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Associate and Contributing Editors

Denis W. Loring
John D. Wright
Herbert A. Silberman

Printing	Lithotechnical Services, Inc. 1600 West 92 Street Minneapolis, MN 55431	Typist	Debra A. Johnson 119 Ringland Road Hastings, NE 68901
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Founding Editor
Warren A. Lapp, M.D. (1915 - 1993)

INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR : REINVENTING EAC

Harry E. Salyards

The last several issues of Penny-Wise have been tremendously gratifying for me. After hitting a low point with the September issue, contributions have picked up markedly--from both veteran collectors and relative novices. And so, in your hands, you have one of those 80+ page issues which someone lamented no longer receiving, a couple of years ago. But we can--we must--do better.

Bluntly put, this organization is not yet back to where it was in the late '80s--in energy, enthusiasm, or numbers of real participants.

Unresolved controversies have had something to do with this. So has the perception that this has become an elitist field, a rich man's game. So has the concentration of the overwhelming majority of collectible copper in relatively few dealer hands. As a result, people don't speak up. They assume that they "can't play" if they don't have thousands to play with. They give up hitting the coin shops, or making those local shows that have managed to hang on, or going through all those "back table" boxes. They subconsciously start assuming that if Tom Reynolds, or Chris McCawley, or Doug Bird, or a handful of others don't have it in stock, then it isn't out there.

To which I say, see Jim Young's piece in this issue.

The resolution of controversy can also mean a lot. I don't believe it's any accident that, now that both Principal Authors in the Great Half Cent Book Feud are dead, I'm receiving more half cent research papers every two months, than I did in two or three years while they were alive. Sadly, I don't see any resolution--and I don't mean via death!--to the current matter of two, parallel large cent condition censuses--especially since the situation is thoroughly entangled with the ongoing ANS litigation. But we need to find a way to get beyond this. And I know of no better way to approach the problem, than to ask, "What do we want this club to be about--five, ten, twenty years from now?" I don't know what the answer is; but I know what it isn't--and that's for EAC to amount to a bunch of Rich Old Farts selling high-priced coins to a bunch of Slightly Younger But Still Richer Farts. Instead, I hope to again see the day when these pages will be filled with the collector enthusiasm that bubbled over at the time of the first Robbie Brown Sale. Somewhere between that event, and Jack Robinson's Sale in '89, we hit a peak; as we go forward, we need to aim for that height again.

Two brief announcements: It has come to my attention that the 800 number published for the Radisson Boston, the EAC Convention hotel, is not always operative. The hotel's "other" number is (617) 482-1800. Second, it is with regret that I announce that my good friend Tom Reynolds will resign as EAC Sale Cataloger at the conclusion of this year's event. Tom is truly a "class act" in coins, and I've said more than once that, if it weren't for Tom, I wouldn't be collecting--or by extension, your editor--today. I thank him for his conscientious service--and ask for a volunteer to serve in his place.

THREE NEW SUBVARIETIES OF HALF CENTS? A SPECULATION

R. Tettenhorst

The Thin Planchet Lettered Edge specimens of 1794-1795. What are they?

l) Background

Two basic types of Liberty Cap half cents have been recognized ever since early U. S. coins were first studied. These are the heavier weight, thick planchet issues of 1793-1795, and the lighter weight, thin planchet issues of 1795-1797. The thick planchet issues have a lettered edge reading "TWO HUNDRED FOR A DOLLAR" and had an official weight of 104 grains. During 1795, Congress passed legislation authorizing the shift to lighter weight copper coinage. The thin planchet issues, with a few exceptions, were made with plain edges, presumably because there was not enough room on the thinner edge for the letters to be placed neatly. The new official standard weight was 84 grains. Liberty Cap large cents are similarly divided into corresponding categories.

As numismatists began studying and collecting half cents, it was realized that there was an additional small category. Some of the 1797 thin planchet specimens of the third variety (Cohen 3, Breen 3, Gilbert 2) had a lettered edge. Gilbert gave this a different variety number, G1. However, current terminology is to refer to this as a subvariety, C3b and B3a, since the obverse and reverse dies are both the same as for the more common plain edge variety. It is the possible expansion of this thin planchet lettered edge category to include three new subvarieties that is the subject of this article. (In the sale of the H. Rogers collection in 1881 a different edge device, now known as the gripped edge, was first noted. See Breen, p. 190. Still extremely rare, this has been given the subvariety designation, C3c and B3b.) .

First, however, the history of other weight and edge combinations previously recognized should be completed. There are a number of thick planchet specimens known with plain edges. These can be divided into three types, as follows:

- a) Gilbert described his variety 1795 G2 as having the same obverse and reverse dies as his G1, but with a plain edge instead of the lettered edge of G1. This is now known as having been an alteration. It was simply a G1 which had its edges ground down until the lettering disappeared. I found such a specimen in a dealer's junk box in 1985. I recall mischievously telling a fellow variety collector that I had "cherry-picked" my last missing Gilbert variety, probably R7, for \$15!
- b) The Parmelee Sale in 1890 contained an example of a 1795 half cent of the variety now known as C5b which was struck on a thick planchet cut from a spoiled large cent. A number of others have since been identified. Similarly, in 1953, Roger Cohen realized that certain specimens of his variety C6 were much above the

standard weight because they also were struck on planchets cut from spoiled large cents. These he called his subvariety C6b. Breen utilizes the same subvariety designation for these coins as his B5b and B6b.

- c) A very few 1794 half cents are known without edge letters. These are simply considered to be errors. They are coins struck on planchets which somehow did not go through the edge lettering device.

II) Specimens under consideration now

In 1963, a 1795 G1 (which is also C1 and B1) appeared in the fixed price sale by Stacks of the outstanding Brobston collection of half cents. It was there described as a light-weight specimen weighing 77.3 grains. The comment was added, "Perhaps the only specimen in existence. We do not know of another 1795 thin planchet lettered edge half cent! Extremely rare." Roger Cohen bought it, and it appeared in Superior's 1993 auction of Roger's half cent collection as lot 42. The description was essentially the same as in the Brobston catalogue. A possible explanation was offered, "Perhaps it was cut down from some other copper stock, or perhaps the copper strip (from which planchets were cut) went through the rolling mills a few extra times, making it far too thin and thus making all planchets underweight." This was the only thin planchet lettered edge half cent of 1794 or 1795 known to either Roger or Walter at the time they wrote their respective books. Both of them considered it to be simply an error, meaning that it was unintentionally struck on a planchet that was accidentally light in weight. In discussing this coin, Breen offers this explanation, "This coin is probably the same one from Mehl's sale, November 28, 1939, lot 257, then to John Pawling, and later to Brobston...No duplicate has been reported. In all likelihood, it is not an intentional subvariety, and it shows no trace of overstriking on any other coin. Probably this planchet was cut from a single strip, which had been rolled too thin."

Since I have had a long-standing interest in half cent errors, I began looking about fifteen years ago to see if there were any other such specimens. Gradually others came to my attention. I am now aware of ten thin planchet lettered edge half cents of 1794 and 1795. As the pattern of these specimens emerged, it caused me to doubt whether these are simply errors, and to consider whether these could have been trial pieces intended to determine an appropriate weight for the newly authorized lighter weight half cents. In accordance with the thrifty practice then in use at the mint, they were placed into circulation after they had served their originally intended purpose.

The ten specimens now known to me are as follows:

- 1) 1794 C9 VG 80.7gr
- 2) 1794 C9 G 87.2gr
- 3) 1794 C9 VG 85.6gr
- 4) 1795 C1 AG 91.5gr
- 5) 1795 C1 G 92.7gr
- 6) 1795 C1 G 77.3gr (The Brobston-Cohen coin)
- 7) 1795 C1 G 95.7gr (McCawley-Grellman sale 1/11/97 #794)

- 8) 1795 C2 G 81.1gr
- 9) 1795 C2 Fr 81.6gr (EAC 1997 sale #53)
- 10) 1795 C2 VG 88.9gr

The edge lettering itself is in each case the same as on the thick planchet specimens of the same variety.

III) The alternatives

It seems to me that these specimens can be classified in three different ways:

- a) They are simply errors struck on unintentionally thin light weight planchets. What is Tett getting so worked up about?
- b) They are trial pieces intended to test various possible weights for the newly authorized lighter weight half cents. They were subsequently placed in circulation. As a separate question, they could be considered a subvariety as Breen does for the 1856 copper-nickel patterns, his B2b and B2c. Or they could be classified as "other half cents", as Cohen does.
- c) They are something else, as yet unexplained.

IV) The case for the trial piece alternative

Quantity: Estimates have been made of the percentage of originally minted Liberty Cap half cents which have survived until the present time. My recollection is that most of these estimates have been in the range of 1% to 2%. Breen, for example, on page 139 arrives at an estimate of 1.86%, which he characterizes as "a generous estimate." There would have been no reason for anyone, even a numismatist, to have made any special effort to save one of these thin planchet lettered edge half cents. In fact, the low grade of the ten survivors indicates that they did not benefit from any preservation efforts, at least until this century. Therefore, taking the reciprocal of the survival percentage indicates that somewhere in the range of 500 to 1000 might originally have been struck. As more such specimens are discovered now that a question as to their nature has arisen, application of the survival reciprocal will increase the estimated range of originally issued coins.

Motivation: There would be no gain for the makers of half cent planchets to sell the U. S. mint short weight planchets, since the planchets were purchased by the pound. Thinner planchets would have meant more work cutting planchets out of strip for the same amount of money. Similarly, I can find no record in the literature to indicate that the mint took it upon itself to make thinner planchets in order to save money on copper. Certainly Mint Director Elias Boudinot was keenly aware that the cost of making half cents and large cents at the old standard weight exceeded the face value of the coins. (See correspondence quoted in Breen, pp 123 – 126) But it is also clear that his reaction was to request legislation to reduce the authorized standard weight.

Custom: We know that copper trial pieces were made in the 1794-5 time period, and that the copper was placed into circulation. Three half cents of variety 1795 C6 are in existence

today which were struck on planchets cut from copper trial pieces for dies of three different varieties of half dollars of 1794 and 1795. The half cents are well circulated. Certainly if three of these trial pieces survive today as undertypes there must have been many more originally struck. If trial pieces for new dies were considered worth striking, then something as fundamental as a weight reduction to thinner planchets would seem to have required testing. Given the involvement of Congress and the President in authorizing such a change, it does not seem unreasonable that quantities of trial pieces would have been made and distributed. The evidence of the half dollar trial pieces would imply that the mint would have placed any remaining half cents into circulation. The other recipients might well have done the same.

Timing: This is the strongest evidence in support of the trial piece theory. Note that all ten of the known thin planchet lettered edge specimens are from the last three of the lettered edge varieties of 1794–1795, namely 1794 C9, 1795 C1, and 1795 C2. The significance of this is that these are the three varieties struck after Congress passed and the President signed legislation authorizing a substantial reduction in the weight of the copper coinage, but before the actual new standard weight was decided. This is precisely the period in which trial pieces of various lighter weights would have been struck, in order to make a recommendation as to a precise new standard. No similar group of such light weight half cents is known for any 1794 varieties struck before the legislation authorizing them was enacted.

A more detailed chronology of the relevant events follows. (The regular type indicates previously known events. The **boldface** type represents my speculation as to what additional events took place with respect to these presumed trial pieces.)

July 8, 1794: The last regular coins dated 1794 are delivered by the mint. (Breen, p. 85 and Cohen, p. 17) The final variety is C9, also listed as B9. Subsequently war in Europe and the playing out of the Anglesey copper mines in Wales causes a significant increase in the price of copper. (Breen, p.125)

Late 1794 or early 1795: To support a recommendation to Congress that the weight of the copper coins be reduced, a number of half cent planchets are created at various weights substantially less than the 104 grain standard. The planchets have their edges lettered, following the usual practice. These are then struck, using the last pair of half cent dies then in existence, namely those for 1794 C9. Enough are made to give at least one to each member of Congress.

March 3, 1795: Congress passes an act authorizing the President to reduce the weight of the copper coins. The authorized reduction in weight of the half cents is set at one pennyweight, or 24 grains. The authorized reduction in weight of cents is set at two pennyweights. (Section 8 of the Act)

Mid 1795: No further half cents are struck. (Breen, p. 123, and Cohen, p.24)

Oct – Dec 1795: The first half cents dated 1795 are struck. These are believed to be the thick planchet lettered edge varieties, C1 and C2a. (Breen, p. 123 and Cohen, p. 24)

Additional thin planchet lettered edge specimens are again struck to support Boudinot's continuing efforts to get the lighter weight copper coins approved by President Washington. The process is the same as with the 1794 dated coins. These specimens are struck at various times, some using each of the two 1795 die combinations, C1 and C2.

Dec 3, 1795: In his report to the President, Boudinot specifically recommends that the weight of the cents be set at seven pennyweights (168 grains). The recommendation is supported with detailed financial calculations. (Breen, pp. 123-4) Implicitly, the corresponding weight for half cents would be set at 84 grains.

Dec 9, 1795: Having just purchased a supply of copper at a high price, Boudinot writes Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson again urging that the new standard for cents be set at 168 grains. Further calculations are included. (Breen, p. 124)

Dec 10, 1795: Jefferson immediately replies with a series of questions. (Breen, p. 125)

Dec 11, 1795: Boudinot sends a long reply to Jefferson, answering his questions and giving additional detailed calculations. (Breen, pp. 125-6)

Mid-Dec 1795: Upon closer inspection, Boudinot realizes that, although the obverse and reverse of the thinner half cents have received completely satisfactory impressions, the edges have not. The thinner edges do not have enough width for all the lettering to stay completely on the edge. Some letters run off or nearly off the edge, producing tiny nick-like marks on the rims. These are deemed unacceptable. After discussion of the problem it is realized that the necessity for edge devices on coins is primarily to prevent surreptitious filing of the edges to gain free bullion dust, and that this protection is not needed for copper coins. So the decision is made that the new lighter weight copper coins will have plain edges. Sheldon (p. 145-6) notes similar large cents made about this time, and offers a different hypothesis: "Apparently the change to the thin planchets preceded the abandonment of the edge lettering, as a few examples are found with a comparatively thin planchet and lettered edge." However this explanation seems to ignore the evidence of the half cents. If edge lettering was discontinued for the large cents in December of 1795 why would it have been retained for the first half cents struck on much thinner planchets in early 1796, and for a few of each of the first two varieties? How does this scenario explain the thin planchet 1794 C9's? However, the trial piece hypothesis very neatly explains why the thin planchet lettered edge large cents are also found on the very pair of dies, S76, which were available at the time a specific new weight standard was being recommended. They were also trial pieces!

Dec 27, 1795: President Washington orders that the recommended new weight be approved. (Breen, p. 126)

Dec 28, 1795: The first of the new standard copper coins are struck, with thinner planchets and plain edges. These are large cents, Sheldon 76b. (Breen, p. 126)

Jan-Jun, 1796: Thin planchet plain edge half cents dated 1795 are produced. These are varieties C2b, 3, 4, 5, and 6. The Breen varieties are numbered the same. (Breen, pp. 138-9, and Cohen, p. 26) These conclusions were first published by Cohen, and later repeated by Breen.

V) Request for information and opinions

1. Does anyone know of other specimens of thin planchet lettered edge half cents of 1794 or 1795? These could be of the three varieties discussed above, or of other varieties of those years. If available, what are their weights and pedigrees?
2. Does anyone know of any correspondence to or from the mint which says or implies that a number of trial pieces of half cents at lighter weights were made in summer or fall of 1795?
3. What are the coins listed above? Are they simply error coins, or trial pieces, or something else? What does the evidence suggest to you?
4. As a matter of semantics, should these be referred to as subvarieties or not? Socrates is reported to have said, "The definition of terms is the beginning of wisdom." Yet we do not seem to have a consistent and universally accepted definition of the term "subvariety." Population is not a criterion. 1794 C6b, B4a is unique, yet both authors and other collectors identify it as a subvariety. Undertype is not consistently applied. Both authors and all collectors consider the 1795 #5 and #6 struck on planchets cut from error large cents to be subvarieties, but the same planchet source for half cents dated 1797 and 1800 is not yet accorded subvariety status. Neither does weight explain the different treatment of these years. Cohen does not consider planchets cut from Talbot Allum & Lee to be grounds for considering coins struck on them to be of a subvariety, but Breen does. The prevailing practice seems to follow Cohen. And while both authors accord subvariety status to 1795 half cents struck over error large cents, neither does so to those struck over error half cents. Breen lists the 1856 copper-nickel pattern as a subvariety. Cohen does not, relegating it to his category of "other half cents." And their different treatment of proof-only issues is well known. The intentional creation of differences, as opposed to errors, does not explain the differing subvariety treatment of undertypes of varying kinds and dates. Different edge lettering, or its presence or absence, always creates a subvariety, but some of the other accepted subvarieties listed above do not earn their status in that way. So, what are the criteria for subvariety status? Should consistency or custom rule? Should these thin planchet lettered edge half cents be regarded as subvarieties 1794 C9b, 1795 C1b, and 1795 C2c? How say you now, EAC members?

I would welcome all input on these or other related questions, either through the pages of Penny-Wise, by mail to PO Box 14020, St. Louis, Mo. 63178, or by e-mail addressed to halfcent@aol.com.

Hoard, Samples, Surveys, and Statistics: Some common sense, please.

Red Henry

In past months, some writers in *Penny-Wise* have commented unfavorably on the Butternut Hoard and the 1801-07 Survivorship Survey as numismatic studies. One recent critic, Craig Sholley, pointed out that the Butternut Hoard was probably not a random sample of large cents. He then cited various mathematical equations and technical factors associated with sampling, and demonstrated considerable statistical knowledge. While the subject is still fresh in everyone's mind, this is a good time to talk about what to expect from the Butternut Hoard and from samples generally.

First, let's talk about coin hoards. Specifically, let's consider the criticisms of the Butternut Hoard which Mr. Sholley made in the last *Penny-Wise* issue. After selecting a few dates and varieties for examination, he speculated that such factors as the hoard's location, condition rarity factors, or the original hoard collector's preferences may have invalidated the study of data from the hoard cents. Let's consider these criticisms.

If you examine a few particular dates or varieties by your own statistical standards, and then generalize the results to state that the Butternut Hoard is statistically useless, then you may be jumping to conclusions. And does the fact that the hoard originated in one particular state possibly destroy its usefulness? No. Hoards are generally found in one state apiece. Could the original collector's date or major-variety preferences have skewed the distribution of coins in the hoard? Of course. No one has claimed otherwise. Is the hoard's date and variety distribution perfectly representative of the overall large cent population? Of course not. You will find no hoard, collection, or other accumulation of cents which is not biased in these or similar ways. That's the way coins come! The Butternut Hoard is still a large and very valuable source of copper information.

Let's consider how to take a survey of large cents. The only way you could do a perfect survey of them is by examining the entire large cent population, all in one place and all at one time. No one can do this, and so to study the die varieties in a certain range of dates, such as 1801-07, for example, we must take a sample. Let's discuss that for a minute.

In gathering data, we shouldn't either blindly accept or reject any information which is potentially useful. For any data which we use, we should know just why we are using it, just how it may be useful, and how to be on guard against possible biases in it.

The larger a proper sample is, compared to the overall population, the greater chance it will have of representing that population. If the sample is good, it will have more statistical weight the larger it is. However, you must be extremely careful in gathering the information in order to obtain the best sample possible. A smaller sample with fewer biases is much better than a larger sample which is badly skewed. No sample under 100% can be perfect (and this is true of all copper samples in the real world), but we want the best sample we can get. How should we gather the data?

If we are studying the 1801-07 large cent population by die variety, then there are only limited ways in which to make the survey. The information needs to be taken from previously-unattributed cents, so that no varieties have been removed from the sample. The data has to come not from the stocks of copper dealers, who offer more of the scarce varieties, and not from lists of coins which were bought attributed, but instead from early cents which have been seen by EAC members who are able to attribute the coins and willing to send in the information. Naturally, there are possible sources of bias in the sample. Let's consider some of them.

Most of the high-grade early-date cents have already been attributed, so in using data only from previously-unattributed coins we are working with mostly lower-grade cents and there is a conceivable bias due to condition rarity. However, since no statistical study has ever been published determining whether condition rarity by 1801-07 die variety even exists, much less the extent of it, there is no evidence to invalidate the survey on account of it.

Uneven geographical distribution of large cent varieties apparently existed at one time with the Randall Hoard of middle dates. With the cents of 1801-07, however, I know of no published study relating geography to die variety, so we're on our own. If we are sampling early-date large cents, the best we can do is to gather data from as widespread a geographical area as possible while guarding against conflicts. The 1801-07 survey has received data from 30 EAC members in 16 states, from Florida to New York to California, but including no more than one person even in most large metropolitan areas. This indicates a wide geographical spread, and few overlaps among survey contributors.

Coins sometimes move around the country, especially in this age of mail-order marketing. However, the cents in the 1801-07 survey are unlikely to move very far very fast, since most of them are not the high-value coins sold and shipped cross-country by professional dealers. Many of these items in our survey will get into a general dealer's stock, or into an average copper-lover's collection, and stay there for a long time. I have found this to be an obstacle to collecting data in my local area, since the turnover of low-grade cents in regular dealers' stocks is pretty slow and I don't want to count anything twice. Other survey contributors are also aware of this factor. With some contributors, the information we use is from cents they bought first and attributed afterwards. Many of those cents have been in copper collections for years, and they aren't going anywhere soon. This all means that if any items were counted twice, there are very few of them and they do not invalidate the survey.

Another possible bias comes from selective buying by the original accumulator of a hoard. If certain dates (such as 1821) especially appealed to the buyer, then he might try to acquire more of those cents than he would of the others. This is not surprising. Are there any collectors anywhere who wouldn't do the same thing? Maybe the original hoard collector was born in 1821! That would be interesting to know. Would anyone examining a hoard, or its data, assume that it was free from this kind of bias? Of course not. No hoard is entirely random. The presence of extra cents of certain dates does not make a hoard useless as a source of information. The hoard may contain those extra cents and still be the best single source of information available!

Next topic: Defects in mathematical analysis, or exaggerations of the data's significance, would pose a threat to drawing correct conclusions from it. For that reason, I have avoided making extravagant claims for the information collected by the survey. A writer last March did draw unjustifiable conclusions from the data, but I replied to that in July.

At this point I could drag out the statistical formulas I've been using and take up some space with them, but I prefer not to bore my readers. I see no point in pursuing a war of equations, even though Mr. Sholley claims that my standard equations yield "improper mathematical relationships" while his do not. I indicated to *P-W* Editor Harry Salyards the statistical confidence and confidence intervals used in analyzing the 1801-07 survey data as of July 1997. This information was implicit in my ability to state the apparent rarity ratings as published in my article of that month.

Is the survey an invalid sample, as Mr. Sholley stated? Saying in print that someone's survey was made with "improper sampling technique" is risky, if you don't know how the data was selected. In applying some common sense to this matter, let's look at some of those apparent rarity levels published in July. The survey information indicates that certain varieties are very scarce: S215, S234, S235, and S244 headed the list in that regard. The survey numbers indicate that these varieties are R3+ or higher, and I do believe that they are all quite scarce. That is all I claim for them. I do not believe that any critic would state, in print and where EAC experts can read it, that these four varieties are *not* scarce. On the other hand, I have made no precise claims about rarity numbers for them, because no such conclusions are justified at our present sample size.

Now let's look at some common varieties. In July, several varieties were listed as "R1-" in the survey, meaning "very common," namely S216, S224, S232, S258, S260, S267, S270, S273, and S276. The survey indicates quite firmly that these varieties are extremely common, and I can't believe that any critic would say in public that they are *not* common. Note that here, too, I have made no precise claims about the exact rarity relationships among these varieties, because such claims would not be justified at present.

The “in-between” rarities, especially those near the border of R1 and R2 and near the border of R2 and R3, are less well defined, but the apparent rarity listings as I gave them are the best that can be done right now with the information on hand. In spite of any imperfections, the 1801-07 survey data has been carefully selected as the best available “hard” information on the current rarity distribution of R1 to R4 die varieties. If other people have similar carefully-collected, well-organized, current rarity information available, I invite them to publish it. I would be glad to see it. If their data-collection criteria meet the standards of the 1801-07 project, I would welcome the chance to integrate their information into the survey, just as others are free to make similar use of our published survey data. This leads to another thought, just common sense:

The only reason people can criticize the Butternut Hoard as a large-cent sample is because the data is available. Steve Ellsworth published the information, and he did it for the good of the copper community. Have any of the critics ever made such a massive, detailed, public contribution to our field as Steve did with this report covering thousands of newly-attributed large cents?

