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

INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR: WILLIAM SHELDON REVISITED

Harry E. Salyards

Job 30: 26 -- When I looked for good, then evil came unto me;
and when I waited for light, there came darkness.

Proverbs 17:13 -- Whoso rewardeth evil for good,
evil shall not depart from his house.

Dr. William Sheldon has been gone for over twenty years. When he died, the late Dr. Warren Lapp called him "our beloved number 1 member of EAC," and spoke of the reverence with which he was held by the EAC membership, which then numbered about 600. Much of the rest of that Penny-Wise issue of November 15, 1977 was devoted to tributes to the good doctor, each seemingly more lavish in its praise. To those of us who never knew him, he comes across in these remembrances as an engaging, if occasionally eccentric, individual—one we'd regret never meeting. He didn't build this 'house' of collectors that we call EAC; that credit goes to Herb Silberman, along with the late 'Doc' Lapp and Bill Parks. But he had surely laid its foundations, with the publication of references which singlehandedly revolutionized the approach to cataloging and grading United States large cents of 1793-1814--and in the process had written the most literate and literary works ever, on any numismatic topic. So, when EAC was organized, he rightfully and willingly took on the roll of 'patron saint,' for this 'household' of EAC members. His enthusiasm for his apparently-arcaic topic, captured in his writing and reflected in his remembered smile, warmed every hearth in that house--just as a chill wind now blows through it.

For it's now amply apparent that Sheldon was a thief.

I first learned of the alleged substitution of large cents, perpetrated upon the American Numismatic Society by Sheldon, at the last Boston EAC Convention, in 1991. At the time, EAC President Phil Ralls spoke somberly of how he "saw nothing good coming of this." How right he was! As the matter has played itself out in the courts over the past seven years, it has served to smear the reputation of another longstanding member and supporter of this organization, a gentleman who appears to have served as Sheldon's primary dupe, when the 'good doctor' came to sell his first-line collection--complete with its stolen treasures. Sheldon was given 'good,' in the form of lots and lots of money, and returned 'evil,' in the form of stolen coins. And that evil continues to haunt this house. For until now, we've never come right out and acknowledged it: Sheldon was a thief.

Oh, the late Walter Breen wrote a piece about Sheldon--"Head of Copper, Feet of Clay" (Penny-Wise #105, November 15, 1984)--that criticized Sheldon on a number of counts--but these had more to do with Sheldon's politics, and personal relationship with Walter over the years, than any serious breach of ethics. Nevertheless, the very publication of those criticisms proved bitterly controversial, given the degree of reverence with which Sheldon's memory was held--how can this possibly prove otherwise?

Because I believe it's time. Because I believe this issue is slowly destroying EAC from the inside out. Because we can honor a writer's literary work while still deploring his personal conduct. Because Sheldon's documented work of elaborately-faked pedigrees on these stolen coins proves intent to perpetrate, and perpetuate, the deception, no matter who was hurt in the process. Because Sheldon's theft is now a matter of public record in a court of law. But most of all, and most unfortunately, because it happens to be the truth.

Sheldon's motive remains a mystery--unless it was simply greed, compounded by some perverted sense of entitlement--curious, indeed, for the man Breen dubbed an 18th Century Rationalist to come off like a 19th Century Robber Baron. But those of us involved in the professions, or

Academe, as Sheldon was, have certainly seen other brilliant individuals whose senses of self-aggrandizement outran their ethics. In addition, there is that ongoing tension between private collectors and institutional libraries and museums, with the former alleging that the latter have an overabundance of treasures and an underdeveloped sense of appreciation for them--which might lead a susceptible individual, given the opportunity, to rationalize a theft. But this is all conjecture. Whatever possessed him, Sheldon's actions certainly dishonored the last intentions of George Clapp, that his collection of large cents repose permanently and intact in the ANS. One must remember that Sheldon had known Clapp--had even visited him at his Sewickley, Pennsylvania home, back in 1940 (*Penny-Wise* #23, March 15, 1971, page 75). And Sheldon had originally been as supportive of that institution as Clapp. But for some reason, during the decade of the 1950s, his attitude subtly changed.

Unlike conjectures as to motive, this change in attitude is documented in print, in certain subtle differences between *Early American Cents* (1949) and *Penny Whimsy* (1958). For example, in the former, a three-page introduction, entitled "The Collector's List and the NC List," precedes the listing by individual varieties. Included in this is the statement,

By and large, however, the NC's remain unobtainable and the collector will in the long run be happier to leave them off his want list. Their rightful home is perhaps among their fellows in the ANS museum, where 28 of the 32 NC varieties are already to be found. (p.53)

In *Penny Whimsy*, this is dropped, and the discussion of the NC's, and the Condition Census, which follows, incorporated at the end of Part One of the volume. Similarly, among the discussion of the 1793 Strawberry Leaf variety, NC-3, we find the following in *Early American Cents*:

The question of the value of the strawberry leaf coins, or of any of the NC cents, is a difficult one. . . If I *had* to place a basal value on the 5-D or 5-E, I would put it at about \$50. That at any rate would be the limit of my own bid, and if the bid were successful I would doubtless present the coin to the American Numismatic Society. (p.63)

This paragraph is dropped in its entirety from *Penny Whimsy*. And these are not the only examples of this phenomenon. I noted it as long ago as 1983, when I purchased a copy of *Early American Cents*. I cannot explain it, but I believe the fact of the change in attitude is indisputable.

As is the fact of Sheldon's theft. I wish it were not so. I wish we could be remembering him, in this, his centennial year, in a more positive light. Did I mention that that copy of *Early American Cents* was inscribed by Sheldon? It was, to Aaron Feldman (Mr. "Buy the Book Before the Coin"), who in turn sold it to Dr. Edward Bush, from whom it was consigned into the 1983 EAC Sale, where I bought it. So I'm part of the Chain, too. I hold that well-worn copy in my hand, knowing that he held it; I ponder the signature, and think again over this sorry mess, and try to understand why? But I don't understand. I only know that this particular darkness has eaten at EAC for far too long. And it's time to bring it into the light.

Important Note: Due to the timing of the EAC Convention, and the intention to mail the EAC Sale Catalogue along with the March issue, that issue will close February 15, our intent being to publish and mail by March 1. That could make for a very spare issue; please send your contributions ASAP!

EYE ON THE SPIKED CHIN PART I

Leonard Wingo

There has been a great deal of discussion regarding the Spiked Chin half cent during the last year and a half, and I too have information to share.

I have collected Spiked Chins, both by variety and die state, for several years now and I have gathered information that takes me where no man has gone before.

I feel any article dealing with Spiked Chin's should start with the C-3. Although it has been de-listed as a variety, the obverse remains the basis for all four varieties of the Spiked Chin. The C-5, 6, 7 and 8's.

The C-3 is an early die state of the C-5 because it doesn't have the spike chin and it really looks like a different variety without it. In fact it appears to be a C-1. (I wonder why?). Because I make reference to both die states, I will use both designations in my presentation.

I am very lucky in the sense that I have had the opportunity to examine, quite closely, two of the 4 known '04 C-3's. In fact, the last two that surfaced. The first, of course, is the Weber coin, lot #109 from EAC '95 and the second specimen, purchased by me, at EAC '97 from a gentlemen who reportedly cherrypicked it from a coin shop junk box in Utah.

The reverses of these two coins are so far apart in die state that they ask new questions with reference to the emission sequence of common reverse coins ie; the C-3, C-4 and C-5's. I believe the sequence could read C-3, C-4, C-3 into C-5.

This idea was originally expressed by Roger Cohen in P-W in 1984 Vol. XVIII No. 6 and I quote the appropriate paragraph where he mentions the discovery C-3;

"The 1953 specimen currently in a California collection can be graded G4 if one overlooks the fact that the reverse fraction area has been obliterated due to wear. The reverse appears to be an earlier state of the die before its use for either striking C-4 or C-5. The obverse has a scratch-like line following the right profile of Liberty's bust. There are no indications of any of the later die injuries which show on the spiked chin state." (italics mine)

Unfortunately, Roger did not have the same coins to work with. He would have done a much better job with his idea than I ever could.

I also believe these two coins strongly suggest answers to some old questions with reference to how and why the Spiked Chin damage occurs. The Weber coin will also illustrate where in the die states the damage takes place.

I will begin by illustrating the reverses of the two coins I examined.

To the best of my knowledge this drawing represents the earliest known die state for a C-3. The die state is listed below.



D.S. I. **WITHOUT SPIKED CHIN.** Faint crack from rim to A1. Crack through "S OF AM...". Die chip at bottom of C1. This is where the bisecting crack will begin. The area near the fraction is weakly struck.

I think the crack from rim to A-1 is probably a stress crack, as opposed to a service crack, and was created during punching of the dentils and not from use of the dies.

This drawing represents the Weber coin with the die state listed below.



D.S.II (?) **WITHOUT SPIKED CHIN.** Crack from rim to 2 to left ribbon and "UN...". Crack of state I now joins bases of "STA" and "...TES OF AME...". Bisecting crack from rim to C1 to lower right wreath to the "T" in CENT. The area near the fraction remains weakly struck. (The Spike Chin damage is soon to follow !).

The first question I have at this time is, Where are all the coins that illustrate the die state progression that occurs in between these two coins?

Enter the C-4! It shares the same reverse as the C-3, and the die states known, show the progression we're looking for.

Die States of the '04 C-4 as defined by Breen are:

- 1 Perfect Dies. Ross 1-A. Very rare.
- 2 Crack from border below first zero through 2, ribbon and U. Ross 1-Aa.
- 3 Crack through bases of STATES OF. Reported by Cohen.
- 4 Crack extends through bases of D STATES OF A. Reported by Pheffer. Ross 1a-Ab.
- 5 Obverse crack from 4 to bust to rim. Traces of "Bisecting" reverse crack. Reported by Cohen and Rynes. Ross 1a-Aa.



A good example of a C-4 demonstrating the idea is Norweb 39, which is in the Missouri cabinet.

I believe these Die States are incorrect and should read:

- 1 Crack through bases of STATES OF.
- 2 Crack extends through bases of D STATES OF A.
- 3 Crack from border below first zero through 2, ribbon and U through R.
- 4 Obverse crack from 4 to bust to rim. Traces of "Bisecting" reverse crack. Reported by Cohen and Rynes. Ross 1a-Aa.

Neither of these two C-4's show evidence of a bisecting reverse crack near CI at this time. However, they both show the stress crack from rim to A1.

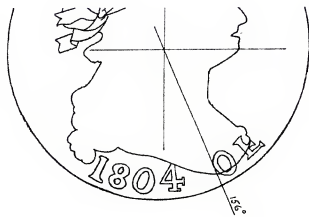
The bisecting crack does not develop until the C-3 dies are re-united for a second and final time.



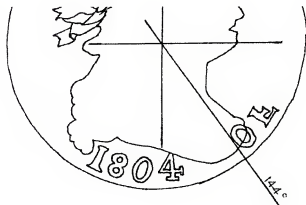
A second C-4 with similar die state is shown by the Weber coin.

Additional evidence to support this “Changing of the Dies” idea is found in the obverse to reverse orientation.

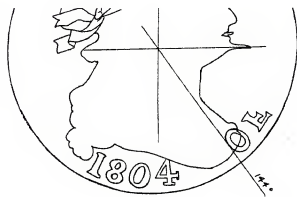
The Wingo C-3 shows “OF” at 156° . A short production run is made and the obverse die is removed from the press. The C-4 obverse is now installed and X number of coins produced. The reverse die remains in place and develops additional cracks through the legend U S of A.



The C-4 obverse die is now removed and the C-3 is re-installed. At this time the Weber C-3 is produced and “OF” is now at a 144° relationship. The reverse die has remained in place and now begins to show evidence of the bisecting crack, but still no spiked chin.



The Spiked Chin damage occurs at the 144° relationship and the C-5 is born!



COMPLETE LIST OF KNOWN LETTERED EDGE ERRORS / BLUNDERS
ON EARLY LARGE CENTS

Dan Trollan

S-11d Dr. Dane Nielson	"Unlettered edge"
S-13 Book / ANS	"Unlettered edge"
S-18b CVM/JRG Long Beach 9/97:60	"ONE HUNDRED FOR A DOLLAR" 
S-19a Anderson Dupont, DL, JHR, Del Bland, Gary Ruttenberg 8/96:72	"ONE HUNDREDED FOR A DOLLAR"
S-19b David Palmer	"ONE HUNDREDA DOLLAR"
S-20 / NC-7 RSB II 1/96:28	"ONE HUNDRED FOR A DOLLAR" followed by a single leaf pointing up struck over the same legend with a single leaf pointing down.
S-21 Dick Young: P-W article, 11/95, p. 303	"ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-22 Jim Young Jr. EAC-90, Dan Trollan	"ONE FORHUNDARE DOLLAFOAR" 
S-22 Red Henry: P-W article, 11/95, p. 302	A ONDELLAHR" 
S-24 Macallister / ANS	"ONE HUNDREDFOR A DOLLAR"
S-26 George Ewing: P-W article, 1981 p. 229, Darwin Palmer EAC-94 Dan Trollan	"Unlettered edge"
S-28 R. Tettenhorst	"ONEHUNDRED FOR ADOLLAOR" 
S-31 St. Louis Stamp / ANS	"ONEFOR HUNDRED DOLLARFOR NE A HUNDREDR"
S-31 Clapp / ANS	"ONE HUNDREDR A DOLLAR"
S-31 Dan Trollan	"ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-31 Anderson Dupont 11/54:46	"ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-32 Walt Reed	"ONE HUN A DOLLAR"
S-40 Ruby I 2/74:369, JHR 1/89: 64, Doug Bird, Gary Ruttenberg 8/96: 84, Dan Trollan	"Doubled edge lettering, right side up, + upside down"
S-41 G. Kraft Jan.'23 / Clapp / ANS	"ARONE HUNDRED FOR A DOLLAR" 
S-41 RSB I 9/86:55, Superior#292:639, March Wells	"ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-43 Ben Tennyson	"ONE HUNDREDFOR A DOLLAR"
S-45 Henry Hettger: article in Coin World 4/24/95 p.76, Roger D. Passmore	"ONE HUNDREDA DOLLAR"
S-46 Kagin-Van Cleave 2/86:5050	"ONE HUNDREDA DOLLAR"
S-48 Baldwin / Clapp / ANS	"ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-49 Bob Laforme	"ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-49 Elder 87:244[12/10/13]	"ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-50 Tom Wolf	"ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR"

S-52 Clapp / ANS	"ONE HUNDREDR A DOLLAR"
S-54 EAC sale 5/97:116, Dan Trollan	"Unlettered edge"
S-55 RSB I 9/86:74	"ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-55 EAC sale 5/96:103,Walt Husak	"ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-55 ANS	"Tripled edge lettering"
S-56 Anderson Dupont 11/54:80a	"ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR"
S-57 Jim Winterbauer: P-W notes,1/97, p. 59	"ONE HUNDREDFOR A DOLLAR"
S-57 Tom Morley: P-W article "Oddballs and Oddities" 1974, p. 142	"Doubled edge lettering; right side up, + upside down"
S-57 Tom Morley: same article	"Doubled edge lettering"
S-57 Ben Tennyson	"ONE HUNDREDFOR A DOLLAR"
S-58 Jim Hart: P-W article 9/95, p. 282	"ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-63 Adam Butcher: P-W article, 1968, p. 21	"ONE HUNDREDR A DOLLAR"
S-63 EAC '94 sale	"FOR" Doubled
S-63 Clapp / ANS	"ONE HNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-65 ANS	"ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-67 Anderson Dupont 11/54:95	"ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-67 Ruby I 2/74:661	"Doubled edge lettering"
S-67 Michael Higgy / ANS	"ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-67 Dave Hensley	"ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-68 ANS	"ONE HUNDFROED A DOLLAR"
S-69 David Palmer EAC-97, Dan Trollan	"ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR"
S-71 Bill Tivol	"ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-72 Merkin 3/67:156, Kagin-Van Cleave 2/86:5076	"ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-72 Superior#292:741, March Wells	"R in "HUNDRED" over struck with D"
S-73 Norweb	"ONE HUNDREDR A DOLLAR"
S-73 Doug Bird, Kristian Wang	"Unlettered edge"
S-73 Jim Long, Red Henry	"ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-74 Mehl Feb.'31/Clapp / ANS	"ONE HUNDREDR A DOLLAR"
S-74 CVM/JRG Sale #7 1/93:40, Dan Trollan	"Unlettered edge"
S-74 John Ashby: P-W article, 9/1981, p. 234	"Unlettered edge"
S-74 John D. Wright	"ONE HUNDREDR A DOLLAR"
S-75 Jim Long	"Doubled edge lettering"
S-75 RSB I 9/86:99	"ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR"
S-75 Donald Botteron: P-W article, 3/1972, p. 61	"Unlettered edge"
S-76a/b Jack Beymer	"Unlettered edge"
S-76a/b Gary Ruttenberg 8/96:106	"NDRED"
S-76a/b Hollenbeck FPL-1945:16.WHS, REN, [In Noyes as 76a #20958]	"Thin planchet with normal lettered edge"

