 Pedigree should read: California collector #3; Colonial Trading Co., FPL #1, 7/94; Stack's, Korin, 9/93, L897

New Coin #34 G Chris Young; Stack's, 10/94

Old coin #'s 34 - 50 become #'s 35 - 51

38. G - VG C/S JOLLY ANS; Henry Grunthal, 1945
 39. Fair / VG Harmer, Rooke, 11/69, L188
 40. ? Bill Anton
 41. ? Bill Anton

Maris 42c R5 Updated 7/15/96

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 Chris Young
 8. VF gashed B & M, Garrett, 10/80, L1439; Henkels, Maris, L433
 9. VF NJHS, bequest of Frederick A. Canfield, Dover, N.J., 1927
 10. VF rough Mike Ringo, FPL, 4/92, #60; B & M, Frontenac, 11/91, L171; F. C. C. Boyd; Ryder; Elder, Miller, 4/20, L1766
 11. VF / F David Palmer; Stack's, Hessberg, 6/91, L1307
 12. 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
 13. F - VF Northeastern collector; Stack's, Robison, 5/82, part of L112
 14. F - VF Richard August; Bob Vlack
 15. F12 double struck B & M, Taylor, 3/87, L2223; Richard Picker; Stack's, Mass. HS, 10/70, L99; William Summer Appleton; Maris
 16. F12 Angel Pietri; M & G, Griffee, 10/95, L69; Don Mituzas; Tony Terranova; B & M, Taylor, 3/87, L2224
 17. F12 Buell Ish; Ron Feuer; Jeff Rock; Steve Colestock; Long Beach Show, 10/89
 18. F12 Scott Barnes
 19. F Sam Nacol; Tom Rinaldo; Stack's, E.A.C., 3/94, L343; Russ Smith; B & M, Miller, 11/92, L2372; Rom Rinaldo; B & M, Frontenac, 11/91, L171; Boyd; Ryder, 1920; Elder, Miller, 4/20, L1766
 20. F Steven Tanenbaum
 21. F / VG Roger Moore
 22. 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
 23. F / AG Sinking Spring, Pa. Collector; Jeff Rock, FPR #8, Spring/93, #196
 24. VG John Lorenzo; Tony Terranova; GNA, NY, 11/87
 25. VG N.Y. collector #4
 26. VG N.J. collector #4
 27. VG B & M, Cohen, 1/85, L2361
 28. VG Stack's, Foreman, 5/89, L1392; Stack's, 12/86, L906
 29. VG double struck ANS; Henry Grunthal, 1945

1. MS65 Bill Anton; Jimmy King
2. Unc Richard August
3. EF B & M, Dodson, 6/84, L3168; B & M, Garrett, 10/80, L1418; Henkels, Maris, 6/1886, L399
4. VF30 Buell Ish; B & M, Mass. HS, 11/94, L3104; B & M, Somerset, 5/92, L362; Jeff Rock, FPL, Spring /92, #72; B & M, Frontenac, 11/91, L143; FCC Boyd; Ryder; Chapman, Stickney, 6/07, L281
5. VF Stack's, Foreman, 5/89, L1363; Stack's, Bareford, 5/84, L137; Schulman, Spiro, 3/55, L1487
6. VF30 Noted Western collector
7. VF25 NJHS, 1927; bequest of Frederick A. Canfield, Dover, N.J.
8. VF20 B & M, Taylor, 3/87, L2193
9. VF Northeastern collector; B & M, FPL, /92
10. VF John Lorenzo; Tom Rinaldo
11. VF New Netherlands, 12/68, L358
12. VF B & M, Cohen, 1/85, L2348
13. VF30 Stack's, Early Am. Coins, 3/94; Rush Smith; B & M, Quartette, 3/92, L1341; Henry Garrett
14. VF B & R, Branigan, 8/78, L38
15. VF20 / F12 Scott Barnes; Richard Picker
16. F15 / VF20 B & M, Smedley, 9/88, L3087
17. F - VF NASCA, Clarke, 6/78, L3547
18. F Stack's Kissner, 6/75, L86; Damon Douglas
19. F Angel Pietri; Tom Rinaldo; John Griffiee
20. F David Palmer; Don Mituzas; M & G, Griffiee, 10/95, L43; Stack's, Picker II, 5/91, L184
21. F Chapman, Mills, 4/04, L415
22. F Oregon collector; Jeff Rock, 1992
23. F15 porous B & M, Saccone, 11/89, L1582; Harry Resigno
24. F porous Gregory Webb; B & M, Dodson, 6/84, L3169
25. F15 porous Clement Schettino; Frank McGrath; Smythe, #142, 9/95, part of L1051
26. F Sinking Spring, Pa. collector; Henry Garrett, 1993
27. F Michael Michael, California; Rosa Americana, FPL #7, Autumn /92, #118
28. Roger Moore; Centennial, 7/94, L132
29. F B & M, Rare Coin Review, 4/82
30. F ANS, 1931; NJHS, 1927; bequest of Frederick A. Canfield, Dover, N.J.
31. VG8 Peter Scherff; Tom Rinaldo
32. VG Sinking Spring, Pa. Collector; Tom Rinaldo
33. VG Stack's Picker, 10/84, L204
34. VG Frank McGrath; Smythe, #142, 9/95, part of L1051
35. VG Tom Rinaldo; FPL, 6/92, #22
36. VG attempted hole on rev. B & M, Cole, 1/86, L1218; Stack's, 2/64, L6
37. G / VG Pine Tree, EAC, 3/76, L2019; Alan Kessler

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|-----|-----------------|--|
| 30. | VG6 / AG3 | Colonial Trading Co.; Roger Moore; Don Mituzas, FPL, 1/93, #110; B & M, Quartette, 3/92, L1376; Henry Garrett |
| 31. | VG / G | Smythe, #142, 9/95, part of L1045 |
| 32. | VG / Fair | Harmer, Rooke, 11/69, L204 |
| 33. | G - VG porous | Jeff Rock |
| 34. | G | Stack's, Steinberg, 10/89, L130 |
| 35. | G double struck | Clem Schettino; M & G, Griffee, 10/95, L70; David Palmer; Bill Anton; Bruce Kesse; Stack's, Kissner, 6/75, L115; Damon Douglas |
| 36. | G | Chapman, Mills, 4/04, L436 |
| 37. | G | Schulman, Spiro, 3/55, L1530 |
| 38. | G | Stack's, Bal. Robison, 5/82, part of L117 |
| 39. | G | Smythe, #142, 9/95, part of L1043 |
| 40. | G holed | ANA; Norweb donation |
| 41. | AG3 / G6 | Peter Scherff, Ed Sarrafian |
| 42. | AG | ANS; Henry Grunthal, 1945 |
| 43. | Fair | NY Coin, Parmelee, 6/1890, L414 |
| 44. | Fair | Chapman, Stickney, 6/07, L296 |
| 45. | Fair | B & M, Cole, 1/86, part of L1201 |

MY EAC CONVENTION EXPERIENCE – Concluded

Mike Packard

Saturday I slept in until about 7:00 a.m. Jan and Dale (Anderson, my other roommate) also arose at about the same time. We did our shaving, etc. and then went to a deli across the street from the hotel to get something to eat. I got a ham and egg bagel with a pint of orange juice, and since there were no seats, we went back to our room to break our night-long fast.