Now a thought about the 1801-07 Survivorship Survey. 30 EAC members in 16 states have taken the trouble to send in data to the survey. They deserve a sincere “Thank you.” How about the survey’s critic? Has he gathered any information himself, and published it in support of his criticisms?

There are three common-sense points here:

1. There is not, never has been, and never will be any such thing as a perfect sample of large cents.
2. The fact that a sample is not perfect does not make it useless. It may be the best information you can get.
3. When people in an organization are making an effort, they deserve support.

Now back to business. In order to firm up the rarity rating estimates, does the 1801-07 Survivorship Survey need to be larger? Yes, of course. Would more good data give a firmer statistical foundation, both for estimating rarity ratings and for estimating the population size? Yes, of course. As I’ve said before, the survey is a *good start* so far. We need your help to make it bigger and better! I invite all readers to contribute data. What we need are attributions which *you* have made of 1801-07 cents which you have seen recently. You’ll see these unattributed cents at coin shows, flea markets, junk stores, general coin shops, and other places across the country. Just jot down the attributions you make, and send in a list of them from time to time. Good hunting to all, and *SEND ME A LIST!*

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

* * * * *

**A NEW S-15 ...
OR A NEW VARIETY ??**

John D Wright, NLG

In November of 1997 both Chris McCawley and Jim Long get a call from Cleveland, Ohio, announcing the discovery of a new example of Sheldon 15 (the rarest collectable 1793 Liberty Cap cent). Chris says "Send it for me to look at". Reply is "No". Chris recommends the caller show the coin to Dan Holmes -- a knowledgable local collector.

I then get a similar call. The caller identifies himself and says he has cherried what he thinks is a new S-15. Details reported to me are as follows ...

At the ANA spring show in Cleveland (eight months ago) the caller saw a low grade 1793 liberty cap cent marked "electrotype" and priced at \$100. After examining the edge lettering he was convinced that this was no electrotype, so he bought it. On checking the attribution at home he came up with Sheldon 15. He graded the coin VF but corroded.

I recommend that the caller contact Dan Holmes. I also recommend that he get pictures and this MUST be written up for Penny-Wise.

In the second week of November the caller meets with Dan, who agrees that the coin appears to be an S-15. The weight of 201 grains is within tolerance for a genuine piece. Jim Long receives a call "The coin has been confirmed as S-15", and Jim loans the caller his set of Noyes photos of S-15's.

Later I get another call: "The number of beads is wrong -- S-15 has 85 beads on the reverse and mine has 95. This has to be a new variety." I tell him that the coin wants to be certified as genuine -- send it to Colorado Springs. He refuses to let the coin out of his possession. I propose that he get with Dan again to have the coin photographed. I call Dan, who agrees "If the number of beads is different it can't be S-15".

Dan arranges to meet with the caller and Russ Logan (an advanced Bust Half collector who does good coin photography) on 24 January.

A few days after this call I get in the mail a pair of poor Xerox copies of a lifesize image of the piece. I later learn that Del Bland has received a similar pair of Xeroxes. To me the images are too poor to tell anything definitive, but I appreciate the effort taken to provide me with an image.

On 13 January (Tuesday) I get another call. "I called ANACS in Columbus, and they said that for an extra fee I could walk my coin through the slabbing process, but Columbus is a two-and-a-half hour drive each way." I reply "You don't care about a slabbing service's opinion of GRADE -- you need to have it verified as GENUINE. Register it off to Colorado Springs."

The next call says "The post office will only insure registered mail up to \$25,000 -- that's way too little." I look at my calendar -- this coming weekend is my only uncommitted one for the next several weeks. "OK, if you'll meet me in Toledo next Saturday (180 miles for me, 120 miles for you) I'll examine, press, and photograph your coin." His reply is "That's too far, how about Sandusky." I think "This will eat my whole weekend anyway", so I reply "Stay home, I'll knock on your front door around lunchtime on Saturday."

On 15 Jan (Thursday) the call comes, "Don't bother coming, I think it's a Gallery Mint piece. I checked the edge and I'm pretty sure I can see their logo."

But my curiosity is up, my weekend committed to this, and I reply "I'll be there with my camera on Saturday". I also advise him to not cancel his appointment with Dan and Russ on the 24th.

On Saturday, 17 January, Mabel Ann and I leave home at 6am. We pull into the caller's driveway in Cleveland a bit before noon. After introductions and social greetings we set up the camera, bring out my Gallery Mint 93 caps, and the new find makes its debut.

A careful examination confirms that this is indeed a Gallery Mint reproduction (ca 1995), originally stamped 'COPY' on the cap behind the head. The cap has been ground down, the edge hallmark ground off, and the coin has then been subjected to an acid bath and heavy encrustation. Part of P and most of Y are still visible on the cap, obscured by other similar-looking chopmarks. I remind the owner that this STILL wants writing up in Penny-Wise. He's not interested, replies "If you want to, you can."

The Gallery Mint has made and continues to make excellent reproductions of early US coin types, each clearly stamped 'COPY' as required by law. The die cutting and production methods are as they were at the US Mint in the 1790's. These are NOT fraudulent pieces. There is strong disagreement over whether to support or condemn the products of the Gallery Mint. I strongly support them and their producers. But the present piece is the strongest evidence yet of the potential dangers of fraudulent abuse of these copies.

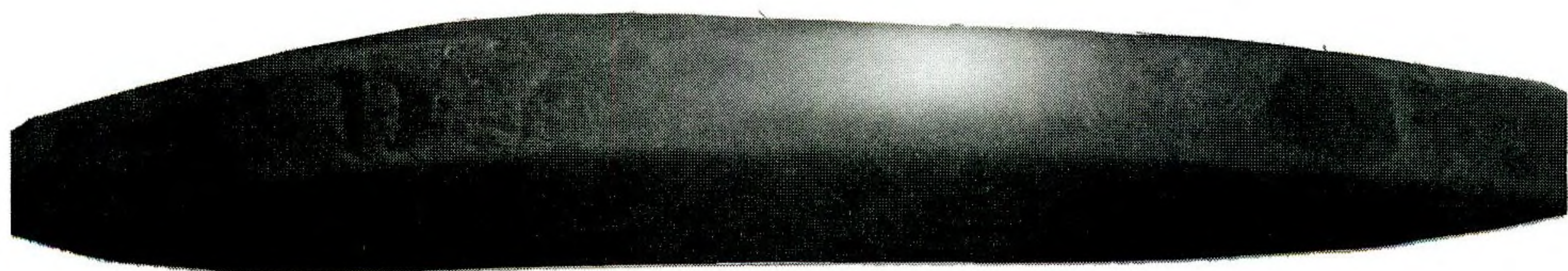
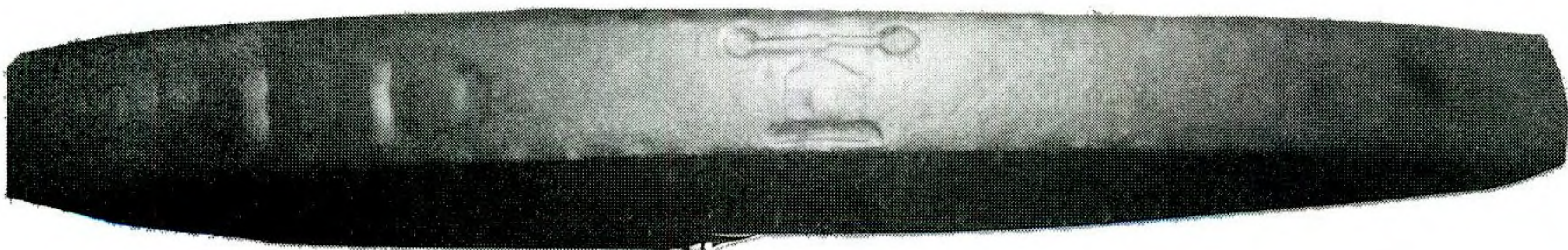
The 1793 Liberty Cap cents from the Gallery Mint come from at least three obverse and four reverse dies. One of the obverses (the first one) is "not good enough", in that the relief is too low and the head is a bit too crude. The last one is "too good", with a more artistic rendition than the original and a smaller head that looks more like a 1796 head than a 1793 head.

Two of the four reverses known to me are similar to Sheldon's reverse 'K' (S-12,15), and the other two known to me are similar to reverse 'L' (S-13,14,16,NC6). The numbers of leaves and berries and their arrangement differ on all four dies.

Edge lettering on the GM pieces is not as deeply cut as the originals, and a tiny screwpress logo appears between HUNDRED and FOR. The word 'COPY' is deeply incused in a consistent location on either the obverse or reverse of all GM large cent copies: Chain -- under the head or at 10:00 outside the chain; Wreath -- right of the throat or across the top of the wreath; Cap -- across the cap or across the top of the wreath. Any coin with significant damage or loss of detail in these areas is suspect and should be compared against not only the known original dies, but against the Gallery Mint dies as well.

After arriving home I call Mark Borckardt and Del Bland with an update on the "new 1793 variety" to insure that the Breen/Borckardt book -- nearing publication -- contains no known misinformation. At my report Mark removes the new-variety description made by Del from the Xerox image he had received: "Unique, VF25 by wear but net VG7 due to corrosion, not seen". Del obviously has much sharper eyes and a much less suspicious mind than mine.

Postscript: The Holmes/Logan photo.appointment did not happen. Dan Holmes offered to buy the piece at the original "cherrypick price", but was later told that the dealer had refunded the price and returned it to stock. This piece and others like it are STILL OUT THERE! BEWARE!





EYE ON THE SPIKED CHIN PART II

Leonard Wingo

I ended Part I of this series with the promise to show you HOW and WHY the Spiked Chin damage occurs and if my idea is correct that it was caused by a right handed individual.

Just like many of you I believed the Spiked Chin obverse was caused by a disgruntled mint employee who sabotaged the die on his way through the door with his last pay check.

This idea still works if the tongue, spiked chin and stretch marks were the only damage to the dies, but it's not.

Let's review the emission sequence and the die states for the C-3 and C-4 from Part I and see where I believe the problem began.

C-3 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.*

C-4
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.

C-3 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 !).*

I believe the Spiked Chin Damage may be the by-product of the successful attempt to eliminate the reverse weak strike. Although mint workers were not known for their quality control measures during this chapter in the history of the mint, it would appear that some attempt was made to improve the strike.

The problem *APPEARS* to be with the anvil die because the Wingo C-3 exhibits the weakness in the fraction area at production time but when the obverse is traded for the C-4 the weakness seems to disappear. The weakness re-appears when the Weber C-3 is minted.

My suggested problem allows for a 1° or 2° variance, or just enough for a weak strike, so it may have gone unnoticed, But, it's time to change out the obverse die again anyway, because a crack has developed near the date on the C-4.

The C-3 obverse is re-installed in this larger press. I picture this procedure much similar to putting a small Christmas tree in a very large stand that has three bolts to center and support the tree, and if it's not centered just right the tree tilts or leans. Well, picture this die doing the same thing. Minting begins and the Weber coin is produced. The reverse now has advanced circumferential cracks and a partial bisecting crack that will continue. *The weakness around the fraction returns.*

Our conscientious employee recognizes the continuing problem from the coins he strikes and decides to take matters into his own hands. He has already passed the information on to his supervisor who failed to act, and wanting to correct the problem he acts quickly, and grabs an appliance, or tool, that will loosen the obverse die in the press so it can be re-positioned, but not removed, and eliminate the weak strike.

This tool is a very common appliance to the mint worker of the day, it of course, is a file or perhaps a ferrier's rasp, something handy to each employee as he rotated through the mint, moving from job to job, learning different responsibilities.

We have all heard of coins with, "die file marks", so why not ?

I asked myself the same question and to reach a satisfactory answer I had to actually measure the distance between tongue and spiked chin and then compare that measurement to the distance between rows of tines on a file.

I used a Venier Caliper to accomplish this and obtained a .040" measurement between tongue and spiked chin.



Next I tried to measure the distance between stretch marks at the rim but was unable to get an accurate measurement.

I think this happens for one or a combination of the following reasons because the hammer die has more latitude for adjustment; 1) Are the dies aligned in vertical?, 2) Is the face of the die cut at 90° to the shaft?, 3) Is the face of the die cut on a convex surface line which might allow it to teeter totter in a larger press? These items might be suspect in an attempt to correct a weak strike.

We know that by 1802 the mint has five presses of different sizes in operation and I feel that the dies used for all four Spiked Chin varieties were used in a larger press. The additional weight and pressure exerted could explain why the reverse of the C-5 failed from extensive cracks and both the C-6 and C-7 failed from the massive cuds we know, and then finally the obverse itself succumbs to excessive pressure during production of the C-8 with the cud through L I B E.

Just about all the failures we see on these four varieties have explanations but the true explanation for the Spiked Chin remains a mystery, because it was human error and not the result of equipment or materials failure.

My Spiked Chin theory will evolve from the weak strike on the C-3, to the cause of the damage, to the clashing of the dies. So let me present my case and I'll let you , the jury, decide.

The obverse to reverse orientation of the Weber C-3 and all C-5's remains at 144° before and after the damage (see Part I) so we know neither die was removed from the press.

This reverse shows a weak strike from about K4 to K8 affecting the bow, knot, fraction and letters at each end of the legend. *This weakness is common to all 4 known examples of the C-3.*

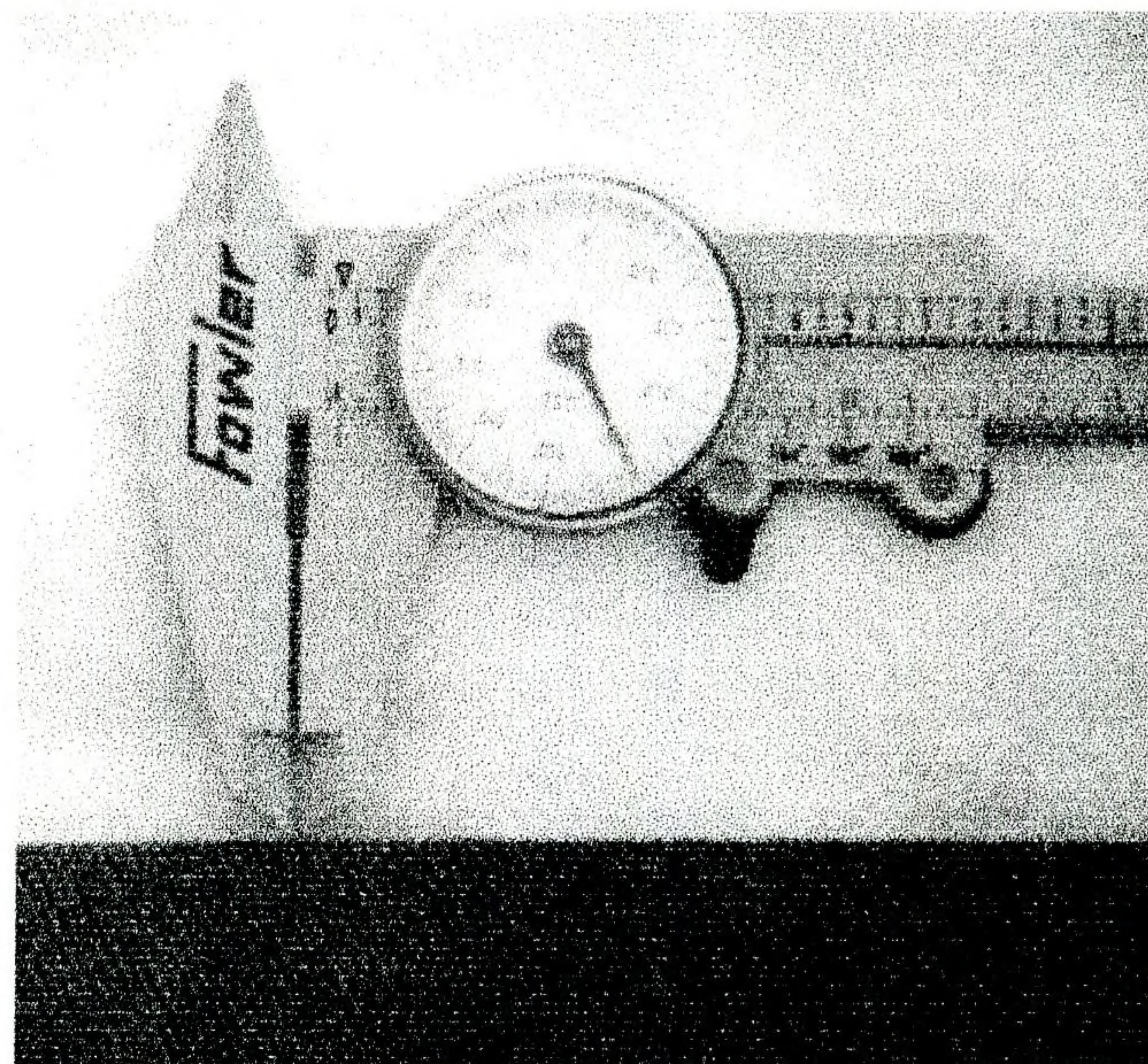
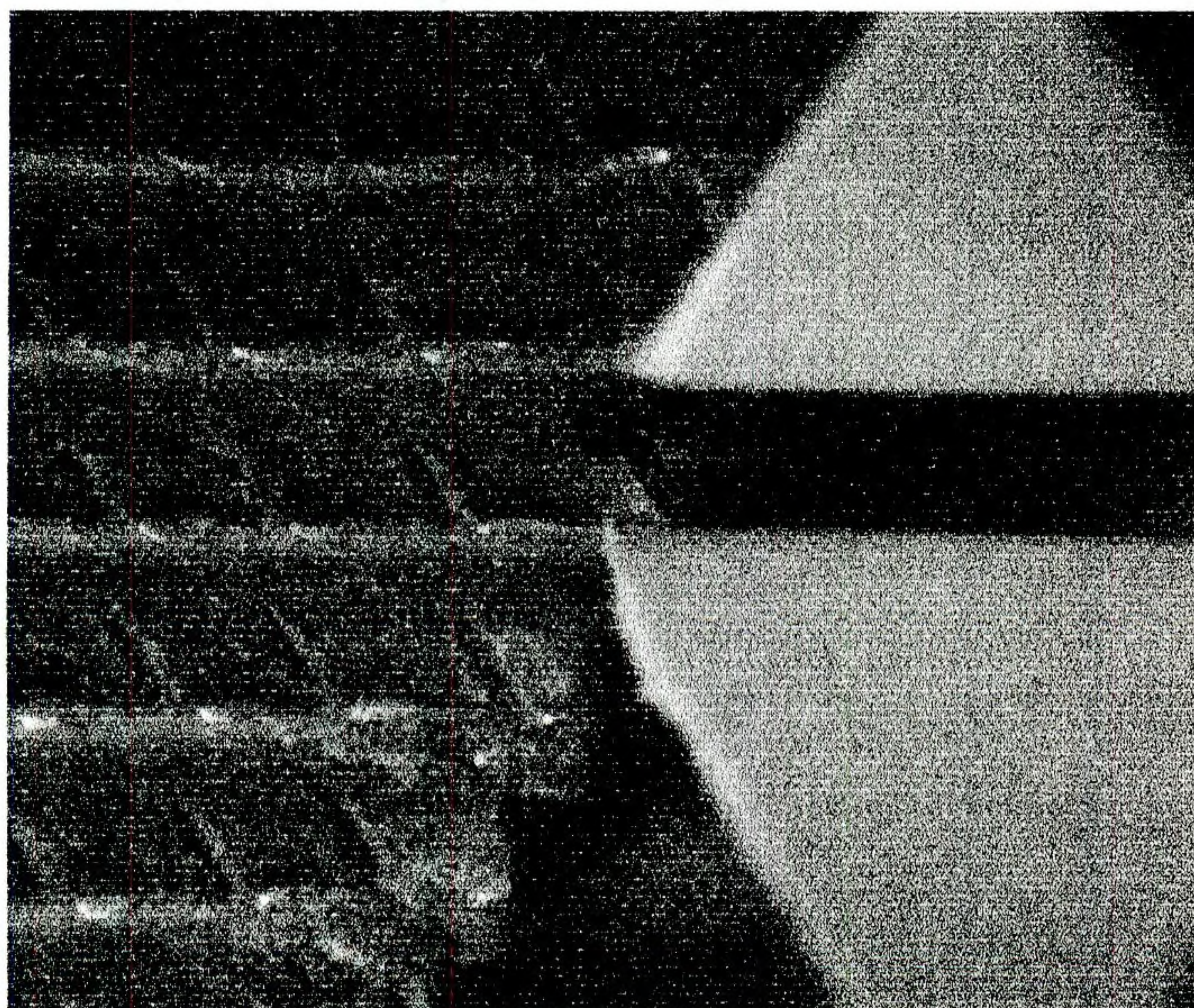
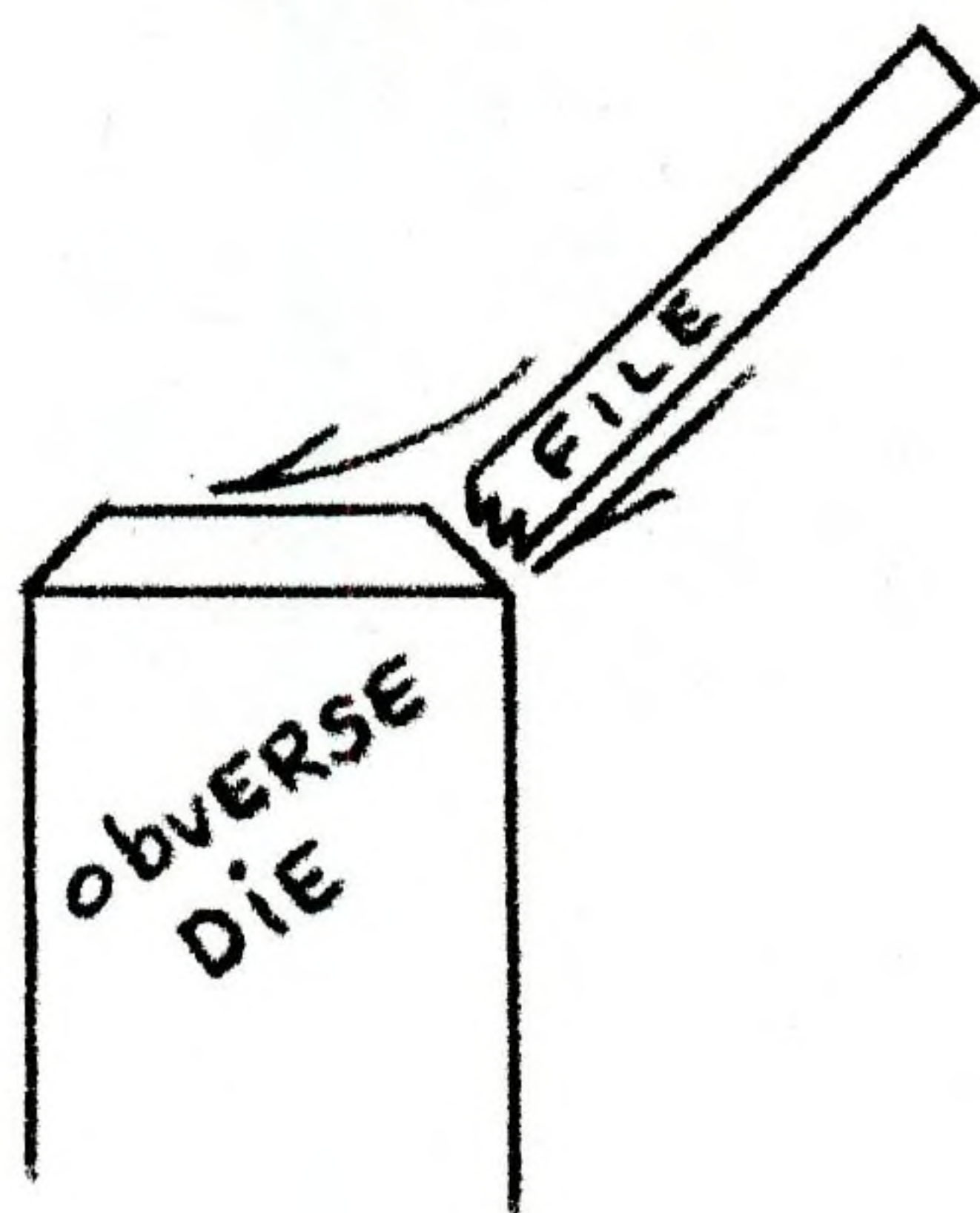
I believe a short run of C-3's producing the Wingo coin was made when mint workers noticed the weak strike. They removed the obverse, to inspect it, and installed the obverse of the C-4. They completed minting the entire population of C-4's, while whoever conducted his inspection. The inspection provided no new solution.