NEW JERSEY COPPERS: UPDATED CONDITION CENSUS

John P. Lorenzo

NJ COPPERS CONDITION CENSUS		J.GRIFFEE REVISIONS INCLUDE:
146 VARIETIES LESS THE ST. PATRICKS		11-H,12-I,15-U,16-J,18-J,18-N,19-M,22-P,24-R,27-J
REVISION 5		34-v,35-J,36-J,37-X,38-b,40-b,41-c,42-c,44-c,45-d
PAGE 1 OF 6		47-e,51-g,57-n,64-u,66-v,71-y,74-bb,21-O,10-G,10-h
MARIS	RARITY CC GRADES	3-C,4-C,21-R,5-C
1-A		UNC(JWG)-3XF(SBY,N,HERITAGE-93 SALE)-MANY VF
2-B		AU(JWG)-3AU(N)-XF+(P)-XF+(LEX:B&M:1-94)-OTHERS IN XF40
3-C	6+	UNC(MARIS)-UNC(ANA 76)-AU(WC)-AU(TERRANOVA)-AU(PARMALEE-TEN EYCK)-XF(EC)
4-C	8	XF+(WC-FCC BOYD-TROSKY-RYDER)-VF(GROVES-GARETT 80-CROSBY)-VF(ROPER)
4 1/2-pp	9	G/VG
5-C	8	UNC(EC)-AG(ERIC P. NEWMAN COLLECTION)
6-C	4	AU(JWG)-AU(AUGUST)-XF(GIBBONS)-XF(YALE)-XF(P)-VF(WIERZBA)-VF(HG-SUMMIT)-VF(N)
6-D	1	AU(EC)-AU(P-SUMMIT)-AU(AUGUST)-XF+(T-JPL)-XF+(WIERZBA)-XF
7-C	9	?ONE KNOWN
7-E	7	XF+(P)-VF+(N)-VG-TWO OTHERS
8-F	7	XF+(R)-XF(JWG-EC)-VG(GOUDGE/BREEN PLATE COIN)-VG
8 1/2-C	8	VF(T)-F(JWG)-F(EC)
9-G	7+	VF(EC)-F(EC)-F(O)-VG(NJHS)-?(NY COLLECTION)
10 1/2-C	9	F+
10-G	6+	AU+(WC-S)-XF(EC)-XF(NJHS)-VF+(HG)-VF(R. AUGUST)-VF(B&M:3-90)
10-h	7-	UNC(N-GROVES)-XF(EC)-VF+(O)-VF(ANA-MARIS)-F+(WC)-VG(NJHS)
10-gg	8	XF-VG
10-oo	9	F/VF
11-G	9	AU
11-H	6-	VF+(HG)-3VF+(EC)-VF+(WC)-VF+(FOREMAN)-VF+(R. AUGUST)-VF+(MARTIN)
11 1/2-G	7	VF(NJHS)-F/VF(HG)-F(P)-F(S)-VG(ANS)-VG(PARMALEE-DIETZ/CRAIG-EC-WIERZBA)
11-hh	9	G(WC)
12-G	5	UNC-AU(S-O-SUMMIT)-AU(R)-XF+/AU(C4#3)-VF(N-PNW)-2VF
12-I	5	AU(WC)-XF(SFPL90)-VF+(FOREMAN)-VF+(BARNES)-VF(T)-VF(SUMMIT)-VF(SCHERFF)
13-J	6	AU(EC)-XF(GROVES-HG)-VF(WC)-VF(WC)-VF(MENCHEL)-VF(STEINBERG-PNW)
14-J	1	UNC(EC)-UNC(BAREFORD)-AU-AU-AU-AU
15-J	2	UNC(EC)-XF+(FRONTENAC-JPL)-XF(SPINK97-WIERZBA)-XF(T)-XF(EC)-XF(SUMMIT)
15-L	3	UNC(JWG)-AU(STICKNEY)-AU(N-SFPL89)-XF+(NJ COLL)-XF(T)-VF+(HG)-VF+(MOORE)
15-T	4	UNC(BUSHNELL-ELIASBERG)-UNC(MILLS-BAREFORD)-AU+(RES-SUMMIT)-2AU
15-U	5+	VF35(GROVES-DOUGLAS)-VF35(WC)-3:VF35(EC)-VF25(O)-VF25(A. PIETRI)
16-d	7+	VF-F(NJHS)-G-? (FOUR KNOWN)
16-J	6-	XF(EC)-XF(EC)-VF+(EC)-VF+(KRUGER:GSNA 8-83)-VF(WC)-VF(ROCK)-6VF20's
16-L	1	4-UNC-2AU
16-S	9	VF(REFER TO THE CNL(5-76,p.554) ARTICLE
17-J	4	VF+(P)-VF+(FRONTENAC-JPL)-VF+(HG)-VF+(SHERR)-VF+(SUMMIT)-VF
17-K	3	AU-XF+(JWG-SUMMIT)-XF(JWG)-XF(RES-JPL)-VF+-MANYVF
17-b	3	AU(JWG)-AU(FRONTENAC-EC)-AU(JWG)-XF(T-SUMMIT)-2XF(JPL)
18-J	5+	AU(JWG-EC)-AU(MILLS-WC)-XF(EC)-XF(DEATS-SUMMIT)-VF+(GROVES-N)-VF+(AUGUST)

NJ COPPERS CONDITION CENSUS		J.GRIFFEE REVISIONS INCLUDE:
146 VARIETIES LESS THE ST. PATRICKS REVISION 5		11-H,12-I,15-U,16-J,18-J,18-N,19-M,22-P,24-R,27-j 34-v,35-J,36-J,37-X,38-b,40-b,41-c,42-c,44-c,45-d 47-e,51-g,57-n,64-u,66-v,71-y,74-bb,21-0,10-G,10-h 3-C,4-C,21-R,5-C
PAGE 2 OF 6		
MARIS	RARITY	CC GRADES
18-L	9	VG(UNCONFIRMED BUT POSSIBLY 2 OTHERS EXIST)
18-M	1	UNC-UNC-UNC-AU(ROPER-WIERZBA)-AU-XF+
18-N	5+	XF+(CRAIG)-XF(SMITH-EC)-VF+(EC)-VF+(NJ COLL)-VF+(EC)-VF+(PA.COLL-WIERZBA)
19-M	5	AU(EC)-XF(GARRETT-EC)-VF+(RES-D.PALMER)-VF+(WC)-VF+(WC)-VF+(PIETRI)
20-N	4	UNC(EC)-AU-XF+-XF-XF-XF
21-N	2	UNC(MILLS)-AU-XF-XF-XF-XF
21-O	5	UNC(EC)-XF+(O-GROVES)-XF(P)-2XF(EC)-VF+(GRIFFEE-PNW)-VF+(T)-VF+(N)
21-P	5	UNC(MILLS)-UNC(SPENCE)-UNC(WINSOR)-AU-AU(ELIASBERG)-XF-XF
21-R	7-	VF(WC)-VF/F(GARETT-S10-84)-F/VF(R.AUGUST)-F(M.RINGO)-VG(O)-VG(HG-LYMAN)
21 1/2-R	8	VF(WESTERN COLLECTION)-G(P)
22-P	7-	VF+(EC)-VF+(WC)-VF(NJHS)-F(P-EC)-F(RES-EC)-VG(S)-VG(PARMALEE)-VG(ANS): 9 KNOWN
23-P	2	UNC-AU-XF-XF-XF-XF
23-R	3	UNC(T)-UNC(HG-EC)-UNC(PARMALEE)-XF+(G.J.BAUER)-XF+(BAREFORD)-XF+(JPL)
23 1/2-R	7+	VF+(N)-CRAIGE ESTATE COIN(VG)-WC(?)-CONN. COLLECTION(?)
24-I	8	VF(FOREMAN)-VG-6/G-4(HG)
24-M	7+	XF(EC)-F/VG(EC)-VG(R.MOORE)-VG(MARYLAND COLL.)-G
24-P	2	UNC-AU-AU(FOREMAN LOT 1361)-3 XF+
24-Q	7+	XF+-F-2VG(P,HG): FOUR TRACED
24-R	5	UNC(KING-EC)-UNC(R.AUGUST)-XF(JWG)-VF+(PNW)-VF(WC)-VF(S)
25-S	5+	XF-VF+(HG-JPL)-VF(FRONTENAC-BARNES-WIERZBA)-VF(MOORE)-F-F
26-d	8	VF(MULT-STRIKE)-VG/F(HOLE)
26-S	5	XF-VF+(FRONTENAC-JPL)-VF+-VF(R.MOORE)-VF-VF
27-j	6+	VF+/XF(T.MADIGAN)-VF+(O)-VF+(T-MOORE)-VF(WC)-F(JPL)-2VG(ANS)
27-S	5	AU-XF-XF-VF(DENT)-F(GRIFFEE-M.WIERZBA)-F-F
28-L	3	UNC-XF+(T-SFPL90)-XF-XF-XF-XF
28-S	5	UNC-XF+-XF-VF-VF-VF(D.WIERZBA)-VF(M.WIERZBA)
29-L	4	AU-VF+-VF-F+-F-F-F
29 1/2-L	9	?(ONE KNOWN)
30-L	3	UNC-AU-VF+-VF-VF-VF
31-L	2	UNC-AU-AU-XF-XF-XF
32-T	1	UNC-AU-AU-XF-XF-XF
33-U	4+	AU+-XF+(JWG)-XF(FRONTENAC-JPL)-XF(JWG)-XF(D.WIERZBA)-VF+
34-J	3	AU-VF-VF-VF-VF-VF
34-V	6	AU(EC)-XF(P-EC)-XF(R.AUGUST)-VF+(McGRATH)-VF(SCHERFF)-VF(M.WIERZBA)
35-J	6	XF(EC)-VF(EC)-VF(SUMMIT)-VF(NJ COLL)-VF(S)-F+(R.AUGUST)-F+(WIERZBA)
35-W	7+	XF(NJHS)-VF/F(EC)-F(H.GARRETT-SUMMIT)-F(WC)-VG(MARYLAND): SEE NOTE 7
36-J	7-	UNC(EC)-VF(CRAIG ESTATE)-VF(WC)-F+(AUGUST-EC-SUMMIT)-F(NY COLL)-F(EC)
37-J	6-/5+	XF-XF-VF-VF-VF-VF

NJ COPPERS CONDITION CENSUS		J.GRIFFEE REVISIONS INCLUDE:
146 VARIETIES LESS THE ST. PATRICKS		11-H,12-I,15-U,16-J,18-J,18-N,19-M,22-P,24-R,27-j
REVISION 5		34-v,35-J,36-J,37-X,38-b,40-b,41-c,42-c,44-c,45-d
PAGE 3 OF 6		47-e,51-g,57-n,64-u,66-v,71-y,74-bb,21-o,10-g,10-h
MARIS	RARITY CC GRADES	3-C,4-C,21-R,5-C
37-X	7-	VF(O-TERRANOVA)-F+(MILLS-WC)-F+(HG)-F+(NE COLL)-F+(S1-93)-F(R.AUGUST)
37-Y	4	AU(S-R.MOORE)-XF(JPL)-VF-F-VG-VG-VG
37-F	4	UNC-XF-VF++3(VF)
38-L	9	VF
38-Y	4	UNC-XF+(S-FOREMAN-SUMMIT)-XF(JPL)-VF+(MADIGAN)-VF-VF-VF
38-Z	4	UNC(JWG-EC)-XF(S-EC)-XF(N)-VF+(JPL)-VF+(MADIGAN)-VF+(T): SEE NOTE 10
38-a	4	AU-AU-XF-SVF's
38-b	6	AU(HG)-VF+(WC)-VF(WC)-VF(BARNES-PNW)-VF(S)-F(EC)-F(WC)
38-c	3	AU(T-JPL)-AU(HWB-EC)-XF(O)-VF+(S)-VF+(ROCK)-VF
39-a	2	UNC-AU-AU(SUMMIT)-6XF's
40-b	5+	AU(EC)-XF(SUMMIT)-XF(EC)-XF(HG-DAMAGED)-VF(SHEER)-VF(WC)
41-c	5+	AU+(EC)-AU+(EC)-XF(EC)-XF(R.AUGUST)-XF(FOREMAN)-VF+(N)-VF+(WC)
42-c	5+	VF+(WC)-VF+(EC)-VF+(R.MOORE)-VF-3VF(EC)
42 1/2-c	9	VG(NOTED MARYLAND COLLECTOR)
43-d	1	UNC-UNC-AU-XF-XF-XF
43-Y	4	XF(HG)-XF(EC)-VF(BUELL ISH-C4)-VF-VF-VF
44-c.1	7-	XF(MARIS-EC)-VF(S-WC)-VF(EC-PNW)-F(HG)-F(R.AUGUST)-2VG(ANS): SEE NOTE 11
44-d	4	XF-XF-XF-XF-XF-VF
45-d	5+	XF(T)-VF+(N)-VF(BARNES-PNW)-VF(HG-PIETRI)-VF(WC)-F+(GRIFFEE-WILLIAMS)
45-e	5	AU-XF-XF-VF-VF-VF
46-e	1	UNC(STEINBERG)-UNC(EC-SUMMIT)-AU(S5-75SALE)-AU(S6-75SALE)-AU(HWB)-AU
47-e	6-	AU(P-EC)-2VF(EC)-VF(BARNES-R.MOORE)-VF(EC)-VF(MASS. COLL.)
47 1/2-e	8	VF(EC)-VG(NOTED WESTERN COLLECTION)
48-X	7+	VF(AUERBACH-JPL)-VF(EC-O/S GEORGE III)-F(EC:FORGOTTEN COIN)-VG(S)
48-f	3	AU+-AU-VF+-VF+-VF+-VF+
48-g	1	UNC(EC)-UNC(N)-AU+(F)-AU(JWG)-AU(SFPL2)-AU(S12-93)
49-f	5	AU-VF+(SUMMIT)-VF+(D.WIERZBA)-VF(JPL)-VF(YALE)-VF
50-f	3	UNC(JWG-HG)-UNC(MILLS)-VF-VF-VF-VF
51-g	6	UNC(FRONTENAC)-XF+(WC)-XF(SFPL90)-XF(S3-94-R.MOORE)-XF(EC)-XF(FOREMAN)
52-i	3	UNC(EC)-UNC(ELIASBERG)-AU-AU-XF-XF-XF
53-j	4-	UNC-UNC(BUSHNELL)-AU-XF(HG-SUMMIT)-XF-XF
54-k	3	UNC(HG-SUMMIT)-AU(JPL)-AU-AU-AU-AU
55-l	5	UNC(MILLS)-UNC(EARLE)-XF+-XF-VF+(FRONTENAC)-VF+
55-m	4	AU-3(XF)-2VF+
56-n	1	UNC-UNC-UNC(SUMMIT)-AU-AU-XF+(O-JPL)-XF+(O)
57-n	6+	UNC(AUGUST)-VF/XF(AUGUST-EC)-VF(MARIS-EC)-F+(HG)-F+(JWG-EC)-F+(MARIS-EC)
58-n	5	AU-AU-XF+(P#2-JPL)-XF-XF-XF-XF
59-a	5	XF+(S-BAREFORD-SUMMIT)-3XF-2VF
60-p	4-	AU+-AU-4VF+

NJ COPPERS CONDITION CENSUS 146 VARIETIES LESS THE ST. PATRICKS REVISION 5		J.GRIFFEE REVISIONS INCLUDE: 11-H,12-I,15-U,16-J,18-J,18-N,19-M,22-P,24-R,27-j 34-v,35-J,36-J,37-X,38-b,40-b,41-c,42-c,44-c,45-d 47-e,51-g,57-n,64-u,66-v,71-y,74-bb,21-O,10-G,10-h 3-C,4-C,21-R,5-C
PAGE 4 OF 6		
MARIS	RARITY	CC GRADES
61-p	5	AU-VF(T)-VF-VF-VF
62-q	1	3-UNC's-AU(SS-74 SALE)-AU(ELIASBERG)-XF-XF
62-r	8	F(EC)-F/VG (TWO KNOWN)
62 1/2-r	9	VF
63-q	1	UNC-UNC-AU-AU-AU-AU
63-r	5	XF+(N)-XF(T)-VF+(NN54SALE)-VF(BAREFORD-SUMMIT)-2VF
63-s	1	UNC(BUSHNELL)-UNC(N)-UNC(HERITAGE:FALL88)-AU(JWG)-XF+XF+(O)
64-t	1	UNC(HG)-XF+(NJHS)-XF+(JWG-SUMMIT)-XF+XF-XF
64-u	5+	UNC-VF/XF-VF/XF-VF-VF(NJHS)
64 1/2-r	9	UNIQUE AS STRUCK(UNC)
65-u	3	UNC-XF+XF-XF-VF+(N-SUMMIT)-VF+
66-u	7+	XF+(NJHS)-VF+-VF+-G(WC)-G(PEDIGREE UNKNOWN)
66-v	5+	UNC(WC)-AU(WC)-AU(MARIS-T)-AU(SUMMIT)-XF(S-P)-XF(S1-93 SALE)
67-v	1	UNC(EC)-UNC(ROPER)-AU+(N)-AU+(3rdC4-SUMMIT:MARIS)-AU(RYDER)-AU(O)
68-w	5	AU+(UNC)-XF-VF+-VF+-VF-VF
69-w	8	G(JWG)-FAIR(WC)
70-x	7-	VF-VF-F-VG-VG-G
71-y	6+/6	AU+(EC)-VF+(EC)-VF+(R.AUGUST)-VF(EC)-VF(S-WC)-VF-VF(AUERBACH COIN)
72-z	5	XF-XF-XF-VF-VF
72 1/2-aa	9	F/VF(ONE KNOWN)
73-aa	5-	UNC-XF+(HG)-4(XF+:DR.HAROLD SMITH)-XF(HG)-XF-XF(T)-OTHERS VF
73 1/2-aa	8	F(EC)-F
74-bb	6	AU(EC)-VF+(WC)-VF+(FRONTENAC)-VF+(SUMMIT)-VF+(T)-VF+(WC)-VF+(PALMER)
75-bb	4	UNC(STICKNEY:330-NN60:395)-AU-AU-XF+XF-XF
76-cc	7+	VF+(HG)-VF+(WC)-VG/G-? (4 KNOWN)
77-dd	2	UNC(78-dd)-AU(77-dd)-AU(PNW,77-dd)-AU(771/2-dd)-3XF+
79-ee	8	AU-G
80-ff	9	F/G
81-ll	8	VG/AG-VG/POOR-FAIR (3 KNOWN)
82-hh		delete
83-ii	7-	XF+(NJHS)-F(JWG)-F(T)-VG/F(FLORIDA SPEC-EC)-G-G(OTHERS AT THIS LEVEL)
84-kk	8	VG(S-O-EC)-VG(WC)
85-nn	9	F:PROVENANCE UNKNOWN (ONE KNOWN)