I got to the bourse (with my minting equipment) at about 8:50 and had to wait 10 minutes for the opening time for the "public." Rules are rules and they applied to everyone, so I didn't mind a short wait. As soon as the doors were opened to the public, I made a bee-line for Tom Reynolds' table. Of course he was not there, but Cathy kindly pulled the Mass cent and put it on the back-up table. Bill Anton had some beautiful colonials for sale, including a few Mass coppers, but all were more than I was willing to spend – and worth it. Jack Beymer had a Mass half cent that I absolutely fell in love with, but his price, too, while very fair, was out of my price range. It is probably just as well that I did not buy it because it would make the rest of my Mass collection seem second-rate. There would also have been the small matter of trying to explain to Cath why I needed to spend so much on one coin when we could have purchased something more "useful" with the money. Occasionally I keep in mind what my REAL constraints are.

I kept looking for Tom, but the one time I saw him he was deeply engaged in what looked like a serious discussion, and I decided my business could wait until he was free. Then he disappeared again.

At about 9:45, I decided the minting equipment was getting too heavy to carry around

much more, so I went to the hotel's loading dock to set up my minting facilities. At most previous conventions, I have tried to set up my punching on the bourse floor. I have found, however, that most bourse floors are carpeted and this carpeting causes the anvil (a block of oak) to bounce when struck, and I end up with a nice chatter strike. (That is what happened to your coin this year, Curt.) I have also noticed that when I sit cross-legged for an extended period of time, my lower back stiffens up and I later have some difficulty leaning over bourse and exhibit cases.

Last year in Cincinnati, I noticed a walkway entering another building in the Drawbridge complex that had a retaining wall on one side. I could punch the pocket pieces (I refer to them more often than not as "Bangers") while standing upright, thus saving a fair amount of strain on my back. The loading dock offered a place where I could punch the pieces without putting too much stress on my back. (Of course, I checked with the hotel staff first to make certain that there would be no problems working there.)

Unfortunately, I received more requests for pocket pieces than I had prepared planchets, so quite a few people received pieces from unprepared planchets (no pre-stamped "EAC 96 PHILLY"). I had a few low grade large cents (thanks in part to Don and Anne Weathers) and struck these with "EAC 96" and the person's name only. I omitted the "PHILLY" stamp which signifies where the convention was held. This actually saved me a lot of time because each letter must be stamped or banged into the planchet individually. I soon ran out of planchets to stamp. Some people wanting a convention souvenir provided their own coin for me to stamp, and others had to wait until I could get home where I had a few more large cent pocket piece planchets. I am always concerned that the coin I am given might be a rare variety, so I try to attribute each such coin. If I make a mistake, then the recipient has a PERSONALIZED rarity. Stamping a rarity would not please me, but it would make Del's and Bill's jobs of keeping pedigrees somewhat easier.

When I finished stamping pocket pieces (at about 11:20), I returned to the bourse and tried to find the persons who had requested them so I could lighten my load. I walked by Tom's table but he was not yet available. The Mass cent was safely on the back-up table so I had no concern that it would be sold while I went to lunch. On my way out of the bourse, I saw Ed Masuoka manning the registration desk.

I dropped off my hammer, anvil, and dies in my room, and decided to go for a quick walk looking for coin stores. (I looked in the yellow pages to get addresses, and discovered there were two within 6 - 10 blocks from the hotel. I went looking for Coin Hunters (C. E. Bullowa) but she was closed that day. I then walked on to a second store and was shown a few Classic Head half cents with VF detail, but many, many problems. Of course the asking prices were for VF coins. When I was approaching the pizza joint across from the hotel, I kicked myself for not trying to sell them some of my duplicates, especially duplicates with problems.

The pizza place was pretty well filled with EAC'ers and I ate my cheese steak with Terry Hess, Bill Tivol, and Joe Kane. Then I picked one up for Ed and returned to the bourse - about an hour and a half after I left. Ed was VERY grateful to see me return.

Tom was finally at his table and we negotiated over the price of the Mass cent. His marked price was several hundred dollars and I told him I would not pay a cent less than his asking price less a pretty large discount. He told me somewhat sarcastically, "That's generous.

What are you willing to pay?" I made an offer that was between his asking and my bottom line price. He subtracted a little from my offer and the deal was struck. I am very pleased with my upgraded Ryder 7-M 1788 cent. A couple of people to whom I showed the coin pointed out that there were several striations, but that doesn't bother me in the least. That is how the coin left Wetherle's mint, and I am happy to have it with all its original flaws.

Around 3 p.m., I realized that I had not yet taken a close look at the several exhibits on display. I was very impressed. I started looking at Harry Salyards' collection of 1803 large cents. He displayed all 23 numbered Sheldon varieties plus the NC, some in several die states. I was especially attracted to his S-243 (3 error reverse), S-249 (corrected fraction), S-256, and S-265. The other coins were not slackers, these four just caught my eye. It is a great set, Harry.

Jim Goudge displayed a "Red Book" variety set of Connecticut coppers. This is, I believe, the third year in a row that Jim has shown his Connecticuts, all three years in different formats showing different ways these coins can be collected. Most of the varieties shown had very nice examples of both the obverse and reverse of the varieties. A couple of the scarcer or tougher to find in high grade varieties had one coin displayed for the obverse or reverse that was not a coin of the particular die combination being shown.

Don Weathers showed many examples of the uses and abuses of large cents. (I wonder why he includes counter stamped examples in the "abuses" portion of his display instead of in the "uses" portion?) He showed large cents that were holed in the center (for use as washers?), near the top (as pendants), with two small holes near the center (for buttons), or near the rim (for humdingers – thread a string through the holes and tie the ends; then put your middle fingers in the loops of the thread, start the coin spinning around and move your hands toward and away from each other to establish a continuous spin alternating in direction. I've also seen humdingers with notches in the edge to cause the coin to whistle when spun.) He also showed cents that were plated, hammered into different shapes, hit by a bullet, counter stamped, with various states and types of corrosion, used to pickle cucumbers (not recommended) or as a ringworm remedy (works pretty well), and used as washers, bushings, gears, gauges, screw drivers, lock parts and keys, and numerous other applications. It was a very interesting exhibit.

Fred Borcherdt had an unusual display that he called the "Most Amazing Coin Trade of the 20th Century." It was pretty amazing. It seems that in 1958 a house was razed in Wilmington, DE and a coin was found beneath the floor. The coin was sold to a local coin dealer who determined that the EF coin (with rough surfaces) was the second known specimen of the 1797 NC-1. The other, an AG-3, was impounded in the ANS collection. (Currently, there are 5 known with this piece (listed as VF-20 in CQR) by far the best of the lot.) The dealer attended a coin show in NYC and showed the coin to Walter Breen who called Dr. Sheldon and told him to come view the coin. Dr. Sheldon and Breen offered the dealer a substantial sum for the coin, but the dealer was more interested in a trade. He offered them the coin in exchange for VF specimens of all three types of 1793 cents and a VF 1799, with the other coins (from 1794 to 1820) having nice surfaces and color. Sheldon ultimately accepted the offer and in October 1959 became the owner of the 1797 NC-1. Everyone was very happy.

For several years, Fred viewed this set whenever he visited the dealer's shop. In 1982,

Fred was able to buy this set intact from the dealer. (I was fortunate to view this set not too long after Fred purchased it. WOW!) Dr. Sheldon sold the NC-1 to Ted Naftzger in 1972 and, when Ted decided to sell his Sheldon collection to Eric Streiner in 1992, the piece became one of numerous coins offered for resale. Fred purchased the NC-1 and now has both sides of the trade in his own collection! Relative prices have shifted through the years since 1959, and the coins the dealer received have appreciated more than the 1797 NC-1, but what a story, and what an opportunity to view a "fair trade" from almost 40 years ago.