This photo shows that the edge of the die was repeatedly struck from the right side causing multiple overlapping injuries that prohibit accurate measuring. The damage begins at the edge as a shallow slice, moves left, and terminates as a gouge.

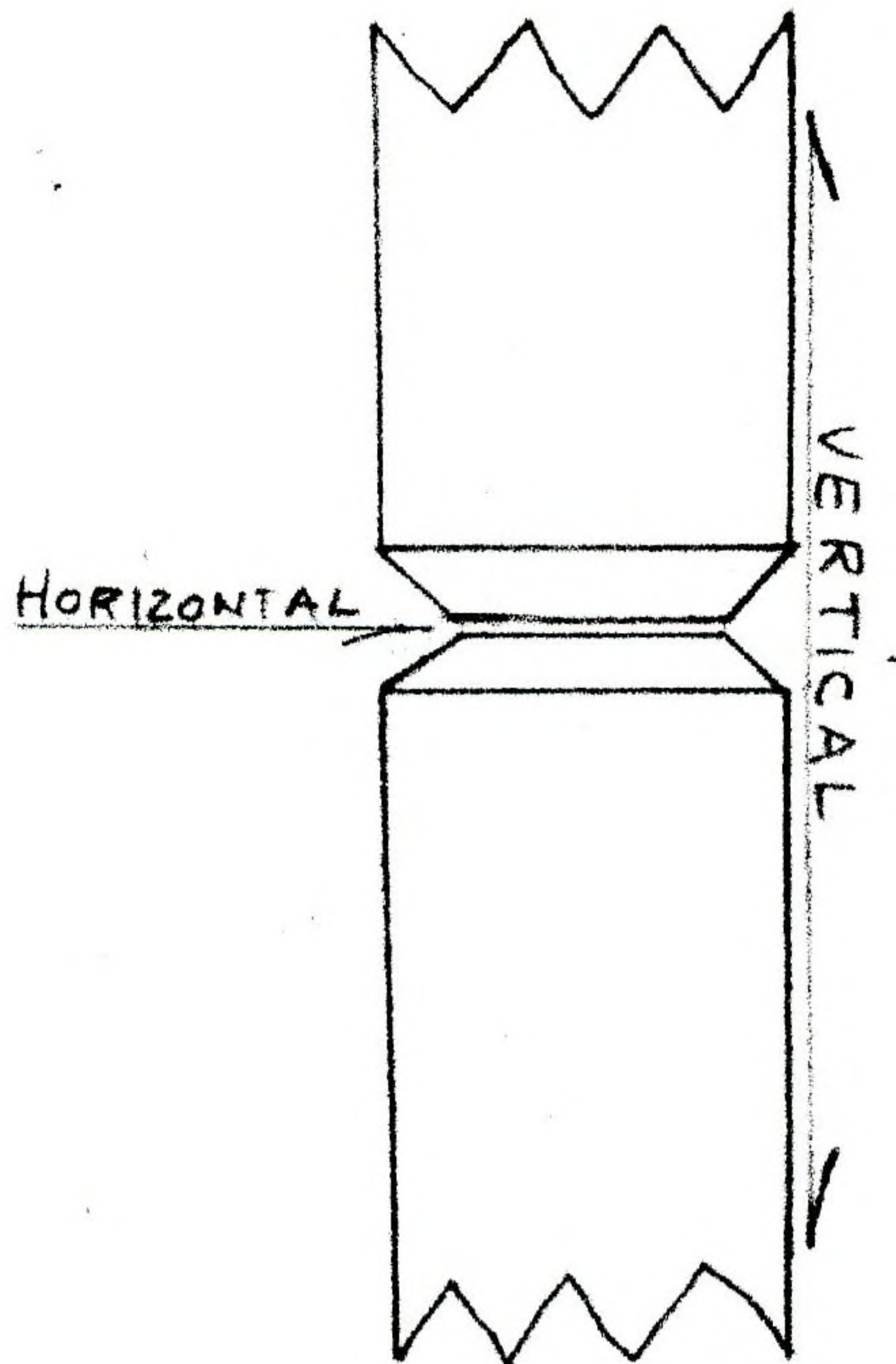
At sometime during this “file whipping” the file slides across the field into the neck of Ms. Liberty on at least two separate occasions. But, here again overlapping damage prohibits accurate measurements.



I then measured the distance between rows of tines on a file and obtained the identical measurement of .040”.

Is this a coincidence ?

Is there another tool that can produce similar measurements and be as readily available to the mint worker ?



The obverse die is still slightly loose in the press from being re-positioned. Now, before any additional coins are struck, the dies are clashed together with "malice aforethought". This not only brings the dies into vertical and horizontal alignment but leaves an obverse picture in the reverse die.

This photo shows us where the date is hidden in the legend. Just to the left, under A1, is the bottom of the bust and hair curl of Ms. LIBERTY.



This drawing represents a fully clashed reverse of a C-5. I have found virtually everything you see here except the word LIBERTY and I can't find even a single letter.

Many of these clash marks will deceive you into believing they are part of the numerous reverse cracks, especially under A1. Part III will show all the cracks that we know with clash marks and you'll see what I mean.



The press is back in full service and the first example of a Spiked Chin variety is now in circulation.



We still have a weak strike but it now appears 180° from it's original location.

Actually it's not a weak strike at all, in fact, the weakness in the fraction area has been eliminated.

Now we're looking at "die collapse". This creates a bulge in the coins and this bulge is responsible for the lack of clarity which becomes characteristic to the C-5. We also have...

D.S. III. NOW WITH SPIKED CHIN. Reverse now heavily clashed and shows date and much of the bust of LIBERTY. The die sinks creating a bulge which affects "...TES OF A...". Bisecting crack travels up through "L" and terminates in field above "A".



RIGHT HAND vs. LEFT HAND

When we use higher magnification to view the damaged area we can see how the causal agent starts at the right side and travels left. At the end of the tongue and spiked chin we see a slight ridge, which is to the left of the point of impact and indicates the direction of travel of the file. The rim also appears to be a point of impact where the stretch marks begin and slide across the field into the neck of Ms. Liberty.

This "Flick of the wrist" is a natural movement for either a right or left handed person and the arc shown by the stretch marks would also be the same for either, but, the direction of travel would be different and decided by the point of impact.

A left handed person could inflict the same damage with the same tool by reaching across his body and using a back stroke to tap the die, but this would be 1st, unnatural and 2nd, awkward.

If we turn the obverse die 180° to convenience a south paw the arc is upside down and inconsistent with the damage we know.



Now, in conclusion, I think the photos speak for themselves, each contributing information to help complete our Spiked Chin puzzle. My interpretation of these pictures is pure speculation, of course. I know this is a horse pill to try and swallow, but consider that we have two varieties of half cents, the C-4 and C-5, that share the same reverse. Both varieties have a combined population of around 500 coins when this reverse fails. We can see that the damage happens all too quickly.

BUT WAIT! Is the damage really complete ?

NO! Both obverse and reverse suffer still more trauma...so stayed tuned for Part III with my C-5 die states.

A special thanks to Rick Coleman who provided me a Spike in MS 60 to photograph. His coin is shown above. Many thanks Rick!

The other photographed coins in this article belong to the author.

NEW JERSEY COPPERS, PART 36: MARIS 7E

Just the very mention of "7E" to a NJ Copper Collector will cause a sudden rise in heart rate, a glassy look in the eyes, and, in some cases, uncontrollable salivation! Dr. Maris thought the Parmelee coin to be unique.

For those new to NJ coppers, obverse 7 is one of two known obverses where the date is placed under the plow beam. NJ coppers have often been compared to the large cent series, and the "date under plow beam" being compared to the "strawberry leaf cent" with respect to rarity and desirability. In addition to the placement of the date, this coin also qualifies as one of the "coultless" varieties.

In 1955, Walter Breen noticed that the date numerals were engraved into the die, rather than being punched.

The three most distinguishing differences between obverse 7 and obverse 8 (the second date under plow beam) are: (1) Maris 8 has a stop after the final A, Maris 7 does not, (2) Maris 7 has more of a shaggy hairstyle than Maris 8, (3) Maris 7 has the numerals in the date gradually sloping down and to the right, while Maris 8 has the numerals making a slight arc with respect to horizontal.

Maris 7 is also known paired with reverse "C", a unique die pairing which was discovered by Jim Ruddy (of Bowers and Ruddy fame) and now resides in the Anton Reference Collection.

Reverse E has a shield with six pales of five lines in each. The legend (*E*PLURIBUS*UNUM*) almost completely encircles the shield. The first and last stars almost touch the shield. There are no sprigs below the shield.

Listed below are the 7E's listed in catalogs where I do not know the present owner or location. If you own one of these coins, know someone who does or if you know of an unlisted coin, please let me know.

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

Tom Elder	2/17	L618	FAIR
Tom Elder	5/37	L1889	POOR

The First NJ Copper Symposium assigned the Maris 7E a rarity of 7. Even if one of the two Tom Elder coins above don't turn out to be the Spiro coin, Maris 7E is still firmly in the R7 range.

Condition Census for Maris 7E, R7:

1	XF	Bill Anton; Stack's, Picker 10/84, L181; Garrett Collection, privately; Newcomer; Goodenough; Parmelee, privately; Maris Plate
2	XF	Noted Western Collector; FCC Boyd; Ryder; Gilbert Lewis Collection, Chapman, 6/8/16
3	VF30	Groves Collection; B&M, Norweb, 10/87, L1308; Empire Coin Company, 8/1/58; James Ruddy
4	VF25	California Collector #4
5	VG	Anonymous Collector; PT Quigley; Bill Anton; Stack's, 9/87, L33; Schulman, Spiro, 3/55, L1435
6	Fair	Tom Elder, 2/17, L618
7	Poor	Tom Elder, 5/37, L1889

Any Comments or suggestions may be sent to:

Ray Williams
924 Norway Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08629
(609) 587-5929

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A SURVEY OF HALF CENT WEIGHTS BY DATE AND PLANCHET TYPE

Ron Manley

In EAC Region 8 Newsletter #73 (January 11th), Bruce Hickmott noted an intriguing finding. He had weighed his VF 1802 C-2 half cent (no corrosion) and it had weighed only "77 grains as opposed to the expected 83 grains". Bruce observed that "if anything 1802 half cents should be heavier than standard since most were struck on cut down TAL tokens, spoiled large cents, etc. But nowhere do I find any real data". The realization that there is indeed a lack of "real data" addressing the actual average weights of half cents from individual dates and/or planchet types inspired me to research this article.

There is, regrettably, a paucity of literature sources (i.e. auction catalogues) that have provided weights for meaningful numbers of half cents or, for that matter, coins of other denominations. However, there are a few (see Sources). I used these sources to calculate the data given in the Table below. In the Table, S.D. refers to the standard deviation and N is the number of specimens sampled.

Table. Half Cent Weights by Date and Planchet Type

Part I. Half Cents at the Standard Weight of 104 Grains.

<u>Date (Planchet Type)</u>	<u>Average Weight ±S.D. (N)</u>	<u>High Weight</u>	<u>Low Weight</u>
1793	101.7 ± 4.5 grains (17)	111.2 grains	95.1 grains
1794 (LEL)	102.7 ± 5.3 grains (11)	112.2 grains	95.4 grains
1794 (SEL)	99.4 ± 4.7 grains (24)	107.7 grains	90.0 grains
1794 (SEL*)	103.2 ± 5.0 grains (18)	111.3 grains	92.7 grains
1795 (Lettered Edge)	106.2 ± 5.9 grains (14)	118.8 grains	99.2 grains

LEL refers to varieties with Large Edge Lettered planchets: 1794 C-1a, C-2b, C-3b, C-4b, C-5b, and C-6b. SEL refers to varieties with Small Edge Lettered planchets: 1794 C-1b, C-2a, C-3a, C-4a (early die state), C-5a, C-6a. SEL* refers to varieties on Small Edge Letters planchets, with an imperfect E in HUNDRED: 1794 C-4a (late die state), C-7, C-8, C-9. 1795 (Lettered Edge) refers to 1795 C-1 and C-2a.

Part II. Half Cents at the Standard Weight of 84 Grains.

<u>Date (Planchet Type)</u>	<u>Average Weight ±S.D. (N)</u>	<u>High Weight</u>	<u>Low Weight</u>
1795 (PE, R-stock)	78.6 ± 4.6 grains (17)	88.3 grains	71.0 grains
1795 (PE, S-stock)	111.0 ± 4.9 grains (8)	117.6 grains	103.1 grains
1795 (PE, T-stock)	84.5 ± 5.4 grains (11)	92.8 grains	76.1 grains
1796 (R-stock)	77.9 ± 3.4 grains (5)	82.1 grains	73.8 grains
1797 (no visible undertype: R-stock?)	87.9 ± 4.2 grains (15)	94.1 grains	81.9 grains

Table (Part II) continued.

<u>Date (Planchet Type)</u>	<u>Average Weight ±S.D. (N)</u>	<u>High Weight</u>	<u>Low Weight</u>
1797 (T-stock)	86.4 ± 5.7 grains (9)	94.6 grains	81.6 grains
1797 (S-stock)	81.4 ± 6.3 grains (22)	98.0 grains	73.5 grains
1800 (early die state: S-stock?)	81.1 ± 5.3 grains (7)	87.6 grains	73.4 grains
1800 (late die state)	83.4 ± 1.5 grains (7)	85.1 grains	80.6 grains
1802 (S-stock)	77.1 ± 2.8 grains (9)	81.3 grains	71.5 grains
1803	84.7 ± 2.3 grains (31)	89.2 grains	80.0 grains
1804	83.8 ± 2.6 grain (153)	91.5 grains	77.4 grains
1805	83.8 ± 2.2 grains (21)	86.7 grains	79.0 grains
1806	83.2 ± 2.6 grains (22)	86.8 grains	78.1 grains
1807	83.1 ± 1.9 grains (8)	85.2 grains	80.1 grains
1808	81.4 ± 3.0 grains (20)	86.6 grains	76.5 grains
1809	83.2 ± 1.8 grains (40)	87.5 grains	79.8 grains
1810	81.0 ± 4.0 grains (5)	84.5 grains	76.0 grains
1811	83.0 ± 1.3 grains (12)	84.5 grains	80.4 grains
1825-1829	83.3 ± 1.3 grains (17)	86.9 grains	81.7 grains
1831-1835	83.5 ± 1.4 grains (22)	86.3 grains	80.7 grains
1849-1857	83.7 ± 1.9 grains (17)	86.3 grains	80.5 grains

 PE indicates Plain Edge planchets.

R-stock refers to rolled copper planchet stock. For 1795, this includes varieties 1795 C-2b, C-3, C-4, and C-5a. For 1796, this includes both varieties. For 1797, this includes specimens with no visible undertype of both 1797 C-1 and C-2.

S-stock refers to "spoiled cents" stock, from cut-down misstruck cents. For 1795, this includes varieties 1795 C-5b and C-6b. For 1797, this includes specimens of 1797 C-2 with visible cent undertype, and varieties 1797 C-3a, C-3b, and C-3c. Breen wrote that early die state specimens of 1800 C-1 (his variety 1800 B-1a) were on S-stock. Both varieties of 1802 were described by Cohen and Breen to be on S-stock.

T-stock refers to "token stock", from cut-down Talbot, Allum, & Lee (T.A.L.) tokens. For 1795, this includes only 1795 C-6a. For 1797, this includes specimens of both 1797 C-1 and C-2 showing visible T.A.L. undertype.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Early lettered edge half cents, dated 1793-1795, were minted at the standard weight of 104 grains. Although individual weights were rather variable (with specimens reported considerably above and below this standard) the average weights were found to be reasonably close to the standard weight.

Plain edge 1795 half cents were minted at the new standard weight of 84 grains. The somewhat lower than expected average weight of specimens on R-stock is probably best explained by the fact that most of the coins included in this grouping were well-worn.

Breen calculated that half cent specimens minted on cut-down cents should be much heavier than the new standard weight of 84 grains, weighing either 105 grains or 119 grains (depending on the resulting planchet diameter) (half cent Encyclopedia, p.138). The range of 103 - 118 grains I surveyed for 1795 specimens on S-stock matched Breen's calculations well. Breen had reported a range of 100.5 - 124 grains (half cent Encyclopedia, p.140).

Breen reported a weight range of 97 - 100 grains for 1795 half cents on T-stock, which he described as from cut-down, but not rolled out T.A.L. tokens (half cent Encyclopedia, p.141). The weight range of 76 - 93 grains I found for 1795 half cents with visible T.A.L. undertype was considerably less than that reported by Breen. *The most apparent explanation seems that Breen erred and the T.A.L. tokens used for 1795 half cent coinage were rolled out.*

The weight range I found reported for 1797 specimens on T-stock (82 - 95 grains) was very similar to that noted above by me for 1795 specimens on T-stock. This is not surprising unless one considers the fact that Breen wrote that 1797-dated half cents on T-stock were minted on T.A.L. tokens "similarly treated" to those 1797 specimens on S-stock: *In other words, rolled and cut-down* (half cent Encyclopedia, p.141). *The similarity in weights between 1797 specimens showing no visible undertype (presumably, on R-stock) and 1797 specimens showing T.A.L. undertype (T-stock) leads me to the conclusion that most of the 1797 specimens showing no undertype were also minted on T-stock.*

Individual weights of 1797 half cent specimens showing visible cent undertype (S-stock) were very variable, although the average weight was near standard. Unlike the 1795 half cents on S-stock, the lower weights I found reported for 1797 specimens on S-stock indicate that the spoiled cents were rolled out—a conclusion reached earlier by Breen (half cent Encyclopedia, p.171).

Breen wrote that 1800 half cents were "light weight", with planchets averaging 82.5 grains (half cent Encyclopedia, p.201 and p.211). Again, my results do not support Breen's writings. Most surviving 1800 half cent specimens are from late die states (LDS). I found the average weight of the LDS 1800 half cents in my small survey to be 83.4 grains—which was about as close to the 84 grains standard weight as any date that followed. I did find, however, that the weights of the LDS specimens (all from Breen States IV or V) to be, in Breen's words, "remarkably uniform" (half cent Encyclopedia, p.196).

Extremely rare 1800 half cent specimens are known with visible cent undertype (S-stock). To date, these are all early die state (EDS) specimens from Breen States I and II. Breen argued that all EDS 1800 specimens were minted on S-stock and that LDS specimens were minted exclusively on planchets from Boulton & Watt's Soho Mint (half cent Encyclopedia, pp.198-201). My data neither proves nor disproves this.

The 1802 half cent weights were a big surprise to me. I found that surviving 1802 half cents averaged only 77 grains, about 8% lighter than the standard weight of 84 grains. The heaviest specimen surveyed was still below standard, weighing only 81.3 grains! Two recent reports not included in my analysis were from Region 8's Newsletter #74 (January 18th): Gabriel Schaff reported that his VG 1802 C-2 weighed 72 grains and Rick Coleman "weighed in" with a VF25 1802 C-2 at 81.2 grains.

Breen wrote that all 1802 half cents were minted on cut-down spoiled cents of 1801 and 1802 (half cent Encyclopedia, p.204). There is no evidence (to my knowledge) that cut-down T.A.L. tokens were used, as suggested by Bruce Hickmott. I have found no reference in Breen's Encyclopedia alluding to rolling out the spoiled cents. However, all 1802 half cents are on thin planchets to my knowledge. *If cut-down spoiled cents were the major planchet source for 1802 half cents, these must have been rolled out.*

Breen wrote that two large Boulton planchet shipments in 1803 lasted until June, 1805 (half cent Encyclopedia, p.211). According to Breen, the planchets from both of these shipments averaged 86 grains. My survey of 1803 half cent weights did find that surviving 1803 half cents were heavy, averaging 84.7 grains. Some individual 1804 and 1805 varieties also averaged about 85 grains, but I found no correlation with any reported emission sequence.

After 1803, average surviving half cent weights were quite consistent, just slightly below 84 grains, the standard weight. The narrow range of weights found indicates the planchets' uniformity. Even so, for each date that followed, heavier-than-standard specimens were reported. The largest body of data was for 1804 half cents, which averaged 83.8 grains—almost exactly the standard weight.

According to Breen, most half cents in the years that followed were minted on Boulton & Watt's planchets. However, the late date half cents of 1849-1857 are believed to have employed domestic planchets supplied by Crocker Brothers & Co. of Taunton, Massachusetts (half cent Encyclopedia, p.274).

SOURCES

- (1) Lester Merkin (3/67):126.
- (2) The Norweb sale, Part I, Auctions by Bowers & Merena (10/87).
- (3) Stack's Auction '89:1509 (7/89).
- (4) The Roger S. Cohen Jr. collection, Superior (2/92).
- (5) The Wally Gilligan collection, Auctions by Bowers & Merena (5/94).
- (6) The Louis E. Eliasberg collection, Auctions by Bowers & Merena (5/96).
- (7) The Joe Dooley collection, McCawley & Grellman Auctions (1/97).
- (8) Breen's Encyclopedia of Half Cents 1793-1857 (1983).

WHY 1804 C-3'S MINTAGE WAS UNBROKEN BY 1804 C-4

Ron Manley

Leonard Wingo's lead article in the January P-W was an enjoyable read, giving new die state information about that half cent "quasi-variety" of many appellations, namely 1804 C-3—the "spikeless chin" 1804 C-5. I look forward to reading Len's explanation for the creation of the "Spiked Chin" in Part II of his series. With that said, I believe that Len unnecessarily and erroneously invoked 1804 C-4 as an intermediate in his "Changing of the Dies" idea to explain his 1804 C-3 Die States I and II.

Len concluded in his article that his early die state (EDS) 1804 C-3 specimen (representing Wingo D.S. I) was minted earlier than the latest known 1804 C-4 specimens. Below I list five observations (with comments) which I feel offer a better explanation of the facts.

OBSERVATIONS

(1) Strike Weakness due to Misaligned Dies. The die faces were apparently out of parallel alignment for 1804 C-3. This resulted in LI being weakly struck on the obverse (as seen on the 1804 C-3 "discovery" specimen, plated on page 232 of Breen's half cent Encyclopedia). The corresponding reverse weakness is found in the area near the fraction. This reverse weakness was noted by Len, both for his specimen and for the Weber 1804 C-3 specimen. Referring to the 1804 C-3 "discovery" specimen (illustrated below) and to the Missouri cabinet specimen, Breen observed that *"the two survivors are too weakly struck at the fraction to tell if the other cracks of Reverse B have begun"* (italics mine). I believe that Breen's observation applies to the EDS Wingo specimen as well.

(2) Normal Wear due to Circulation. According to Breen, the reverse of late die state (LDS) 1804 C-4 specimens is cracked only through D STATES OF A (half cent Encyclopedia, p.228). Several high grade LDS 1804 C-4 specimens are now known that establish that the LDS crack is continuous through the bases of UNITED STATES OF AMER, as illustrated by Len for the Weber C-4 coin. The reason why Breen did not describe the entire crack as now recognized to exist is apparent: much of it is quite faint! Most 1804 C-4 specimens (and all four known 1804 C-3 specimens) are well-worn, due to normal circulation. *Faint cracks (known to exist on the die from the study of high grade specimens) are usually the first features to disappear from view on highly-circulated coins.*



The "discovery" specimen of 1804 C-3 as seen from the Breen Plate coin.

The extent of the cracks visible on the Breen plate of the 1804 C-3 “discovery” specimen might suggest that it is intermediate between Wingo D.S. I and II. However, this is (in my opinion) an illusion created by normal wear and misaligned dies. In fact, I believe the “discovery” specimen is plainly Wingo D.S. I.

(3) The Die Chip at the Base of the C in AMERICA. On the illustration of the 1804 C-3 D.S. I coin, Len shows a crucial bit of evidence supporting my conclusion that his coin was minted after the last of the 1804 C-4’s. *The presence of the die chip at the base of C in AMERICA indicates the “bisecting crack” was beginning.* I suspect (but have no evidence) that the crack from the rim to the C had already occurred on the die itself. Len’s illustrations of two high-grade LDS 1804 C-4 specimens do not show this die chip. *The die chip is absent on all 1804 C-4 specimens known to me.*

(4) Evidence for a Reground Reverse Die. Bill Weber contributed the following information to me last year. On Bill’s LDS 1804 C-4 specimen, the berry below D S is attached to a stem, the leaf below C in CENT is complete, and crack-like defects are present above OF. Both his 1804 C-3 specimen and his EDS “spiked chin” 1804 C-5 coin (with a partial reverse “bisecting crack”) show that the berry below D S is stemless, the leaf below C in CENT is topless, and the crack-like defects above OF missing.