NJ COPPERS CONDITION CENSUS
146 VARIETIES LESS THE ST. PATRICKS
REVISION 5

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J.GRIFFEE REVISIONS INCLUDE:

11-H,12-I,15-U,16-J,18-J,18-N,19-M,22-P,24-R,27-j
34-v,35-J,36-J,37-X,38-b,40-b,41-c,42-c,44-c,45-d
47-e,51-g,57-n,64-u,66-v,71-y,74-bb,21-O,10-G,10-h
3-C,4-C,21-R,5-C

COMMENTS AND ABBREVIATIONS:

1. ABBREVIATIONS USED ABOVE: JWG-GARRETT'80 SALE; N-NORWEB 1, P-PICKER (STACK'S 1984); HG-HENRY GARRET (B&M:1992); T-TAYLOR (B&M); EC-NOTED EASTERN COLLECTION; O-OEHSNER (STACKS:1988); RES: SACCONI SALE OF H.RESCIGNO: B&M-1989; NJHS-NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION, WHICH HOUSES THE FREDERICK CANFIELD COLLECTION OF 109 VARIETIES; SBY-SEABY PLATE COIN OF A ST.PATRICK HALFPENNY FROM THE COINS OF SCOTLAND AND IRELAND: SEABY-6568: 1984 PUBLICATION; S-DR.SPIRO (SCHULMAN: 1955).
2. OVERSTRIKES ON NJ'S OCCUR ON: 17,19,34V,35J,46-e,48,56,58,65-u,70-73 AND 78.
3. BROCKAGES OCCUR ON TWO OBERSES: 24 & 72 AND FOUR REVERSES: T,U,e & i.
4. ONE VERY INTERESTING REFERENCE PRESENTED TO ME BY D.WIERZBA RECENTLY WAS A ARTICLE WRITTEN BY R.W.JULIAN ON JOHN HARPER. IN THE ARTICLE A LETTER IS PRESENTED BY ALBION COX A CONFIRMED NJ COPPERS MINTER, INDICATING AND CONFIRMING TO ELIAS BOUUDINOT IN JAN. 1795 THAT JOHN HARPER DID HAVE EXPERIENCE IN STRIKING NJ COPPERS. REF. NUM. SCRAPBOOK: 9-64.
5. THE SPINK 97: 35: 15-J IS A NICE XF40 OBERSE XF45 REVERSE CURRENTLY IN THE D. WIERZBA COLLECTION. THE COIN WAS VIEWED AT THE ANA: NY AND IS SUPERIOR TO THE TAYLOR COIN.
6. THE NEW 48-X DISCOVERY BY MARK AUERBACH IS A FRESH DISCOVERY IN THE NEW JERSEY SERIES. AS THE PHOTO MAY INDICATE IN THE SUMMER 1997 C4 NEWSLETTER, THIS IS A DIE MARRIAGE IN WHICH THE OBERSE IS IN TOTAL DIE FAILURE AND THE SHARPNESS GRADING IS DONE BY EXAMINATION OF THE REVERSE ONLY. IN GENERAL, NEOPHYTE COLLECTORS BEGIN COLLECTING WITH THE GOAL OF PERFECTION, BUT EVENTUALLY LEARN THE DIE FAILURES OF CERTAIN VARIETIES AND ADJUST ACCORDINGLY WITH THEIR COLLECTIONS. THE REMARKABLE THING ABOUT THIS SPECIMEN IS THAT IT IS NOT OVERSTRUCK OR DOUBLE/TRIPLE STRUCK OVER A HOST COIN. THE OBLITERATION OF THE MARIS X REVERSE WITH THE TWO EASTERN COLLECTION COINS, AND THE LOW GRADE OF THE DISCOVERY SPIRO COIN, PREVENTED ANY REAL DIE SEQUENCING METHODOLOGIES OF OBERSE 48 AND REVERSE X UNTIL THIS DISCOVERY COIN. SINCE OBERSE 48 IS BASICALLY PERFECT WITH 48-g, THE ENTIRE EMISSION OF 48-X WAS PRODUCED AFTER THE LIFE OF REVERSE g BASED ON THE VIEWING ALL KNOWN 48-X's. WHAT WAS NOT KNOWN WAS THAT THE ENTIRE LIFE OF 48-X WAS STRUCK "BEFORE" 37-X. SINCE PRIOR TO THIS COIN, THE X REVERSE WAS NEVER AS STRONG AS WITH ANY 37-X EXAMPLE. WITH THE 37-X DIE MARRIAGE, X IS ALWAYS WEAK AND GHOSTED-OUT. THE DIE SEQUENCING IS THEREFORE 48-g/48-X/37-X, WITHOUT ANY REAL OVERLAPPING; BASED OF COURSE ON THE ASSUMPTION OF THE VERY LOW POPULATIONS OF BOTH 37-X AND 48-X.
SINCE, I HAVE A COUPLE OF EXTRA MINUTES ON THIS METHODOLOGY, LET'S EXPAND MADIGAN'S 37 OBERSE DIE STATES. WHEN VIEWING FOR EXAMPLE BAREFORD:154, WE SEE A STRONG NOVA AND YET A MARIS f REVERSE IN A TERMINAL STATE. SINCE HIS LAST THREE DIE STATES ALL INVOLVE 37-f, WE CAN EXPAND THIS WHEN VIEWING OEHSNER:1277 TO FRONTENAC:161 (37-Y) AND TO FRONTENAC:160 (37-X). THE EMISSION SEEMS TO BE 37-J/37-Y/37-f, THEN 37-f/37-X, AND FINALLY 37-X WITH OBLITERATION OF NOVA BEING THE MAIN METHODOLOGICAL CLUE TO THE SEQUENCE. THE HODDER CLASSIFICATION OF LATE RAHWAY/ELIZABETHTOWN TO 37-X FITS NICELY ON BOTH ENDS, INVOLVING THE DEATH OF 48-g TO 48-X AND THE DIE SEQUENCING EXERCISE ABOVE FOR MARIS OBERSE 37.

NJ COPPERS CONDITION CENSUS 146 VARIETIES LESS THE ST. PATRICKS REVISION 5 <p style="text-align: center;">PAGE 6 OF 6</p>	J.GRIFFEE REVISIONS INCLUDE: 11-H,12-I,15-U,16-J,18-J,18-N,19-M,22-P,24-R,27-j 34-v,35-J,36-J,37-X,38-b,40-b,41-c,42-c,44-c,45-d 47-e,51-g,57-n,64-u,66-v,71-y,74-bb,21-O,10-G,10-h 3-C,4-C,21-R,5-C
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COMMENTS AND ABBREVIATIONS:

7. A FIFTH EXAMPLE OF 35-W WAS LOCATED BY H.GARRETT AT THE 97 NYC ANA SHOW. IT NOW RESIDES IN A PROMINANT NJ COLLECTION.
8. THE MOST IMPORTANT OVERSTRIKE REPORTED IN THIS REVISION IS THE D.WIERZBA 65-u O/S ON A 1721 GEORGE I HALFPCENCE. THE JURY IS STILL OUT IF THE HOST COIN IS A GENUINE OR CONTEMPORARY COUNTERFEIT 1721 GEORGE I ISSUE. NEVERTHELESS, THE ISSUE OPENS UP THE POSSIBILITY THAT 65-u MAY POSSIBLY BE A LATE RAHWAY/ELIZABETHTOWN ISSUE, SINCE THIS IS THE ONLY REPORTED O/S MORRISTOWN ISSUE. THE CURRENTLY ACCEPTED THEORY THAT SOME TRAFNER OF PLANCHETS DID OCCUR ON OCCASION BETWEEN THE MINTS DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY IN THIS SITUATION TO THIS WRITER. THE ONLY REASON I CAN OFFER IS DUE TO THE SINGULAR OCCURANCE OF A MORRISTOWN OVERSTRIKE ISSUE, AND ALSO THE PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED HOST COIN BEING A 1721 GEORGE I HALFPCENCE. SINCE, IN MY OPINION THERE WAS NEVER ANY REAL EVIDENCE TO LINK 64/65/66-u WITH MORRISTOWN, SO THEIR CLASSIFICATION TO LATE RAHWAY/ELIZABETHTOWN ALONG WITH 66-v AND 67-v IS OF A HIGHER PROBABILITY. OVER THE SHORT TERM A SECOND LOOK AT THESE SO-CALLED MORRISTOWN ISSUES IS IN ORDER.
9. ON FINALLY VIEWING THE TOM MADIGAN 27-j SPECIMEN, OBTAINED FROM JOHN ALBRIGHT UNATTRIBUTED THROUGH CORAL GABLES COIN AND STAMP, THIS COIN IS THE FINEST KNOWN IN MY OPINION AND IS CLEARLY FINER THAN THE OECHSNER COIN, SIMPLY DUE TO THE LACK OF HANDLING MARKS. THE CENSUS HAS BEEN ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY.
10. ANOTHER COIN TOM MADIGAN SHOWED ME AT C4 WAS HIS 38-Z.THIS IN MY OPINION WAS AT THE BOTTOM END CENSUS LEVEL AND WAS CLEARLY EQUAL WITH THE TAYLOR COIN.
11. THE MOST IMPRESSIVE COIN SHOWN TO ME BY THE NOTED NORTHWESTERN COLLECTOR WAS THE MARIS 44-c, PURCHASED PRIVATELY FROM THE NOTED EASTERN COLLECTOR. THIS COIN WAS SUPERIOR TO THE HENRY GARRETT COIN, SINCE ITS RIMS WERE NOT DAMAGED AT ALL, AND ESSENTIALLY IT HAD EQUAL TECHNICAL SHARPNESS. THE CENSUS WAS THEREFORE MODIFIED ACCORDINGLY FOR MARIS 44-c.
12. THE OTHER INTERESTING COIN THE PNW COLLECTOR SHOWED ME WAS A DIE CLASHED 46-e, WHICH DUE TO ITS HIGH STATE OF PRESERVATION HAD ALL THE LETTERS OF "E PLURIBUS UNUM" PRESENT AS PART OF THE DIE CLASHING. NEAT COIN, PNW!

Sampling, Statistics, and Rarity Estimates

Craig Sholley

I've been following the discussion of both the Butternut Hoard and Red Henry's 1801-07 Survivorship study. While the authors are to be commended for their efforts in gathering and publishing the data, I have some serious concerns about both the validity of the samples and the data analysis.

The first problem when conducting a study of this sort is, of course, obtaining a true random sample. In statistics a sample is considered truly random when all members of the population have an equal chance of being selected. If this is not true, then the sample is said to be *biased*.

Merely saying your sample is "random" or "unbiased" does not make it so. If the sample is not collected in a manner consistent with the definition, it *is not* random. Biased samples can have serious consequences as we'll see shortly.

The problem of obtaining a random sample in the numismatic field is rather obvious - not all members (coins) of the total population are available for selection. Many are "locked" in collections or in dealer stock. These may or may not be accessible to the researcher.

Furthermore, if only those coins from a particular area or region of the country are being sampled, the population may not be evenly distributed and some dates/varieties may be more prevalent in one area than another. This non-uniform "regional distribution" results in the sample being biased.

These problems are further compounded by the fact that the distribution of the population is not static - i.e., the coins do not "stay put". Many coins are for sale and move between dealers and collectors. If data is obtained by going to shows and recording the coins seen, there is the possibility that the same coin will be re-sampled at a later date. Of course the researcher could keep highly detailed records to try and preclude this, but with lower grade pieces this would be next to impossible.

Yes, studies of this sort are conducted today in other fields where the same problems exist (opinion polls, demographics, etc.). However, the rules and procedures for conducting the study are carefully developed beforehand and the study is conducted with time and geographical parameters developed to minimize these problems.

So, unless the numismatic researcher carefully conducts the collection of data, including coordinating with others who will contribute data, the resulting sample will be so biased as to be statistically invalid.

While the forgoing points out the pitfalls of developing data today, what of samples derived from hoards, such as the Butternut Hoard, which were presumably assembled quite some time ago? Since collecting, and in particular variety collecting, was in its infancy, would not such an

accumulation be a fairly random sample? While this sounds like a good premise, it is not necessarily true.

First there is the problem of “regional distribution”. Hoarders are not collectors, they are, well, hoarders. They tend to buy anything that comes their way, but they do not go out of their way to obtain coins. The accumulation is therefore limited to what is locally available.

In the case of the Butternut Hoard, which is from Pennsylvania and presumed to have been formed in the 1800s, this regional distribution could very well have skewed this accumulation away from the very common varieties found in the Randall Hoard. With the Randall Hoard being found in Georgia around 1869 (i.e., around the same time as the Butternut Hoard is thought to have been formed, and literally a thousand miles away), a large proportion of these very common varieties were probably unavailable to those who formed the Butternut Hoard.

Hoarders also have one other tendency which skews the data - they typically buy coins only at or below “their price”. This generally skews the accumulation to lower grade pieces. While this may not appear to be much of a problem, it is when one considers that the scarcer varieties are predominantly in the lower grades.

If the hoard then consists of mostly lower grade pieces and the rarer varieties are mostly in lower grade, it can be expected that the hoard is somewhat skewed to a higher proportion of rarer coins than the total population.

Lastly, we have no assurance that the hoarders were totally unbiased in purchasing what was available to them. The Butternut Hoard does contain some indications of this. As the author mentioned, there seemed to be more than the expected number of 1821s, 1857s and the 1855 “Knob on Ear” variety.¹ This could well indicate a bias on the part of one or more of those who accumulated the hoard.

When conducting a study or analyzing an uncovered hoard, these factors need to be considered as the sample may be so biased as to yield unreliable results.

Just how important is the randomness of a sample? In what is arguably the most famous case of poor sampling techniques, a magazine took a poll of two million people for the 1936 election and predicted that the Republican candidate, Alf Landon, would win in a landslide. On the contrary, the Democratic candidate, Franklin D. Roosevelt, won in one of the largest majorities in history.

So what happened? The sample was biased. The poll was taken by mailing inquiries to its own readers and to people listed in telephone directories or on automobile registration lists. Consequently, this sample did not reflect the large majority of voters who neither read the magazine nor owned phones or cars. The lesson is clear: a biased sample has a large risk of being completely invalid.

¹ Steven Ellsworth, “The Butternut Hoard of ‘96”, Penny-Wise, Issue 175, pg. 251

Equally as important is the mathematical analysis of the data. It has been my experience that those who are unfamiliar with statistics have a natural tendency to assume that the ratio of items in a sample is fairly reflective of that in the total population. On the surface this would seem to be a fairly straightforward conclusion. Unfortunately, it is simply not true.

The number of objects in a sample drawn from a population is a function of probability, i.e., "the odds". Here again, those not familiar with statistics tend to assume that "the odds" of drawing a sample with roughly the same ratio as that in the population are fairly high. This is also not true.

Without going into the background and derivation, which can be found in most statistics texts, the fundamental probability formula for sampling by attributes (i.e., the type of item) is the Hypergeometric Distribution:

$$P = \frac{\binom{M}{m} \binom{N-M}{n-m}}{\binom{N}{n}}$$

Where

- P = probability of occurrence
- N = total population
- M = number of desired objects in the total population
- n = sample size
- m = number of desired objects found in the sample

and

$$\binom{x}{y} = \frac{x!}{(x-y)!y!}$$

Given this equation, let's take a look at an example. Let's assume we have a population of 1100 poker chips, 1000 of which are blue and 100 of which are red. If we pull a sample of 100 pieces, what is the probability that 9 will be red (i.e., in direct proportion to the total population)?

Then, $N = 1100$, $M = 100$, $n = 100$, and $m = 9$. Using the hypergeometric we find that the probability $P = .1447$ or 14.47%.

So what? Well, the converse is also true. If we have a sample of 100 poker chips, 9 of which are red, and we estimate the total population that they came from at 1100, then the probability that the red and blue chips exist in the same ratio in the total population (100 red chips) is only 14.47%. In other words, if we estimate the total population of red chips from this example, that the estimate will be wrong about 85% of the time!