Tony Terranova has been a generous contributor to the exhibits for a long period of years and he always comes up with something new and exciting. This year he displayed about 10 different varieties of colonial state coinage, each of which was struck over an already struck nova coin. About half the coins were struck over Irish half pence. Others were struck over Nova Constellatio or coins from other states. My favorite was the 1788 Connecticut Miller 16.3-N that was struck over a counterfeit 1787 Mass cent (Ryder 1-B). I find it interesting that the Ryder 1-B is found more often (R6) as the host coin for a Miller 16.3-N than it is not overstruck (R7+).

Ray Williams had two exhibits of New Jersey coppers. One showed a Maris 42-c that had been slabbed, but not sufficiently described even though the owner submitted relevant material when he submitted the coin. The display also included a page of the write up from an auction catalogue in which it was recently sold. His other display showed examples of varieties identified by their common nicknames (e.g., narrow shield, wide shield, goiter variety, bridle variety, head left, etc.) It was a very informative display.

Wes Russell had an interesting display of classic head cents and half cents, beginning in 1808 (cents only) and ending in 1836 (half cents only from 1825 to 1836). The 1831 and 1836 half cents were electros, I understand. Most of the cents and the 1811 half cents were much more attractive than usually encountered.

John Whitney (aka Mr. '96) was responsible for my favorite exhibit. He showed three examples of the 1796 half cent – the "No Pole" most favored in Thursday's Half Cent Happening, the "With Pole" which came in fourth at the Happening, and what is being referred to as the "one-and-a-half cent" 1796 that drew so much attention at Baltimore last summer. (I would designate this coin as a "0.65 cent" because it shows the entire half cent but only about one-sixth or one-seventh of the cent.) They were super coins all.

John's 1796 cents were, if it is possible, more outstanding than the half cents. (Must be because there were so many more of them!) There were also a number of purported (and easily to be believed) "finest knowns" among the cents (ask Del or Bill). John had all varieties of 1796 cents except the NC-6 (a specimen of which he recently turned down because the surfaces had been burnished and, thus, did not meet his exacting standards.) The hole doesn't seem to bother him because he said he is really interested in having one nice example of each obverse and each reverse die, and, since the NC-6 shares both dies with other varieties, he already has what he really wants.

A note to the reader, John is not known as "Mr. '96" simply because he concentrates on 1796 coppers. No, over the past 30 years of collecting, he has also put together an outstanding collection of the silver and gold issues of that year. You can talk of someone being single-minded in focus, but if you were not at the EAC convention in Philly, you missed a

wonderful opportunity to view the fruits of his labors; you missed one of the most fantastic displays of coppers ever shown at an EAC convention.

Jerry Cackley, I'm told, also had a nice display titled a "Definitive Study of the 1825 Half Cent." Unfortunately, the exhibit was dismantled before I had an opportunity to view it and make notes.

Unfortunately, I missed two opportunities that I really wanted to have. First, there was talk around the bourse that everyone needed to see a specific double struck 1794 large cent in mint state, or close to it. John Wright, no less, called the coin the "most significant large cent I have ever seen." Unfortunately, it is the most significant large cent I have never seen. Hopefully, someone got a picture that will end up on a page of some future P-W. Second, there were a series of Mini-Seminars on Saturday. I missed them all. I especially wanted to hear each of them. Perhaps, summaries of these sessions will also end up in the pages of P-W. I certainly hope so.

I had a wonderful dinner, wonderful conversation, and wonderful fellowship at Bookbinder's with Frank and Kathy Wilkinson, their young son Lawrence, and John and Mabel Ann Wright. (By the way, with the deaths of Roger Cohen and Walter Breen, I believe Frank has inherited the mantle of the primary half cent historian. His knowledge of this series, which, by the way, he does not collect, is extraordinary. Please relay information on any significant half cent finds to him, either directly or through me.)

After dinner, it was off to the EAC Sale (open to members only). I had my eye on several half cents lots, but one in particular. I got the coin I really wanted, but missed out on the rest. After the half cents were sold, I and several other non-cent collectors congregated outside the Sale room. We had a nice conversation and then Terry Hess, Joe Kane, Ray Rouse, and I went to a local establishment to quench our thirsts until we could pick up our sale lots. It was interesting watching the patrons watch the Fliers eventually dispatch their hockey opponents. We went back to the hotel, waited a while longer, and then picked up our sale lots. I joined a group in the hotel bar (including Terry, Joe, John Peters, Darwin Palmer and his son, Frank Stillinger, and several others) for conversation and eventually found my way to bed.

Sunday started much like Saturday, except the deli across the street was closed. Jan, Dale, and I must have walked 15 blocks to find an opened food establishment. We found a Dunkin Donuts, bought our preferences, and returned to the hotel (no seating at the DD either).

We made it to the General Meeting with a little time to spare and discussed the previous night's Sale's surprising buys. Wes Rasmussen, the new EAC president, presided. The other newly elected officers are: March Wells, vice president; John Wright, treasurer; and Denis Loring, secretary. We had the traditional introductions (people came from everywhere) and well deserved kudos for Ed Masuoka and Don Valenziano as convention co-chairmen, and for all the other volunteers who helped make this wonderful convention run smoothly.

Other business included: the announcement that Superior Auctions had been awarded the EAC Literary Award for its Robinson Brown II catalogue; giving Phil Ralls a well-deserved award for his six years as EAC president; an update on the Breen cent book (hopefully, available at EAC next year); places and dates for the next two conventions (April 17 - 20, 1997 at the Plaza in Las Vegas, April 2 - 5, 1998 in Boston, and still looking for volunteers for 1999

and beyond); and dues will remain the same for 1997.

After the meeting it was back to the bourse for one more look around. I saw lots of copper I coveted, but not so coveted that I decided I needed to carry it home with me. I said my good-byes to lots of old friends -- Jim and Russ from the Colonial Trading Company (Jim picked up an unusually thick Mass half cent (Ryder 1-D of 1787) and a 1787 Mass cent (Ryder 2-C) with the most extensive die break I have seen from the date, through the M of Massachusetts, to the rim over the first A -- nice coins both. Also, Howard Barron, who allowed me to view his wonderful half cent collection; Tom and Cathy Reynolds; Frank Goss; Tony and Adam Carlotto (time to push Tony to publish his Vermont opus); Rod and Jean Widok; Don and Shirley Valenziano; Mike Bristow; Don and Anne Weathers; Jan Valentine and Dale Anderson; George Trostel and Joel Spingarn; Steven Ellsworth (who had just bought from another EAC dealer about 4,500 large cents reportedly put away back in the 1860s); Doug Bird; Jack and Sondra Beymer; Steve Fischer and Jim McGuigan; Steve Hayden; Dan Holmes; Fred Lake; Bill Tivol; Dave Palmer; the ever "up" Lanny Reinhardt (from whom I purchased several tee shirts); Bill Anton; Tom Rinaldo (famous colonial dealer and collector of wonderful Mass coppers); Dick August, who always encourages me to buy nice Mass and other state coppers; Chris McCawley, who generously gave me two tee shirts -- one for me and one for Cath; and many others.

Too soon, the dealers and convention goers were packing up and preparing to leave. Terry, Ed, Joan and Rod Widok, Mark Switzer, Steve Fischer, a few others and I began to break down the bourse. We packed up the lamps and cover cloths, then moved the cases to the truck. We even found a box of catalogues in a box under Fred Lake's backup table. The box had Gino Sanfilippo's name in it. (Let me or Ed know to whom they belong and at what local show we can deliver them.) Bob Vail said he did not think they were worth the postage to mail.) All went well until just before we were ready to leave when Terry could not find the keys to the truck. Eventually we found them. Terry drove the truck and I rode with Ed. We had to stop off in Baltimore to unload the cases (I couldn't get out of it this time). I picked up my pickup at Ed's house and made it home by 8:00 p.m. I certainly am glad I had the foresight to take Monday off from work.