Breen’s plate coin of the EDS 1804 C-3 “discovery” specimen also shows the 1804 C-3 features noted above by Bill Weber. Len’s article didn’t address whether or not his EDS 1804 C-3 coin shared these same features as Bill’s LDS 1804 C-3 coin, but Len illustrated both his 1804 C-3 and the Weber coin with a stemless berry below D S. Len also illustrated the 1804 C-4 coins with this berry stemless, but I believe this was merely an oversight. Bill’s observations indicate clearly that *before the 1804 C-3 mintage (but after the 1804 C-4 mintage), the reverse die was reground.*

(5) The Reverse Rotation. Len noted a 12° difference in reverse rotation between EDS and LDS 1804 C-3 specimens (156° vs. 144°). As far as reverse rotations go, this difference is *minor*, and most likely was caused by a die slightly loose in its stake, possibly exacerbated by the misaligned dies. Many half cent varieties are known in which more-or-less free rotation occurred between die states (e.g. 1806 C-4 and 1808 C-3).

SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

There is no need to invoke a “Changing of the Dies” idea to explain the known 1804 C-3 specimens’ die states. Reverse details seen on high grade LDS 1804 C-4 specimens are absent on 1804 C-3 coins primarily due to (1) strike weakness in the fraction area due to non-parallel die faces, (2) normal, but high levels of wear from circulation, and (3) regrinding of the reverse die after the 1804 C-4 mintage. The die chip at the base of C in AMERICA (absent on LDS 1804 C-4 specimens, but seen on the EDS 1804 C-3 coin) establishes both where the “bisecting” reverse crack began and when.

PROOFARAMA '98

Rick Coleman

About three years ago, I began to do some research on proof half cents. My main objective at the time was, to determine the number of Second Restrikes that actually existed. In particular, I wanted to know how many 1831 and 1836 Second Restrikes there were so that I could decide whether to purchase the coins being offered from the Naftzger collection. Since then, I have identified approximately 1050 proof half cents.

I have had a great deal of assistance from Del Bland, Doc Lee, Jim Braswell, Jim McGuigan, R. Tettenhorst and others as I pursued my studies. About a year ago, Jim McGuigan and I were musing about the prospects of sitting down with Tett and looking at all of our proofs. The many questions which had arisen during the course of my work could only be answered by "hands on" examination and with side-by-side comparison. Miraculously, Tett suggested to Jim that we arrange such a meeting. So we did.

The "Henry the VIIIth" coin show the weekend of February 6 - 7 provided enough of an excuse for Jim and I to make our way to St. Louis. Jim and I arrived Wednesday and checked into the palatial airport Hampton Inn. In addition to his normal inventory, Jim had 45 proof half cents with him. To describe his demeanor as "edgy" would have been the understatement of the century. He looked like a guy who was carrying plutonium in his briefcase. I felt rather relaxed since I had only fifteen proofs on my person. We got to the motel around 3:00 pm. At 1:00 am, I think that I fell asleep. In the mean time, I examined what can only be described as one of the finest collections of proof half cents on the planet.

Then we woke up. I went for coffee. Anyone who has roomed with me knows that I get up before the chickens and go get coffee. Jim doesn't drink coffee or any other liquid that I can tolerate, so when he asked me to babysit the coins while he went for breakfast, I said something like "no problem". I probably didn't even look up. It was at least 6:30 am by that time and I had already been busy looking at his coins for a half an hour.

By 9:15 we were at Tett's house. We were all glad to see each other, but there were coins to look at! Tett took charge immediately. He started by showing us his 188 C-1, ex. Col. E. H. R. Green, MS-65?+, choice+, P/L, red and brown with bluish highlights. A proof? I have no idea.

Jim had requested, unbeknownst to me, that Tett bring an 1811 business strike to compare to his "proof" C-1. Tett was somewhat apologetic that he had no suitable 1811 C-1 for comparison to the Col. Green 1811 C-1. He offered, instead, his 1811 C-2, ex. Bareford, choice medium tan / light brown, AU-55, choice, as a substitute. It was nice.

I would estimate that we started at 9:45 and finished at 4:10 pm. We looked at more than 150 proof half cents. We took at least 20 minutes for lunch. I saw more proof half cents during those six hours and 25 minutes than most humans on this planet will ever even hear about.

We made some discoveries. First, the Breen color plate coin for the 1831 First Restrike is a new die state. It has an additional crack which Jim and I noticed on the photo in Breen. More later.

Second, there are only five 1831 Second Restrikes. Tett had his copies of the Brobston plates. We were able to identify the 1831 Second Restrike that Jim currently has in inventory as the Boyd / Brobston / Miles coin. This reduced the known total from six to five.

We looked at four of the five known 1831 Second Restrikes. We looked at four of the six known 1836 Second Restrikes. We looked at two, three, four or five of all the proof-only issues, Originals, First Restrikes and Second Restrikes except for one. We saw two of the three [or four] 1852 Originals. We saw two 1832 proofs, an 1851 proof, two 1854 proofs and an 1857 proof with the lump on the first A in AMERICA. We had a hell of a time!

To summarize, we looked at approximately 15% of the total proof half cent population known at this time. Many questions remain to be answered. There was no consensus regarding the pre-1831 proofs. The Large Berry Restrikes were the subject of some new revelations. In general, there was a downward revision in the estimated total population of proof half cents.

Proofarama '98 was an event in which I was proud to be a minor player. I have never heard of, nor am I aware of a gathering of proof half cents that exceeds Proofarama '98. The information that was collected will be the subject of future publications. The visual experience is not reproducible.

FINAL REMINDERS: "HAPPENINGS" AT EAC, BOSTON

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.

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.

Less than a month to go!

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

1998 COLONIAL HAPPENING

Dennis and Michael Wierzba

Once again, it is time to bring the colonials out of the safety deposit box and display them at EAC.

For NJ, any J reverse. The J reverse is a biennial die (with a 30 mm diameter!) Used with 10 obverses. An analysis was published by Michael Hodder in the American Journal of Numismatics in 1989. If you can, reread this article prior to EAC for emission sequence information.

For CT, 1787 M.1.1-A (small head), 1787 M.4-L (horned bust) and 1788 M.2-D. Each of these CTS is common with a die emission sequence to demonstrate, especially the 4-L.

For VT, varieties with bisecting or nearly bisecting die cracks such as RR12, RR13, RR18, RR26, RR28, RR29, RR33 and perhaps others. The copper Coins of Vermont by Tony Carlotto will be available for sale at the C4 table for the first time anywhere. Tony will be available to autograph your copy.

Please joint us on Thursday night, April 2. If you can help behind the tables, please call us at 908 - 464 - 4684.

EAC MEETING AT P.A.N.

Carl Huszar

Members of E.A.C. held a meeting in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, during the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists show on Saturday, October 25, 1997. Discussion

centered on upcoming sales (Pittman), altered large cents (1804, 1845), and the use of large cents outside of currency (washers, gears, turning pickles green).

Jerry Kochel brought along a box of large cents to peruse and Terry Stefl passed around his newly acquired S-48 for us to inspect.

The following members and friends were present: Ray Williams, Dan Argyro, Harry Colburn, Dave Hirt, Terry Stefl, Jerry Kochel and Carl Huszar.

REGIONAL MEETING AT 1998 FUN CONVENTION

Bob Grellman

A regional meeting was held at 9 AM on Saturday 10 January 1998 at the Florida United Numismatists (FUN) convention in Orlando, Florida. The following 20 members and guests attended:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOME STATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOME STATE</u>
Ken Bressett	CO	Fred Lake	FL
J. Alan Bricker	MD	Gary Lewis	FL
Bib Cain	FL	Bill Murray	TX
Lou Coles	FL	Paul Pattacini	GA
Mike Demling	NJ	Bruce Patton	FL
Steven Ellsworth	VA	Bill Rutledge	TX
Ron Feuer	NC	Jerry Stubblefield	MS
Bob Grellman	FL	Mike Swift	TN
John Griffiee	FL	Ron Tagney	MA
Richard Kurtz	NC	George Trostel	CT
		Bob Yuell	NJ

The meeting was hosted by Bob Grellman, chairman for the Southeast Region. Following the traditional introductions, we discussed the upcoming major early copper events. Fred Lake described the highlights of his January book sale, which included a plated copy of the Maris book on New Jersey cents. The book was available for close inspection following the meeting. Also discussed were the 15 January sale of the Gene Reale collection conducted by Sotheby's and the 8 February sale of the Wes Rasmussen late date cents and Dr. Jerry Maas early coppers conducted jointly by Superior Galleries and M & G Auctions.

The Clapp-Sheldon-ANS-Naftzger situation was covered briefly and this led to a discussion of our responsibilities when we are presented with stolen coins (or at least ones with disputed ownership). Ken Bressett, immediate past president of the ANA, offered some insight on the topic and covered some of the legal issues involved. The meeting ended with members describing ways to document ownership in case your coins are lost or stolen. Good quality photographs had the most support, but the value of foil pressings was also mentioned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM. The next regional meeting is scheduled for 9 AM on 9 January 1999 at the FUN Convention in Orlando, Florida.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL MEETING

There will be an EAC regional meeting at the Sacramento Coin Show, Saturday April 25th, 1998. This show is moving to hopefully better facilities in Sacramento. The exact room and time will be announced at the show, tentatively scheduled for 11 AM. Bring a few of your favorite coppers to share. New location: Sacramento Convention Center, 1301 "L" Street, Sacramento.

Questions?

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

EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS TREASURERS REPORT 1997

John D. Wright

Acct	Name	In	Out	Net
	1997 Beginning 1 January			50,113.41
101	Dues	36,707.50		36,707.50
102	Adverts	1,980.00		1,980.00
103	Interest	2,411.71		2,411.71
104	Donations	.00		.00
105	Issues	509.00		509.00
106	Tapes In	.00		
206	Tapes Out		.00	.00
107	Medals In	3,014.50		
207	Medals Out		-1,826.00	1,188.50
108	Conv In	5,336.05		
208	Conv Out		-6,982.45	-1,646.40
109	EAC Sale In	14,500.00		
209	EAC Sale Out		-7,957.13	6,542.87
110	Other In	215.00		
210	Other Out		- 35.00	180.00
211	P-W Print		-24,485.38	-24,485.38
212	P-W Postg		-9,400.32	-9,400.32
213	P-W Suppt		-267.24	-267.24
214	Organiz		-3,253.48	-3,253.48
115	Libr In	.00		
215	Libr Out		.00	.00
	TOTALS	64,673.76	-54,207.00	10,466.76
	1998 Beginning Balance			60,580.17

EAC CONVENTION FOR 2001 - 2002

March Wells

Your officers and directors would appreciate some input from the membership on convention sites for 2001 and 2002. The cost of putting on our convention goes up each year. The earlier we can lock in a location and date, the easier it is to negotiate favorable rates. My address and phone numbers are:

2407 Tuckaho Road, Louisville, KY 40207, phone (502) 895 - 6104

102A Sea Oats Drive, Juno Beach, FL 33408, phone (561) 775 - 1849

* * * * *

RAYMOND H. WILLIAMSON 1907 - 1997

Pete Smith

Ray Williamson, EAC charter member #54, died December 13, 1997, at the age of 90. A detailed biography was included in the September 15, 1977, issue of *Penny-Wise*. Although unsigned, the biography was written by editor Dr. Warren Lapp.

It was during the 1949 - 51 era that Williamson made his greatest contributions to our hobby. Several of his articles from *The Numismatist* were reprinted in the anthology *United States Large Cents 1793 - 1857* published in 1975. These articles include "Collecting U.S. Large Copper Cents" (June 1949); "Large Cents That Survived" (July 1949); "Paul Revere and the U.S. Mint" (December 1950); "A Visit to the U.S. Mint in 1812" (January 1951); and "The First Coinage of our U.S. Mint" (April 1951). The information he presented and the sources he cited shows extensive research in sources not frequently encountered. As a measure of his credibility, Stuart Mosher, editor of *The Numismatist*, selected Williamson to review Sheldon's *Early American Cents* for the November issue.

He continued to write about early copper with articles published in *Penny-Wise* including "Research on the Origin of the 1839 'Silly Head' and 'Booby Head' cents" (5-15-73); "Reflections on Dr. Sheldon" (11-15-77); and "Copper for Early American Cents" (3-15-84).

The March 15, 1972, issue of *P-W* had this reminiscence from Willard Blaisdell, "Part of the information in my article was obtained from Ray Williamson who had a choice large cent collection disposed of, I believe, some years ago." Williamson wrote that the reported disposition of his collection was premature. His collection remained in a bank vault in Lynchburg. Every few years he would brush his coins with a camel hair brush to restore their beautiful surfaces. Williamson consigned much of his collection of large cents to the 1983 EAC sale in Queens, New York. He contributed an exhibit to the 1984 Coinage of the Americas Conference at the American Numismatic Society in New York City. The topic that year was America's Copper Coinage 1783 - 1857.

Williamson frequently had his letters published in *Penny-Wise*. For the May 15, 1975, issue he proposed a design for a club medal showing a large cherry on a stem and the legend CONLEGIUM LE'GERE CERA 'SOS which he claimed was Latin for 'Association to pick cherries'. In the same issue he wrote,

"I've always regretted that *Early American Cents* had no index. My copy (when it is sold some day!) Will be worth less, because there is a helter-skelter 62-item index penciled inside the back cover. I just couldn't get along without it, because I wasted so much time searching again and again for subjects such as: Die retooling; Double profile. Number punches; Counterfeits; Soft copper; Gynandroid; Proofs; Metal flow: Hub die; Cents returned from Europe; French heads; etc. etc. The only reason that this penciled index isn't even more complete is because, in 1952, Walter Breen sent a four-page, single-spaced, typed index to this volume which has been in the back of my book ever since."

I suspect that Williamson may have undervalued his copy *Early American Cents*. Should his copy appear at auction, I hope an appreciative buyer will pay well for his penciled index and for Breen's typewritten addenda.

I corresponded with Williamson during 1990 - 91 as I did biographical research. He gave me a thick folder of clippings he had accumulated over the years. He decided that at age 84, he was unlikely to do much more with them. He also suggested additional sources of research that were quite helpful.

We all stand on the shoulders of those who have come before. Williamson's writing may be back one, two or three generations for various members in EAC, but it is part of the foundation of knowledge that can be appreciated by all of us.

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 May 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 #
John F. Conour	Maumee, OH	4607
David Guthrie	Goldsboro, NC	4608
Richard J. McCarthy	Red Bank, NJ	4609
Addison W. Saunders	Ellsworth, ME	4610
Ron Shintaku	LaVerne, CA	4611
Curtis Noreen	Waltham, MA	4612
Andrew Leskiw	Detroit, MI	4613
Tom Caldwell	Concord, MA	4614
Robert Kellert	Fremont, CA	4615
Dick Rold	Corona, CA	4616
Ken Tate	Reseda, CA	4617
Tom Johnson	Warren, MI	4618
Herbert Brunhofer	Philadelphia, PA	4619
John Thompson	Galloway, OH	4620
John M. Bordelon	Ocoee, FL	4621
Paul Richards	Indialantic, FL	4622
Chris White	Hudson, MA	4623
Dean Paddock	Juneau, AL	4624
Christopher Quesada	Pomona, CA	4625

RARE 1794 CENT DISCOVERED

Jim Young, Jr.

Recently, I went to a small coin show in New Jersey. There were perhaps eighteen dealers; I was one of two or three general public, a bit early.

One dealer displayed a low-grade 1794 cent. Looking into the case I could see it was the wide 79 (Sheldon's obverse 8, called the Separated Date by Maris). The 4 is near the bust and tilts noticeably left. Low grade, and a dent, but readable date.

Some time ago I learned it's a good idea to flip over any obv. 8 and see what's on the other side, and positively identify the reverse die, and not merely assume it to be S-25 or S-26 (Sheldon's E & F reverses). That was when Mark Borckardt showed me an obv. 8 with a different reverse die (MM) and I learned of "NC-8". That must have been around 1983. It is still R8.

Then in 1994 obv. 8 was found mated with reverse J; the unique "NC-11". (Previously, rev. J had only been known with obv. 13; variety S-32). Wow, that find changed the sequencing of the die emissions a bit!

I've always flipped them over and usually it's S-26, otherwise S-25. I had the dealer take the cent out of his display case for my inspection (and attribution). I turned this one over and did not see the familiar die breaks of S-26. I thought to myself, "That's good." It seemed a little odd; I wasn't certain. I prefer not to pull out references, but when in doubt – check! So I peeked in my Sheldon book; this one had two berries under ST. S-26 has a single berry there. In the margin my written description of NC-8 also noted a single berry under ST.

S-25 has two berries, diagonally pointing towards ST. This one's berries appeared vertical, and closer. I turned the page and looked at S-32. Vertical berries! -- Checked berries at left bow loop. They were to the left of the bow - not under the bow like S-25. I checked the numerator; it pointed down right of the first cipher. Looked at reverses E and F; numerator points to left of cipher on both. I thought, "Am I mistaken, is this just an early die state of reverse J with Venus Marina?" I checked obv. 13 then looked at obv. 8, back and forth at the pictures and the coin.

By now my Penny-Whimsy had been open approximately 15 or 20 seconds. I closed the book and asked the dealer how much for the cent. He said \$30. I paid him without question and sort of slinked out of the show and went out and got in my truck.

I sat there and looked at the coin now for about ten minutes, then headed home with my NC-11.

Brother Chris later confirmed attribution. So now there are two known. This one should net AG(3).

BUTTERNUT BITES: #2 Building a Library

Steven Ellsworth

The old saying, "Buy the book, before you buy the coin", is a lesson in which most collectors and hobbyists wish they had heeded.

My Webster dictionary defines numismatics as, "The study and collection of coins and medals." In order for collectors to understand and appreciate a coin or currency, they must at least know what it is. The public library and Internet offer excellent information; however, you are going to want your own books, articles, and notes for reference in order to study a coin. With that reasoning, here are six basic resource materials a collector should possess:

1. A Guide Book of United States Coins by R. S. Yeoman. The "Red Book" has become the standard. The 1998 book is the 51st edition and the cost is under \$10. It has a wealth of knowledge, and within its pages a novice can become proficient in many, many areas of numismatics. Some areas such as colonials, it is the best source for information. A collector should buy a new one each year, and be sure to retain the previous year, as they too become collectable. In fact, a first edition now sells for over \$300. It is not the best source for prices, as they tend to be outdated before the book is printed. To compensate, the editors tend to inflate the prices, only to be undervalued by year's end.
2. Photograde by James F. Ruddy. This book makes it easy for anyone to get a general idea as to what grade a coin is. It does not necessarily help with the condition of a coin, but it does help with a sharpness grade as to the wear of a coin. The book is designed so that you simply place a coin near the type and grade photograph that most closely resembles your coin. Then read the short narrative (also found in the "Red Book") to insure the match. It is that simple. It will not make you an expert grader, but it will give you at least a general idea as to the grade of a coin.
3. Official A.N.A. Grading Standards for United States Coins by Ken Bressett and A. Kosoff. This book will give the collector a closer standard for grading a coin than does Photograde. The book uses detailed drawings and descriptions that show the progression of wear. It lists every US coin from 1793 to present. This book is an indispensable aid to grading a coin.
4. Numismatic News & Coin World Newspapers. We are fortunate in numismatics to have two fine newspapers to which to subscribe. Both papers are excellent. In my opinion, Numismatic News has more articles about series and types of coins and currency, where Coin World offers more articles on current events and prices of coins. Coin World's Price "Trends" is the guide most dealers use to price their average coins. Either or both would give the collector articles concerning his / her interest in collecting. The key is to organize the articles in a file for your future reference. They are inexpensive and I would recommend subscribing to one or both.
5. The Numismatist the official publication of the American Numismatic Association (ANA). Founded in 1891, and with over 27,000 members, the ANA's The Numismatist is published each month and cost \$5, but is sent free to its members. Every issue has great articles and reference materials for collectors. ANA also puts out an index every 10 years to look up specifics. If you are not a member of ANA, you should be.
6. Specific Coin Type Books. Once you have identified a type or series of coin which interests you, buy the current book pertaining to the subject. As an example, if large cents

are your interest, then United States Large Cents 1793 - 1814 by William C. Noyes, The Cent Book 1816 - 1839 by John D. Wright, and Attribution Guide for United States Large Cents 1840 - 1857 by J. R. Grellman are three essential references. It does not matter what you collect, there have been books written on it. Be sure to consider earlier works, since they, too, are a treasure trove of information.

Your thoughts and ideas are always welcomed. Address them to: Colonel Steven Ellsworth, c/o **BUTTERNUT**, Post Office Box 498, Clifton, VIRGINIA 20124

e-mail: butternut@gslink.com.

THE GREAT "SHOULD DEALERS STAY AT SHOWS UNTIL THE CLOSE ON SUNDAY?" DEBATE

Edward Kuszmar

Being on America On Line for the past few years, and participating in many of the discussion groups that pertain to Coins, Currency and Collectibles, has been a real experience. One of the primary reasons for being there has been to find new viable areas to reach out worldwide to publicize the Lakeland, Florida "Collectorama Show", and the Suburban Washington / Baltimore Coin and Currency Show. While the time and effort has definitely been very positive for publicizing my shows, it has also offered me a lot of new insight to how collectors feel about a wide range of subjects pertaining to the hobby and the business.

Being on the Coin Net and Facts coin dealer teletype systems, for many years, just couldn't prepare me for the onslaught of issues, both real and imaginary, that get discussed out in cyberspace. Collectors look at our business, and at the hobby, in an entirely different light than we do, and "dealer-bashing" seems to be one of their favorite past times. Much of the "dealer-bashing" is completely without merit, as many collectors do not have the foggiest idea of what is involved in running a successful business of this nature. Many collectors could not care less about many major issues that have such a dramatic impact on the way we have to conduct our businesses, such as security, travel, airline schedules, political problems, tax problems, cash reporting problems, grading, bad checks, scams, robbery, burglary, and even murder. And, heaven forbid if a dealer makes a profit on his wares, or leaves a show before the close on Sunday.

One of the most active threads on AOL in past months has been the "Should Dealers Stay at Shows Until the Close on Sunday?" debate. Many collectors feel that EVERY dealer should be at his table until the close on Sunday, just in case the collector decides to show up. And, there are no valid reasons for dealers leaving the show early. Many collectors have absolutely no concern that a dealer, often times, will be put into very compromising and added expense situations because there are no airline flights scheduled that day after the show closes, or the dealer will have to take a motel somewhere, with no security other than what he carries on his hip, because he could not physically work all day, then drive all night, to get home to open up his shop, or be on time for his other job. What about church, or spending a nice day with the family? No, absolutely not allowed! A day off? No way. If a dealer takes a table at a show, he is most definitely a scumbag if he thinks he can get away with leaving the show early. It is perfectly O.K. for the collector to go home, or not show up at all on Sunday, but the dealer

is expected to be there at all times.

And the suggestions on what to do about this get even worse. *Fine the dealer \$50 or \$100 if he leaves the show early.* Of course there was also one guy that felt that a \$5000 fine would stop the problem. *Do not give the offending dealer a table at the next show if he leaves early.* It's this kind of thinking that would shortly put an end to many good shows. *Put dealers who leave early in the back of the room next show.* Forget about the fact that the dealer has worked hard and supported the show for many years to work his way up to a front row table. *Have armed guards at the exits, and force dealers who try to leave early back to their tables, until the show ends.* And while your armed guards are watching for offending dealers, the thieves and crooks will be stealing the show blind. *Let local club members or collectors set up on Sunday on the vacated tables at no cost.* Jeopardize your show security by allowing someone you did not know to be behind a table, and then explain to the Department of Revenue why someone was selling at your show without a valid Sales Tax License Number. You can also explain to the dealers who have paid for their space, and stayed for Sunday, why there are people behind tables who did not share in the show expenses.

At the January 1997 FUN show, according to one AOL message, one collector who thought it was just absolutely disgraceful that some dealers had left early, apparently "took pictures" of all empty tables, of dealers who left the show early, and was going to "report" this information in their club bulletin, to other collectors in the organization he belongs to. I asked him how he was going to determine which dealers actually left the show, which dealers had moved up to a better location, and which dealers had left the show but had another dealer move into their space. After all, to be fair (and to avoid law suits), one would have to be damn well sure that this information was absolutely accurate, and short of matching up the dealer's face with the table sign, it is impossible to determine. I have yet to receive an answer to this.