In fact, in the above example, there is an approximately equal probability of drawing 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11 pieces in our sample of 100. Furthermore, the probability of drawing 6 or 12 pieces is not that much less.

So, if we had, for example, a 100 piece sample with 6 red chips and we estimate the total population at 1100, using the fallacious assumption of direct proportionality we would calculate that the total number of red chips in our population is 66. As can be seen, if we use this mistaken assumption, we could be over 30% off in our calculation of the actual total number of red poker chips.

This is, of course, a simplistic example. What happens when there's more than two possible outcomes - i.e., something other than just getting a red or blue chip. What if we had red, blue, and white chips in our population? Does the ratio between the outcomes in our sample tell us anything about the total population? In a word, no.

For example, we have a population of 4000 chips, 3000 are blue, 800 are red and 200 are white. If we draw a random sample of 100 pieces, the probabilities are fairly high that we would find 16 red and 8 white chips. If we then use the mistaken assumption that the ratio between the red and white chips tells us something, we would conclude red chips are only twice as common as white chips, when in fact there are 4 times as many red chips as there are white chips.

Another statistical function, the Confidence Interval, is particularly useful for the "rarity analysis" we would like to perform. The confidence interval is a calculation of the proportion that is likely to exist in the total population given the proportion found in the sample.

Without going into the derivation of this formula, the confidence interval for a 95% confidence is given by:

$$p \pm 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}}$$

Where

p = proportion of objects in the sample

n = sample size

In our first example, the proportion of red chips $p = 10/100 = .10$, and the confidence interval is then:

$$.1 \pm 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{.1(1-.1)}{100}} = .1 \pm .0588$$

Therefore, based on our sample with a 95% confidence, the proportion of red chips in the total population of 1100 can vary from .0412 to .1588, or about 45 to 175 red poker chips.

This is quite a wide range. What's the problem? Unfortunately, the problem with samples is that when the proportion in the population is small and the sample size is relatively small, sampling doesn't provide very finite numbers.

So, what kind of results do we get from a statistical analysis of the Butternut Hoard? Well, right off we run into a few problems.

Since the probabilities are a function of the fraction in the total population, we must first have at least an estimate of the total population. No one knows *exactly* how many Large Cents have survived and the estimates vary greatly. Most estimates seem to be in the range of 1 - 3%. A number of "population models" from 1 - 3% survivorship could then be tested.

Since the purpose here is merely to provide some fundamental principles, I'll use 1% and 1.5% as examples (this is not an endorsement of these rates, they are merely examples).

For the first example let's take the year 1817. The Butternut Hoard² contained 97 1817s and of these, 2 were N8 which is currently estimated as an R2. The "Redbook" mintage for 1817 is 3,948,400. Using the 1.5% survivorship model yields an estimated survivorship of 59,226.

Calculating the confidence interval for 17N8 results in a proportion range in the total population of -.0077 to .0489, or -456 to 2896 pieces. This doesn't seem right - there cannot possibly be a **negative** number of items in a population, yet the calculated range yields just such a result. Even if we were to disregard the negative lower limit and use the two that were found in the sample, we still have a range of 2 to 2896 pieces: the variety could be anywhere from R8 to R1! What's happened? We've been caught by the problem of a too small a sample size for the proportion.

Using a different survivorship model will change the numbers somewhat, but we will still have the negative lower limit problem and too wide a range versus the various rarity levels. Regardless of how we try to manipulate the data, the sample size is not sufficient to provide any sort of meaningful answer.

Let's take another example for the same date. Of the 97 1817s, 5 each were found to be N3 and N15. These varieties have current rarity ratings of R2 and R4, respectively. Yet the author concludes that exactly the converse is true, calling the N3 "rare" and the N15 "very common".

Even without going into the calculations, something is clearly wrong here. How can objects with the same proportion in the sample be both rare and common at the same time? Obviously they can't. The author has been misled by the use of incorrect mathematical relationships.

²see Steven Ellsworth, "Butternut Hoard Update: Population Census and an Analysis by Variety for 1816 - 1819", Penny-Wise, Issue 180, pp. 106 - 112 for all data from the Butternut Hoard.

Calculating the confidence interval for these varieties yields a range of 450 to 5650 pieces in the total population. Using the proper mathematical relationships, these varieties could be anywhere from R3 to R1. Again the sample size is too small to provide sufficient discrimination.

Also, if the sample is, by its nature, biased towards the rarer varieties, the fact that the N15 is calculated to be a lower rarity is not too meaningful. In fact, if one just looks at the Butternut data, it can be seen that, in general, the scarcer varieties seem to be in too high a proportion. Since we know that by definition the sample is biased, rather than indicating the current rarities are wrong, this would instead confirm the bias.

Let's take yet another example, this time just looking at the dates as a whole. We'll use 1823 as an example. The "Redbook" mintages for the Middle Dates, 1816 - 1839, total 62,822,973. Using the 1.5% model yields an estimated survivorship of 942,345.

Of 3559 Middle Dates found, the Butternut Hoard contained 56 1823s. Calculating the confidence interval yields a range of .0116 to .0198, or 10,931 to 18,658 1823s. Yikes! This would mean that there's something like 5,500 to 9,250 of each of the two varieties of 1823 out there. Even if we drop the estimated survivorship to 1%, we still get a range of 7287 to 12,349 pieces.

Again, the range resulting from the calculations tells us something. Although the proportion range of .0116 to .0198 seems fairly definitive, it is not when we consider how many items this represents in the total population. While better than the previous examples, we still have too small a sample to provide sufficient discrimination for the proportion of the population we are attempting to study.

In fact, obtaining a sample large enough to discriminate between the various rarity levels is going to be a very daunting task.

For example, we have a sample of 2000 cents of 1825 and in this sample we find 10 of a given variety. Calculating the confidence interval at a 95% confidence for a 1.5% survivorship yields a range of .002 to .008 or 44 to 175 pieces - the coin is anywhere from a solid R5 to R4.

As this example shows, trying to resolve between extremely small proportions of the population is going to require very large samples.

Some readers may wonder why I skipped the 1816 data and used 1817 for the example. I did this because there is a discrepancy in the data. The hoard contained 106 1816s, but the author presented variety data for only 90 of these. I called the author to find out why, and the author indicated that the balance was in too poor a condition to be properly attributed. In a statistical analysis such as this, the elimination of over 10% of the data skews the results so badly that a meaningful analysis is not possible.

I have not presented examples based on the "1801 - 1807 Survivorship" data as this would likewise yield the same results.

Given all of the above, the following points can be made:

- The samples from both studies are biased - not all members of the population had an equal chance of selection.
- In the case of the Butternut Hoard, this bias can clearly be seen from the grade range in the sample. The causes of this bias are likely the result of the hoarder's own tendencies and uneven distribution of the varieties.
- On the other hand, the "1801 - 1807 Survivorship" data is a classic example of improper sampling technique. A sample which excludes large sectors of the population is not representative of that population. This sample is quite analogous to the 1936 presidential poll.
- The authors' analyses are invalid due to the use of improper mathematical relationships. Samples must be analyzed using the proper mathematical relationships to derive any meaningful results.
- The samples sizes at present are too small to provide discrimination between the various rarity levels.

Some readers may feel that these are unnecessarily harsh conclusions. As a collector, I too wish the results were much different. Unfortunately, probability theory, and in particular sampling theory, is a very well developed field. The conclusions are the only ones I can reasonably present based on the rules of sampling, the proper mathematical relationships, and the resultant data analysis.

Also, please be aware that the foregoing **does not** mean that the data is worthless. It only means that the samples in their present state are not representative of the population as a whole and are too small to permit the desired level of discrimination.

Both samples are quite analogous to a poll or study of a nation's population in which the data is from only one sub-sector of the population. Attempting to then extend this data to the nation as a whole would obviously be invalid. However, if data from the missing sectors were *properly* collected and included, the sample would then be valid.

One last note - for those who would like to perform calculations using the Hypergeometric Distribution, it is preprogrammed in Microsoft Excel. However, be aware that due to the problems of calculating factorials, this function will not work when numbers over 55000 are involved.

In these cases the $m + 1^{\text{st}}$ term of the Poisson Distribution gives a good approximation:

$$P = \frac{e^{-pn}(pn)^m}{m!}$$

Where

- p = the proportion of objects in the total population (p must be less than .10)
- n = the sample size (the sample size must be less than 10% of the total population)
- m = the number of objects found in the sample
- e = 2.718

EAC CONVENTION '98- BOSTON, APRIL 2 - 5

Peter Boisvert

The preparation for the EAC/98 Convention slated for Boston is well-underway! Those desiring tables are advised to send in their applications as soon as possible . . . The weather has been cooperating with us so far - only one surprise snowstorm good for a measly 20" to date. The weather for the first week of April should be just dandy!

The Committee is planning for a great Hospitality feed on Thursday night! However, donations received thus far towards this gala event would cover some cocktail weenies and maybe a cheese platter! The Committee implores the members of EAC to give, and give generously towards this event! Please send all donations to: Ron Adam, PO Box 471, Uxbridge, MA 01569. All donations will be lauded in the program and subsequent issue of PENNY WISE.

Space is available in the Convention program for Advertisements! Business-card sized ads are \$15.00; and full-pages @ \$45.00. Advertise! Table #s will be included in copy. Please send to Ron at the above address.

ATLAS Travel of Milford, MA is handling travel arrangements. EAC has discounted rates for several airlines. Call 1-800-362-8626 or fax 1-508-478-6480 for arrangements.

The RADISSON Hotel can be reached at: 1-800-HOTEL57 (468-8557). Please mention EAC, and your room reservation will be handled promptly and courteously.

TWINBROOK Associates, Inc. are handling security for this Convention. They have graciously offered their services to and from Logan International Airport for those desiring these accommodations. Please call TAI at 1-617-894-6316. These gentlemen are neat, efficient, confidential, bonded and well-trained in the arts of firearms. Members wishing a private escort are advised to avail themselves of this service!

The Committee hopes to see all of our friends, old and new, in Boston this April! Any questions and/or comments? Please writ to Ron at the above address or contact Peter Boisvert, PO Box 850, Milford, MA 01757.

1998 HALF CENT HAPPENING

Rick Coleman

It is time to think about how much fun we will have in Boston this spring! I have given some thought to the coins that may enhance our chances for enjoying a Thursday evening Half Cent Happening. These are my preferences:

1793 C-3	1794 C-1a	1795 C-2b	1804 C-12
1811 C-1	1851 C-1	1851 Proof	

The '94 and '95 have been done before, in '91 and '87. Time for another look.

This group of coins offers rarity, die variety and the promise of some high quality that should make for enjoyable viewing. I know which one I want to see.

It is not too late for changes. If there is a groundswell for another variety, I will change the list and get the word out next issue. Let me hear from you.

I also need monitors! I know that I can count on one or two regulars, but I need 8 or 10. Otherwise, we regulars get stuck behind one table and don't get enough time to look, compare notes and drool on the nice coins.

Security has been promised for the event. As I did last year, I am requesting that coins be displayed in a holder of your choice that allows a sticker to be attached with your number on it.

Only two and a half months to go!

1998 LARGE CENT HAPPENING

Jan Valentine

The following are the six varieties for this years' EAC Large Cent Happening in Boston, April 2nd, 1998.

1793	Sheldon - 14	1839	Newcomb - 1
1798	Sheldon - 186	1849	Newcomb - 1
1834	Newcomb - 6	1853	Newcomb -32

If you have any of these varieties, bring them Thursday night April 2nd, 1998, and join in the fun. If you have any questions or would like to be a table monitor contact:

Jan Valentine
2966 Soscol Avenue #76
Napa, CA 94558
Tel. (707) 252 - 3383

REQUEST FOR EXHIBITS AT THE EAC CONVENTION

Greg and Lisa Heim

If you have not thought of exhibiting at the EAC Convention, it is now time to consider it. The exhibits are non-competitive, EAC supplies the cases, and they provide the membership a great way to learn more about what everyone else collects. Last year's participation in Las Vegas was a little disappointing (the exhibits were definitely not). We would like to have a better showing for 1998.

If you have any questions or concerns, get in touch with us. Our address is: PO Box 7652, North Brunswick, NJ 08902-7652. Our phone number with the NEW area code is (732) 297-8661. If you have E-mail, our address is lgheim@ix.netcom.com.

DISCONTINUATION OF "THE SCORE"

To fellow SCORE participants and the rest of the EAC family:

The SCORE is the early date large cent census. It has existed under the authorship of John Fettinger for over 11 years. For the last eight years I have assisted John by maintaining the SCORE data on my computer. John and I have witnessed some grand milestones. At the peak, we counted over 20,000 coins from over 130 collectors. We've seen major collections near completion. We've seen collections sold and rebuilt. We've also met or corresponded with each of these 100+ collectors.

These years, for both of us, have been a very enjoyable experience. I know that John enjoyed the contact with the many friends he made. The opportunity for learning something about these fine coins we all collect is also very exciting. For myself, I've enjoyed maintaining this data, watching collections grow. I've also derived a great deal of satisfaction from producing a fine report.

As with all things in life, various circumstances have forced us to cease gathering this data and producing the SCORE. The year 1997 was a very difficult year for John. He had a heart attack, underwent several operations, and spent five months recuperating in hospitals or convalescent homes. I am happy to report that he is home now and is much stronger than any time since leaving home in early May. I believe that John was very glad to see 1997 go.

But John is still weak and has decided that the effort required to work on the SCORE is too much for him. He has always enjoyed the communication with all of you and he has asked that you continue writing. He hopes he can respond to your letters. My own family commitments prevent me from assuming his role as well as my own. Therefore, we ask that all members of the SCORE discontinue sending updates. We apologize to those of you who have sent updates and regret that we are unable to provide you with your scores. Please forgive us.

As I said above, we have all learned many things about the early dates. Our report shows a large percentage of the currently available coins in this series. This is the true test of

rarity and condition census. We hope that someone else will take up the task of assembling this data and sharing it with those who participate. It's all about sharing, which has been our policy. You have to give to receive. *Since our data was provided to us in confidence, we are unable to release this information to anyone else. John and I have agreed to be firm on this, so please don't ask.* Any future editor of the SCORE will have to collect his or her own data from scratch, but I'll gladly provide assistance on our methods of maintaining and calculating the scores.

Lastly, John and I want to say thank you to all of you who have supported our efforts with data and contributions. There are far too many of you to list individually. We have had a lot of fun years working on this and it is very painful to stop.

God Bless you all.

Sincerely,
Bob Meyer, EAC #629

Editor's Note: Our sincere thanks to John and Bob! Now, who's going to step forward and take their places?

ALASKA MEETING REPORT

Skip Pelletier

The first ever EAC meeting in Alaska was held in August of 1997. The meeting was held at Skip Pelletier's Pioneer Peak Quarter Horse Ranch in Palmer, Alaska. Attending as the guests of honor were John and Mabel Ann Wright, who were vacationing in the area. Also attending were: Mike Orr, Larry Nakata, Robert Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Suskey, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Nagy, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hamilton, and Mr. and Mrs. Skip Pelletier. An informal Alaska style buffet was served, including smoked and grilled salmon, Dall sheep, moose, caribou, musk ox, and buffalo.

John and Mabel Ann shared their extensive knowledge of large cents with other guests, who were all delighted with the opportunity to visit with experts. Various coins were brought out and discussed, with John pointing out the finer details of attribution and grading.

While membership is small, enthusiasm is big in "the Great Land." If anyone is interested in knowing where the good fishing holes are, come share your knowledge with us, we can show you a good time!

WHAT IS THE INTERNET AND WHAT IS EAC DOING ON IT?

Jon Lusk

The Internet is something like a phone company for computers, except that most of the computers that store available information are always connected to each other. If one were to make a drawing of these connections on a world map it would appear to make a giant spider's web (hence WWW, World Wide Web - or to those curmudgeons among us - World Wide Wait). I phone up my Internet Service Provider (ISP) and then I'm connected to this web. There are two major uses of the web, e-mail and surfing. These are roughly referred to as Push and Pull, in that by using e-mail the information and Pull It onto your computer (or TV screen if that's how you're connected). E-mail is to be covered by Mark Switzer, so I'll concentrate on the Web and surfing.

Anyone surfing the web may find the EAC website. That's our spot, where information that we wish the world to have access to has been placed. I am the EAC web master, meaning I'm responsible for maintaining the EAC web site. The physical location of our site is on the web server at my company. It's turned on and connected to the Web 24 hours a day. Our address is www.eacs.org, and by using it one can go directly to our site. Let me digress and say a few words about this address. The www part is straightforward (see above). eacs is really close to what we would have liked, except for that pesky "s" on the end (as in Society). org stands for organization. There are only a limited number of suffixes currently available (although this is to be expanded soon) and they are org, com, gov, edu, and net. EAC.org was taken already by some company in VA. They don't have a site, they've just registered it (\$50 per year) and have locked it up. Hence we held a vote of the then current on-line (e-mail - Region VIII) members and picked EACS. We needed to move fast once the decision on a name was made, because thousands of addresses are being gobbled up each day!

OK, now we've got a site and an address for it, what do we put on it? Before we decided that, we needed to define what audience we want to serve. We don't have to be limited to just one type, but we need a primary focus. It was decided that we wanted to reach out to non-members seeking information on collecting early American copper, so our web site is primarily designed to inform others about us, how to join, and benefits of membership. It has a listing of the contents of our library, an article recommending what books one might have in one's own library, etc. I also hope to do things like advertise regional meeting paces and times, and perhaps take my digital camera to the national meeting to take pictures that I can put on the site right after I get back.