It was another GREAT EAC convention. If you have never been to one, try to attend, especially if you are within driving distance. You will meet great people and see (and have the opportunity to buy) some great copper. Did I have any regrets? Certainly. I did not get to talk with everyone as much as I would have liked; I bought all the coins I felt I could afford (hey, Eliasberg was just around the corner), but not as many as I would have liked to (most of us experience this); I did not view the "most significant U.S. copper ever struck"; I missed all the mini-seminars; and I did not get to view the historic sights of Philly (but then I never view the sights of the convention city. There is just too much else to do.) Fortunately, the next convention is less than one year away. Hope to see you all there.

EAC MEETING AT PAN

Carl Huszar

On Saturday, May 11, 1996, EAC members met at the Expo Mart in Monroeville,

Pennsylvania. The meeting was held during the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (P.A.N.) Spring coin show. Members and guests in attendance were as follows:

Ray Williams
Jim McGuigan
Roger Watrous
Wayne Homren

John Esbach
Ralph Pfare
Terry Stepl
Carl Huszar

The meeting began at 12:00 with informal introductions and discussion about our particular interests. Anecdotes were told about individual experiences collecting copper and Jim McGuigan reported on the events of the EAC convention, held the previous week in Philadelphia. As usual, the time spent with fellow EAC members was both quite informative and enjoyable.

WESTERN REGIONAL EAC MEETING

May 31, 1996

Dale Anderson

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by Regional Secretary Dale Anderson. Introductions followed with the following members present:

Dale Anderson
Alan Meghrig
Paul Arthur Norris
Doug McHenry

Jim Hart
Phil Moore
David Josephine

G. Lee Kuntz
Fred Truex
Dan Demeo

Secretary Anderson explained that Regional President Jan Valentine was not able to attend and had asked that he run the meeting. Thanks and applause were offered to past president Dan Demeo for his years of service.

The recent EAC convention was discussed. Most felt that it was a very successful convention with the historical nature of the location of great interest. Some felt that the bourse floor was slow, many reported that they didn't find anything for their collections. Most also felt that the sale was strong for choice coins but a bit weak for those rarities with problems. A great deal of strength was noted by mail bidders as approximately 20% went to mail bids.

Also discussed was the recent Bowers and Merena sale of the Eliasberg collection. Although none present had attended, Fred Truex indicated that there was much discussion and reporting of prices online. The beautiful Liberty Cap cent had already been spotted on the bourse floor in its new plastic jacket. And we understand that the Abbey '99 was won by an EAC'er.

Discussion then turned to the ongoing ANS debate of ownership of certain coins. Question: If the coins now in the ANS were exchanged for the original Clapp coins, who owns the coins now in the collection? Can the ANS exchange them with good title?

Secretary Anderson then reported that there would be a program at all future Long Beach EAC meetings. G. Lee Kuntz has kindly offered to help with this. He also reported that there will be a Northern California gathering to be held July 13th, as announced in the May P-W, with newer members especially welcome.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

REGION #7
West
(CA, ID, MT, OR,
UT, WA, and WY)

Chairman

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Please contact with questions or any suggestions for making Region #7 more collector-friendly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

Denver • Homewood, Illinois • Suburban Cincinnati • Pennsauken, New Jersey

EAC GENERAL MEETING AT ANA – DENVER

An EAC general meeting will be held on Friday morning, August 16th at 9:00 am at this year's ANA Convention. All members and prospective members are welcome to attend. Please consult the ANA program schedule for the exact room number for the meeting.

I can promise a spectacular slide show for those in attendance and enough coffee to ensure that all attendees will be able to enjoy the presentation. I look forward to seeing you there.

Rick Coleman
Chairman, EAC Region 6

* * *

GREG and LISA HEIM

The third EAC Educational forum will be held right after the EAC General meeting at the 1996 ANA Convention on Friday, August 16. The general meeting will begin at 9 AM as usual, and the educational forum run from 10 AM - 11 AM. Lisa and I will give our talk on the "Red Book Varieties of the Draped Bust Half Cent" unless someone else wants to volunteer (we won't mind!). You can contact us at: P.O. Box 4595, Warren, NJ 07059 - 0595. Our phone number is (908) 754 - 2980. We can also be reached via E-mail at: lgheim@ix.netcom.com.

* * *

NORTH CENTRAL EAC REGIONAL HAPPENING

Kermit Wasmer

A regional EAC meeting and happening will be held Saturday, September 7, 1996 at 3:00 p.m. at the ILNA Show and Convention. The show is located at the Best Western Hotel south of the I-80 and Rte. 1 intersection at Homewood, IL. John Wright will begin the "happening" with a talk on coppers followed by a meeting chaired by the regional EAC officers, Garry Apelian and Joe Tomasko. EAC will also have a table in the bourse area for handouts, membership information, and copper talk.

The show is larger this year with 90 bourse tables and speakers on Friday and Saturday. C.S.N.S. is coming this year with a board meeting and breakfast, as well as a youth and public auction by D'Atri on Sunday. ANACS and major coin publications will be present. A dealer and notables party will be held Saturday evening.

Over 30 members attended the EAC "happening" at ILNA last year, making it one of the largest in the country. This year will be one both dealers and collectors won't want to miss.

* * *

GREATER CINCINNATI NUMISMATIC EXPOSITION

September 13 - 15, 1996 at the Drawbridge

Midwest Region EAC members are invited to attend the Greater Cincinnati Numismatic Exposition at the Drawbridge Convention Center in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky on Sept. 13 - 15, 1996. The Drawbridge Inn is located on I-75 about 7 miles south of Cincinnati at the intersection of I-75 and Buttermilk Pike (Drawbridge phone [606] 341 - 2800). The bourse will feature approximately 100 tables including about 10 EAC member dealers who specialize in early US copper. Bourse hours will be 10 AM to 5 PM on Friday and Saturday and 10 AM to 3 PM on Sunday (but note that many dealers pack up on Saturday evening). For further information contact show chairman Paul Padgett, 716 W. Wyoming Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45215, phone (513) 821 - 2143.

An informal EAC meeting will be held on Saturday afternoon or early evening at a time to be determined.

Rod Burress (513) 771 - 0696
March Wells (502) 895 - 6104

* * *

**COLLECTORS OF NEW JERSEY, CONNECTICUT, VERMONT, AND
MASSACHUSETTS COPPERS**

Date - October 11, 1996 (Friday Evening)

Place - C-4 Convention, Pennsauken, NJ

Events:

Fourth NJ Copper Symposium

First Connecticut Copper Symposium

First Vermont Copper Symposium

First Massachusetts Copper Symposium

To ALL Interested

Tony Carlotto has agreed to moderate the FIRST Vermont Copper Symposium, Jim Goudge will be moderating the FIRST Connecticut Copper Symposium, Tom Rinaldo will be moderating the FIRST Massachusetts Copper Symposium, and Ray Williams will be moderating the FOURTH New Jersey Copper Symposium. If you have an interest in any of these areas, don't miss these landmark events. If you hope to attend, please send LSASE to Ray Williams, 924 Norway Ave., Trenton, NJ 08629 (609 587-5929) and specify the events(s) you are interested in. This is important so we can plan on room size and facilities. You will be sent information on times and programs.

HALF CENT HAPPENING – EAC '97

Rick Coleman

My thanks to Mike Packard for officially passing the "Happening" torch to me, Lisa Heim and Greg Heim. We will try to continue the tradition with enthusiasm and some new wrinkles. My "mini-happening" at last year's ANA was well received. I hope to expand that idea in coming years. Hopefully, members and other collectors around the country who may not be able to make the annual EAC convention will be offered the opportunity to see some great copper at regional shows.