Being a major show dealer for over 30 years and a major show promoter for over 25 years, I also walk both sides of the fence on this issue. My previous comments are, needless to say, coming from the dealer standpoint, and as an independent "free enterprise" coin dealer I take offense to anyone telling me how I have to run my business, how long I have to stay at the show, and where and when I can do my business.

However, as a show promoter I also have to be completely cognizant of both the dealers' standpoint and also the collectors' standpoint, because you can not have a successful coin show without both dealers and collectors. The "Dealer's Staying Through Sunday" show problem is really a very tough issue, and most folks contend that it cannot be solved. I do not agree. Each side blames the other, and each side ONLY considers their respective side to the problem, and then dismisses the other side's view as pure Bullhucky.

However, there is a third side to the equation. It is the show promoter's side. And, the show promoter also has to accept part of the blame, just as the dealer who leaves his table vacant on Sunday because there is hardly any business, and the collector who does not attend on Sunday because many dealers have left. No show promoter likes to see a half-empty show on Sunday, but few try to do anything about it. At my Lakeland, Florida "Collectorama Show", we retain about 85% of our dealers for Sunday, and those dealers who stay for Sunday do a great job of "spreading out" to keep the show basically filled up. At 4 PM on Sunday, as the show closes, each collector and dealer gets a special "Grand Door Prize" ticket for our special drawing of a free three-day, two-night, vacation at the Kon-Tiki Resort in the Florida Keys -- a special prize that costs the show \$250. Not only does this keep many dealers at the show until

the end, it also helps keeps many collectors at the show until the end, and it helps to bolster Sunday business.

One thing I have learned over the years, is that if you give a coin dealer or collector the opportunity to do some good business, that many of them will take advantage of it. The collector says there is no sense attending Sunday because many dealers have left, and the dealer says there is no sense staying on Sunday because the collectors do not show up. The show promoter looks at both the dealer and collector attendance on Sunday, and often times feels that the expense of keeping the show open on Sunday does not warrant it. I disagree. I think if all three sides to this problem work together there can be a solution.

To start with, major shows like Baltimore, Long beach, F.U.N., Central States, and A.N.A. will usually retain more dealers on Sunday, than other area shows do on their best day. These shows already have a strong base of dealers who want to do business on Sunday. Some of the "wholesale only" dealers will leave, but these are not the dealers that the collectors would be doing any business with in the first place. At Baltimore, we offer any legitimate dealer the opportunity to set up on Sunday for business, and his only cost is a \$25 donation to Children's Hospital. The dealer must have a Sales Tax number, and if they are not known to show management, must provide references from other known dealers. Not only does this bring in new material, and new business, for both collectors and other dealers at the show, it is a great way to raise money for a worthy charity. The Lakeland, Florida "Collectorama Show" uses Florida Youth Ranch for donations. This helps provide fresh new material and fresh new business for Sunday.

Scheduling special lectures, exhibits, meetings, seminars and giveaways for Sunday, instead of Saturday, will also have a major impact on Sunday attendance. Many times clubs and organizations schedule their meetings during the peak business hours because they feel that more folks will attend their meetings, but this often times defeats the purpose, because it is hard for dealers and collectors to attend meetings when business is brisk. Sundays are great for Appraisal Clinics, free coins for youngsters, and other programs to attract new people to our shows, and to our hobby. Instead of all the finger pointing and griping about how bad Sundays are at our shows, and who is to blame, why not make a concentrated effort by everyone involved to help to solve this problem, and to help keep our hobby and our business strong and growing. A little sacrifice may be needed to make this change, but many of us feel that it will definitely be worth it.

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SOME MORE FINDS

Steve Carr

It seems like I write one of these articles about once a year. Is there a lesson there, or what? The bottom line is that I have been very fortunate in finding some scarcer large cents. And the bottom line is that I have to be patient to find these gems.

My latest finds happened last November and early December. At the time, I was very disappointed looking at the same large cents, over and over again, at local stores and at the monthly local coin show. But look I did. And I continued to find nothing.

Just before Thanksgiving, I went into a local coin shop that I had not visited for several months. The owner had a book of large cents and asked if I would attribute them. I readily agreed! I always like attributing large cents and this was an opportunity to see some new ones. I attributed most and then asked what he wanted for one, an 1829 N-9. It was the nicest coin in the lot, with very fine sharpness with a couple of light rim nicks.

The owner quoted me a price and I made a counter offer. He smiled at me and told me I could have the coin for my attributing work. I was happy - I only had one other very fine 1829 and this was a nice looking coin.

Imagine my surprise when I got home and dug a little deeper. I found that the N-9 was an R4, a toughie in higher grade. When I compared it to the coin in the RSBII sale, they looked about the same. Definitely a keeper.

But I had a dilemma. When I got it, I was unaware that it was a premium variety. So, I went back to the dealer and gave him some money (more than his original asking price, but still a cherry pick for me) for the coin, explaining my rationale. He was more than pleased with my action!

My second find was at the monthly local coin show. As usual, I found very little new material. But, on my way out the door, I decided to stop and talk with one of the dealers. He usually tells me when he has something new, but this month, he just smiled. Nothing new. But he had some large cents in a box on his back table. These were the same cents I had looked at about three months earlier. Oh well, I didn't really look at them that closely. I asked to look at the coins in the box.

One was a 1797. It had VG detail (where the detail was evident), but only the lowest parts of "Liberty" were visible. On the reverse, the legend was evident from "ITED to AME." Some of the wreath was there, but the central details were missing.

The dealer had graded it a VG and wanted \$40 for it. I thought there was enough detail present to attribute it, and ended up trading a couple of my middle date extras for it.

I took it home and tried attributing it. I came up with an NC-3. I was sure I had done something wrong -- I had never found an NC -- so I put the coin down and looked at it again a half an hour later. Again, the attribution came up an NC-3.

This time, I put the coin away for a week. Sometimes, leaf points and berries can move in that week's time. When I attributed it again, it came out NC-3 (again). I was starting to get excited, but I was still skeptical. To confirm or deny my attribution, I started comparing dentil alignment with letters. I still came up with NC-3.

Then I looked up the NC-3's in the RSBII sale. Lot 175 looked like my coin, only a little less worn!. That was the confirmation I needed. I had found an NC-3.

On further reflection, I decided I needed another opinion. I sent the coin to Tom Reynolds. He agreed it was an NC-3.

That's my first NC. I always wanted to find one. And finally, I have.

So, patience does pay off. Twice for me last year.

You will probably hear from me again in another year or so. Patience is nice, but those lag times sure are tough.

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CONFESSIONS OF A NOVICE

Ken Chylinski

Last December, while examining some brilliant uncirculated Lincoln wheat cent rolls for die varieties, I came to a very disturbing conclusion -- This was more work than fun! I had actually reached the point where I practically had to force myself to take out my trusty 10X triplet and examine some coins. Had I been engaged in some form of novelty over the past 5 or 6 years, and had this novelty worn off? My dilemma couldn't be attributed to a lack of results, for I had found hundreds of different die varieties which resulted in a relatively successful mail order business engaged in the sale of these discoveries. I had even found several rare die varieties within the Lincoln Cent series which provided me with sufficient funds to pursue my hobby as a bibliophile specializing in books relative to THE BOOK! What about all those uncirculated rolls that have been sitting in my closet for months? Would they languish there for many more months? I could always examine the Morgan and Peace dollars residing next to the uncirculated rolls. I had also been relatively successful in finding die varieties within the dollar series, but outside of 'The Top 100 Varieties', I had discovered that there was a very little interest in the balance of the listed varieties, especially within the Peace Dollar series. I had also been a little concerned that varieties with higher rarity ratings than those listed in the 'Top 100' had been excluded from this same 'Top 100.' Why would a coin with a rarity rating of 3 or 4 take precedence over a coin with a rarity rating of a 5, or even a 6? I have always felt that a coinage series or area of numismatics should stand on its own, and generate its own interest. It was time for a change.

I had heard of a group of individuals who specialized in 'Early Coppers', but I had also heard that the members of this organization were 'snobby and elitist.' I have never been a person who is guided by hearsay, so I decided to research the numismatic periodicals for more information. I was led to an advertisement in one of the publications and decided to join what was advertised as the EAC. Within ten days I had received the current issue of Penny-Wise along with a new member's package. I was very, very pleasantly surprised at the expeditious manner in which my membership application was processed. I made very short work of the new member's package and decided to seek additional information on these 'Early Coppers.' I requested and received many price lists from dealers, which were the most informative price lists that I had ever had the pleasure to review. However, in reviewing these same price lists, I encountered terms such as "scudzy." I had to ask myself, "what's a scudzy?" I must point out at this juncture that not one of these dealers attempted to "sell me the farm." Many of these lists contained a personalized note offering future assistance for which I am extremely grateful. In seeking additional information about 'Early Coppers', I had decided to obtain several back issues of Penny-Wise which provided me with a broad overall 'picture' of EAC. I was impressed!

A further review of price lists and the back issues of Penny-Wise provided me with the sources to obtain the books and attribution guides which are so important to success in any

hobby. I have always believed in that somewhat hackneyed adage, "Buy the book before the coin!" In addition to the books and attribution guides, I added several auction catalogues to my growing 'Early Copper' library, a modest investment compared to the potential rewards. Now I know what "scudzy" means.

I would like to thank all of the gentlemen who specialize in 'Early Copper' and who took the time to forward their respective price lists. I would also like to thank Jack H. Robinson, William C. Noyes, John and Mabel Ann Wright, and Superior Galleries for their publications and assistance. Two EAC members have provided me with personal service that makes me feel as if I have been a member of EAC for years. Thank you Bob Grellman and Rod Burress.

If only I could stop dreaming about the S.48.

To be continued . . .

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SOME COMMENTS ON CLEANING II - STIRRING THE POT

Denis W. Loring

In the January issue of P-W, I invited response to the following question:

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 are now told that only one of the coins is original, while the other has been cleaned and (superbly) recolored. Do you still grade both coins MS-60?

The responses were split about 50-50 between grading the cleaned coin Mint State, and calling it "60 sharpness, net AU." Typical responses for each side:

Mint State: If the experts can't tell, why should it matter? If the pros all call it MS, it's MS.

AU: Once you know it's been cleaned, it doesn't matter what it looks like, or what the experts say--it can't be MS.

What's the right answer? Depends upon whom you ask. In fact, the two "experts" who wrote the official ANA grading standards for large cents have opposing views. One says MS, the other AU. My personal opinion? The coins speak for themselves. If they look identical, and the experts can't tell 'em apart, who am I to say differently?

Of course, the best answer of all may be that of one very respected numismatist, who will remain nameless: Send them both out for slabbing and hope they come back fives.

* * * * *

... Suppose you have two large cents. They both look like lovely MS-60's with lustrous surfaces and attractive medium brown color. Reportedly, one has been cleaned and recolored (but "no one" can tell) - is it still MS-60?

Absolutely Not!

Gail Baker Kraljevich

By definition, Mint State is the state of the coin *as manufactured* at the Mint. Only defects that happened during the minting process are "allowed" on a mint state coin, i.e., bag marks, striking errors, planchet errors, etc. Cleaning and recoloring - no matter how expertly done - are not products of the mint.

But, Denis's theory contends that no one can tell if it is recolored! I don't believe that, and I believe the people he has listed should be insulted. (If they're not, then there's something wrong!) Sure, they may each miss a few - grading is still not an exact science, however, the real experts (and many are not on your list, Denis) will be able to tell that a coin has been played with - **if not now, then later**. A cleaned and recolored coin will change over time differently than one that is actually mint state. Therefore, a mistake in grading (and that's what really happened with Denis's "experts" - **they made a mistake**), will *eventually* be noticed - either by **time** or by **another expert**.

Hearsay dialogue *cannot* be taken into account when grading a coin, however, if presented with the evidence that a coin has been cleaned and recolored, a grader has the obligation to re-examine the coin, and confer with someone that is more knowledgeable in detecting problems.

There is a real danger, in my opinion, to the ditty Denis has thrown at us. Just because someone says something is so - and no one disagrees **it does not become truth through default!** I would hate to think that a dealer is selling a coin - that he knows has been played with - as an original - just because he (the dealer) was able to fool someone that his customer believes is an authority. I remember seeing a coin sold in the 60's or 70's with a letter from a leading expert of the time. The coin was not what it was reported to be. However, that seal of approval, that some people believe was bought for a price, duped an unsuspecting buyer.

...and I won't even mention the grading services!

I have heard the argument that certain coins should remain on a condition census at a particular grade because the coin has "always been called" such and such, when clearly, if the coin is examined today and compared to other coins, the mistake, whether on purpose, or by deceit, becomes obvious. The condition census is fluid, and this is just one of several reasons why. Coins change over time, mistakes are corrected, grades are adjusted to current EAC standards, and of course new coins are discovered that push others down the list.

Everyone makes mistakes - but to believe if you fool enough people - misrepresentations become truths - is ridiculous! ... and it's a crime to purposely try to fool someone others may consider an expert, to validate a falsehood.

Please remember Denis - Star-kist wants tuna that taste good, not tuna with good taste!

P.S. Thanks, Denis for a thought-provoking exercise! Do you have more??

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MY ROAD TO HALF CENT COLLECTING

Mike George

This is my first contribution to P-W.

When I was nine years old, my grandmother George got me started in coin collecting. We were at the local grocery store and I was helping pick out cereal. When we got to the laundry soap, I saw that one company was offering a "free" Indian cent in every ten pound box of powder detergent. My grandmother obliged me then as she still does now. I did not realize the significance of this seemingly-small event. After several boxes of soap and the cleanest clothes in town, my interest in coins broadened. About that time, my uncle gave me a Barber half dollar. I graded it VG, and placed a green star on the 2 x 2, which signified it was my best coin.

Soon thereafter, I took all my coins, placed them in a glass jar, and took them to my fourth grade show-and-tell. My presentation was a hit--the coin collecting bug had another victim. To this day, I still have that Barber half, with the green star still attached to the coin holder. Over the intervening years, I continued to collect everything from pennies to dollars (but never a half cent). When I turned 16, I took a hiatus from collecting. My interests were aimed elsewhere, toward girls and cars. It would be another 16 years before I returned to coins.

It was 1986, and I was living in north Texas. Somehow, I found out about a coin show being held at the Marriott in Dallas. I was totally unaware that the EAC show was a copper-only show. What the heck was "Early American Coppers?" I was certain I could add some better date Morgan dollars to my deluxe Whitman. There were probably 35 dealers set up. I've been accused to being slow--it took me two trips around the bourse before I realized that this was not your typical coin show. Finally, I asked a dealer, Chris Victor-McCawley, "what does EAC stand for?" Chris told me to sit down, and gave me some EAC literature. He also talked to me about EAC, not the coins, but the club membership.

I was looking at several of his large cents. A beautiful late date jumped out at me. It looked choice to me, because it had beautiful toning--red, blue, and green, just like the rainbow toning on some of my Morgans. I asked the price. Chris said, "You don't want that coin." I thought to myself, this guy must either want a ton of money for it, or figures I don't have any. After more prodding, Chris said, "That large cent has been whizzed and recolored." Even in my novice condition, I knew that "whizzing" was a four-letter word. Honesty in a coin dealer! Wow! What a great concept! Although I ended up buying no coin from Chris, he offered to pay for my first year's EAC membership. Who could pass on a deal like that? I also put my name on his mailing list, never realizing that he had just spun the spider's web.

Back to the EAC bourse--I finally found a coin to buy. It was labeled as a 1807/7 C-1 half cent. The seller was Mike Packard--what a nice guy he was and is. He explained

and showed me what the 7/7 really was. To this day, I love 1807 half cents. I'll be forever grateful to Mike for getting me started in the fascinating world of the half-sisters. He has since sold me a couple more coins, and still has another I need--time will tell. I left that first EAC show with only one coin, but more importantly, a wealth of knowledge and interest.

A couple of weeks later, I received my first CVM fixed price catalog. After carefully reviewing it, I called Chris to discuss several coins. He suggested that I come up to his home in Chandler, Oklahoma. Being only three hours away, we set a time for my visit. I arrived a couple of days later. We had a quick lunch and then looked at coins. Several hours passed and, with recommendations from Chris, I picked out four coins. All were half cents. I guess I liked the underdog feeling of owning "Little Half-Sisters."

From that point on, I was hooked. There are several more stories, but those are for another article. My collections of half cents and friends continue to grow. Thank you, EAC and EAC members!

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DIGITAL CAMERAS FOR P-W AND REGION 8 ?

Jim Hart

I attended the Comdex show in Las Vegas in November. They had a crowd of around 225,000 to see the new electronic products to hit the market. I had a counterstamped large cent with me and wanted to see what could be done with it using a digital camera. A picture was taken of the coin and then it was placed on a TV screen for me to see. I was very impressed, as what you see is what you get--great copper color>

Driving the trend is a growing cache of computer users who are incorporating the technology into the web sites they create, the e-mails they send, and the business presentations they make. And the availability of \$500 digital cameras has made these devices more appealing to the masses.

Digital cameras don't use film. Instead, they store images on solid-state, reusable memory modules. Like standard film-based cameras, digital models allow you to capture images with the press of a button. Unlike film cameras, many digital models allow you to immediately view the images on a LCD screen and, in some models, brighten or crop the pictures. Unwanted photos can be eliminated with the touch of a button. Users also have the option of transferring images to a computer, sending them to someone else via e-mail, or printing out a picture. Photos can be archived on tiny discs.

For those of you who can get the World Wide Web (WWW), get on the Penny Lane site and visit our Early American Coppers site by URL # <http://www.eacs.org/>. Or try out the American Numismatic Association site and view the Vermont copper coins at URI #

<http://www.money.org/vermont/vtexhibit.htm/>. Next, take a look at the Full Horn Buffalo Nickel Club and see their grading guide, from AG-3 to MS-66, just recently put on the Web. That's URL # <http://www.geocities.com/RodeoDrive/4044/grade.htm/>. Now if you have a color printer, you can print the pictures in color.

Let's just think of some of the things the digital camera could do for us EAC'ers:

1. Get color prints for P-W from WWW. We could use more photos, and the cost of color printers is coming down.
2. Put a "sharpness" grading guide on the WWW, just like the Full Horn Buffalo Nickel Club.
3. We could have images from the EAC "Happenings" available, especially for those who were unable to attend in person. Just think what it would be like to see all those S-48's the next day on the WWW from a laptop computer, or have a chance to see them later in P-W if you're not on the WWW.
4. Put images of our EAC Sale coins on the WWW in full color.
5. Show images of your coppers to others, even as the coins themselves remain safely in the bank.

Assuming we all have the equipment, the estimated cost of a black & white print is eight cents, and a color print is 13 cents. I have asked various people on the web to try printing out the Vermont coppers, and all were pleased with the results. Others are willing to make the prints at cost. [Editor's note: Jim sent along prints of a Vermont copper, printed on an Epson Stylus Color, 1440 dpi color, the image printed at 720; though the piece was low grade, the overall image compared very favorably with many images of low grade coins on film which I've received over the years, and the color was impressively natural--unlike the "orangey" overtones of so many of our amateur attempts at color coin photography.] The technology is here today for us to greatly expand our sharing of copper images in P-W. And Mark Switzer is doing a great job with Region 8, in getting copper information to us on a weekly basis. Hopefully, Region 8 can have some color images with a URL, that you can send Mark in the near future.

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MAKING SENSE
John D. Wright, NLG

Remember the classic puzzle "what 21 coins make a dollar" (using today's coinage)? There are five answers to that one – work it out sometime. Well, a nastier variation is "what 601,676 coins make \$159,806.95". One of the MANY answers to that one is "the complete U.S. coinage of 1796".

This was the year that Thomas Jefferson lost the presidential election to John Adams for successor to George Washington. It was the year that Tennessee became the 16th state. It was the year that France was battling MASSIVE inflation in the aftermath of the French revolution (40x price-increases in only six years). And it was the first year that the young U.S. mint in Philadelphia made all ten denominations of coins that had been legislated in 1792.

This is a VERY expensive year for a denomination set of U.S. coins (ten coins) in any grade, ranging from \$35,000 in Good to maybe 20 times that in Mint State. For most of us, the only U.S. coin of 1796 we could ever hope to own is the cent, which can still be had in Good for less than a C-note. That's not surprising, since almost five in every six coins we made that year were cents.

Compared to other denominations of the year, 1796 cents are easy. But compared to nearby years of cents, this is a tough one. There are two basic types for the year. The Liberty Cap type (1793-1796) is supposedly scarcer by mintage figures than the Draped Bust type (1796-1807), but that has not been my experience at over 40 years of coin shows. You see, I collect these puppies by die variety and make a point of CAREFULLY looking over every 1796 cent I can. And I see about two Caps for every Bust.

A "die variety" is all coins struck from a given pair of dies. Since U.S. coinage dies in 1796 were hand-prepared, no two are identical. There are 26 known obverse dies and 28 known reverse dies for 1796 cents, paired in 46 combinations. Now THAT's getting down to the nitpicking stage, isn't it! But you can find excuses to go even DEEPER!! As a coinage die is used, it wears down, mushes out, clangs against its mate, cracks, and may even break apart. These differences are called "die states", and offer an excellent excuse to gather two, four, or more examples of the same die variety.

A few of us actually do try to collect fifty or more different cents of 1796. But there aren't many of us who try to go that deep. Most elect to ...

- (A) Skip 1796 -- it's a tough year and I can cover the types with a 1795 and a 1798,
- (B) Get one for the year-set,
- (C) Get a pair for the major types,
- (D) Get one of each of the five "Red Book" listings.

That's good for us die-hards because it makes far fewer competitors for the really rare varieties. And there are about a dozen of those, ranging from a dozen examples each down to the rarest available whole-coin variety with two known. Both of these have changed owners

in the last ten years. One now lives in Cleveland, and the other in Chicago.

The reason for the weasel-wording above is that the rarest 1796 cent is known by one complete (but heavily tooled) example in the collection of the American Numismatic Society. Then a few years ago, about 3/10 of another one showed up -- a partial off-center strike on a 1795 half cent. When that one came up at auction we all thought it would be a battle between a large cent variety collector and a half cent error collector. WRONG!! The large cent collector lost it to a VERY determined collector of 1796 coins -- ALL 1796 coins.

Choice 1796 cents come very infrequently. I started to say "are far between", but that's not so. Most are clustered with lovely siblings in a very few collections. The one notable exception is the "Nichols Find".

In 1797 Benjamin Goodhue, a member of the Continental Congress, made an official visit to the U.S. mint. He brought home with him a "box of new cents". Reports vary at either 1,000 or 5,000 coins. Remember from the last issue that these things are 2.4 pounds per dollar, so we're talking either 24 pounds or 120 pounds of large cents. I lean strongly toward the former. These stayed in the family until after the civil war, when his granddaughter dispersed them. Her married name was "Nichols", from whence came the name of this hoard.

Coins from the Nichols Find are mostly from two varieties of 1797 and one of 1796, with all but maybe a hundred pieces being 1797's. Thanks to this hoard, a Mint State 1796 Bust cent (S-119) can be had today for less than the price of a Good 1796 half dollar. An interesting sidelight is that the hoard-variety 1796 cent is scarcer worn than it is new. But the worn ones still cost a BUNCH less than the new ones.

John D. Wright is the author of "The CENT Book", which covers U.S. cents of 1816-1839. He has collected U.S. large cents for over forty years.

TALKING BEGINNERS III - SOME DEFINITIONS

Steve Carr

The collecting of large cents has a vocabulary all its own. Experienced collectors talk easily of "crumbling," "die states," "uneven fields," "Sheldon numbers," and so forth. But beginners are sometimes left clueless when these terms are used without an explanation. The following terms, with definitions, have been suggested for a column of this type by several EACers. If you would like other terms defined, please let me know.

These definitions are my own. I do not think any of my definitions are controversial, but if they are, I take credit (blame) for them.

ATTRIBUTE - To identify the variety of a coin. These varieties were described by numismatists in the past. Currently, half cents are attributed by Cohen (C) or Breen (B) numbers. Large cents are attributed by Sheldon (S) numbers for the years 1793 - 1814 and by Newcomb (N) numbers for 1816 - 1857.

BEADED CORDS - The hair cords on large cents (1837 - 1857) that are made of a series of small beads. Some 1837's have this type of hair cord and all other large cents, 1838 - 1857 have them, with the exception of 1839 N-1, which has plain hair cords.

BOOBY HEAD - A style of Head that appears on some 1839 large cents. The Booby Head has a sharp projecting shoulder point behind the head.