Finally, let's cover the "surfing" processes. After a site is constructed one sends out announcements, like a public relations press release. It is not just sent to anyone, but to those organizations which provide a lookup service. Users then pose key word phrases to these lookup services, like "U.S. half cents" and back comes a "hit list." In the case of the above query 3,429,280 web pages have one of those words on them. These search engines, as they are called, attempt to rank order the hits so as to place the most likely web sites at the top of the list. Then, a short sentence or two is also displayed describing the site that contained the matching information. As an example, the following turned up as one of my top ten hits for my test query:

"A BEAUTIFUL HALF-AMERICAN, HALF-TAHITIAN WOMAN IS BORED WITH HER ISLAND

LIFE AND READY TO HEAD FOR THE U.S.A. WHEN THE HANDSOME NEW OWNER OF A RUN-DOWN PLANTATION SHOWS UP TO CLAIM . . . "

This picked up the U.S. and half but not the cents (sense)!

After determining which hits might be of interest, a click on the mouse on the title opens the site. That's "surfing the web." And that's what we hope happens when someone uses the web to expanded their budding interest in collecting Early American Copper.

OBITUARY: RAYMOND H. WILLIAMSON (1907 - 1997) – EAC #54

Ron Waddell

Raymond H. Williamson, a numismatist for 80 years, died Dec. 13, 1997 in his home town of Lynchburg, VA. He is survived by his wife Hazel. They were married for 67 years and lived in Lynchburg since 1958. Ray was born at Eagle Grove, IA, in 1907. He received a BS degree at Iowa State, and a MS degree at Union College in Schenectady, NY; both degrees in Electrical Engineering. He was employed by General Electric for 43 years prior to his retirement in 1972.

Ray first collected coins in 1917 when he was 10 years old. He was a member of the American Numismatic Society since 1949 and was a Fellow of the Society since 1957. He was also a member of many other organizations, including the American Numismatic Association, Virginia Numismatic Association and Early American Coppers. His primary collecting interest was US large cents, however, his love of books and research led him to build an excellent numismatic library and provided the basis for assisting many other numismatists in research for their publications. He authored several papers which were published in The Numismatist, The Colonial Newsletter, Coin World, Searby's Coin & Medal Bulletin, Penny-Wise and The Virginia Numismatist. He was an avid student of Lynchburg history and received the Numismatic Literary Guild Award for Extraordinary Merit for his article "Lynchburg City Paper Money of 1862" published in Lynch's Ferry, the official publication of the Lynchburg Historical Society. He was a member of President Johnson's Assay Commission in 1968.

A Personal Note . . .

I first met Ray in Lynchburg in 1976. I was on a business trip to Lynchburg (from the Chicago area) and being a collector of world trade dollars I had a copy of John Willem's book The United States Trade Dollar. John had acknowledged assistance from Raymond Williamson of Lynchburg, VA. I called Ray and he was kind enough to invite me to his home. This started a 20 year friendship with Ray and Hazel. I retired to the Lynchburg area this year and had hoped to spend much more time with Ray. He will be missed.

Editor's Note: Ray was a legend among writers on American numismatic topics, and was particularly recommended to me by the late Warren Lapp, when I took over this editor's chair in 1986. His contributions to Penny-Wise were superb. His influence was sufficiently widespread that I erred in attributing the transcription of the New Jersey copper manuscript (Breen, 1955) to him, rather than Ray Williams, who in fact carried out that transcription (P-W #183, p. 198).

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 March 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 #
Jon Fox	Mercer Island, WA	4582
Eugene Pakozdi	Las Cruces, NM	4583
Ed Zimmerman	Dunwoody, GA	4584
Tom Powell	Washington, DC	4585
David Leroy	Boise, ID	4586
T. David Heffron	Holyoke, MA	4587
Timothy Blevins	Tokyo, Japan	4588
Thomas J. Green	Alexandria, VA	4589
Ward Sanford	Reston, VA	4590
Jeff Noonan	Dousman, WI	4591
Mike Bozovich	Godfrey, IL	4592
Terry W. Lee	Roanoke, VA	4593
David W. Vroom	Covington, LA	4594
Paul Jepson	Cedar Hill, TX	4595
William Halliburton	McComb, MS	4596
James R. Halliday	Milford, NJ	4597
M. R. Butcher	Richardson, TX	4598
Bill Schaffer, Jr.	Edinburgh, IN	4599
Ken Chylinski	St. Clair, MI	4600
Daniel Morrissy	Hanover, MA	4601
Leslie H. Byrge	Lake Orion, MI	4602
Robert McPherson	Florissant, MO	4603
John Torres	Phoenix, AZ	4604
David C. Krump	Charlotte, NC	4605
Gary Sriro	Villa Park, CA	4606

Collecting Large Cents by “Expanded” Redbook Variety
Richard H. Saxl

I haven't made the quantum leap of trying to latch on to every “S”, “NC”, and “N.” I may never take on that challenge. My current excuse relates to two college tuition bills. I am also somewhat apprehensive about my grading skills which might induce me to shell out what little discretionary cash I have to buy a nice “VF-30” that might end up being called a “scudzy VG-8” by one of the grumpy old men. But I do have a passion for large cents.

As a kid, I did begin to string together a broken run of middle dates. Actually, I'm exaggerating. I only had seven large cents, and three of them were in my type set. I did consider “working on” my large cents, but I was missing too many Indians to be up to the task. About ten years ago, just for the sheer fun of it, I brought two used blue Whitman folders for large cents and started filling in the holes. It was easy because the first album started out empty, and the second only held a few of those old coins I'd kept all those years plus a couple more that I'd started picking up. I didn't know about Sheldon, Newcomb, or EAC for that matter. I only knew the joy of saying to myself: “I never thought I'd ever own one of those!” Eventually I had a complete run of dates. (No “1815”.) Still there were some troubling aspects. Sometimes a coin would pop out unexpectedly. Worse yet, where was I going to put the 1851/81 once I had the 1851? Collecting by “Redbook” variety seemed like the obvious next step.

After weighting my options I chose to make my own album. It seemed like a good way to visit my little friends all at once when I journeyed to the bank vault. I just couldn't see letting the little guys hibernate in 2x2's, snug in little cloth pajamas and unable to see each other. I purchased a blank Harco album and several “large” size blank pages, the kind with sixteen openings per page. I know that there could be some rub on the coins, but as far as I could tell none of them was condition census and only one of them has a pedigree of any substance (Doughty). I wrote in most of the Redbook varieties and went about the pleasant task of expanding my want list and filling in holes again. I confess that I didn't really come close to plugging all those new holes before I started expanding my collecting horizons. I mean who would want to retire an 18 17 in AG when its VF replacement doesn't have the gap between the second and third digit? Then there is the matter of my double profile Young Head 1835 (N-17 ½--or late state 7 ½, if you insist) which probably requires albums by die state. Life is full of compromises.

When I was in college, I had a psychology professor who said: “If you want to learn new ideas, read old books.” I remembered his sage advice only after I had dragged out my 1961 Redbook one night. My 14th edition of the venerable Redbook, the oldest one I kept, resembles the Velveteen Rabbit—it was loved to death. The pages are well worn and the cover is stained with “Bo-Ra-Nu,” that gook which made dates reappear on slick “Buffalo” nickels. I turned to the Large Cent section and examined separate entries for three die states on the 1804 and an 1808

with 12 stars. Listings appear for both wide and close dates in 1817, 1821, 1822, 1824 and 1826. There are small "A" and large "A" varieties for 1825 and a few other neat things which have been edited out of the current edition. Even the flaps on the Whitman folders list major varieties not shown in the Redbook (together with a mistake or two). Lots of possibilities!

Armed with my old Redbook, a new one, and the works of Sheldon, Newcomb, Breen, Noyes, Wright, Grellman & Reiver as well as "CQR" and "Trends", I began the pleasant task of creating a new list containing 160 large cents which I divvied up into two albums. After adding a page for colonials and five more for 1793-1814, my first new album consisted of six pages. The second album for 1816-1857 ended up at seven pages. Finally, I combined my want list with an inventory (listing S's and N's in some places).

Part of the challenge of setting up the new albums was picking out major varieties not currently listed in the Redbook. These are more or less defined as ones I have and ones I could probably see without the aid of a magnifying glass. Part of the challenge lies in my desire to plug lots of holes for not too much cash. Part of the challenge involves my compulsive desire to have pages end at logical places. I don't want "restrikes" or truly impossible slots that I can never reasonably hope to fill. All this means that I stretched in a few places, squeezed in others, and left blank holes, especially where I chose to have one page for the 1835-1839 Young Head and another for the Petite Heads of 1839-1843.

I would gladly share my list with any EAC'er, but I've got a better idea: you show me your list, and I'll show you mine. I figure I've blown it in a couple of places anyway, so I ought not disseminate misinformation. Also, do you cross index Redbook listings with S's and N's? The last list I saw was out of date. The Redbook listings change, and there are a few new dies.

So I'll polish up my list of "Expanded" Redbook Large Cents and submit it for publication (and criticism) in a forthcoming issue of P-W, but you have to give me a chance to make my list better. I'll concede that my current list isn't necessarily yours, but you might inspire me, or educate me, or shame me into changing a few of my slots. Or not--after all, I'm working on becoming one of the grumpy old men. You could spend hours working on this little challenge, have a lot of fun, broaden your knowledge, and expand your collecting horizons. It won't cost you one red cent, or a scudzy, black, porous, corroded one either for that matter. Think of the possibilities! If your list is better, or a lot longer or shorter, maybe it will be published in P-W! And the grumpy old men might even give you a grumble. You might start looking for a few new large cents—buy or trade. Something for everyone. Hey, this is a contest where everybody wins.

Eventually, we might successfully lobby Whitman to add a couple dozen varieties in the next edition of the Redbook. Did you ever count the number of pages devoted to, ugh, modern commemoratives? Who knows, if I don't get too much flack for suggesting Harco albums, perhaps they'll print up a few for us. That would sure beat deciphering my handwriting!

COLLECTING LARGE CENTS BY LIBRARY OF COINS ALBUM VARIETIES

H. Craig Hamling

This is the first of a series of articles, which are planned on the collecting of large cents by Library of Coins album varieties. These albums (for large cents) are a pair of out-of-print books that have plastic slides covering holes. They are not the best when it comes to long term storage of high grade coins but are great for showing off a set and give me the current focus of my cent collecting activities.

I have collected coins since 1967 when my buddy Jim turned me on to the fact that there was silver in the older dimes and not in the new ones. I avidly collected various sets of coins from circulation and after getting a job at a farm stand had some disposable income to spend on coins not found in circulation. Imagine my horror when upon my return home from college on the first break of my freshman year (probably Columbus Day) I discovered that my youngest brother (nine years my junior) had spent my modest coin collection on ice cream for himself and his friends at school. He spent them all but a few extraneous Lincoln's and the single obsolete coin I owned - a large cent. A few years later I started a date set of large cents and have John Ashby to thank for my EAC membership. I have come a long way since then and now own over 400 different varieties. I was strictly a 'casual' collector of large cents until Robbie Brown had his first sale in 1986. (What a book! If you don't have one you really should get one.) I got so turned on by it that I mail bid \$100 each on several XF middle dates. None of them sold for less than \$400! I was really out of touch with what this type of stuff was selling for but was certainly impressed that a COMPLETE SET of early dates by Sheldon number was assembled and offered for sale.

A set of coins is what you, the collector, decide it is to be. As large cent collectors, we have a number of previously considered 'templates' to help us define our set. We can collect a single coin as a type piece, we can grow on that to collect different head types, we can go to a date set, we can expand that to a Red Book set, or we can specialize in any year or group of years that strike us. We can even use the list of all varieties as described by Sheldon and Newcomb 50 years ago and since then continuously updated, and now even 'priced' in CQR. This makes for a big set. (An impossible set to complete since there are unique varieties in museums.) I tried collecting the entire set of cent varieties but soon reached a point where I was paying big bucks for low grade, sometimes downright ugly, coins. Something had to change because I wasn't 'happy' collecting this way. I did not think I was getting good value for the money I was spending and the number of dealers willing to pay any premium for a 'scarce' variety is maybe five in the whole world and most of them already have two or three ugly ones and don't want the dog you or I have.

I also puzzled over how to display my collection. (I love to show it off.) Certainly, I could buy a custom set of Capitol Plastic holders with holes for all the known varieties of cents. (Yeah, right. I wouldn't, but could do this and I have seen it done. Such a set was displayed at the EAC convention in Las Vegas a few years back and was certainly impressive.) I could leave the cents in their paper envelopes and never show them off. (Ouch!) Or I could narrow my collecting focus to a smaller group of cents like maybe all the 1838's (there is a real interesting group) or 1848's or 1798's and get a custom holder

for them. (One of the nicest sets I have ever seen was in Cincinnati about 10 years ago. A complete set of 1855 cents in UNC and PROOF was displayed in a custom Capitol Plastics holder.)

As it happened, I had collected a real cross section of the whole range of large cent dates and could not bring myself to abandon any of them. Thankfully, a few years ago I came across a set of used Library of Coins albums for large cents. This two-book set has 128 holes with at least 1 hole for each year. The decisions the publishers made to define which labels they put on the holes seems to be based on naked eye varieties. I thought it would be neat to put my set into the books and see just how 'complete' I was. Like magic I suddenly had a nearly complete set! Sure there were some dogs but I only had a handful of holes. Suddenly, I had a reachable goal and an opportunity to complete a set!

In January of 1996, the day before the Great Eastern Blizzard of '96, in Orlando, Florida, at the FUN show, with the acquisition of an 1803 large date, small fraction (S-264), I did complete the set. The blizzard cost me three days on the road, two in Orlando and one in Durham, NC. (NC as in North Carolina, not non-collectable.) Since it was freezing in Orlando, I got to spend some quality time in my hotel room with my collection and did get a good measure of satisfaction from viewing my completed set.

Along the way to completing the set, a need to clean out the doghouse (upgrade the set) took hold and now is the continuing focus of my collecting. I have certain goals for the grade and condition of the coins I want to have in my set. I would like to have all the early dates in Very Fine or better, and all the middle and late dates in Mint State. That is what I would like. What I like and what I actually will get is not necessarily the same. Something about three daughters to send to college will slow down the process. Something called the Condition Census will also have something to say about the rate at which I am able to get to my goal.

The stories that follow are about the coins in the set. (And about anything else I care to discuss that is prompted by the sight, feel, sound, or smell of the coin at hand. I have yet to taste one.) I said before that I love to show off the coins in my set. I intend to illustrate the stories with pictures taken with a new toy: A digital camera I am learning to use. When I think I have it somewhat mastered, I will report the details in a separate article. I will tell you now that the camera, a Casio QV-300 is quite the little tool. It has a macro lens that allows me to get an image that nearly fills the screen. Screen? you ask. Yes, this camera is really a video still camera and it has an LCD screen that looks like a television. The images can be downloaded to a computer and exported in all of the current image formats.

The neatest thing about the camera, though, is that it has a direct output to video. Plug it directly into a television (or VCR) and see the images on the tube. Turn on the VCR and make video recordings. I spent a week on vacation in Myrtle Beach this October and made images of all the coins in my set. With a microphone and a mixer I made a videotape describing the coins. I found that it takes two images to really know what the coin looks like. A reflected light image shows off all the details of the problems with the coin, while a side lit image captures the color. Adjusting the position of the lights to change their intensity is key to capturing the color correctly. I am including the reflected light images in this first installment of coin stories and hope that they reproduce well enough for you to know what they look like.

The Cents of 1793

There are three holes in the set for 1793: Chain, Wreath and Liberty Cap. The Red Book lists six plus a sub-variant of the chain cent with America on the reverse implying a total of seven including the strawberry leaf. I have never seen a strawberry leaf cent but from the picture in the Red Book it looks more like poison ivy to me. My poison ivy (which grows particularly well around here in upstate NY) is certainly trefoil. I am probably just jealous of strawberry leaf owners to think of their coins as poison ivy.

The holes in the book for the chain and wreath cent are smaller than all the rest of the holes in the book. These two coins are a bit smaller diameter and fit pretty well into the holes.

1793 CHAIN

I got my first chain cent from Herman Sibum who operates Pocono Stamp and Coin in Analomink, PA. Herman also owns a car parts business that is run by his sons and daughter. You may have seen the type of operation I am describing: There are thousands of cars in various stages of dismantlement and with various crunches (not unlike a lot of large cents I know) strewn across the mountainside. How they find anything out there really amazes me. I found Herman in the phone book while on vacation one rainy day in April 1987. While I sat at his display case looking at beat up old coins, Herman's sons served a steady stream of customers with parts from beat up cars. I looked through a tube of coins which included some he said had been dug up from a creek bed nearby. What a find! I could tell that one of them was a chain cent. Herman couldn't tell what it was. I bought that coin plus a 1795 and a 1796 with readable dates for \$50. So my first chain cent cost me \$16.67. I owned that cent until April of this year when I traded it away as part of a date set. I think it was an S-3 and graded it a 1.