The half cents for next year are:

1793 C-2 1797 C-3b 1806 C-2 1850 [proofs are welcome]

Hulseman's 1837 Half Cent Token, Low 49

OK, they are not all half cents. But Lisa will enjoy seeing a few mint red half cent tokens. So will I.

In '98, we will explore new vistas with some proofs, half cent tokens, and other rare and exotic half items. It will be difficult to top last year's happening, unless you plan to be at the happening in 2096. Next year should be fun.

EAC Sale
1•9•9•7

CALL FOR CONSIGNMENTS

The **Sale Committee** is soliciting consignments for the 1997 EAC Sale to be held in conjunction with the annual Early American Coppers Convention. The Convention will be held in Las Vegas, NV, April 17 - 20.

The **Early American Coppers Convention** is devoted exclusively to early U.S. copper coins; EAC's members are the most active and interest in this field. Your early U.S. copper coins will thus receive full exposure to serious copper collectors and dealers.

The Sale will be limited to approximately 450 to 500 lots. It is the Committee's goal that the Sale be composed of: (see insert directly right)

TYPE	LOTS
Half Cents	30 - 100
Large Cents	350 - 400
Colonials	15 - 20
Hard Times Tokens	15 - 20
Literature	10 - 15

In past years, choice, scarce and rare coins have brought very strong prizes. The 1997 Sale should continue this tradition. Better coins and consignments are requested. Large cents should have a minimum value of \$100 per coin. Coins other than Large Cents will be accepted regardless of value, to the extent explained in the report of the EAC Sale Committee (September, 1991 issue of Penny-Wise)

Commissions are charged to defray the costs of the EAC Convention, and are on a sliding scale based upon convention costs and the total Sale gross receipts. Commission rates will be: (see insert directly right)

Gross Receipts	Commission Rate
\$000,001 - \$150,000	8.0%
\$150,001 - \$250,000	6.0%
\$250,001 - \$300,000	5.0%
\$300,001 - \$400,000	4.0%
\$400,001 - \$500,000	3.5%

There are no buyer's fees in EAC sales!

There will be a 2% consignor buy-back charges.

CONSIGNMENT DEADLINE → JANUARY 31, 1997

All coins should be sent via REGISTERED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED.

Consignments may be hand-delivered to Tom at major coin shows.

Feel free to contact Tom Reynolds in advance to discuss your coins, and to review the advantages to you and to the Club of consigning to the EAC Sale.

CONTACT →

Thomas Reynolds
Post Office Box 24529
Omaha, NE 68124
(402) 895 - 3065

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 #
Anthony J. Parrish	South Lyon, MI	4402
Ken Rowe	Brunswick, MD	4403
Nick D'Amico	Orlando, FL	4404
Charles Mamiye	Oakhurst, NJ	4405
Gary Andrews	Axle, TX	4406
Thomas E. Caton	Wheaton, MD	4407
Dan Waterman	Reno, NV	4408
Gabriel Schaff	Englewood, NJ	4409
Jack W. Burckhardt	Philadelphia, PA	4410
John C. Hugon	Duncan, OK	4411
Dean E. Albon, Jr.	Elkville, IL	4412
Greg Kollar	Bonesteel, SD	4413
Avram I. Weisberg	New York, NY	4414
Bill Keim	Sugarcreek, OH	4415
Peter F. Traxsel	Chehalis, WA	4416
Tim Larson	Seattle, WA	4417

Membership Number Correction:

George C. Perkins, Jr.	4253
Skip Lane	4239

ELIASBERG -- YOU HAD TO BE THERE

Rick Coleman

When I first heard that the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. collection would be offered for sale at public auction, I was stunned. I was not ready. I needed at least two or three more years to fill my war chest. My lilliputian half cent collection needed ten or twenty of the pieces in "The Collection". What was I to do?

Step one. Go see it.

Thanks to a gracious and helpful staff at Bowers & Merena, I got my chance. April 30, 1996, Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. After a tour of the B & M mansion on Lake Winnepesaukee, I followed Don Snyder to the bank. Upon descending the stairs to the vault, I joined about ten other pilgrims who had arrived previously. When the first box of half cents was placed in front of me, my heart was in my throat.

Lot 393, 1793 C-1, EF-45 was the first piece that I examined. It was love at first sight. The coin was inferior in grade to the two examples that my collection contains, but the planchet! The only coin which matches the dished effect that this coin has would be a high relief \$20 gold piece. I really wanted it. Only one hundred more half cents to go.

Lot 399, 1794 C-4a, AU-53? 55? 58? My jaw goes slack for the first time. Great coin. Not perfect, but the color! Exquisite tan.

Lot 401, 1795 C-1, MS-6? Beautiful piece. Not the finest and fortunately only a minor upgrade for me. A great coin with beautiful tan color.

Lot 402, 1795 C-2, is this the one? No. I had thought that this would be my coin. It was quite nice, but the green-blue spots on the reverse put a knife into my liver. I hope they come off.

Lot 405, 1795 C-5b, much better than the catalogue photo suggests. The planchet flaw on the obverse was not a problem for me.

The 1796 C-1 was not available for viewing in Wolfeboro. It was just as well. Everything else would have been somewhat anticlimactic had it been there. It and the other contenders for the throne of "finest known" are certainly due some discussion in another article. But now the tension was growing. I forced myself not to skip lots.

Lot 409, 1797 C-1, mint state but weak, not mine.

Lot 411, 1797 C-3b, Mssrs.' Alvord, Clapp and Eliasberg Lettered Edge. Color! Sharpness! What small nicks? Slightly weak but, I need the die stage. The rim ding at K-2 ½ is actually a planchet flaw or more likely, a result of lettering the edge. After some time, I put it back in the box and proceeded. I remember saying to myself, "remain focused, try and evaluate everything else without thinking about "I"."

Lot 436, 1811 C-2, WOW! No question about it, a nice coin. Something told me that I would never own it. We will have to wait and see.

Lot 443, 1831 Original, Mssrs.' Alvord, Clapp and Eliasberg example. Pristine surfaces save for two fresh ding[e]s on the highest curl under B of LIBERTY and on the leaf under O in OF. I can live with those since the STRIKE! is impeccable and the surfaces are PRISTINE! A well known Pennsylvania copper dealer/collector later described the two defects as "insignificant". In addition, I needed a filler for the date.

Lot 445, 1831 Second Restrike. One of the strangest coins that I have ever seen. Mark Borckardt's description of the coin seeming to "fall off the edge" is accurate.

The proofs were a study unto themselves. No one cares about proof half cents except me anyway, right? So let's fast forward to May 20, 1996. Night one, The Sale. Colonials first. Forget the hype, it's time for Lot 1. From the get-go, prices were strong. As the night progressed, it was obvious that if you could buy every half cent in Session Two for the highest number that anyone had mentioned during the last three months, you would save money. I left after the Colonials and retried to McSorley's Ole Ale House in the Village to plan my strategy.

There is something rather enlightening about Irish ale that I had previously overlooked. Fortunately, with Chris McCawley's assistance, I was able to perceive the nuances hidden in the brew. Hence, I awakened bright-eyed and busy-tailed the following afternoon, ready for the test.

The time was at hand. Tuesday evening, 6:30 p.m., Lot 393. My beloved 1793 C-1 went to some worthy new home at \$12,500 plus the juice. Farewell!! On we went, the '94 C-4a at \$17K plus, the '95 C-1 at \$18K plus; where was CQR when I needed it?!

The '95 C-2a was a good buy at \$14.5K plus. The '95 C-5a went to a friend at a reasonable \$8.5K plus. Now it was time to get serious. After a low-ball opening of \$50K, the bidding got rolling for the 1796 C-1 when Scorpio bid \$200K. A few seconds later, that's all it really took, the Beverly Hills / New York City combo in the back of the room bailed and SPECTRUM took home the highest priced U.S. copper coin ever sold at \$506K.