CENTER DOT - A raised dot in the center of the coin. It was placed on the die to serve as a compass anchor point for laying out letters and stars. Sometimes there are multiple center dots. Sometimes there is none. Center dots are seen more frequently on the reverse than on the obverse.

CUD - A raised area on a coin that is caused by a missing part of the die. This area is usually along the perimeter of the coin, but can be away from the edge also. Since I know you were interested in 1816's, cuds appear on 1816 N-1, N-2, N-3, and N-8 obverses, above the hair bun and between stars 11 and 12. An internal cud occurs on 1817 N-12 between the top of the 8 and the top of the 7 in the date.

CRUMBLING - While a cud results from missing metal, crumbling results when small portions of the die "crumble" away around the stars, wreath, bust, and letters / numbers. This results in a coin that has less detail along the edges of things. Sometimes, areas between things can crumble completely and you get a rough raised area where the field should be smooth. 1849's have some reverses that show very prolonged crumbling along the wreath. Some 1829's have crumbling in the cavity of the "A's" that eventually fills them in. 1814 S-295 has crumbling under Liberty's chin, which eventually looks like a beard.

DENTIL - The "teeth" that form the ring around the border of the coin. Also called a denticle. The ring of dentils is called dentilation. Dentils were used on all large and half cents from 1794 until 1857.

DIE CHAIN - When two varieties share a common die. This die can be either the obverse or the reverse. The varieties can be "chain linked" (their order of mintage determined) by die wear.

DIE STATE - As a die strikes more coins, it begins to wear. Metal moves outward on the die, creating flow lines. Cracks and cuds also develop. A coin struck from the dies when they were new and sharp is called an early die state coin (EDS). When some die wear is noticeable on the coin, it is considered middle die state (MDS). In the latest stages of its life, the die produces late die state coins (LDS).

EMISSION SEQUENCE - The order in which different varieties were struck. An emission sequence is a person's best guess of this order, based on similarities between dies, die chaining, similarities with prior or later year styles, etc.

FLOW LINES - Raised lines that radiate out from the center of the coin. These lines are caused by metal moving on the die. Fine flow lines impart luster to coins.

INNER CIRCLE - A line on the coin just under or just inside the dentil ends. This line was made by the die engraver to align the dentils when they were punched into the die. On some coins, there is a complete inner circle, on others a partial inner circle, and on others no inner circle at all. Inner circles show up most frequently on middle date large cents.

K - NUMBERS - Stands for Kolut numbers. Kolut numbers are a system that references positions on the coin to hour positions on a clock. They are used to identify the location of die features (for example "weak inner circle K4-K6" would say there was a weak inner circle from the 4 o'clock position to the 6 o'clock position), striking features (for example "die swelling K10-K11.5" indicates there is swelling from the 10 o'clock position to the 11:30 position), or flaws (for example "rim bruise K8" would say there was a rim bruise at the 8 o'clock position).

LAPPED DIE - A die that has been ground or polished to remove imperfections. This lapping lowers the relief of the design, making the letters, stars, and date appear weaker.

MOUSE - The mouse is a cud that develops on top of Liberty's head on four different 1817 varieties. These are N-3, N-7, N-8, and N-9. The break sort of looks like a mouse and is located right on top of the hair under star 8. All four varieties also come without the mouse.

MULE - A mule is a rare coin that has a known obverse and reverse that were used on two separate coins. It is called a mule because it resulted from a "marriage" of dies from two different varieties to create a third variety (kind of like how mules are created). The best middle date example is 1822 N-14, which uses a regular 1822 obverse with the reverse of 1821 N-1. Mules probably resulted when a die was changed or replaced and a temporary die was used for a short period of time. There are many mules on early date large cents. The late dates even have more mules than the middle dates. I do not know why.

PEDIGREE - A listing of all prior owners of the coin and any auction or fixed price lists the coin may have been in. The pedigree starts with the first person known who identified the coin by variety and lists all subsequent owners. Sometimes owners wish anonymity so are listed as "a (state name) collector" or by a pseudonym. Often, the current owner is not listed.

UNEVEN FIELDS - A weakness on one edge of a coin, complimented by a corresponding strong edge opposite it. Caused by the dies not being parallel to each other. My favorite example is the 1830 N-9, where detail on the upper obverse can be as strong as VG+ but the lower obverse is so weak that the date is not evident.

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

From the Internet

Pete Smith

- ◆ As of February 9, 1998, there are 161 EAC members in Region 8. (The Internet Directory) To get listed, send your name and address to Mark Switzer at dc181@freenet.carleton.ca.
- ◆ Dan Argyro reported on the first chat held on Saturday, January 30, 1998, at USCents.com. Four EAC members chatted live for three hours. Argyros's site is not related to EAC's Region 8. Anyone with Web access can participate.
- ◆ Geoffrey Bard asked for opinions on the best references on early copper. John Wright suggested checking Denis Loring's notes from "Large Cents 101." Bard also asked about a book on New Jersey copper. Clem Schettino described Dr. Maris's 'The Cents of New Jersey' as the standard reference.
- ◆ Dave Cleaves mentioned that he purchased a copy of "Uncle Sam's Almanac, For the Year 1861" published in Philadelphia. It includes an article, "United States Cents, Facts About the Various Cents". As Cleaves reported, "The article describes the attributes of the major die varieties known at the time. Included are descriptions of eleven different varieties for 1793, three general divisions of pieces for 1794, and four "well-marked varieties" for 1795... The article goes on to state that 'a perfect series of good specimens must always be an object of interest, and when the copper cent ceases to circulate, it may be to some a cause to regret that they neglected to secure a collection while they yet had the opportunity.'"
- ◆ Roxanne Goldberg found the name of Kenneth W. Rendell on a pedigree and asked for information about him. She received replies from Wayne Homren, Denis Loring and Pete Smith. Rendell was a dealer in Early copper and Colonials prior to 1960. He left numismatics to become a noted authority and dealer in autographs in New York City. He was one of the experts called to testify in the trial of Mark Hofmann and the counterfeit Mormon currency and documents.
- ◆ Terry Hess offered his recollections of Ray Williamson. "I met him at that (1983) convention and listened as he told about his first Large Cent, which was purchased in 1918 for fifty cents, that included postage. The coin purchased was an 1818 non-Randall hoard which Denis Loring sold at the auction for \$1500.00. A princely sum for a large cent in 1983."
- ◆ Bruce Hickmott asked for help. "I find myself with a mystery. I just weighed my 1802 C2 half cent and it came out way light. 77 grains as opposed to the expected 83 grains. I don't have a copy of Cohen currently (My copy grew legs and walked away at a recent coin show), and all Breen says is that the weights will vary." He asked if half cents struck over spoiled large cents should have correct weight, be lighter or be heavier. Eric Cheung wrote, "Even though the C2's supposed to be a prescribed 80-83 grains, like you stated, many of them were struck on reused or spoiled dies (planchets) from large cents and Talbot, Allum and Lee tokens... 1802 is a rare enough date by itself, but if it's in low enough grade, I don't think any one would

counterfeit it, it's a reasonable difference between 77 and 83 grains." Gabriel Schaff reported that his 1802 C2 weighed 72 grains and may have been struck over a TAL. Rick Coleman reacted. "I finally weighed my 1802 C2. At 81.2 grains it is a little light, but well within expected tolerances at the time." Roxanne Goldberg said, "Roger S. Cohen, Jr. in his 1982 printing of the half cent book makes no mention of weight. However, he says that the variety C-2 pieces were made from spoiled large cents, that were cut down to size. This is not the same as a fresh blank planchet. How much is the acceptable tolerance on a spoiled blank?" Mark Switzer's piece came in at 75-76 grains. Switzer said, "A cut down spoiled large cent planchet would indeed weigh more than a half cent planchet unless it were rolled out before being cut down. A half cent struck on a TAL could be virtually any weight, but likely lighter than a proper half cent."

- ◆ Michael Hodder mentioned that Stack's would soon be selling an old time collection of late date cents. "The coins trace their pedigrees back to George H. Clapp, Homer K. Downing, and John P. Young, some via Dr. Sheldon." Brad Karoleff reacted. "Since the pedigrees include Dr. Sheldon, is there some guarantee of clear title? Something to think about with the recent court ruling. I do not mean to bring in question anyone's integrity with this comment as both Stack's and Michael's are beyond question. I merely thought this was a good lead into questioning any coin that traces its pedigree back to Sheldon. I think many of you agree after reading the editor's comments in the current issue of *Penny Wise*."
- ◆ Craig Sholley commented on John Kleeberg's talk about Strawberry Cents given at the recent ANS COAC. Kleeberg presented evidence that they were contemporary counterfeits rather than products of our Mint. The papers have not yet been published.

- ◆ Ward Van Duzer offered this review:

"Well, I did it! This "beginner" second time around, put my money where my mouth is and bought the PCGS grading book, sight unseen. Big mistake... Foolish me thought there would be descriptions of each grade, i.e. VF-20, 30, 35, and 40, or at least F-12, 15, with large computer generated, ultra sharp photos to accompany each description. Wrong again! In fact, this volume provides less than the existing ANA Guide, and PhotoGrade combined. What you get is one description for each adjectival grade, i.e. Fine, Very Fine, etc.! The paragraph heading mentions all of the included numeric grades, but provides no text description of each. Now in a "super, highly touted, long awaited" GRADING GUIDE one would expect a super clear photo for each grade, in each series, used by the grading service, right. Wrong again! Only a couple of series get the benefit of photos. Copper Indians, (but not the earlier ones). The Lincolns. the Buffs. That's about it except for a full run of Morgans from MS-60 to MS-67! Not even reference photos of "types" to refer to when they describe "the tips of the left feathers". Poor, poor, poor.

I was going to ask some of our 'better' graders to review this book when it came out for their opinions of the accuracy of the grade descriptions and photos, but that is obviously not necessary, since there are none. In short, I feel that I was deceived at best, and ripped off at worst. Now, there are some plusses in the book, some things to be learned by most of us. (But certainly, grading is not one of them). On course, if you think about it some, why would PCGS want to teach us to grade our own coins anyway?"

ED LEITNER writes,

Your introduction to the January 15, 1998 issue of Penny-Wise is courageous. Your leadership in bringing this issue into the light for the entire EAC membership will serve us well. In order to come to terms with this unpleasantness, we all need to face the facts and make our own decisions. We also need to talk with each other to reconfirm our commitment to EAC and forge its future. I admire your decision to bring this discussion to the entire membership's attention and I think your honesty will serve as an excellent example for all of us to follow.

* * *

STEVE ELLSWORTH writes,

Outstanding editorial in the January issue! Thank you for saying what so many weak-kneed, milk toasters are not willing to say. It seems that some always have a great deal to say when arguing between a grade of Good 4 or Good 5, but remain silent when it comes to ethics versus opinion. You are to be commended on the fabulous job you are doing for all of us. When are we ever going to require that scoundrels are shunned from our organization?

* * *

ALLAN DAVISSON writes,

Your piece on Sheldon was excellent. I think I have talked with you about his history as a psychologist. History has not treated his research well.

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BOB GRELLMAN writes,

Liked your Editorial of 1/15/98.

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GENE BRAIG writes,

01/98 Intro: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ !

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TOM TURISSINI writes,

I came across the enclosed article on Dr. Sheldon in the latest issue of the Maine Antique Digest . . . [Editor's Note: the article was entitled, "First Discredited as a Scientist, Now Labeled a Thief – the Amazing Fall from Grace of William Sheldon"] I thought it would be of interest to you. I think that your editorials are of consistently high quality, and promote much thought . . .

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HARRY W. COLBORN writes,

. . . Nice, timely editorial! You properly faced up to the situation . . .

* * *

RON MANLEY writes,

Your editorial on Sheldon was excellent.

* * *

JOHN WRIGHT writes,

I liked your Jan. '98 editorial, but am grieved at the things my friends do to themselves. Bill Sheldon was a friend -- and would still be were he alive. Walter Breen was a friend -- and would still be were he alive. Jack Robinson is a friend -- Bill Noyes is a friend. And yet each disappoints me from time to time. Please, God, help me to not disappoint my friends -- either now or fifty (or a hundred) years from now.

* * *

RICHARD KURTZ writes,

Referring to your introduction to the January 1998 edition, it appears that the evidence supports your conclusion about Dr. Sheldon's culpability. That being said, I have another concern about the restoration of the stolen large cents to the ANS. As a collector of bust half dollars, half cents, and (to a lesser extent) other early Federal coinage, my purchases have come from a variety of sources: local dealers, specialty dealers, trades with and purchases from other collectors, dealers at local, regional, and national coin shows, and auctions (both local and mail bid). Could any of the coins in my collection have been stolen in the past? Possibly. Is there any way of knowing, especially from a long ago theft? Probably not.

While I hadn't thought much about this until the revelations about Dr. Sheldon, I originally believed that the ANS would have to rely on the current owners' willingness to part with the stolen coins, since a statute of limitations would prevent recovery any other way. The courts have proved this assumption incorrect.

So if I have a rare, and identifiable, half cent or half dollar that exactly matches a glass plate photo taken in 1900, and was stolen from somebody's great-grandfather in 1911, do I have a legal (as opposed to moral) obligation to return that coin to his heirs in 1998? I don't know, but would appreciate a comment from anyone in the EAC who does know, and who can elaborate on the legalities for us. Thanks in advance.

* * *

DAVE BOWERS writes,

I enjoyed your editorial in *Penny-Wise*, January 15, 1998. Would it be possible to reprint this in a future issue of our *Rare Coin Review*? I might add a few personal comments of my own at the end.

With regard to *Penny-Whimsy*, it was my feeling in the 1950s when this came out, that this was primarily the work of Walter Breen, not William Sheldon. Dorothy Paschal whose

name appears on the cover, may have made some contributions, but I don't remember what they were. I was a good friend of Walter Breen's during the time, and clearly remember that he masterminded this project. I feel that Dr. Sheldon was quite in the background. Walter was not particularly fond of the American Numismatic Society, but, then, Walter seemed to have a generic dislike for institutions of just about every kind. By the way, changing the subject slightly, Walter Breen was just about as selfless as any person I have ever met -- he had no profit motive at all and could not be dishonest or "clever." Of course, we all know that socially he marched out of step with the drummer of proper etiquette and behavior, but this was his own feeling as to how things should be done -- free love and so on.

Harry, again, congratulations.

* * *

ALAN WEINBERG writes,

I found your editorial regarding Sheldon and the theft from ANS well written and well reasoned.

While I do not condone theft, I must empathize with those who question the wisdom and fairness of the permanent "storage" of numismatic treasures in institutions and museums. Both the Smithsonian Institution and the American Numismatic Society are woefully neglectful of their obligations to numismatists and collectors in general. Only a fraction of 1% of the S.I.'s holdings are on exhibit and some of those items are literally glued to the display. Moreover, the S.I. requires, as a matter of policy, 2 of everything in its vaults -- to exhibit obverse and reverse and for display loans. Two of everything!

Despite the Clain-Stefanelli / S.I. promise to the U.S. Congress in 1967 to sell the substantial duplication acquired when the Josiah K. Lilly gold coin / ingot collection (the latter of which most now are considered highly suspect) was accessioned for a \$5.5 million estate tax credit, to this day not one piece has been deaccessioned. This includes the duplicate 1822 half eagle, an ultra high relief Roman Numeral 1907 double eagle, etc. It takes an "Act of Congress" to see anything not on public exhibit.

As to the American Numismatic Society, I've been a member since 1964. I well recall the days when I was permitted, with no prior appointment, to examine tray after tray of extraordinary but poorly-cared-for early large cents and choice Massachusetts colonial silver coinage. Today, due to a decades-old armed robbery and thefts by a very few trusted and unsupervised members, most coins of any real interest are kept in distant, off-premises bank vaults and many trays on premises are virtually empty. One must make appointments weeks in advance to see rare coins and then those coins must be brought over from the bank. What an extraordinary inconvenience. The curatorial staff stands over you while you look at coins. You feel pressured and ill-at-ease and it is painfully obvious that the curator would rather be doing something else and your time is short.

The library? The better references are now "secured" and you can only request one volume or catalogue at a time. Gone are the days of examining plates from multiple Chapman auction catalogues to make comparisons and establish pedigrees. Although a member since 1964, my experience at the ANS the last 2 visits was so unpleasant and troublesome, I have not renewed my membership and I predict the ANS will lose many members.

I am now of the firm opinion that any collector who permanently places his / her collection in a museum or institution where access to future collecting generations is severely

limited is selfish, self-centered, and acts to the detriment of the hobby. He prevents future collectors from enjoying the historical treasures that he enjoyed due to the thoughtfulness of prior generations of numismatists.

So, while I cannot condone the thefts of Dr. William H. Sheldon and regret the inconveniences and expenses suffered by those caught up in the "mess", I am sorry to see those wonderful early coppers being returned to the ANS, only to be locked up in a bank with ever-tightening restrictions on access to collectors.

I, for one, will be returning my beloved coins, medals and tokens to numismatic "circulation" as I grow old. This is the way I feel after 40+ years of serious collecting.

* * *

M. JOSEPH CHUSID writes,

I enjoyed reading your editorial regarding William Sheldon in the January 15, 1998 number of P-W. Sometimes the only way to exorcize evil is to recognize and expose it. William Sheldon has had a profound effect upon modern numismatics, particularly that little arena that interests the readers of P-W and members of the EAC, but he, like one of our the other "giants," Walter Breen, has turned out to have feet of clay.

Interestingly, my own life has been impacted by another of Dr. Sheldon's moral blind spots, which occurred in his professional life as physician and physical anthropologist. In the early 40's, while at Columbia University, Sheldon developed the theory that body morphology was intimately linked with intellectual prowess and behavioral attributes. It was he who first described a system in which all humans could be classified by body type as *ectomorph* (thin / tall), *mesomorph* (muscular / hard), or *endomorph* (round / soft). In a series of several monographs (interestingly, all listed and described on the back of the dust cover of my copy of Sheldon's Early American Cents), he proposed that ectomorphs were likely to be intellectuals, mesomorphs were ruled by emotions and erratic, and endomorphs were slow-witted blobs. This harked back to the days of phrenology in the 19th century, when intellect and behavior were felt predictable based on lumps on the skull. But Sheldon's theories won acceptance, and still have some currency today.

Anyway, in 1962, when I arrived at Yale to start my freshman year, the beginnings of my large cent collection were still 10 years distant, but Dr. William Sheldon was right there on campus, at least indirectly, waiting for me. In a procedure that today seems so alien as to be hardly believable, the first day of school for a Yale freshman consisted of heading over to the Gym for a variety of tests and paperwork. Most were mundane-getting ID's, keys, signing up for insurance, etc. Some were physically stressful-demonstrating ability to swim 100 yards, situps, pushups, pull ups. But one thing we had to do was downright bizarre, but in that Pre-Vietnam era we were all good little boys who always did what we were supposed to do. And what we did, all 1000 men in the freshman class, as all the other freshman classes for the previous 20 years had done, was go, one by one, into a little room with several cameras and a bunch of hot, bright lights, and take all our clothes off and have pictures taken in the buff from a variety of angles. We were told the reason for this was that our "posture" was being assessed, and that the pictures were needed so as to make extremely exact measurements with various mechanical devices. I told you this was bizarre. Yet we all went along with it. A few of us were even later contacted and told of the necessity to attend "posture" classes because we had "failed" the test.

About five years later, I heard that the freshman posture pictures had been discontinued for unknown reasons, and I never thought about them again until a few years ago. At that time I read a story in the New York Times that thousands of pictures of nude Yale freshman were in the possession of the Smithsonian Institute, which was trying to figure out what to do with them. It seems that these pictures had arrived at the Smithsonian through the disbursement of Dr. Sheldon's papers and possessions. Evidently, he had worked out a secret agreement with Yale, whereby he was doing a "research" project in which the school would provide the pictures and later information at graduation as to how well the students had done academically, socially, and athletically, and Dr. Sheldon was to correlate body morphology with performance in these areas, so as to further develop his theories of physical anthropology. The subjects of this "research" were never informed of its nature, nor were they asked for their consent to participate. As far as I know, no such work was ever published, and heaven knows for what these pictures were used. Given Dr. Sheldon's moral blindness in the numismatic arena, these pictures could have been used for his own personal satisfaction or even possibly passed on or sold to others for their use. In any event, about three years ago, the Smithsonian burned them all, as they were obviously obtained under false pretenses.

I think the moral of the story is that behavior in one area of a person's life tends to seep into other areas. In the case of Dr. Sheldon, the seepage had a very distressing odor.

* * *

ROB RETZ writes,

As the specter of controversy once again settles over EAC I read with great interest your introduction to the January issue of Penny-Wise. One comment in particular caught my attention. You wrote -- not without merit, I believe, " . . . This issue is slowly destroying EAC from the inside out."

In times like these there is never a lack of individuals eager to mount their soapboxes. None of these people were, I believe, directly involved in the events that may or may not have occurred at the ANS. All the principals are, I believe, dead. As one who has on occasion himself been swept into the maelstrom of controversy, I am all too aware that no matter how obvious the 'truth' may seem to those viewing events from the outside, all too often the real truth can, and does, lie very far afield.

To those so eager to leap forward in righteous indignation I would caution that you ask first to see their hands. Should you see the scars from the nails give them your undivided attention. But to those mere mortals, sans scars like myself, I caution that all the energy we may be so eager to expend professing our moral outrage would be better allocated to keeping our own individual houses in order. That being done would, I believe, make both the hobby and the world a much better place.

* * *

RED HENRY writes,

Your January editorial concerning Dr. Sheldon brought up a number of thoughts about him. He, with his "feet of clay," is not the only numismatic idol whose image has shattered in our time. Yes, we can respect and enjoy his scholarship while acknowledging that he did wrong. For some, this will be more difficult than for others. We who have entered this field in the last several years may find it easier to accept such things about him than those for whom

his image held an aura of reverence for decades. For some, the vision of Sheldon as a collector, so driven by his love of the old cents that he desired to acquire the finest examples in existence, could wring sympathy from us were it not for the fact that he unscrupulously victimized a true gentleman who was pursuing the same goal honestly. But did Dr. Sheldon give us an obscure warning about himself, with a comment in *Penny Whimsy*? We read on page 80,

“ . . . unless it is a well-worn cent itself, there is nothing in the world harder to ‘make out’ than a cent collector.”

And he was the collector, wasn't he?

* * *

WAYNE SLIFE writes,

The blockbuster issue of 15 January Penny-Wise has just arrived. Your integrity (and courage) in laying out the sordid William H. Sheldon matter does you great credit. It is understandable and commendable that we prefer not to speak ill of the dead, but the far-reaching implications of his thefts are too important to ignore.

The poisonous effects on pedigrees and provenances are bad enough, but the corrosive effects of the derelictions of one of our hobby's icons are probably even worse. We routinely expect betrayal and lies from our politicians, who wouldn't be successful politicians if they weren't driven rogues to begin with, but somehow we like to think our fellow numismatists are above such things.

Sheldon's thefts also confirm the truth of the old wives' tales that people are pretty much of a piece - if a man will steal from you, or lie to you, or betray you in one matter he is fully capable of doing so in others. This anti-relativistic truth (“If a man will steal from you, he'll kill you”, as they say in West Texas) is out of favor today, but we shouldn't be all that surprised at Sheldon. The unsavory details of this personal life and relationships, an open secret for years, should have tipped us.

I have been waiting for years for someone to drop the other shoe on another numismatic “giant”, now deceased. Lionized in his lifetime, and canonized after his death, he was, according to some old-time dealers who would have known, another flawed case. Behind his smarmy smile was the smirk of a switcher. If you know who I mean, fine. If not, there's no need to sadden his survivors. After all, at least he didn't poison pedigrees, he just stole.

* * *

GARRY APELIAN writes,

Oh Boy! What a shock to read the other night in P-W that Dr. Sheldon was a crook!

I feel badly that a famous man who did so much for large cent collecting can't possibly defend himself from the grave.

Although the full results of the ANS coins in question is on the net, maybe someone in EAC who is close to the situation should state the case against Dr. Sheldon and then somebody could maybe try to defend him.

Only by fully discussing both angles of the matter in public will all EAC'ers know the full truth. I for one want to know more.

* * * * *

CLAPP - SHELDON - NAFTZGER

William C. Noyes

To all of you who still think that the worst miscarriage of justice in Los Angeles history was the O. J. Simpson criminal case, you need to familiarize yourself with the facts in the case of Naftzger v. ANS. Much has been said and written since the decision in that case to smear the reputation of Dr. Sheldon, but the record needs to be set straight.