I upgraded my S-3 with the one from Robbie Brown's second sale in January 1996. (This sale will hereinafter be referred to as RSB2. This cent was lot 4 and will be referred to as RSB2-4.) I was fortunate enough to be able to attend RSB2 in person. I thought that RSB2-4 was the nicest of the chain cents in the sale. I still like it and am not now looking to upgrade. It was cataloged as 20 net 15 by Del Bland but called 15 net 10 by Noyes in his "challenge". It is a fairly smooth dark brown with a couple of obverse scratches. There are almost always nicer chain cents available on the market. You could get a real nice one from Jay Parrino for \$1.5 million. I have seen maybe 20 of them in XF ish or better including the 15 that were shown at EAC 97 in Las Vegas. Now that was a display! Not a set, mind you, but a real display! Dogs are available for \$400 - \$500. Decent AG chains will cost about \$1000. Fine or so pieces are \$5000-\$10,000. XF-AU coins start at \$25,000 while those few beauties that approach or are mint state are about \$100,000. A chain cent is not a casual purchase like a house or a car might be.



RSB2-4- 1793 CHAIN

The Red Book lists 36,103 chains minted. If 3% exist there are about 1000 to go around. There seem to be a lot of low-grade chains in slabs. PCGS once offered free slabbing for chains. That promotion must have brought out a bunch that would not otherwise have been slabbed. The one that Jay Parrino has for 1.5 mil is a very pretty coin but I don't think it was slabbed for free. There are five chain cent varieties: S-1 through 4 and 1793 NC-1. Of the four Sheldon numbered varieties the S-3 is the most common while the S-1 AMERI is the most valuable. I have a poster of S-1 in my den at home. Bowers and Merena published the poster a few years back. The coin pictured was from the Herman Halpern sale by Stacks in 1988 and makes a great wall covering.

1793 Wreath

The wreath cent in my set is a good. They call it an 8 net 6. The piece is a very nice light wood grained brown that is downgraded due to a rather large pit on the head. I got this coin from G. Lee Kuntz's sale in 1991, (Hereinafter GLK) which I was also fortunate enough to attend in person. This coin, GLK-670, was not part of Lee's set but was in the group of cents offered after Lee's and was from the Norweb sale before that, and had been purchased by Albert F. Holden from J. W. Scott and Co., Ltd. on 12/4/09. This coin is certainly one of my oldest provenance pieces.

I would like to upgrade this piece but I will probably look at a lot of wreaths before I do it. I have seen VF-XF slabs priced at about \$4000-\$8000. They always seem to have some problem that bothers me. I am a naked eye collector. I will use a glass to "check a coin out" but my first impression of eye appeal usually sells me on a particular coin. My first impression of a slab is almost always a number and not a coin.

Sheldon numbered wreaths start at S-5 and go to S-11. S-11 is known with three different edges. The only really rare serially numbered wreath is S-7. 1793 NC-2 through NC-5 are also wreath cents. I am told by reliable sources that the nice common ones are S-8 and S-9.



GLK-670 – 1793 WREATH

1793 LIBERTY CAP

The liberty cap cent of 1793 is certainly the toughest of the three to find nice. I have two of them, an S-13 and an S-14. Neither of them is what would remotely be considered "nice." The better of the two and the one in my Library of Coins set is a black coin with Fine sharpness that I net down to VG due to pitting and edge damage. I got this one at EAC in April of 1994 from Chris Victor – McCawley. I got it because it had full detail (except where it was pitted) and full beaded border. I have only seen one coin in the Fine or so grade range for sale in the last couple of years. Tony Terranova had it at EAC 97 in Las Vegas. He had just gotten it from Walt Husak and was asking \$15,000.00 for it. There have been a few heavier coins in the VF range, offered in the mid 5 figure price range recently, but I did not get to see any of them. Stack's had one in their summer 1997 catalog. I did see a fairly nice slabbed piece in Long Beach this September but did not even inquire about the asking price as it was at something near an AU coin.

Sheldon numbers 12 through 16 are Liberty Caps as is NC-6. S-13 is the most common and it is R4-. The S-14 is R5-. All the other ones are "prohibitively rare" in low grade and "next to impossible" nice. Look for an S-13 when looking for yours.



1793 LIBERTY CAP – Ex: CVM 4-22-94

THE CENT OF 1794



1794 JHR-39

Doesn't that sound funny: The cent of 1794. This year is probably the most collected year of all the large cents. Sheldon numbers 17 through 72 as well as 10 or so NC's all bear the 1794 date. The publishers of the Library of Coins album saw fit to include just one hole in the set for 1794. Whew, I don't need a starred reverse to complete my set! The coin in my set is a nice VF that was lot 39 in Superior's Jack Robinson sale. Tom Reynolds got it for me. There are many very beautiful '94 varieties and everyone has their favorite. My opinion is somewhat skewed by the S-24 in my set. All the '94's have other names. This one is called "Apple Cheeks". Nice Goods are \$100 to \$200. Nice VF's are \$1000 to \$2000. Mint State pieces are \$20,000 and up. There are enough low rarity 94's that we all can have a nice one.

TALKING BEGINNERS

Steve Carr

Over the past two months, I have struggled with a title for this column. After a couple of suggestions and some serious thought, TALKING BEGINNERS seemed the best. It can be read two ways, at least. It can signify that, as beginners, we contribute to Penny-Wise and the large body of early copper knowledge - thus we are "talking" beginners. It also signifies that we are beginners and we speak beginners' talk. Many of us ask the same questions, or have the same quest for knowledge.

CRUD REMOVAL

One thing you learn as a beginner is that you sometimes just don't get it. To others it is obvious, but to you . . . I have to admit that my article in the last issue was not as complete as it could have been. In retrospect, there were two additional points that, had they been included, would have made the article more complete. Several members commented on these omissions. I want to thank them for helping make this topic a little more comprehensive.

The first addition concerns the use of xylol as a solvent. The label on xylol is marked "avoid prolonged breathing of vapor," as prolonged exposure can result in liver damage. Of course, nothing is definite regarding your exposure time and liver damage. One individual might use xylol to clean their coins for years and never have a problem while a second person might have liver problems from infrequent exposure.

One alternative solvent that avoids this danger is denatured alcohol (not isopropyl - or "rubbing" - alcohol). Denatured alcohol can be applied to the coin with a Q-tip or with an eye dropper. In a non-scientific experiment, I removed crud from two similar coins, using xylol on one and denatured alcohol on the second. While the xylol worked best, the denatured alcohol worked well.

A second alternative solvent is acetone. Acetone is an excellent cleaner and it evaporates very quickly so you do not have to wipe it off the coin. This rate of evaporation, however, can also be a problem. When it evaporates, it leaves all the dirt and crud still on the coin. To remove it, you need to put Blue Ribbon, olive oil, or mineral oil on the coin. This will pull the crud off the surface. The extra oil can now be dabbed off to remove the crud. A second problem with acetone is the fumes. They are strong! You should only use acetone in a well-ventilated area. If the fumes / warnings from xylol cause you concern, do not use acetone.

The second addition concerns the removal of encrusted verdigris. Xylol (or denatured alcohol) and an artist's brush will often fail to break this material loose. To get it loose, soak the area with your solvent and then pick the verdigris loose with the pointed end of a thin, pliant instrument. A green - not dried - thorn works best, though a toothpick can sometimes be used. One member uses cactus thorns. I use rose thorns (as a neighbor grows roses and I have a ready supply of green thorns for almost seven months of the year). The key is to use a "green" or flexible tool. If the instrument is too hard, it will leave scratches on the coin's surface. If in doubt, practice on a lower grade coin or a copper coin taken from circulation.

Magnification can make removing encrusted verdigris easier. An eye loupe, jeweler's magnifiers that attach to glasses, or a stereo microscope are all handy magnification tools that allow you to see the area to be cleaned (under magnification) and still have both hands free.

Remember that an encrustation may leave a void on the surface of the coin when it is removed.

CONDITION CENSUS

A condition census is a listing of the best known examples of a date or variety. The concept was first used by William Sheldon as a way to keep track of the finest examples of the different early date varieties. In Early American Cents, he says, "At the end of the presentation for each variety, a *Condition Census* is given. This consists of two numbers connected by a hyphen. The first number, at the left of the hyphen, indicates the condition of the *finest specimen* of the variety known to me. This is far from a guarantee that no finer example exists . . . The second number in the condition census, at the right of the hyphen, indicates the *average* condition of the next five finest specimens known to me, in case that many are known." (Sheldon, Dr. William H., Early American Cents, New York: Harper & Brothers, 1949, p. 55) A listing of "60-45" meant that the finest variety - seen by Sheldon - was a mint state 60 coin while the next five finest - again seen by Sheldon - averaged XF45 in grade.

In later editions of his work, the original condition census was retained, but the actual grades of the "next five finest specimens" were also listed. This type of condition census looked like this: "45-15 (45-25-20-15-12-10)." The finest example - again, seen by Sheldon - was an XF 45 and the average grade of the next five finest coins averaged Fine 15. The next five were a VF 25, a VF20, a Fine 15, a Fine 12, and a VG10.

The condition census concept has been used by collectors and students of most series of United States coins. It has also been modified in some cases. Some modifications include listing a different number of "next finest specimens," including pedigree lists of prior owners, or listing the census in "counts by grade," where "MS (18+), AU (5+), XF (several)" means that the census compiler has seen 18 uncirculated examples, but has some evidence of others, 5 AU coins, with evidence of more, and several extra fine examples. In this type of census, there is no ordering of the "finest" examples listed.

As a beginner, the condition census really did not mean much to me. It was of interest 1) because it existed and was associated with large cents, 2) it was interesting to know that there were certain varieties with no uncirculated coins known or with a finest known that was only a VG, or 3) to find out that I came close to cherry picking a "cc" coin when I found that semi-porous VG sharpness R6 variety, since the lowest listed grade was a 10 (Or did I?).

But the condition census is more than this. In his works, Sheldon also noted, "The condition census offers to a scientifically inclined student a basis for objective calculation of a coin's true numismatic value." (Sheldon, William H., Penny-Wise, New York: Durst Publications, Ltd., 1990, p. 52) To be blunt, a condition census rating means the coin is worth more money.

In addition, there was fierce competition among copper collectors to see who had the nicest example of a variety. From this competition came "whist matches" (more on these in

a later article) and, on occasions, a little bragging about one's collection.

The same holds true today. But whereas coins in Sheldon's time sold for hundreds of dollars each (at least some condition census coins), finest known varieties today are advertized for as much as \$1.5 million. Having the finest known specimen gives you "bragging" rights (at least this attribute can be read into some of the sales hype in the ad) to an audience much larger than in Sheldon's day. For this reason, the condition census probably carries more weight today than it did in earlier times.

OK, the Sheldon condition census lists the six best known. My friend has a large cent in a PCGS slab that is graded such that it would be in the condition census. Which listed coin is my friend's? Is it a new discovery that needs to be added to the condition census? Or is there another explanation?

It is possible that my friend's coin is already listed on the condition census (though unlikely, as it would probably have been advertized as "cc" when my friend bought it) and it is possible that the coin is a new discovery. But generally, there is another explanation. The large cent condition census is based on EAC grading, where a "net" grade is assigned to a coin after deducting points for defects from its sharpness grade. In addition, EAC grading is conservative. EAC VF25's and VF30's will often be slabbed as XF or even AU coins. A slab grade, however, does not raise their position in the condition census. It merely points out that different standards are being used to grade the coins.

Also, remember three facts can (and do) alter the condition census. First, no one has seen all the large cents in existence and it is possible that more and better examples exist. Second, a condition census is a listing of varieties by grade *by the compiler*. Different compilers have different standards when assigning net grades. Even attempts to form committees of compilers within EAC have failed to produce THE condition census. And third, ownership seems to add about 5 points to the grade of a coin.

This is all said in good humor, but the condition census has probably caused more controversy in the early copper collecting field than any other topic. Personalities enter into the fray, money is "invested" in something that is mis-represented, individual grading standards vary, or a coin that has been off the market for years appears and has been improperly stored. Being the owner of a cc coin that is "delisted" is tough, especially when someone else decides that your coin is not good enough to be in the condition census. And especially since a cc rating implies added value to the coin. Arguments over the condition census have been frequent and sometimes brutal. They will probably continue to be so.

But remember, the condition census is an opinion. Your condition census and mine will probably differ. And since there are so many early copper collectors today, only at events like the EAC "Happenings" can we hope to collect a significant number of cc coins. But even here, the different grading standards of individuals can result in different cc listings.

As a beginner, the condition census was an item of curiosity. As a middle level collector, owning a cc coin has become a goal that hopefully I can someday realize. As an advanced collector, I believe the cc coins are the domain of the collecting universe, and anything less than "cc" level is not as desirable. Maybe that stratification is the real determination in collector level.

SOME COMMENTS ON CLEANING

Denis W. Loring

The November Penny-Wise had some excellent material on cleaning large cents. Let me add a few comments based on my own experience, and then stir the pot a little.

The term "cleaning" carries a negative connotation, although removal of surface dirt can be quite beneficial. I prefer to use "degreasing" to refer to the gentle physical process of removing dirt, grease, atmospheric deposits, etc. from the surface of a cent. Degreasing involves a mild soap (Ivory) or an organic solvent (xylol), and a soft friction applicator (Q-Tip, soft cloth). I save "cleaning" for chemical treatments like dipping or cyaniding, or abrasive physical processes such as scouring or buffing where metal is actually moved.

Always remember that the surfaces of a degreased cent, unless suitably protected, are helpless against the onslaught of moisture from the atmosphere. After you degrease a cent, be sure to coat it with a silicone-based product such as Care or Blue Ribbon. Some collectors use olive oil; I've never tried it.

My favorite method of recoloring a harshly cleaned large cent: Put the cent in a brown 2 x 2 envelope without a cotton-lined pouch, seal the envelope with tape, and leave it on a radiator or a sunny window sill. The sulfur in the paper will very gradually leach into the air around the cent and darken it. Check the coin every few weeks. This technique can take a number of months, but there's no risk of accidentally spilling sulfur or leaving it on too long.

Now to stir the pot: Suppose you have two large cents. They both look like lovely MS-60's with lustrous surfaces and attractive medium brown color. You show them to Del Bland, Jack Beymer, Tom Reynolds, and Chris Victor-McCawley, who all agree that the coins are identical MS-60's.

You're now told that only one of the coins is original, while the other has been cleaned and (superbly) recolorized. Do you still grade both coins MS-60? Send me your answers (Box 363, New York, NY 10101). I'll compile the responses and publish them in March.

A NEW CONNECTICUT VARIETY?

George Seifrit

Recently at a coin auction, there were some colonial coins advertised in the sale bill.

Mostly out of curiosity, I went to this auction to see what was offered for bidding. There were some nice Fugios, some New Jerseys, a Massachusetts group, one Vermont, a few Connecticuts, and other Colonial-related coinage.

I arrived at the auction as early as possible for viewing the lots. I took along my trusty attributing catalogs. Yes, I attribute the coins right at the tables! Though it would be nice to have a photographic memory and leave the catalogs at home. Anyway, everything was going

well until I checked one of the Connecticut lots - it was a 1786 variety that was not listed in my catalog or reference book - interesting, to say the least.

I checked the rest of the colonial coins - nothing rare, but some nice planchets and grades.

The auction hammer was still two hours away so I left to have some lunch. I returned and waited to bid on the colonials.

The nice R16 Vermont went too high - I was the underbidder. Then it was time for the Connecticut lots.

My heart was racing as I bid on the 'nice' one - the Connecticut that was not in my reference. I bid more than I had planned, but I wanted to take the coin home with me.

The 'hammer' fell and it was 'mine'. I bought two other colonials, paid my fees, and went home.

Now it was time for more research. I checked all of the reference catalogs and books in my small library. I could not find this peculiar looking coin anywhere.

In this article is a photograph of this piece. You will see it has the 'G' reverse for 1786. It has a weight of 128.8 grains.



The obverse is similar to the 5.4 obverse for 1786 Connecticut but also quite different from this obverse - I believe. You will see a dot between the Bust and 'AUCTION'. You will see three dots after the 'C' in "CONNEC". You will notice the distance between the lettering and the milling.

There is doubling on both sides of the coin - a double strike - I guess. Can this doubling explain the extra dot? The three dots after "c"? If these features are from the doubling, why are there not more variant features? Why not four dots from doubling after the 'C' instead of the three that are seen?

In-press update: George sent a followup note, received January 12, in which he says the following: "The Connecticut has now been seen in person by a few of the professionals in early coinage. The verdict is that it is most definitely a 5.4-G variety that was struck at least twice, creating devices not seen on any other examples of 5.4-G. The dot between the bust and the word 'AUCTORI' and the three dots after the word 'CONN'EC' on the obverse of the coin are remnants of double striking. The only thing I cannot understand is, the dot after the bust has a wider dimension than the original finial of the first-strike A finial. (For those of you who do not know what a finial is--until just recently, I was one of you!--it is the ornamental termination of a pinnacle, the A's foot.) Is it possible for more metal to be added to the first finial from the second strike? I want to thank Mark Borckardt and Mike Hodder for their comments on this special coin."

MORE THOUGHTS ON PROOF HALF CENTS

Ken Cable

(Or should I call it "Comments on the Comments"?). I enjoyed reading the commentaries to my September 1997 article on proof half cents. Since that time I've examined an additional 1841 Original and a mini-hoard of circulated Draped Bust half cents to add to my database.