The stage was set. Lot 411! As the bidding passed \$16K, more than double CQR, I picked up my bidder paddle. Only two guys were left, one of whom I had never seen before. \$18K, \$19K, \$20K, it was mine.

The euphoria was indescribable.

I had to get up and get a glass of water. By the time the guy who I had never seen before ran the aforementioned Pennsylvania dealer/collector off Lot 436, the 1811 C-2 went for \$26K plus. Now things were really rolling. Subsequent lots went for big money. An 1828 C-3 at \$4400 plus, spots at no additional charge; an 1829 C-1 at \$3600 plus, spots also included free. I thought that I was in trouble.

Fortunately, Msrs.' Alvord, Clapp and Eliasberg 1831 Original, one of only nine or ten known verifiable proofs, went cheap at \$17K plus the juice.

I picked up the 1840 Second Restrike for a modest \$8500 plus. There are only four known to me on the thick planchets, but who cares about proof half cents? I failed to intimidate the aforementioned Pennsylvania dealer/collector on three subsequent proofs and then sat back to watch the rest of the show.

Lot 482 was an 1852 Original, not a Series VII Restrike, in my opinion. I could not find the die scratches in two attempts with side-by-side comparison of Lot 468, which showed them clearly. It opened at some number around \$4000. At \$60,000 things got really quiet. At \$70,000, you could not have stuck a pin up . . . well, never mind. The aforementioned Pennsylvania dealer/collector would not be denied [although he admitted afterward that it was close]. Possibly the only true original, only four known, equally rare as the million and a half dollar nickel, went for the bargain price of \$71,000 plus all the juices that were available in Pennsylvania.

What a rush! At that point, I tried to listen to the rest of the half cent sale prices but it was of no use. The pretty 1857 proof went strong at \$10,500 and then, mercifully, they took a break. I interrupted the newspaper reporter and offered my congratulations to the Pennsylvania dealer/collector who appeared not to have any blood left in his body at this point.

After the break, they sold the S-13 for \$290K plus. I hope the plastic comes off the highest points of the hair.

I found the exit. After a martini and a beer at the Oak Room, the only place within walking distance where the prices were suitably close to the auction prices, I returned to watch them sell the nickel. It was over quickly. Only one player came to play. It advanced promptly from \$200K to \$1M and sold to Jasper at \$1.35M, plus the juice makes \$1.485M. I was the first to offer my congratulations.

I left the Big Apple the following morning. The Sale had been everything and more than I had expected. I want to thank Mssrs. Bowers, Merena, Borckardt, Snyder, et al. For some great hospitality and a great sale. I also want to thank Mssrs. Alvord, Clapp and Eliasberg for setting those two pieces aside for me.

ELIASBERG PEDIGREES

Bob Fail

Lot #44	Higley Copper	ex-Charles Morris-S.H. and Henry Chapman 4/05:24—John Story Jenks:5432.
Lot #61	Vermont Copper	ex-J. S. Jenks:5450
Lot #75	New Jersey Copper	ex-Bushnell:923 - J. S. Jenks:5512
Lot #95	Myddelton Token	ex-J. S. Jenks:5532
Lot #102	Washington Small Eagle	ex-J. S. Jenks:5558
Lot #104	Fugio 11-A	ex-J. S. Jenks:5545
Lot #420	1804 half cent, C-9	ex-Stickney:1707
Lot #425	1805 half cent, C-1	ex-Stickney:1712
Lot #427	1806 half cent, C-4	ex-D. S. Wilson:1001
Lot #438	1825 half cent, C-2	ex-D. S. Wilson:1010
Lot #470	1849 proof half cent, B-1	ex-Mickleby:2119 - S. S. Crosby - S. H. And H. Chapman, 6/1889:608 - Mills:1448
Lot #501	1795 S-75 large cent	I think that this ex-Earle:3390 (bought by Clapp, but problem with plates).
Lot #518	1802 S-241 large cent	I don't think that this is Earle:3422 (bought by Hesslein and plates don't match).
Lot #532	1809 S-241 large cent	I don't think that this is Winsor:890 (bought by Steigerwalt and went to Dr. Hall; plates don't match).
Lot #540	1814 S-294 large cent	ex-M. A. Brown:827 - Earle:3456
Lot #556	1824 N-1 large cent	ex-Earle:3483
Lot #566	1828 N-10 large cent	ex-Spedding:860 - Earle:3492
Lot #570	1831 N-12 large cent	ex-M. A. Brown:884 - Earle:3504
Lot #579	1839 N-3 large cent	ex-Earle:3535

STILL MORE ON COIN KEGS

Jim Hart

One of the readers of Coin World saw the writeup about P-W which mentioned the article on "The Large Cent Keg." Rod Burress forwarded Mr. J. Richard Becker's letter to me. Mr. Becker is an avid antique collector as well as a type collector of large cents. He sent me two pictures of a coin keg which he owns, described as follows:

Seal: Federal Reserve Bank of New York, with cloth string, tack, and sealing wax. No tag of amount or what denomination it held.

Height: outside 15 inches, inside 13 inches

Wall thickness: one-half inch.

Circumference: 34 inches at the center (diameter 10.82 inches);
30 inches at each end (diameter 9.55 inches).

Construction: oak, with outer and inner bands.

Weight: approximately 8 pounds.

I showed the pictures to many EAC members and others at the Long Beach Show, hoping to solve the large cent keg puzzle. It was pointed out to me that the Federal Reserve bank was not established until 1913. Many people had interest in the pictures but could only guess what the keg held. I noted in particular that the keg was held together with four outside steel bands and a upper and lower steel band nailed to the inner walls. It appears to me this upper inner bande could be easily removed and replaced, allowing the top to be removed. I calculated that this keg could hold approximately 10,700 large cents.

Many thanks to Dave Bowers for his nice follow-up article in P-W. After looking at the pictures, I believe they were taking the cloth bags out of the kegs, as the opened keg has only five metal bands. How could these two fellows lift the stacked kegs? We can see two kegs on a wagon behind the older man. It appears that these 1903 kegs were made with six metal bands, were taller than Mr. Becker's post-1913 keg, had bung-holes, and appeared to lack an upper inner band — at least, I could not see one in the picture. I suspect the post-1913 kegs were specially made up, and were easy to reuse.

Is it possible that an original large cent keg still exists somewhere? What about the keg that originally contained the Fugio cents in the Bank of New York? Since the Bank donated many of these Fugios to the ANS, is it possible that the ANS still has the original keg? Does anyone have any answers to these questions, or any further insights into coin kegs in general?

Mr. Becker is willing, by the way, to have his address printed. He told me that he has only "mild interest" in keeping his keg. He may be reached at 51 Concord Road, Acton, Massachusetts 01720.

Tuesday, Lanny showed up at the store after hours. We just sorted out coins by grade. Piles of Goods, larger piles of VG's, even larger piles of lesser grades. We were not getting anywhere. Too many coins.

Wednesday morning I called Steve Ellsworth. Jokingly, I asked him if he would want to add 4600 large cents to his inventory. I nearly fell out of my seat when he said he would like to buy them. I decided to get an actual count for Steve. To expedite counting, I decided to weight them. I counted out 100 large cents, weighed them and divided by 100 to get an approximate weight of a worn large cent. By weight, there were 4655 cents +/- 1%. I filled 4 canvass bank bags. Each canvass bag contained about 1500 cents, and weighed almost 35 lbs. The leftover coins went into a small box.

The next day was E.A.C. day. I met Steve and the hoard changed hands. I had mixed feelings about selling them, but he has more available time to correctly attribute them.