As many of you know, Ted Naftzger hired me as a consultant for the trial, to analyze the facts concerning the Clapp collection at the ANS and to testify regarding the opinions I formed after thoroughly reviewing the facts. I spent over a year working on the case, photographing coins at the ANS, and studying thousands of photographs and hundreds of pages of catalogues, documents and correspondence dating back decades. While many have been quick to condemn Sheldon on the basis of the court's decision in that case -- which is now on appeal -- they should become acquainted with the actual facts before reaching -- and broadcasting -- such a damning judgment. Anyone who has bothered to study the case will realize that the result was based on much speculation and suspect testimony and was ultimately contrary to all of the hard facts, basic logic and even the most narrowly defined rules of fairness and equity.

Unfortunately, several numismatic luminaries and non-luminaries who have not studied the facts and documents and are not familiar with the testimony have chosen to conclude from the trial decision (made available by the ANS on its web site) that Sheldon was a thief, that Naftzger knew all about the "missing" coins, and Noyes / Doty / Hanson and all others on Naftzger's side were liars and conspirators in covering up this "crime." Well, I'm here to tell you that nothing could be farther from the TRUTH. I have spent more time and effort, and bring more general and specific knowledge of large cents and their history and of the inner-workings of the large cent world to bear on this case than anyone. And I'm here and now telling all who want to listen there is not one single provable fact that would lead a sensible person familiar with all the facts to conclude that William H. Sheldon or any other identifiable person stole any large cents from the George H. Clapp / ANS collections. In addition, there was never any evidence or finding by the court that Naftzger was ever involved in any wrongdoing. The ANS's own witness testified that Naftzger's reputation was "impeccable", and no one ever suggested anything to the contrary, until uniformed readers of the court's decision made completely unfounded inferences. On the other hand, the evidence was undisputed that the ANS knew decades ago that coins were "missing" from the Clapp collection, and that they did nothing about it until Sheldon and all other witnesses with first-hand knowledge of the facts were long gone.

A wise man once said, "Never speak evil of the dead;" and in Dr. Sheldon's case these words should be heeded, since the complete confusion that exists today is truly the fault of the ANS, not Dr. Sheldon. No reasonable person should mouth off to the detriment of a dead man's reputation, unless that person has irrefutable evidence to back up his statements; and no such irrefutable facts exist to call Dr. Sheldon a thief. Sheldon is all the more vulnerable, because neither he nor anyone else with direct knowledge of the events is still alive.

Whatever went on at ANS occurred over 50 years ago. The innuendoes have been subject to 25+ years of misrepresentations and misinterpretations, and furthermore Dr. Sheldon has been dead for 20 years. Logic says until and unless you know ALL the facts, discuss only the

FACTS you do know; and be very careful about drawing what may prove to be very premature conclusions, especially when a dead man's reputation and place in history, albeit in a very small world, are at stake.

Ideally, anyone interested in this case should spend the many hours studying all the photos, correspondence and tangential evidence that was produced for the trial, or at least the actual trial transcript. But that is impractical, so I will attempt to summarize the **FACTS** as I discovered them, since I was there from start to finish. I want to make one thing very clear. I am not a lawyer and my comments on the legal issues are based on my opinion as to what a logical, fair minded person would and should conclude, and not necessarily what a nitpicking advocate would argue by narrowly interpreting some specific law, or by twisting some vaguely applicable fact or precedent to his specific needs. Although not a lawyer, I am a rational, clear thinking, broadly educated person with more knowledge of the large cents than anyone involved in this case. In my view, the coins and related documents tell the story, and I am well aware of their histories.

What are the facts that led to this case and the judge deciding Dr. Sheldon was a thief?

1. George H. Clapp (GHC) agreed to contribute his large cents to ANS in 1939, but kept the coins until 1946 because of security during World War II and because he wished to add to the collection while he was still able. The 1939 document mentioned ~ 1350 coins and ~ 1550 were delivered (can we be sure today? read on . . .) in 1946, so GHC added quite a few.
2. In 1943 GHC had photos taken by his nephew of the obverses only of the coins that were then in his collection. Sometime after that, probably between January and March of 1947 (but we can't be sure), Clapp prepared a handwritten log of his collection listing in broad terms the coins he supposedly delivered to the ANS in December, 1946. The ANS has the only known original print (no negatives exist) of the 1943 plates (life size black / white photos of coins in trays in T. J. Clarke boxes). The ANS does not have, nor do they know the whereabouts of the original GHC log, although they apparently had it as late as 1974. The most complete copy is owned by the author, but even it is missing page 28, which would have 1813, 1814 and presumably any later additions to or deletions from the collection (there is a page 29). ANS has no explanation for this missing key document.
3. Incredibly, ANS never inventoried, listed or photographed the coins they received in 1946, despite written advice from Arthur Andersen regarding the ANS' lack of controls and procedures for the inventorying of accessions. The single line accession record at ANS for GHC's large cents states only "1542 large cents -- George H. Clapp"!! So the ANS's evidence as to what coins they received consists of obverse only photos taken 3 years or more prior to delivery by a third party (plus a few other photos of unknown origin and date called the "type set," or more accurately date set), a Xerox of an inventory log provided by Bill Noyes as part of the trial evidence and the T. J. Clarke boxes the coins are housed in. The ANS and Del Bland have relied extensively on the information on the back of the boxes. How reliable are these boxes? To any serious researcher they are totally suspect: A) there are no photos typing boxes to coins; B) most boxes have been used multiple times with references to multiple coins on the same box; C) even Del Bland admitted in deposition that he had "switched" coins in boxes at ANS because he felt they had been inadvertently put back in the wrong box by a past researcher (Walter Breen dropped an entire tray, containing

hundreds of coins of 1798, sending boxes, inserts and coins cascading across the ANS's reference room. He spent the best part of a day getting most things back in order, and was still mightily embarrassed, and sure he had lost at least a couple tiny pieces of numismatic history when he related the story to Bill Noyes in the late 1980's). Each generation of large cent researcher has felt compelled to add their numbering system or comments to the boxes, thus many different inks and handwritings appear. Although for the most part the boxes agree with the information in the GHC log, there is nothing to tie the log or boxes specifically to the 1943 photos, and thus to any specific coin.

4. In the 1942 - 48 time period there is much correspondence between ANS (Sidney Noe), GHC, and Homer K. Downing (HKD) with references to WHS and T. J. Clarke concerning additions and subtractions Clapp hopes to make to the collection, with very specific references to Clapp's desire to acquire coins from Henry C. Hines and later his estate, among others.
5. In about 1947 Homer Downing and William Sheldon purchased the Henry Hines collection.
6. Starting in 1946, HKD became very active as a curator / cataloguer / organizer of the Clapp / ANS collection (ANS states, and it has long been generally accepted, that HKD was responsible for organizing the Clapp cents at ANS). To some lesser extent, WHS was studying the Clapp / ANS coins. The ANS log books which record visitors are missing from 1945 - 50, the only such missing books in the society's history, so it is difficult to pin down the exact frequency of visits, but Noe states more than once that HKD comes in most Saturdays.
7. The ANS's deaccession file for the time period in question is clearly dated 1945 to 1963 on the outside of the file. The earliest document that can be found in the file is dated 1959. Other deaccessions of large cents which the ANS admittedly made during these early years are not reflected in any written record at the ANS. Other deaccessions were reflected, showing trades and sales for cash which occurred throughout the period.
8. Any trades or switches, whether approved or unapproved occurred in 1949-50 time period according to best available evidence, since easily traced coins started appearing in well-publicized public auctions (do thieves sell such coins at public auctions?) as early as 1950.
9. HKD dies in 1951 and his coins are sold in the 1952 ANA sale by New Netherlands with most major coins pedigreed to Henry Hines.
10. T. J. Clarke, who was actively pursued by Sidney Noe / ANS as a potential big donor of colonials and other coins, dies in 1954. Much was made at the trial about Sheldon's supposed switches of coins from this collection prior to the bulk of the collection being sold to Ted Naftzger (REN) with Abe Kosoff acting as agent / go between. REN discovered possibly as many as a dozen but more likely 6 or 7 coins in the Sheldon collection he purchased in 1972 that he thought he had already bought from T. J. Clarke's estate in 1954. These few coins were indeed important but insignificant when compared to the total collection of 600 - 700 large cents. The ANS and its lawyers made a huge deal out of this evidence. As with the ANS / Clapp coins, these events could have any number of explanations, only one of which involves wrongdoing by WHS. Remember the fact that 6 or 7 or 12 coins were

different from envelope described pedigrees was revealed by Naftzger after his 1972 purchase of the WHS collection. What really occurred with TJC we will never know, but concluding that WHS was a thief based on a few coins wrongly pedigreed by TJC or his secretary out of a collection of 600 - 700 pieces is wrong (I am sure many wrongly pedigreed coins exist in most large collections today, in fact I am still finding many in our times with virtually every vaguely important coin being plated, so it is not hard to believe some or all of the TJC coins were just mispedigreed, or the boxes were not updated before the TJC sale to REN). But I believe something else was going on with TJC. Simply put, WHS got to the estate (through John Payne, TJC's office manager) before Kosoff representing Naftzger did, and WHS was able to convince Payne to trade a few coins, WHS making up the difference in cash. The court seems to have found this highly unusual and looked with suspicion on such a deal as being abnormal or unethical (but by whom, WHS or Payne?) but how many of us large cent collectors have not told a fellow collector, I'd really like first shot at such and such a variety and noted it somewhere (REN has several coins in his collection with little notes included saying Darwin Palmer or Bill Noyes, et al. Wants this coin). Rather than being evidence of wrongdoing by someone (WHS or Payne?), I believe it is / was quite common for a few important coins to change hands privately before the bulk of a collection is sold. This settles old accounts, continues the chain of ownership of "old friends," both coins and people, and has little or no effect on the saleability of the collection. TJC and WHS were friends, had bought / sold / traded before and WHS (and Payne surely knew this) was not in need nor wanted the entire collection, nor probably could have afforded it. But Payne also knew WHS was THE collector, and these few coins fit his needs, so it made sense among friends. If you do not buy my (Noyes') explanation, I offer two other equally plausible, ethical explanations: A) The value of switched coins was payment to WHS for pricing collection for estate to sell to Kosoff / REN -- ever wonder how estate / Payne arrived at value? (I have); or B) TJC had actually owned the lesser coins, either because he was fooled into buying wrongly pedigreed coins (all these coins were from French or some other unplated catalog), so no absolute proof of pedigree was possible then (or now for that matter), or because TJC traded with WHS prior to his death. Like everything else about this case because there is no hard evidence, if you are looking for a thief, you will see a thief, but logic does not point to the TJC estate issue as proof by a preponderance of the evidence.

11. WHS catalogs "Dupont Sale" for Stack's in 1954. Vague rumors arise after 1972, and other innuendoes were circulated, which proffered that WHS switched coins from this collection. Stack's categorically denies / refutes this, and no coins have ever been pointed to as mysteriously missing from the "Dupont Sale."
12. Penny-Whimsy comes out in 1958 and the lesser pedigree sections differ from Early American Cents (1948) -- at best entries are confused, I believe the science of pedigrees and the importance (if indeed they are important) of them was in its infancy -- catalogers were just beginning to list them consistently, more coins were being plated to allow plate matching and tracing, and of course Del Bland had not begun his quest. Breen and Sheldon kept some notes, but they both, as we well know in 1998, got quite a lot confused in die states (look at Breen Half Cent Book) and pedigrees -- nothing evil here, just wrong guesses or information. The changes in pedigrees from 1948 to 1958 are really a non-issue and prove nothing.
13. In 1972 REN buys WHS collection, finding coins he thought he had purchased from

TJC estate in 1954, and noting a few coins from original list he made on first examination of WHS coins are missing, again 6 or so. REN questions WHS, but ultimately ignores the discrepancies as minor to 350 coin deal. Once again much was made by ANS / lawyers of missing coins, but when REN buys residual of Dorothy Paschal's collection in 1977, he buys them again and it does not bother him. To my way of thinking, Paschal did with WHS what WHS did with TJC years earlier (i.e., she got first shot and took / bought 6 or so coins that fit her collection). In this case REN knew what was specifically missing but it did not warrant refusing the entire deal.

14. In 1972 ANS hires Richard Doty, now one of two curators in charge of the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian, quite possibly the most prestigious numismatic position in the U.S., if not the world. Doty produced with others an 828-page document listing each individual early date large cent from Clapp / ANS trays. This single document, its production, and Richard Doty's testimony concerning it, is why the ANS's claim to any of the "missing" 129 coins is so unfair. In this document Doty, et al. States and concludes in writing time after time, "not Clapp coin" (72 plus times), meaning that the coin in the tray did not match the "GHC / Collin 1943" plates. (They did miss some coins and mixed up some others - by their own admission they were large cent amateurs). Doty testified he told his superiors in 1973 - 74 there seemed to be problems with the large cents, and he was told by various curators they already knew about the problems, and had known about them for a long time. Further, Doty was told (over 25 years ago, when WHS was still alive and living around the corner from the ANS) by those curators that Dr. Sheldon had the coins and that the ANS was not going to do anything about it!! *Whatever you choose to believe, Sheldon a thief or not, no sane, reasonable person can possibly believe the ANS acted with due diligence and, most importantly, with fairness to all parties, by ignoring the "missing" coins for so many years, and allowing time for all the witnesses to die.* There is other unsubstantiated evidence that Breen had told them earlier of problems, and it appears that Loring / Adams also told ANS employees in or around 1972. Simply put, the ANS actually knew that there were "problems" with the collection, and that WHS had the coins in question. The mystery, if there was one, could have been easily solved in the 1972 to 1974 time frame, with WHS still alive and competent to testify. In my view, the ANS's reaction to Doty's discovery is not consistent with theft by Sheldon. The ANS did nothing -- no police report, no press release to numismatic and other sources, no phone call to WHS, no alert to leading dealers telling them to check with the ANS before selling significant large cents -- absolutely nothing. If you believe a crime was committed in this case, this is the real crime -- doing nothing until it was too late to solve the mystery (if any), except from hearsay, innuendo, unsubstantiated facts and questionable old documents (or lack of them). If the ANS had acted prior to WHS' death in 1977, or probably even prior to Dorothy Paschal's death in 1981, we would have had first person factual testimony. Sheldon could have either defended or ruined his own reputation and not left that task to us, because we can never be sure of what happened. The ANS has no right to pursue a case in 1991 which chose to ignore in 1972 - 74 (or 1950, when it probably knew about all of this); this is simply unfair and why we have statute of limitation laws. In my view, the court erroneously ruled that the statute of limitation only began in 1991 when the court stated that ANS knew "for sure" where some of the coins were, because they "found" matches in the Noyes book. How convenient that the ANS bothered to look in 1991, but not in 1950, 1953, 1954, 1956, 1973 (REN - NN / Seaby Sale) 1986 RSBI sale, other large cent catalogs or for that matter bother to research who owned plate coins

in Penny Whimsy – the large cent reference from 1958 - 1991. The truth is the ANS knew WHS had the coins as early as 1950, and certainly by 1972, and did nothing about it. Anytime after 1973, the ANS knew or could have known after just a few minutes of inquiry who bought WHS' collection. But the ANS did nothing about it until the publication of my book in 1991. At the trial, the ANS / lawyers tried to "suggest" that I was helping Naftzger because I felt I had caused the entire problem by publishing my book. Never mind the fact Doty had exposed the problem in 1973, and Del Bland simply refined and restated Doty's opinion nearly two decades later when he issued the famous list of 129 prior to anyone knowing I was even thinking about doing a book. Prior to its publication ANS had a handwritten annotated version of Bland's list, with present (1990) owners of many coins identified. The fact is clear the ANS has actually known that WHS had the "missing" coins for decades, and knew or could have known ever since 1973 that REN purchased WHS' collection.

15. After the Bland list was published in the numismatic press in 1990, the ANS sat back and expected all owners of "their" coins to just trade them back, because Bland / ANS said they were "stolen."
16. Robbie Brown offered the first coin back – 1802 S.231 – and received back from ANS a clearly higher grade / condition coin than the one ANS claimed was missing. From that moment on, Noyes and others began to question the blank statement that the coins were "illegally" switched. The obvious question then and now was / is: why would a thief put a better coin in and take out a clearly inferior coin? My answer in court and now is simple and the same – the coin was not "stolen" but was part of a multiple coin trade probably to get different die states (or other coins) for ANS / Clapp coins. The whole concept of multiple coin trades was lost on the Court and they kept asking about one for one "switches." In case you think this better coin in, lesser coin out, is an isolated case, we need only investigate the case of the 1808 S.277's from RSBII, 1996 sale. Originally, an AU55 was catalogued by Del Bland with an ex-ANS pedigree, but when Noyes informed the ANS the missing coin was catalogued in the sale, ANS was forced to try to get it back from the owner, Robbie Brown. An errata sheet was created, the coin formerly in the ANS was catalogued and sold as MS60, and all experts who viewed the two coins agreed the so-called "switched in" coin was clearly of better grade. Noyes thought just another multiple trade UNTIL the trial. Kleeberg tried to explain it away as a rarer die state, but both were virtually the same and would thus never have commanded a premium BUT the real surprise came when it was revealed that in order to be allowed the privilege of returning the coin the ANS claimed was "stolen," Robbie Brown was required to pay an additional \$4,000 to cover the supposed difference in value of the two coins -- we won't debate why RSB paid this extortion, but anyone should be asking what is / was ANS's motive -- greed comes to mind, and despicable seems appropriate. To take advantage of Robbie, who had chosen to return at least two previous coins was outrageous but no more so than the rest of this case. The message is clear: we want "our" coins back, but if we will be giving you back a better coin, we expect you to pay us the difference for the privilege -- who could possibly argue with the fairness or logic of that kind of deal!! After an exhaustive analysis of the "trade-in" and "trade-out" coins, I have found many other discrepancies that simply do not support the conclusion that WHS, one of our best and brightest, risked his entire reputation to "steal" coins that were not as good or were equally as good as the "trade-in" coins. Further, the cumulative difference between the then fair market values of the "trade-in" coins (assuming there was no boot, which is a huge assumption, since I have found valuable large cents (if not

colonials) in the ANS that the ANS cannot account for) and the “trade-out” coins was not enough to interest a petty thief, much less a tenured professor at an Ivy League college.

17. In 1997 a trial took place and a single judge rendered a decision which I will summarize with a few comments. Naftzger was required to return 38 coins without receiving trade in coins in return -- at best unfair and punitive in nature! Never mind all knowledgeable large cent experts who viewed two of the coins agreed that the Clapp 1943 plate did not match REN's coins -- judge awarded them to ANS anyway. But wait, it gets “weirder.” The judge awarded ANS \$229,500 for 20 coins that REN had innocently sold from 1956 (TJC sale) through 1992 (Eric Streiner) -- again 5 of these coins do not match, including the 1800 NC.2 which the judge agreed in court clearly did not match the Clapp plate, but awarded damages / conversion anyway. If the law is as interpreted by this judge / court is correct, ANY AND ALL collectors who innocently handled any of the coins claimed by the ANS between 1950 and the present, despite the ANS' knowledge that WHS had the coins in 1950 / 1973, could be liable for the present market value of that coin. This conversion idea is crazy, e.g., this case says if my father after World War II bought a small impressionist painting for \$500 and sold it in 1948 for \$1,500 but in 1998 it was claimed by a European museum (that knew or could have discovered in a phone call that my father had the painting in 1949) as a Nazi theft and valued at \$2 million, my father would be deemed liable for converting a stolen painting, and owe the \$2 million. That's exactly what the conversion part of the court's decision in this case demands of Ted Naftzger -- illogical, unfair, and totally absurd, and the ANS continues to wonder why EACers have been so uncooperative in their efforts to voluntarily get “their” coins back.
18. Needless to say, Naftzger is appealing this outrageously unfair, illogical decision.

Hopefully, this presentation of FACTS that came to light in the ANS / Naftzger lawsuit will at least force the large cent community to ask for the facts, study the facts and coins themselves, and not believe the conclusions and assumptions drawn by others who have not done so.

Obviously, I will be at EAC in April and I will be glad to discuss facts and my research and conclusions with all EACers who wish to ask questions. This decision is the low point of the long history of large cent collecting and the entire numismatic community is stained by this decision. Indeed, this case is the O. J. Simpson trial all over again for numismatists and collectors everywhere. But let's remember that, in the end, Mr. Simpson's victims were vindicated.

MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BILL MCKIVOR writes,

Your note about Bob Everett is one of many I received. When I sent the information to Pete Smith, I put in much more information than I wished him to use, but felt that he should know something about the man, since he did not know him. I told him to leave out all the “medical” stuff if used for publication, and trusted him to edit it. That is was heartfelt is true -- I miss him a lot to this day.

I have known lots of people in this hobby-business -- Bob stood head and shoulders above most of them, and his size had nothing to do with it. He was a true friend, teacher, honest dealer, and just an all-around good human being stuck in a body that caused him pain and suffering. He never complained. He had one more surprise for his friends -- He left his Library to the Seattle Coin Club, and many of us received items from his personal collection. I received his "unusual good for token" collection, which I helped with from time to time, and his obsolete bank notes. Other people received items that Bob remembered they had shown a more than passing interest in.

During his last couple of years, his condition worsened, and I would take him to shows out of our area. He would sleep most of the way, and at least be on the ball on the Bourse floor. We would make dates to go to various functions, and I would drive. I had a car he would fit into. The last year he had to say, all too often, that he just couldn't go. He would tell me, "we'll go next year" -- but I don't think he believed it.

He left his mark on the Seattle Numismatic Community -- it will never be the same without him.

* * *

RED HENRY writes,

Your September '97 editorial has really borne fruit with some excellent articles in the last two *P-W* issues. For example, recent pieces by Dick Saxl, Craig Hamling, Steve Carr, and Steve Ellsworth were all well done and informative, and I also think that those articles represent two positive trends for EAC: (1) increased participation by those capable of it and (2) more very readable, interesting material in the magazine. Well done, gentlemen! We'll look forward to more.

Let the keepers of records chalk up one more 1793 S1, discovered as an unattributed filler in Jim Long's inventory at the New Carrollton, MD, show on December 13th and confirmed by him on the spot. UNITED and the chain top showed on the reverse, and that's all you need. The old cent now has a happy home in the mountains. (And don't anybody say, "But R4's aren't worth reporting." An S1 is an S1! -- and each of them is unique and important.)

That S1 would have shown up in *The Score* next time, if there had only been one. I'm sure that the thoughts of EAC members everywhere go out to John Fettinger, whose health problems have finally forced him to discontinue publication. John and his associate Bob Meyer put in countless hours of work for many years to assemble and publish *The Score*, the existence of which benefited not only *Score* contributors, but all those who care about the early-date large cents. We're sorry *The Score* is gone, but we're grateful that it existed. Thank you, John and Bob.

* * *

DON TAYLOR writes,

I've been experimenting with some ideas lately, one of which I would like to offer you, for what it's worth.

Do you have any heavily corroded, burned in a fire, or beat to heck large cents that you don't know what to do with, not good enough to include in your collection but you just can't throw them away or ignore them? Hey, it's old copper and that's what we do. Well, try this;

gather up that scrap metal and put them in your pocket with the rest of your pocket change and faithfully pack them around with you day after day after day. In time they will wear of course, but that's what's supposed to happen. Would you rather have a nice A/G- VG- F coin, or an unrecognizable glob of corrosion that might have been an early large cent one hundred and fifty-plus years ago? I have several, one in particular, an S-70 XF detail totally burned and corroded black beyond recognition, that all other types of cleaning did not help, i.e. olive oil, dental pick, and rose thorn, that is now a very nice and presentable F-15 coin. This process took approximately six months. Don't be afraid to rub it and handle it; any wear helps to eliminate surface problems then it can be reasonably re-colored if needed (but we don't do that, do we?) It was scrap metal or junk anyway, right? Hey, it's worked for me, seems like all I get is scrap metal anyway and it sure beats a wire brush or an eraser (God forbid).

Editor's Note: Don makes an excellent point. Since EAC '84, I've carried one of Mike Packard's personalized counterstamped large cents as a pocket piece. This 1838 started its "new life" as a badly corroded VF-XF; fourteen years have rendered it a smooth AG.

* * *

ED LEITNER writes,

I appreciate the inferential statistical insights that Craig Sholley has added to the studies of large cent survivorship. Perhaps, we may never be able to make strong conclusions about the original mintage of each variety. Perhaps, the best we can do is continue to participate in EAC and communicate with each other so we can learn what still exists from those original mintages. On a somewhat related topic, I wonder about the 3% survivorship assumption for large cents (and half cents?) And what evidence there is to support this percentage or to challenge it.