I especially appreciated Ron Manley's feedback on the pre-1831 issues, and he also shed light on the 1832-35 issues, for which many specimens may have been misattributed as proofs by Breen and other pre-1986 half cent specialists. Just one comment re: Ron's statement about whether there exist business strikes of 1831. I think he misread "consensus" for "census". By "consensus" I am simply referring to majority opinion as it stands today. I agree that Breen's 1983 census is outdated, and that there is no documented source that has reported on the existence of 1831 business strikes such that it intelligently evaluates the true number extant today. Whether 2,200 business strikes exist is not the gist of my discussion, but rather that if there exists even one business strike the answer is yes, which then begs the question of existence of others. I know of one that has been certified "AU55", but perhaps this was a mistake as it should have been "PR55"? For that matter, one could argue that the 1856 Flying Eagle is a proof-only (which had until 1986 been my understanding), despite the fact that hundreds have been certified "MS" by PCGS and NGC!

Personally, it is the 1836 date I am more interested in than the 1831, since so little has been written about it in comparison. While I appreciate all the comments, I'm hoping to obtain more information about 1836 - dated half cents of all varieties, as this is a study unto itself for me. Ditto the 1840-48 and '49 Small Date, on a less focused scale.

I found Jim McGuigan's article on proof half cents in the October issue of the Coin Dealer Newsletter quite educational. His reference to the 1836 First Restrike as being from the same dies as the Original, yet distinguishable only from die buckling and "squarer rims," enhances my idea that this coin may have actually been struck during or not much after 1836. As I alluded to in my September article, I've examined numerous business strike (and some proof) U.S. coins of the early steam press years of 1836 - 40 and observed very similar characteristics. Die buckling, was especially noted on mint-state 1838 Seated half dimes, and high square rims were observed on 1837 - 39 (and some 1836) large cents. Also, the reference in Jim's data table to an 1852 Original, which has been certified by NGC as a Large Berries Restrike, is something I was not aware of.

I don't understand why the "Quarterly I" lists prices for 1853 proof half cents, as low as \$3,000 in PR-63 no less. All reference material I am aware of states either that no 1853 proofs were coined (such as Jim's article) or that none are known. Such prices would certainly suggest market presence of 1853s, yet this seems like an "elbow in the ear" situation. Any ideas?

MINTAGES- OH, REALLY?

Ken Cable

Interesting communique between Craig Sholley and Harry Salyards re: the mintage of the 1799 large cent. This is something that has bewildered me for all of my 31 years of collecting. It's interesting that Craig refers to the year 1969, as that's when I really started to collect early American copper coins in "filler" grades. This was a time when numismatists relied heavily on published mintage figures, as these numbers were probably the most informative source from which coin values could be derived. Contrary to popular belief, mintages are still quite useful data, as they *do not change*. I shall qualify this by saying that while published figures may change over time, the actual number originally produced is a constant. Two hundred years later, the mintage of 1796 half cents is the same as the day the last 1796 half cent was struck! While a statement such as this is intuitively obvious, many numismatists today do not think about its implications. The following data represents a cross-section of mintages reported for early U.S. coin series, illustrating some notable revisions (mintages are overall for the date) which are the exception rather than the rule:

	1966 RED BOOK	1969 BLUE BOOK	1997 RED BOOK
1796 Half Cent	115,480	6,480	1,390
1799 Large Cent	904,585	904,585	42,540
1802 Half Cent	14,366	14,366	20,266
1804 Large Cent	756,838	756,838	96,500

And for good measure:

1796 Quarter Eagle, No Stars	897	963	963
1796 Quarter Eagle, Stars	66	432	432
1797 Quarter Eagle	1,756	427	427
1798 Quarter Eagle	614	1,027	1,094

These offbeat numbers were not just pulled out of a hat. Much research went into these figures, both the old and the new. Much of the variation is due to factors such as a) early mintage reporting was not always accurate, and b) published figures may reflect the number of coins *ordered* although they may never have been *struck*. Attrition on the other hand (such as mass melting of a particular date), generally has no effect on the published mintage figures.

At any rate, the figure of 125,000 for the 1799 cent seems more logical to me than either 904,585 or 42,540. No one will ever know the true number. Population statistics change from month to month, usually increasing, but mintages of authentic specimens, whether known or unknown, are cast in stone. The more things change, the more they remain the same.

THE HAPPY WAITRESS

George Perkins

The waitress was elated. She said she had just received a Bicentennial quarter in her tip. One of the customers at the little village restaurant responded, "Those aren't worth much."

She replied, "Oh . . . I know. But I just set them aside as a way of saving money."

So it was in such a casual way that the conversation turned from the usual town events to the subject of coin collecting. I listened. These were just average non-collector citizens talking about coin collecting. What could I learn?

Eventually, one of the women exclaimed, "Well, my husband found an early 1800's half dollar in a sandy parking lot in downtown Newburyport." Suddenly, I became very interested in the conversation. I asked if I could see the coin sometime.

Weeks passed. Finally, one day she met me, armed with a blue guide book. She was very apologetic, "I guess it isn't a half dollar," she said as she handed me an old large cent. The date was 181? . . . Of the style of the years 1816 thru 1819. After much study I estimated it was an 1816, N-9, with an About Good obverse and a Very Good reverse.

Her husband, Richard, said he found it northeast of the current firehouse in a mound of sandy soil near the Merrimack River. They thought it came from a flea market. I doubted that. Newburyport recently (1970's - 1980's) underwent a substantial urban renewal - soil around the center of the city was intensely disturbed. By about 1992 when the coin was found, much of the looser top soil probably got washed away.

The coin appeared to have rested heads-up for many years. The reverse was pushed-in in the center, as though it settled on a rock while a wheel rolled above it. The coin had the lightest green tinge when held in bright sunlight. Based upon the wear of the reverse of the coin I would say it was lost about 1840. It may have been lost in a winter snowstorm, otherwise it would have probably made a clunk or a splash and been recovered, but in a winter snowstorm, at night, with no flashlights (1840, you know) it would have been difficult to locate. I felt somewhat honored if I was the first numismatist to view the coin in over 150 years.

What I also learned was not to take what a non-collector says to be technically correct. The half dollar and the large cent look very similar on the obverse. Most non-collectors are attuned to the date, and if they never knew the large cent existed they may not even look in that part of a guidebook or carefully examine the reverse of the coin.

So, I've titled this little story in tribute to one of the many collectors who save various speciality items, and who contribute to the enjoyment of the hobby in ways they may never know or understand.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

J. MARK SWITZER writes:

I very much enjoyed your November 1997 Penny-Wise "Introduction by the Editor." I am a member of Region 3 by virtue of my home state being Maryland. There are about four Region 3 meetings a year that are practical for me to attend, two in Baltimore and two in suburban Washington. The Region 8 directory and newsletter were intended to supplement those meetings, the six issues of P-W and the annual EAC convention.

My large cent collection is primarily a lot of low grade and low value coins, very much like the newsletters. Both are cases of frequency and volume serving as substitutes for price and quality.

I trust that no one has ever seriously suggested that verbatim accounts of the other Regional meetings be published in P-W. The Region 8 newsletters are little different.

The newsletters often include multiple in-progress conversations running together, some in whispers through private e-mail, some out loud lasting weeks and weeks. Many conversations cross back and forth with progress reports on various threads being posted. The dialog is informal and unstructured. I have occasionally inadvertently printed e-mails in the newsletter which were intended to be personal messages.

The quality of contributions to Region 8 is demonstrably inferior to P-W. Contributors are testing first drafts, looking for research help, running rejected articles, making a first attempt to produce something useful or just having fun. Any material with lasting value or of wide-spread interest is already being reprinted in P-W thanks to Pete Smith's reviews.

Much of what the non-participants are missing is computer related, internet related, local coin show related, or extremely ephemeral.

This is not to say that sometimes we don't get the hot news real quickly. However, it is only a weekly newsletter and not a real-time CNN-style worldwide live broadcast. The hot news like the 1796 C-1 "no-pole" half cent story was breaking over the phone lines long before it made it to the modems and computers. As a matter of fact, I don't believe that it went online until the "First Class" copies of P-W had arrived in peoples' mail boxes.

There was not one single statement, suggestion or inference in you article with which I took exception or offense. Except, to those who might have used the turn of phrase "the window of opportunity for controlling and directing is rapidly closing", I can only wonder which side of the cold war they were on.

* * *

LESLIE ELAM writes,

I enclose a news release summarizing the ruling issued in *Naftzger vs. ANS*. We would certainly appreciate having the readership of Penny-Wise informed in this important matter, of great interest to all involved in collecting and researching early date U.S. large cents. The entire text is available at our Website, <http://www.amnumsoc2.org>.

CALIFORNIA COURT RULES COINS BELONG TO AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The American Numismatic Society was judged to be the legal owner of 38 early United States cents dated from 1794 to 1814, presently in the possession of Roy E. Naftzger Jr., as detailed in a decision issued November 18, 1997, by the Honorable Aviva K. Bobb, Judge of the California Superior Court in Los Angeles. In addition, the ruling awarded the ANS \$229,500 in damages for the value of an additional 20 U.S. cents belonging to the ANS which Naftzger had previously possessed and sold. The court ruled that Naftzger never had title to these coins

which had been donated to the ANS in 1946 and removed from the ANS in a substitution scheme by Dr. William H. Sheldon about 1950.

In February 1991, the ANS made public information provided to it by numismatic expert Delmar Bland that 129 U.S. cents, part of an extensive collection donated to the ANS by George H. Clapp, had been switched for identical varieties of coins of lesser quality. Subsequent research findings by the ANS staff and others, in cooperation with Mr. Bland, demonstrated that the thief was the late Dr. Sheldon, regarded as the preeminent classifier, cataloguer, and collector of large cents. Sheldon was a medical doctor who specialized in research and writing on human physiognomy; his body of work has lately been challenged as unscientific.

The court found that "the ANS has proven, by a preponderance of the evidence, that Sheldon had stolen the coins at issue here." Naftzger bought the Sheldon Collection of U.S. large cents in 1972 which contained many of the ANS coins. The court noted that "from as early as 1976 Naftzger was receiving information that Sheldon had switched coins in the Clapp Collection at the ANS . . ." and that "Naftzger had sought to conceal from the ANS his possession of the missing coins after the Bland Report was made public [in 1991]."

The suit was filed by Roy E. Naftzger Jr. against the ANS in 1993 and some issues were determined by the California Court of Appeal in San Francisco in 1996.

The ANS is represented in this action by Messrs. John Horan and Oleg Rifkin of Fox, Horan & Camerini, a New York City law firm. Parties to the suit have the right to file an appeal.

The return of other stolen Clapp cents is being sought by the ANS.

Editor's Note: As noted above, the complete text of the court judgment and statement of decision, totaling 24 pages altogether, is available at the ANS website. Any EAC'er without internet access may request a complete copy from the Editor.

* * *

WAYNE SLIFE writes,

Wow! The November issue of Penny-Wise is a really fine production, of which you can be very proud. The range of articles is very wide indeed, with something for everyone, all turned out with a professionalism far beyond usual "club" standards. I hope you receive the applause you deserve from the lucky membership.

The general truth is that each of us has influence far beyond the immediate present, but it seems to me that in your case the influence is multiplied by the number of people who read the articles you bring to them with your work. This is illustrated in a small way by the letter I sent to Col. Ellsworth, copy enclosed.

* * *

7 December 1997

Colonel Steven Ellsworth, EAC #1901
c/o BUTTERNUT
P.O. Box 498
Clifton, VA 20124

Dear Colonel Ellsworth:

This is to tell you how much I enjoyed your Butternut Bites: #1 in the November P-W.

I read every issue from cover to cover, and have done so from the first issue to date. While the latest is a rewarding one in general, your article especially rang a bell.

I don't know about you, but I find that remarks made almost in passing often have a disproportionate effect on me, channeling my perspective in new ways, causing a rethinking or re-evaluation.

So it was with item 4 of your article. I've been collecting for fifty years, so obviously I've made my share of mistakes, unfortunately usually accompanied by adverse financial consequences. As you know, that sort of thing is a great teacher. Even so, I had never put it all together as you did - 'Since this is a life-long hobby, most likely your purchase(s) will be with you for a very long time.'

Amen to that.

I know I purchase to enjoy, not to resell, but had never had the insight that I was making a life-long commitment. I now look at my old favorites with new appreciation, knowing we are together for good.

Thanks again for your thoughtful article.

* * *

DAN ARGYRO writes,

USCents.com is a new on-line site. It is devoted to US copper issues, mainly Large Cents. You will, however, find Indian Head, Flying Eagles, Lincolns and Colonials. There are several areas to explore within the site. Auction - Post coins for auction, bid on coins, this is all FREE of charge. The only fee is a 2% commission on coins you sell. If your coin does not sell you pay nothing. Photo Library - Here you will find color photos of copper coins from 1738 to 1997. Many Colonial and 1/2 Cents also. Discussion - Is an area where you can post anything about copper, what you found, questions you have, grading discussion. Anything that comes to mind is OK. Since 12/7/97 when the site was launched, we have averaged 1100 visitors a day. Stop by <http://www.USCents.com>

Also, the Late Date List is alive and well. I have been receiving updates from several collectors. The next List will be sent out the first of February. This will allow for updates after the FUN sale. Please send in your list if you wish to be included. Send to Dan Argyro, PO Box 1463, Buffalo, NY 14215

* * *

I would like to share a couple of great experiences with all the EAC members. I am a new member, number 4602, but I have been a copper collector for nearly 26 years, and I sincerely do believe in books, strictly education. However, I do know quite a few local dealers in Michigan that do not believe in any form of information, just profits. So if I may I would like to share two true stories that I had encountered.

My first experience took place about four years ago, I was in a local coin store sorting out some early copper, which the dealer called "junk." In going through this plastic baggie of copper, I pulled out six pieces of copper, Connecticut copper; one of the pieces had two small holes, the type that was used in a game of sorts during the early days. After buying all six pieces for \$8, I was totally amazed to learn that the Connecticut copper with the two holes was a Miller 1.2 mm! After research with a friend, we discovered that it was the fifth known specimen of that elite variety! I later sold the rarity to a west coast colonial dealer.

My second experience occurred during the second week of November 1997. I was at another local dealer's store, where I was quoted \$13 for a 1798 large cent in Good-5 grade with a nice medium brown planchet, and \$10 for a decent AG-3 1796 Liberty Cap cent, also with a nice planchet surface. So for \$23 I bought two nice large cents. After returning to my home, I got out the Sheldon book to look for their varieties and, low and behold, the 1798 large cent was a rare S-144 . . . , that's right, a rarity; and the 1796 was an S-90 . . . , another nice rarity. Can you imagine, two large cents in the whole store and they are both rarities!

The two large cents were sold to a well-known large cent specialist in the Midwest. The reason why I had sold them is because some 19 years ago, I bought an unattributed large cent in Very Good condition and that, too, is an S-144. That will stay in my collection for many more years to come.

* * *

TOM MADIGAN writes,

I really enjoyed the 15 Nov. Issue of Penny-Wise - your exhortations in previous issues have resulted in some fine contributions, making the latest issue one of the best in quite some time. Let's hope it continues!

I really liked your "Introduction", especially that quote by Hans Koning, but I can see John Wright's point that if the Internet had been available 30 years ago there would be no P-W. Our newsletter stems from letters passed around among the original members: a written rap session. That's what the Internet seems to provide a forum for. In such a spontaneous medium, I would agree that wisdom and creativity would not be forthcoming. At least with me, it takes a while to create something worth creating. Besides, I type slowly. And I still work two jobs, so time is limited too. Anyway, all the articles in the issue are great, but I found your reply to Mr. Sherris' query very amusing and I was fascinated to read Dr. Whitaker's detailed instructions on the . . . unmentionable topic. Not that I would ever do such a thing to MY coins! Although, of course, there are one or two that could perhaps benefit in some way, slightly, in terms of eye appeal, you know . . .

You haven't heard from me in quite some time as I am busily completing the text to The NEW JERSEY STATE COPPERS - that original article of mine you so kindly published some three years ago on N.J. die states has now blossomed into a major book. How about that! I should add that I was absolutely thrilled that that series was included in the list of "The Best of Penny-Wise". My wife was thrilled too. I had a lot of fun researching the data for that article. I hadn't done research like that since 1970-71, when I wrote a 28,000 word-long thesis as part of getting my degree in Prehistory and Archaeology.

I have also begun the text to a large cent photo grading guide (Oh, boy . . .)