For the curious: I only pulled out 7 coins for myself. Nothing really significant except for a 1799 cent severely pitted. The others were counterstamped or engraved.

The family who had them wishes to remain anonymous. The part time dealer also will remain anonymous by request. About the only thing that is known is, that this hoard is a great sample of numismatic history.

Robert W. (Bob) Miller is the owner of **Bob's Coins & Collectables** in Elmwood Park, NJ. He has been a coin dealer since 1963.

THE "BUTTERNUT HOARD" OF '96

Steven Ellsworth

The week before EAC in Philadelphia, I received a call from Bob Miller about five Bank Bags of over 4,500 Large Cents from Eastern Pennsylvania! It seems that the bags were part of a family hoard that had been sitting around for about 75 years. Bob asked if I was interested in looking at the coins. Obviously, anytime someone presents an old hoard of Large Cents un-attributed to any EAC'er, most would be interested. Bob, with the help of Lanny Reinhardt and Pierre Fricke, began the task of sorting the hoard. After two days, only a small dent had been made in attributing the cents. It was decided that at EAC a decision would be made as to what to do about the hoard.

In Philadelphia, John Wright and Denis Loring were kind enough to each take a handful to attribute. John immediately found a few R5's in the Middle Dates. Denis also found a few toughies in the Early Dates. Later Bob and I worked out the arrangements for obtaining the hoard.

On my arrival home, I was faced with not only the enormous task of attributing, but keeping a statistical analysis of the sample. Since this is one of the largest hoards of Large Cents found in the past 70 years, it should be significant. Most of the coins are Good through

HOW MANY IS TOO MANY?

Robert W. Miller

On Friday, April 26, six days before E.A.C. '96, I was in my coin shop getting my inventory ready for the show. I get a phone call from a local part time dealer. He states that he knows of a small hoard of about 2,000 large cents, and asks if I would want them. I assure him that I would buy any amount. He said he would get back to me. About 3 hours later, I get a call from him. He says he will deliver the deal on Monday, and estimates the count at about 2250 pieces, or about 100 lbs. I attempt to get back to work, when it dawns on me that 2250 large cents cannot weight that much. Either there are over 3500 large cents or his scale is broken. I cannot get back to work without thinking of this hoard.

The following day, Saturday, I am back in the shop. Almost every Saturday, at least four or five E.A.C.'ers show up between 11:00 and 1:00, and this day was no exception. The topic of conversation was this hoard. The dealer with the large cents calls again. As he was counting them, he noticed that most of them were dated 1808 - 1838. He thought that was very strange. He said he would try to sort them out by condition, rather than by date. (By now you have figured it out that this guy is not an E.A.C. member.) I asked him to at least separate them by type if at all possible. He also thought that the actual count may be as high as 3000. My mind is not ready to do anything. We ponder.

Now reality sets in. I will take possession of this deal only three days before E.A.C. Middle dates are not my strong area. If I can attribute one per minute . . . If it takes me another 45 seconds to put it into a 2 X 2 and label it . . . How many can I look at without going blind? . . . How would I sort them? . . . 2500 large cents, maybe 3000 large cents . . . Is this deal for real?

Monday morning, as I open the shop, I get a call from this dealer. He says he will be delivering the coins in about 20 minutes. I try to think of this deal like any other coin deal. I must act like a coin dealer, and not act like a kid at Christmas. I wait, my nerves are frazzled. Finally the dealer is at my door with a large box. As I greet him, I think that the box he is carrying cannot contain over 2000 large cents. I am right, as he says that he has a heavier box still in the car, and needs my hand truck. A few minutes later he returns with another box on the hand truck. Each box has many plastic bags of coins. The count is on each bag. In one of the boxes is the inventory sheet. There are over 4600 in these two boxes. We strike a deal on price. I give him a check. WOW!

I call my friend Lanny Reinhardt (the King of Half Cents), and tell him what had just occurred. He must have exceeded all speed limits, as he was at my shop in 15 minutes flat. We both played with handfuls of early cents for a few minutes. We realized that there must be a way to sort out this hoard. I knew that we couldn't sort out these coins during store hours. Lanny said he would return later with Pierre Fricke. Between the three of us, we might be able to get a handle on this mess.

Later that night, Lanny, Pierre, and I started to organize as much as we could. Six hours later, we were almost blind. We had sorted about 500 pieces. Our fingers were almost black with 100 year old dirt. I realized that we were not going to be able to look at every coin. There was no way we could attribute every coin.

Fine, with only a few above Extra-Fine. Of the approximately 4,700 coins, 3,800 are Middle Dates, 500 Early and 400 Late Dates.

So far, with the help of Chris Schwerdt and Pat Dabak of Maryland, and Bill Amshay and Bill Thomas of Phoenix, we have gone through about 50% of "The Butternut Hoard of 96." Among some of the finds are two 1799's, 1838 N-16, 1831 N-5, 1827 N-12, 1834 N-5, and 1835 N-12. Many of the middle years are most interesting as to the rarities. Some R-1 varieties are not as plentiful as some of the R2 and R3 varieties in the same year. We all feel because of the numbers of rarities we are finding, that the sample may in fact be a pretty good one. There are some unexplained oddities. Why are there so many 1821's, and why are there so many middle dates and so few late dates? Of the late dates there seems to be too many 1855 Knob-on-Ear's and 1857's.

Whatever the results, and regardless of the statistical significance, we will be publish the complete numbers in future editions of Penny-Wise.

ARE YOU BULLET - PROOF?

Wes Rasmussen

Editor's Note: This also appeared as a letter to the editor of Coin World, July 8 issue, but deserves as wide an audience as possible.

We all think we can live forever, but sooner or later the inevitable happens. Is your widow prepared to deal with your coin collection when you are gone?

I spend my summer months in Wisconsin and spend a lot of my spare time appraising coin collections, mostly for people who know nothing about the collection except that their husband, uncle, or grandfather spent a lot of time and money with his hobby. Now what do they do with it?

Recently an eighty year old widow asked me to look at a beautiful set of Lincoln cents that her husband had been very proud of. All the keys were in the Very Fine to Extra Fine range and the collection was complete. After showing it to me, she took the collection to a person who runs ads in several local papers. She left the collection and picked it up a few days later and brought it back to me. The 1922 no mint mark (D) was missing. She called him and he said he forgot to put it back. He then mailed a low grade example to her. I called him about the switch, and he denied it.

Collectors, give relatives the names of reputable dealers or friends that you trust to dispose of your collection. Better yet, dispose of it yourself and leave a clean estate for others.

A FOLLOWUP ON 1796 AND 1831 HALF CENTS

Ron Manley

In response to my articles on half cents of 1796 and 1831 that appeared in the March and May issues of *Penny-Wise* respectively, Del Bland has written me and kindly shared his research notes with me. Del has collected photos and pedigrees for an amazing 23 years. In regard to the 1796 C-2 variety (with pole), Del has auction records of 64 plated specimens (which I have independently verified as all different). Del further noted that he is aware of at least 6 additional specimens, giving a total known 1796 C-2 census of 70 specimens. Del writes me that this variety is "no better than R-4+", although one might argue that it is still low R-5.

With respect to the 1796 C-1 variety, Del's photos illustrate 17 specimens known, with records of at least 4 more. Thus, the known census of 1796 C-1 specimens (no pole variety) is 21. A few more probably exist, so 1796 C-1 is no rarer than low R-6.