* * *

FRANK LEONE writes (in his publication 2 times, PO Box 564393, College Point, NY 11356, and reprinted with permission),

Did anyone else cringe at that article in one of the numismatic rags that compared coins to stocks as investment vehicles? Let's take a quick look at stocks: You buy \$10,000 worth of Security A. You pay \$100 in commissions. The stock increases 10% per year for 3 years. You now have \$13,310 worth of Security A. Should you decide to sell, you will have to pay another \$100 in commissions and Capital Gains tax on the \$3,310 increase. That's a pretty good investment. Now let's look at coins: You purchase \$10,000 worth of *selected* rare coins. They "increase in value" 20% per year, that's twice the investment performance of Security A! In three years you now have \$17,280 worth of selected rare coins. WOW! Let's go sell them now. Dealer A offers you \$4,500 for, as he puts it, the "overgraded" group of coins. Dealer B offers you \$5000 since as he puts it "the market has softened for this material." Dealer C offers to trade you a \$3600 Rolex watch since he's "short on cash." Dealers D, E, and F are all eating sandwiches and are therefore too busy to talk to you. So you bring your material to an auction house where each dealer mentioned above proceeds to bid 10% less than what he offered you since he now has to consider the auction house commission. So Dealer A bids about \$4,150, Dealer B bids \$4500, Dealer C is still trying to unload his Rolex. Dealers D, E, and F are probably still eating. So, you're stuck with Dealer B's high bid of \$4500, that's JUST a \$5,500 LCSS from your original investment. Oops!! I forgot the Auction House's hooks into your stash, that'll be another 20% reduction to your \$4,500 proceeds. That brings it down to a cool \$3,600

brings it down to a cool \$3,600 that you'll RECOVER from your initial \$10,000 INVESTMENT. You were better off keeping it under the mattress.

* * *

GENE BRAIG writes,

Another "professional" grading true story. This one may be hard to equal. I was seated at the Larry Briggs Rare Coins table at the Ohio Coin Exposition show (Cleveland, Ohio) on February 6, examining a partial collar (railroad rim) Morgan Silver Dollar (sorry about that). Everything was proper and correct except the price. Shades of copper deals. Negotiations came to an abrupt halt when a potential customer asked Ken if he would like to look at a recently acquired Large Cent.

Ken grinned, held out his hand and reached for the 16x, all at the same time (no, he was NOT chewing gum). After about eight seconds (without the glass), Ken's face took on an unusual expression and he asked the customer if he had "assigned" a number. The customer responded "13". Ken, with the customer's permission, handed the coin to me. I observed:

"1796 Type of 1797 VG10 Corroded"

The PCI slab, at arm's length with show lighting and no glass assistance, contained a 1793 Liberty Cap, apparently an S-13. It had been purchased through the mail and was not for sale. Before walking, the customer gave Ken a phone number. Maybe Larry will have the opportunity to write a post script to this letter.

Whoever had the coin graded accepted the PCI slab. Whoever sold the coin accepted the PCI slab. The buyer looked at the coin!

I failed to grade the coin but, from memory, net VG isn't too far off. It was all there. And, yes, I did buy the Morgan dollar. Too much excitement distorts judgment.

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 May 15, 1998 issue is April 30, 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 66901.

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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!

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Washington #(301) 369 - 4650

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ROBERT ZAVOS EAC #2502

1007 Savannah Ave.

Pittsburgh PA 16221

Bowers & Merena	11/6/89 Saccone; Hardbound; new; pri-New Jersey Coppers, tokens, & medals	\$25
McCawley/Greliman	Early Coppers Auction #2; Sep 21, 1991; 28p; 216 lots; fine	\$6
	Early Copper Mail Bid Sale #1; April 14, 1992; 16p; 414 lots; fine	\$6
	Early Coppers Auction #5; Aug 14 1992; 36p; 320 lots; fine	\$6
	John M. Griffee Sale of US Colonial Coins; 10/21/95; 653 lots; fine copy	\$12
	John Schoentag Sale of Half Cents & Large Cents; 1/6/96; 76p; 1059 lots; fine	\$12
New Neth./Seaby	11/14/73 2nd Auction Sale; Superb early Large Cents [Natzger]; fine; pri	\$30
Stacks	12/8/83 JohnLRoper, 2nd Collection of Colonial & Early Am Coins; xpri	\$26
	3/16/88 Herman Halpern US Large Cents; nice copy; pri	\$25
Superior	1/27/96 Robinson S. Brown Jr. Large Cents 1793-1839; new; Hardbound; pri	\$65
\$3 postage/order; pri = prices realized; x = copy; Numerous auction catalogues and books - free list		

CLIFFORD C. FELLAGE, EAC #4162

P.O. Box 911

Farmington, CT 06034-0911

Send for my current free price list of Half Cents, Large Cents, Colonials, and State Coppers, and Gallery Mint museum errors. A separate list of "CONDER" tokens is also available. Credit cards are accepted for ordering convenience. Prompt service on all orders. No postage on orders over \$200.

Phone / Fax: (860) 676 - 0853

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 #21. Thank you.

ROD BURRESS, EAC #109

9743 Leacrest

Cincinnati, OH 45215

FOR SALE:

#4 Soft jeweler's brush \$8.50 each
Jeweler's tissue 4 x 4 inch sheets box of 1,000 sheets \$7.50 pkg of 250 sheets \$2.50
Xylol 4 oz. bottle plus 100 wooden stick Q-tips \$3.00
Acetone 4 oz. Bottle plus 100 wooden stick Q-tips \$3.00
Wooden Stick Q-tips \$4.50 per 500 \$8.50 per 1,000
Blue Ribbon Coin Conditioner UNABLE TO OBTAIN
Cast Iron Notary Seal Machine converted to make aluminum foil pressings
small size \$32.00
Notary Machine - unconverted - for the do-it-yourselfer small size \$16.00
Double Row Coin Storage Box For 2 X 2 holders 14 inches long
premium quality heavy duty .103 wgt. pasteboard -- color red \$4.25 ea.
Heavy Duty 28 lb. 2 X 2 Coin Envelopes colors gray, brown, or white
pkg of 100 \$2.75 box of 500 \$12.00 box of 800 \$17.00
Cotton Liners 100 percent soft cotton flannel interest. Fit inside standard 2 X 2 envelopes. Send SASE for sample. \$22.00 per hundred
VIGOR 10X Triplet magnifying glass very high quality optics - best glass on market to my knowledge for its size and price
extra wide 13 / 16 inch lens aplanatic, achromatic \$39.00 ea. with cord
Sulfur Ointment 10% solution 1+ oz. jar \$2.50
Attribution guides for matron head cents 1816 - 1835 \$4.00 approx 37 pgs
Add \$3.50 per order (\$4.00 for Western States) for shipping. Shipping by UPS - you must give a street address, not deliverable to PO Box.

JACK H. ROBINSON, EAC #1306

P. O. Box 9426

McLean, Virginia 22102

The 15th Edition of CQR is available for \$30.00, ** POSTPAID.

We offer the "Jack H. Robinson Sale" catalog for \$40.00, ** POSTPAID. This is for the original softbound version with prices realized.

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

JOHN F. BRADY, EAC #189

Private Collection For Sale at EAC - Boston, April 2 - 4

Sheldon 264, 272 - Robinson, 218, 24N5, 188 - Nice - Spingarn, 189 - Bold Date, 150, 151, 152 - Salyards, 34N5 - Dog, 178 - Spingarn & other good stuff!

Displayed at table of Joel Spingarn.

GILBERT A. SMITH, JR., EAC #1189 PO Box 5015 Greenwood, Indiana 46142

ALL OFFERS CONSIDERED PHONE (317) 882-6424

1856	N-22	VG10	Fine 15 Sharpness, nice brown color	
		R6	Small edge bump, some old nicks	
		AVE	Decent appearance, late die state	
			Grellman attributed & graded	\$ 150.00
1831	N-12/1	VG8	Cleaned, decent otherwise	40.00
1798	S-146	1+/3	R5+, Net?, scratches, no date	25.00
1848	N-37	Net AG	Rough, bent	8.00
1798	S-165	VG8	R4 Counterstamped HH	35.00
1795	S-78	2/1	Off center 15%, many small scratches	125.00

GARY TRUDGEN, EAC #1889 3103 Chatham Road Endwell, NY 13760

FOR SALE: 1787 CONNECTICUT COPPER - Miller 31.2-r.3
 VF. Draped bust left variety. Struck "medal turn." Struck slightly off center. Complete legends and date. Dark brown, fairly smooth surfaces with small patches of black crud scattered in the fields. \$75.00

Send for a free list of colonial and state coppers.

JOEL S. HARWIN, EAC #1801 3849 State Street Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 682 - 8838 work (805) 967 - 3242 home

WANTED: I'm trying to fill a couple of holes in my early half cent collection and am looking for two pieces, a 1797 C-2 half cent in Choice F-15 or better and a 1797 C-3a half cent in Choice F-15 or better. Please advise if you might have for sale. Thank you.

KEVIN LONERGAN, EAC #4492 Box 4234 Hamden, CT 06514

LARGE CENTS WANTED

1808 - 1814	1830	N-2	1834	N-6
1836 N6	1846	N-16	1847	N-18

Fine or better and Avg+ or choice

COL. STEVEN ELLSWORTH "The Butternut", EAC #1901 PO Box 498 Clifton, VA 20124
 (703) 802 - 0252 e-mail:butternut@gslink.com.

- | | | | |
|--|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| 1. 1793 Half Cent C4 EF45 / net VF20 | \$4,150 | 4. 1793 S3 F15+ | \$6,975 |
| 2. 1802/0 Half Cent C2 F12 / VG8 | \$1,125 | 5. 1796 S100 VG10/VG7 | \$1,200 |
| 3. 1805 Half Cent C2 Sm. Date VG8 / G5 | \$5,200 | 6. 1821 N1 VF30+ | \$ 825 |

Write for free price lists for the types of coppers you collect or call for detailed descriptions.

ED LEITNER, EAC #3738 1601 - 39th Avenue S.E. Puyallup, WA 98374
 (360) 893 - 8701 leitner@gte.net

1806 C-4 HALF CENT MS60 \$1,350.00
 Frosty golden brown and tan faded from mint color. More sharply struck than usual for this variety with fully detailed hair. An attractive, lustrous half cent. EX: CVM Fixed Price List, June 1993 at \$1,250 with color photo plated on page 7.

1810 C-1 HALF CENT EF-40 \$725.00
 Glossy chocolate brown color. Well-struck with the usual weakness in the stars on the right and the corresponding reverse legend. A very desirable example of this somewhat difficult variety to find in higher grades.

JIM YOUNG, JR., EAC #795 3906 Paddrick Road Darlington, MD 21034
 (410) 457 - 5402

LARGE CENTS FOR SALE

1798	S-145	F (12) net	\$ 175
1798	S-155	VG (7)	\$ 165
1798	S-163	VG (7) net	\$ 95
1798	S-183	VG (7) scudzy	\$125

Send for price list of coins for sale.

ALAN V. WEINBERG, EAC #1899 23321 Aetna Woodland Hills, CA 91367
 (818) 348 - 3749

I will pay top market price for 1652 Massachusetts silver coinage -- Oak Tree and Pine Tree silver. Full, basically round unclipped flans, well-struck, essentially problem-free EF-40 and better. Particularly need Oak Tree sixpence and threepence. I will be exhibiting Massachusetts silver at April, Boston EAC and encourage others to do the same in this historic city.

Also seriously collect pre-1900 American gold and silver historical medals, including Indian Peace and lifesaving. Also want "Old West" and "Deep South" saloon and military fort "good-for-trade" tokens. Pay top price.

BILL MCKIVOR, EAC #4180, CTCC #3 PO Box 46135 Seattle, WA 98126
 Phone (206) 244 - 8345 evenings E-MAIL Condemnut@juno.com

THE COPPER CORNER

CONDER TOKENS EVASION TOKENS 19TH CENTURY TOKENS
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Jack H. Robinson, EAC #1308 P. O. Box 9426 McLean, Virginia 22102

1998 is upon us and EAC '98 is just around the corner - See you in Boston!

1997 was, indeed, a year to remember - and I don't just mean Copper! I have been, perhaps, the busiest that I can recall in all of my years in business. As you can imagine, I don't lean toward bureaucratic stonewalling, and in this area, utilities are an integral part of my business base. We have determined that the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission has, for years, been charging illegal rates and getting justice can be a long and frustrating experience. And, since I don't tend to give up easily, my dedication to the task has consumed vast amounts of time that were already bent out of shape. The net result has been hearings and our filing of law suits against the bureaucracy - and tilt the windmill we shall! But the disagreements HAVE resulted in the FIRST EVER water recycling system used in the commercial laundry business. Our prototype worked in January 1998!

Now turning to CQR - I am still committed to the task. I appreciate all of the support in the past, and my statement above simply means that I have not been able to dedicate the time necessary to produce a current product that I feel would contain the quality of work that I have been proud of in the past. No one will ever agree that CQR will ever be "right", and CQR will always be subjective, based upon objectivity.

I feel that CQR needs some changes. Maybe some format changes!? Maybe some grade column deletions and additions!? Certainly some Condition Census updates/changes! Certainly some Rarity updates/changes! And, it appears to me that the strong demand for quality material (Average and above), i.e. for most varieties in grades of Fine and better, have driven the demand for lower grade material to higher levels fueled by new collectors being bitten by the Copper Bug. Really CHOICE items are tough and SCUDZY is being recognized more for what they are. All of these factors tend to make CQR less than I need it to be, and the politics of CQR are such that they will always be difficult without my feeling uncomfortable about my own long-established research efforts necessary to produce CQR.

I will use my table at EAC '98 as a forum to discuss all of the above factors. I need suggestions - I will listen! I need data - please furnish anything you can. I missed FUN '98 (first FUN missed in 15 years) and the February Long Beach (first Long Beach missed in 15 years), but I made it to the Wes Rasmussen Late Date Sale - a delightful event. I fully expect to have resolved many of the demands on my time by EAC '98, or at least to have them down to a dull roar.

It is my stated intent to produce the 16th Edition of CQR by September 1998 Long Beach or, if possible, by ANA '98. Please DO NOT send any money at the present time!!! I will place an ad in the May 1998 P/W that will explain details and solicit payment at that time.

Through all of this, my objective is to present as much information as I can that relates to Condition Census, grading and values relating to Early Copper. My efforts to provide this data is, as always, depend upon the level and quality of data that I receive from EAC members/subscribers in addition to just auction results. Please continue providing data and/or suggestions/comments - they are ALL very much appreciated.

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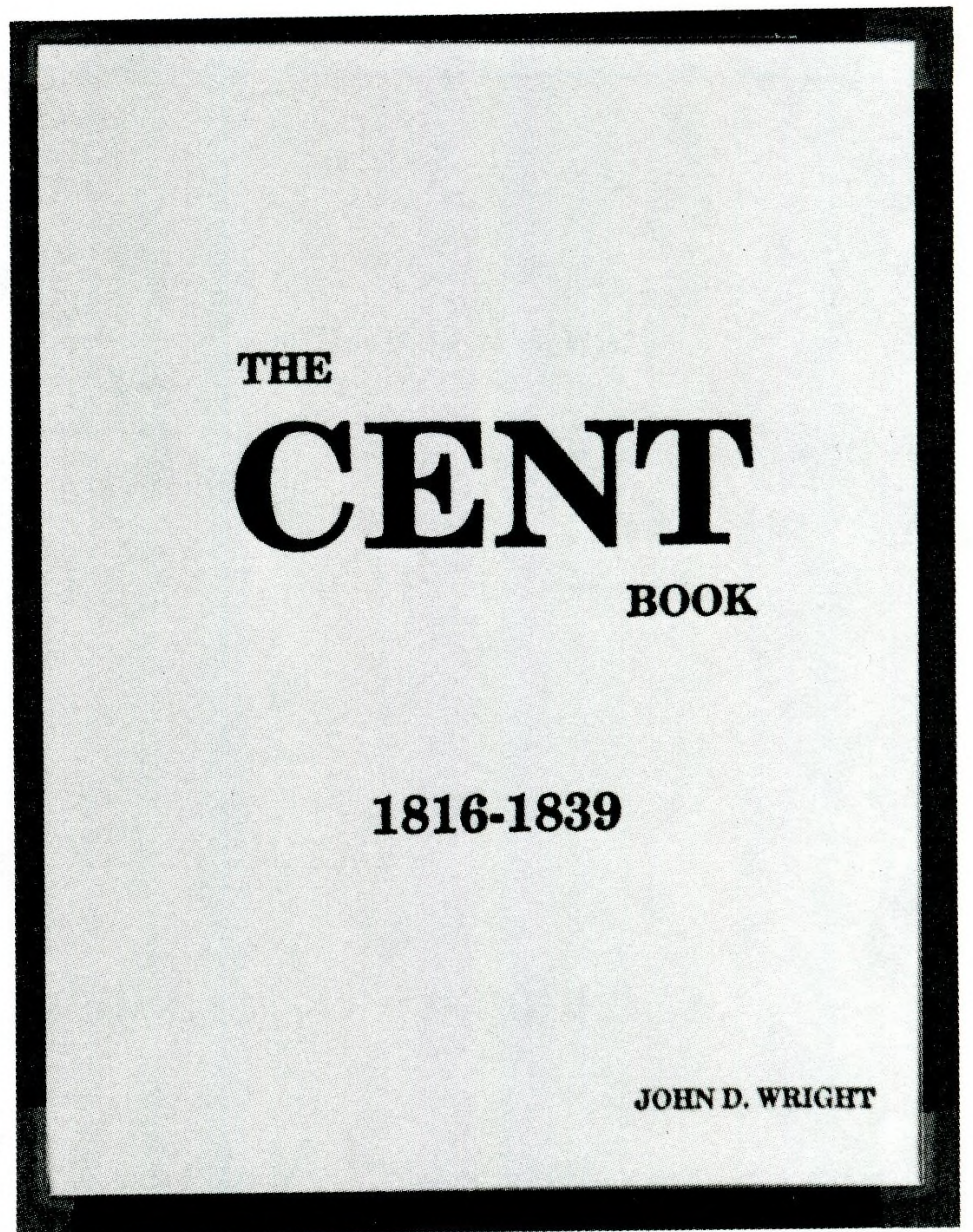
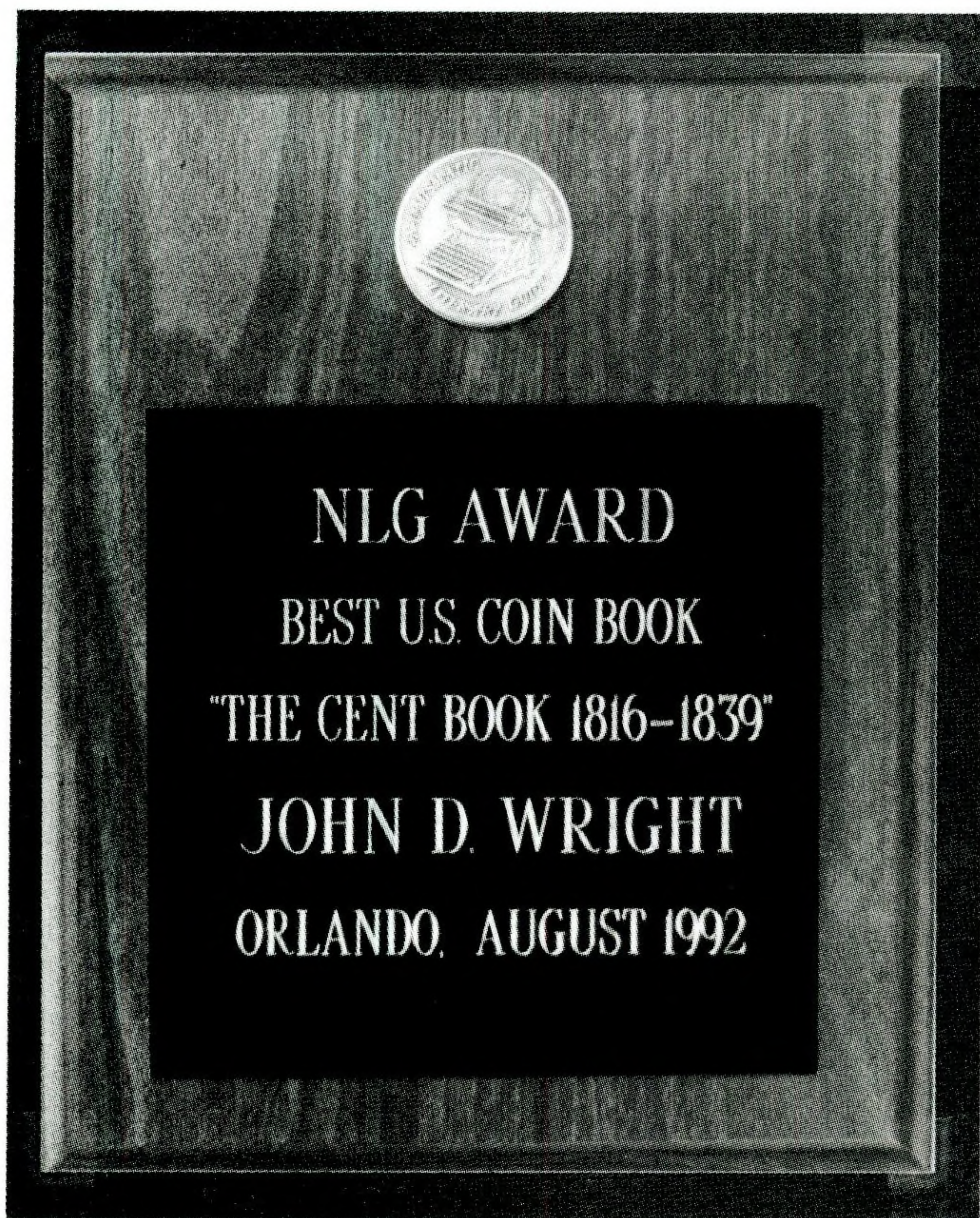
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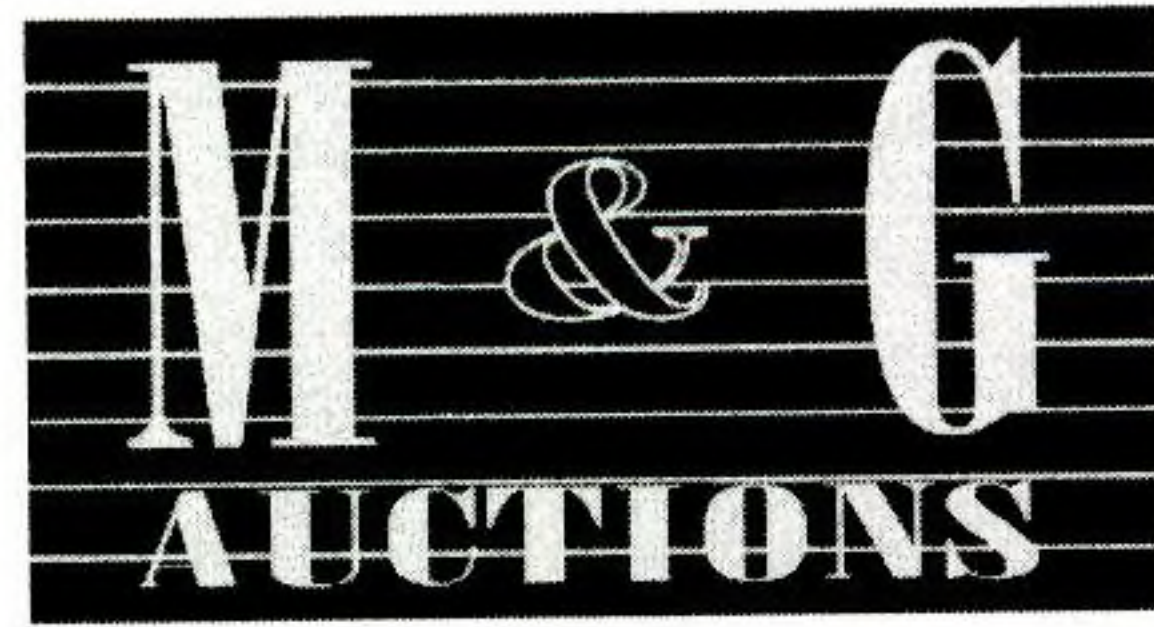
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Our next sale will feature

The Chuck Heck Middle Date Large Cent Collection

to be held May 31, 1998, at Superior Galleries,
9478 West Olympic Boulevard, Beverly Hills, California.

We are presently accepting consignments for this and
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Please call or write for further information to:

Chris McCawley
P.O. Box 2967
Edmond, OK 73083
405-3431-2213

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