* * *

From the Internet

Pete Smith

- ◆ As of December 28, 1997, there are 154 EAC members in Region 8. (The Internet Directory) To get listed, send your name and address to Mark Switzer at dc181@freenet.carleton.ca.
- ◆ Steve Carr mentioned an auction lot he saw on an Internet auction. The coin was described as an 1822 cent in F-12. It was unattributed but the listing included a scanned image. Carr attributed it as 1822 N-9. It opened at \$10 and sold for \$305 to a New Jersey EAC member. Tom Hart also mentioned seeing the same coin.
- ◆ Rick Coleman has expressed concern about EAC members who are not on Region 8 feeling left out of something. He suggested that Jon Lusk write something about the EAC Website and Mark Switzer write something about Region 8 for publication in *Penny-Wise*.
- ◆ David Druzisky asked for help with a Hard Times Token (HT 20) that appears to be overstruck on something. He asked for a referral to an expert who might help. He will have it available for examination at the FUN show.
- ◆ Bill Eckberg announced a meeting of Region 3 in Baltimore on November 15, 1997. Craig Sholley was scheduled to speak on early minting technology. Later Roxanne Goldberg reported on the talk and declared it excellent.
- ◆ Dennis Fuoss reported that he sold two of the six coins he listed for sale. Tom Hart said that he sold four out of ten listed. Steve Carr failed to sell any. Mark Switzer considers the Swaps and Sales concept a modest success and will continue to run such ads.
- ◆ Roxanne Goldberg reported on a show in Burlington, New Jersey. She mentioned, "Before I arrived, the New Jersey tax agents forced most of the dealers to flee New Jersey. It sounds like something almost biblical." Terry Hess also mentioned out-of-state dealers receiving large tax bills from New Jersey tax officials. He said that Tennessee shows benefited from dealers that had previously set up at New Jersey shows.
- ◆ Goldberg mentioned an article by Dan Freidus on minting techniques used by the Gallery Mint Museum. She is a big fan of Gallery Mint products.
- ◆ Goldberg asked about die clashes on the 1801 S-215 and NC-1. They share the same obverse. John Wright answered that the edge of the clash on S-215 goes through the top of the O and the edge of the clash goes around the O on the NC-1.
- ◆ Brian Holland bought a VF30 1840 N-4 that was described on the 2x2 as 1840/39. He asked if anyone recognized the N-4 as an overdate.

- ◆ Wayne Homren announced that he had purchased the publisher's backstock of the *American Journal of Numismatics*. Those not needed for his collection will be offered through The Money Tree. Among issues important to copper collectors is the "Levick plate" showing cents of 1793.
- ◆ Dennis Loring mentioned that the text of the Naftzger/ANS court decision was available on the ANS Web site www.annumsoc2.org.
- ◆ Jeff Noonan asked about a half cent sized 1840 Hard Times Token from Bergen Iron Works with a massive obverse die break. (Probably Low 142) He asked if perfect die specimens exist.
- ◆ Grant Reed asked about "star cuds" and the description of such cuds involving a certain number of points. Mark Switzer replied with a quote from John Wright's book on middle date cents.
- ◆ Sully Sullivan complained about the lack of good large cents appearing at local coin shows in his area during the last 3 or 4 years.
- ◆ Jack Wadlington announced that he had completed his collection of numbered Sheldon varieties. The last three varieties he needed were acquired through Chris McCawley who got them during the Colonial coin collectors convention in Boston. Wadlington completed the middle date series earlier in 1997. He reported that he is still missing about 60 late date cents.
- ◆ Ward Van Duzen and Dennis Fouss traded comments about the terms porous, granular and corrosion used to describe surface conditions. Surface condition runs a continuum from hard and smooth to severely corroded and these terms may describe a range within that continuum.
- ◆ Jon Warshawsky mentioned that he recently read borrowed copies of *Penny-Wise* from the 1978-1980 era and finished with the "warm Fuzzies" for EAC. As reported by Jon,

"Topics covered included Denis Loring's revision of the condition census -- including a curious renumbering of the cents in sequence by year (so Sheldon 17a was Cent-1 of 1794...), the excitement surrounding the Garrett sale, the famous Tom Morley taxicab incident (My first major copper auction was the sale of Tom's last collection -- he took the time to talk to me and fired my enthusiasm for 1794 large cents), William Sheldon's obituary and an entire tribute issue, an exceptional article by John Adams on the dispersal of legendary Henry Hines collection, and extensive coverage of the 1979 EAC convention in Florida, hosted by Morley, where two whist matches involving 1794 and 1796 cents claimed center stage."
- ◆ Some of the EAC members listed in Region 8 are dealers with Web sites. Dan Argyro is at www.USCents.com. He planned to offer an area for EAC chats. (It crashed several times during testing) In December he conducted an auction for large cents. Craig Hamling mentioned that he had submitted several cents to the auction. Steve Ellsworth is at Butternut.Clifton.VA.US. He offers lists of cents for sale.

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. Due to increased production costs, effective immediately, a full page ad is \$100. Graphic and halftone setup is an additional \$60 per page. One third page is \$35. Ads should be limited to early American Coppers or tokens. Deadline for material to appear in the March 15, 1998 issue is February 15, 1998. All ads must include the individual membership number of a current member in good standing. Copy should be sent to the Editor, Harry E. Salyards, 606 North Minnesota Avenue, Hastings, NE 68901.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Early American Coppers, Inc. publisher of Penny-Wise, does not examine any of the material advertised in Penny-Wise, nor does it review any of the advertising therein. Early American Coppers, Inc. assumes no responsibility or liability for any advertisement (or the material described therein) and no party shall have recourse against Early American Coppers, Inc. All transactions arising or relating to any advertisement in Penny-Wise shall strictly be between the parties thereto, Complaints concerning advertisers (or respondents) should be referred to the President of Early American Coppers, Inc.; complaints may result in abridgement, suspension, or terminations of membership or advertising privileges.

What others think of "The CENT Book" JOHN D. WRIGHT. EAC #7
MARK KLEIN: The CENT Book is all I'd dreamed it could be and more. Reading it is like enjoying a personal chat with John.
RICHARD STRILEY: Being a novice on large cents I found a number of other books confusing and hard to read. I have Adams, Breen, Grellman, Newcomb, Noyes, and Sheldon, but yours is the best.
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.
SEE FOR YOURSELF - BUY YOUR OWN. See "The CENT Book" ad in this section.

What others think of "The CENT Book": Mabel Ann Wright, EAC #78
TOM DELOREY: I especially like the historical notes at the beginning of each date. It lends a warm, human touch that is missing from most numismatic literature published since Sheldon.
WARREN LAPP: I can see now why it took so long to get it into print. John didn't leave out a thing. I am amazed at the photos. The book is perfect in every way, which is what I would expect from JDW.
HERB SILBERMAN: Your book is beautiful! I congratulate you on the content.
TONY CARLOTTO: The CENT Book is fantastic. The year-by-year history is a very nice touch and keeps you reading.
SEE FOR YOURSELF - BUY YOUR OWN. See "The CENT Book" ad in this section.

WILLIAM C. NOYES, EAC #363

Forget what the others have said, the experts have spoken -- the Noyes books won the 1992 (U.S. Large Cents 1793 - 1814, \$130) and 1993 (U.S. Large Cents 1816 - 1839, \$105) Early American Coppers Literary Awards -- Accept no imitations! Order both today for \$195 postpaid.

Now also available: the newest Noyes' Encyclopedia of Large Cents 1793 Sheldon-1 through 1796 Sheldon-91, for \$65 postpaid.

Order from : Lithotech - Noyes, 1600 W. 92nd St., Minneapolis, MN 55431

BOB GRELLMAN, EAC #575 P.O. Box 951988 Lake Mary, FL 32795 - 1988
(407) 321 - 8747

For Sale: Deluxe hardbound copies of the Attribution Guide for United States Large Cents 1840 - 1857. The reference for attributing late date large cents.

Autographed on request. \$70, postpaid.

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

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

JERRY BOBBE, EAC #184 P.O. Box 25817 Portland, OR 97298
(503) 626 - 1075

Madness, intrigue, political struggle, power, greed . . . is it another pre-auction collusion session? No!! It's a series of early coppers that weaves one through the dawn of the Industrial Revolution and American Independence, the French Revolution, the political and social ills of Britain, and the lives of the elite and the commoner. **BRITISH TOKENS!** Send for your free copy of *The Token Examiner*, the world's most informative and entertaining price list of the 18th Century "Conder" series. Superb quality, great rarities, bizarre die states, errors, trial pieces and patterns our specialty. This series has it all; and with the exception of expensive US related colonials (i.e., Washington pieces, Theatre at New York, et al), at prices not seen by large cent collectors for over half a century!

KEN STONEBRAKER, EAC #3454 2609 Wilkens Avenue Baltimore, MD 21223
PENNY-WISE BACK ISSUES FOR SALE -- EXCELLENT QUALITY, 2-SIDED COPIES.

PW Issues 82 thru 93 (Jan 1981 thru Nov 1982) 12 issues \$40.00 postpaid

PW Issues 94 thru 105 (Jan 1983 thru Nov 1984) 12 issues \$40.00 postpaid

PW Issues 106 thru 119 (Jan 1985 thru Mar 1987) 14 issues \$46.00 postpaid

All three sets as above \$120 postpaid

(Issues #120 thru current issue must be ordered from EAC)

DEPENDENT ON RESPONSE TO THIS AD, I HOPE TO OFFER EARLIER ISSUES NEXT YEAR.

CARL EARL OSTIGUY, EAC #2157 P.O. Box 92 Savage, MD 20763
BUYING & SELLING EARLY AMERICAN COPPER, BRITISH CONDERS & U.S. TYPE

At the Maryland Historic Savage Mill, established in 1822. I'm located 5 minutes off Interstate 95, midway between Baltimore & Washington. Take I-95 to Route 32 East (Exit 38A) to Route One South. Right on Howard Street. Follow signs to Savage Mill. I'm in Antique III. Open 7 days a week: Sun - Wed 9:30 AM to 6 PM; Thurs, Fri, Sat 9:30 AM to 9 PM. Home # (410) 379 - 5646 Washington # (301) 369 - 4650 Baltimore # (410) 880 - 0918

COUNTERSTAMPED LARGE CENTS WANTED

For my personal collection, which I have been gathering since 1955, I desire to purchase counterstamped large cents of all dates with the names and addresses of individuals, or individuals and their specialties, merchants, political slogans, and motifs. At this point, I am not interested in stray initials, numbers, or names that cannot be identified as to geographical location or trade. I would be pleased to make an offer for coins submitted to me, or invite you to send them on approval with an invoice. I am not looking for any bargains and will pay any reasonable price, as they are not for resale. Please let me hear from you. All correspondence will be answered.

David Bowers, EAC #204
c/o Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc.
Box 1224 Wolfeboro, NH 03894

RICHARD L. CODAY, EAC #3171 PO Box 1701 Bakersfield, CA 93302
(805) 323 - 4507

LARGE CENTS WANTED

1797 S-120a Fair to Fine	1831 N-12/1, 12/2, 12/3, & 12/4	AG - VF
1817 All "Mice" G to VF	1834 N-5	AG-F

I am a strong buyer for all dates and varieties in the \$20 to \$500 range. I need lower grade Liberty Caps (Fair to VG), Draped Busts (AG to Fine), and AV+ and CHOICE Middle Dates Good to VF. Please write or call if you have Large Cents for sale. Send stamp for sell List #20. Thank you.

HALF CENTS AND LARGE CENTS WANTED WITH 'PERKINS' COUNTERSTAMP

Wanted for my personal collection. Any condition, any name or initial(s). Also want U.S., British and any other tokens with "Perkins" on them. And tokens from the following cities: Perkins, Perkinsville, Perkinstown, Perkinston, etc. I would also appreciate any information on unlisted tokens of the above.

W. David Perkins, EAC #2664
8126 S. Glencoe Ct.
Littleton, CO 80122 - 3876
Days 303 - 773 - 5565

FOR SALE: 1787 CONNECTICUT COPPER - Miller 38-GG

FINE. Draped bust left variety. AUCIORI legend error. Pleasing light brown, smooth surfaces. Struck 10% off-center, but most of the legend are complete with a strong date. An obverse planchet lamination and a couple of rim bumps. \$70.00

Send for a free list of colonial and state coppers.

ROBERT ZAVOS, EAC #2502

1007 Savannah Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15221

Bowers & Merena	3/28/90	Boyd Brand & Ryder Hardbound; new pr - <i>HT Tokens, Colonials, Conn. & NJ</i>	\$25
Bowers & Merena	3/26/87	Frederick Taylor; nice copy; outstanding collection of Colonial & State Coinage	70
Crosby, Sylvester		<u>Early Coins of America</u> ; 1965 Tkn Med Soc Reprint; 378 p fine condition	25
EAC		Annual Convention Sales; 1987 - 1996; 10 issues with prl (indiv issues @ \$3)	25
Kagins	2/1/86	Phillip Van Cleave Collection of Large Cents; almost new; prl; sb	30
Lapp & Silberman		<u>US Large Cents 1793 - 1857</u> ; 1975 Quarterman; 647p dj nice copy	35
Merkin, Lester	8/14/64	Louis Helfenstein Large Cents; 332 lots, many illustrated; prl; nice condition	25
New Neth./Seaby	11/14/73	2nd Auction Sale; Superb early Large Cents [Naftzger]; fine; prl	30
Stacks	12/8/83	John L. Roper, 2nd Collection of Colonial & Early Am Coins; xprl	25
Stacks	3/16/88	Herman Halpern US Large Cents; nice copy; prl	25

\$3 postage/order; prl = prices realized; x = copy; Numerous auction catalogues and books - ask for free list.

TOM REYNOLDS, EAC #222

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Omaha, NE 68124
(402) 895 - 3065

1853	N5	R2-	AU50	\$145	Medium brown with choice, frosty surfaces. Late die state.	C
1853	N8	R3	AU58	485	Brown with choice, lustrous surfaces. Middle die state. Tied for Condition Census #5.	C
1853	N26	R2	AU58	315	Brown with choice, frosty surfaces. Middle-late die state. Tied for Condition Census #11.	C

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Arlington, VA 22202

1793	S-8	F-12/VG-8	pleasing light brown, some rim knocks, Grellman card	\$ 1,350
1810	S-281	Overdate	PCGS AU-53 some faded red reverse	2,195
1810	S-285	F-12/VG-10	nick on neck, chocolate	159
1817	N-14	AU-50 plus,	steel brown, die break in STATES	165
1818	N-6	AU-55/45,	steel brown, some tiny pits, die break reverse	149
1838	N-14	VF-30	light brown, EDS, once R6, now R4	95
1848	N-31	LDS, cud	in dentils over R in AMERICA, AU-50 pretty chocolate	125
1850	N-27	R5 VF-30/VF-25	for minor knock, light tan and brown	160
1853	N-32	R5- VF-20/F-15	for some minor circ ticks, light brown	45

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1803 S-258 MS-63 light brown with faded red \$ 6,500

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Penny-Wise originals, 1984 - 1988, 30 issues complete \$ 80
Penny-Wise originals, 1990 - 1996, 42 issues complete 110
EAC Convention Sale catalogs, 1985 - 87 - 95 - 96 - 97, five issues for 11
Cumulative index to Penny-Wise, Vol. I - XX 7
History of EAC, by Pete Smith, 1997 5
U.S. Large Cents, Pearl collection, Numismatic Gallery, 1944, F+ 14

DAN TROLLAN, EAC #3154
Weekday Tel. #970-247-8453

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Durango, CO 81301
Evening Tel. #970-247-7811

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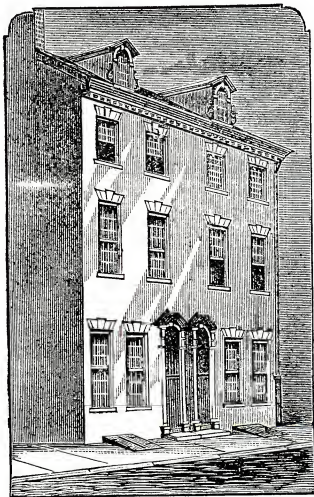
TERRY STEFL, EAC #3956

603 Laurel Drive

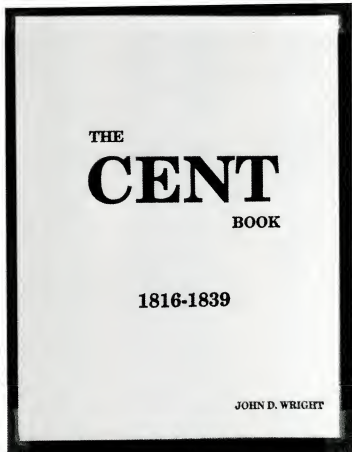
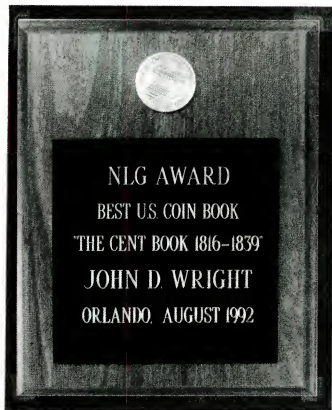
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Please reserve for me _____ bourse table(s) at EAC 1998 in Boston. I will need _____ extra cases and _____ extra lamps. In addition to the one case and lamp provided with each table, I enclose \$150 (\$225 for corner), \$10 for each extra case, and \$5 for each extra lamp requested above.

Please list me in the convention program as _____

Bourse assistant (one person permitted) _____

The application deadline means--in the bourse chairman's hands-- no later than March 1, 1998. Bourse fees will be refunded to those so desiring prior to the deadline date. Fees refunded after that time will only be to those suffering a bonafide emergency at the time of the convention opening.

I understand that only numismatically related material may be offered, which consists primarily of pre-1865 U.S. copper coinage, tokens and their related literature.

The undersigned hereby releases EAC, it's officers, directors and agents from all liability, claims, demands, and losses including those claims arising from any negligence of EAC or it's agents. The undersigned recognizes that EAC does not maintain liability or other insurance. Insurance for the property of the undersigned is solely the responsibility of the undersigned.

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The Official Publication of the Early American Coppers Club, Inc.

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