I found Del's auction records of plated 1831 originals quite intriguing. Whereas, from laying out the reproduced auction plates end-to-end, one is impressed that the majority of 1796 half cents are scudzy, porous, low-grade specimens (in a word--ugly), the 1831's convey just the opposite reaction. Del has records of 22 different 1831 originals plated both obverse and reverse, and another 2 or 3 plated obverse only. Of these 24-25 plated 1831 originals, *not a single specimen has a sharpness below what could be described as VF!* Most have only slight surface wear but may have low net grades due to significant nicks, dents, scrapes, etc.

As readers of *Penny-Wise* may be aware, I question the existence of 1831 originals as business strikes. After viewing Del's records of 1831 originals, described above, it became obvious that Breen's Condition Census (actually a total known census of 1831 originals) could be misleading. Breen's Census extends from About Uncirculated to Very Good. But, since Breen only lists net grade (generally), one could have the false impression that 1831 originals exist with extensive surface wear, characteristic of business strikes. To me, the absence of specimens with actual wear below the VF level is further evidence that all 1831 originals were struck as proofs. Lastly, I should point out that of the 21 "business strikes" listed by Breen in his Encyclopedia, at least 3 have been described previously as proofs, impaired proofs, or former proofs.

Ten years ago, Frank Wilkinson wrote an interesting article for *Penny-Wise* (Volume XX, 1986, p.143) on "The Smithsonian Half Cent Collection". In his article, Frank observed the following regarding the uncirculated 1831 original in the Collection: "This very coin was considered to be a business strike, but is now thought to be a proof struck with bronzing powder. This coin was considered to be the evidence that 'proved' 1831 half cents were struck for circulation....should this variety once again be considered a proof-only issue, in spite of the fact that 15 to 20 circulated examples are now known?" My answer to Frank's question, unless evidence to the contrary is found, is a resounding yes. In closing, I would like to thank Del Bland for his generosity in sharing his research notes with me and with the readers of *Penny-Wise*.

* * * * *

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GENE BRAIG writes,

You can't imagine how disappointed I am over missing Philly. I was really looking forward to watching you bet Reinhardt recycled potato "chips" at the poker table. Feedback does not include a poker game so, apparently, I didn't miss my anticipated high-point! Silver linings (copper plated) are where you find them.

Re: PENNY-WISE, March 15, 1996, p. 78:

I was tempted to write a feature article but have decided to limit my comments to a "letter to the editor".

Clem Schettino called me regarding his "find" (1804 C-6 A DISCOVERY). He did NOT send the examples. My explanation then (and now) was pieces that had been struck-through. This normally falls into the error category. Clem's claim that we "have a new die stage that started at the end of Braig-6 and continues, at least for a time, into Braig 6.5", may be mis-leading. In my opinion, we do NOT have a new die stage.

The gradual but eventually extensive reverse die deterioration on the 1804 C-6 Half Cent has been described in copper circles as "die state". The contemporary error collectors refer to this die deterioration as "die stage". Regardless of the differences in terminology, what we see on the coins Clem "discovered" is neither. The coins have been struck through pieces flaking off a deteriorating die.

Chris Pilliod (*The Numismatist*, April, 1996, pp. 401 - 408) believes the Draped Bust Half Cents were struck with a reverse hammer die (not verified). I disagree, at least for the 1804 C-6. If the reverse die was hammer, some of the little bits and pieces falling off would have landed on the obverse anvil die. Coins struck from these dies should exhibit all sorts of interesting goodies on the obverse. Not true! The Spiked Chin obverse shows minimal deterioration or change or DAMAGE until it breaks during the striking of C-8. So, lets presume the reverse was the anvil die. We should expect unusual strikings with bits and pieces shifting into unintended areas, retained cuds, shifted cuds, etc. Yes, this happens. I have a few pieces in inventory. Chris has "discovered" coins struck through fragments of a deteriorating die, not new die "stages".

Final note. My original article on this variety did not include die state 6.5. I was unsure. A full die state 6.7 (cud over I of UNITED prior to the cud over CA of AMERICA) negates Gilbert and Breen (who appears to have copied Gilbert). This step is taken carefully in deference to prior researchers. Do you have an example?

* * *

GARRY APELIAN writes,

My thanks to Bob and Cindy Grellman for nominating me for Chairman of Region #5. Also I would like to thank all my friends and members who sent in their ballots for me. I will try to carry on in the friendly tradition that has always made EAC so great. For those who don't know me, I have been a member of EAC for ten years. I collect half cent counterstamps, half cents, and large cents. Please feel free to call me with any questions you may have. Happy Collecting.

* * *

DENIS LORING writes,

My heartfelt appreciation goes out to all EACers who sponsored me in my annual 10K run to raise money for the fight against AIDS. With your help, I raised \$5,310. This was my largest total ever, and ranked 15th among all 35,000+ walkers. Thank you!

* * *

RICK COLEMAN writes,

The photo on p. 203 of the May P-W was of Frank Wilkinson and me, not Rick Leonard.

* * *

GREG and LISA HEIM write,

Lisa and I wish to thank everyone who took the time to exhibit at this year's EAC Convention. To say the exhibits were unbelievable would be an understatement! We received a great many comments and feedback on all the exhibits. We will be more than happy to serve as exhibit coordinators for next year's show in Las Vegas.

Speaking of Las Vegas, I have offered to give a program on casino gaming for the EAC membership next year. I have over five years' experience consulting, instructing, and writing on casino games to the general public and felt this would be a good opportunity to tell the membership what and what not to do if they choose to venture into the casinos. The program is non-commercial!

* * *

DEL BLAND writes,

Nice seeing you at EAC in Philly. Seems as though it was another excellent convention. The guys who worked on it should be highly commended for their efforts. Bob Vail and I had a great time as we were able to do a considerable amount of research. Next year in Las Vegas, Breen's book on Early Date Cents is scheduled to be released. That should add to the event. See you at the ANA in Denver.

* * *

RON MANLEY writes,

I'm currently starting a study of 1804 C-7 half cents regarding rarity by Breen die states. We'll see how it goes.

I picked up three specimens from the Eliasberg Sale; the '94 C-2a, '25 C-1, and '49 C-1. I was blown away on many of my other picks – notably the 1800 C-1 double-struck, proof like, State I specimen, although I was the underbidder on a couple of others. Considering the prices – and the pedigree - I feel very lucky. Sounds like McCawley and Grellman are going to have a nice sale of both half cents and large cents at ANA in August.

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 August 31, 1996. 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 66901.

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JULES REIVER: Your book is wonderful. This is the first coin book I have ever seen which can be used to attribute coins without having my coins available for checking. Your pictures are so sharp that they make attributing an absolute pleasure.
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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.

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1807	S-271	"COMET"	VF-30 / 25	Medium brown	495
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1828	N-12	High R3	VF-30 / F-12	Very light porosity, glossy black color	75
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1839	N-14	R3	VF-20 / 15	Missing berry under UNITED	35
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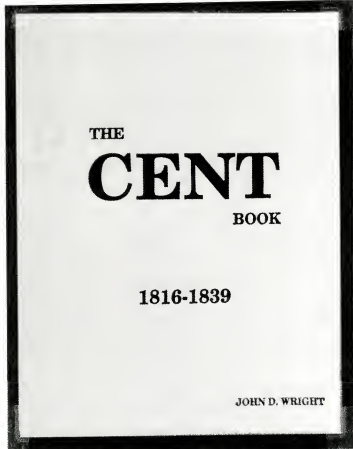
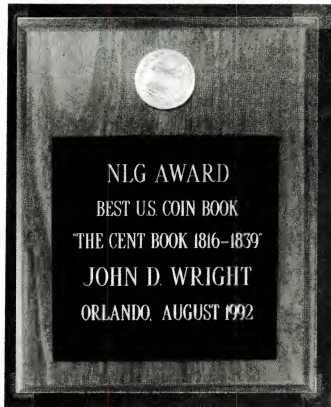
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