

# PENNY-WISE

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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

Founding Editor  
Warren A. Lapp, MD (1915 – 1993)

Harry E. Salyards



You'll have to forgive me, but this is written in a nostalgic mood. I recently came across this picture in an old album, labeled "7-14 Coin Collectors." That translates to the 14th homeroom section of the seventh grade at Monroe Junior High School, Omaha, of which I was a member. The seven boys pictured, as well as the photographer (yours truly) all were collectors, to one degree or another. Given a homeroom size of about 25, split evenly male-female, that means about two-thirds of the boys were collectors! That seems like an incredible proportion, but it was a fact. And nobody had to stimulate our interest with special junior auctions, or reduced-rate club memberships, or any of the other adult-created *marketing techniques* which recent years have brought. We simply *did it*-- we collected. I think everybody in the group did cents and nickels, and most all had at least a few higher-denomination coins. Silver back to 1916 was plentiful in circulation--except for Standing Liberty quarters, which only went back to 1925, due to their date wear problem. But the better dates were not randomly distributed according to their scarcity; I think that fact actually *whetted* our appetites for the hunt. For example, one of these guys had only one Indian head cent--but it was a 1909. Another guy had maybe half of the first Whitman folder for Lincoln cents filled, but that included a 1914D and a 1909S VDB. But then, I think this was the same year I found a virtually uncirculated 1939D nickel in circulation. Such things happened, back then.

Of the eight of us, there's one minister, one engineer-computer programmer, and one retired Air Force officer--but I'm the only one who's still a collector, after 37 years have passed. And I don't know why--why the 87.5% attrition, that is. I don't think anybody does. Everybody who plugged holes in a penny board back in 1962 can probably give you an explanation of why they did it "back then," at point A; and everybody who's still collecting seriously in 1999 has long since concocted some philosophy for their continued participation, be it only a rationalization for all the dollars expended now, at point B; but I don't know that anyone has ever satisfactorily charted the course from point A to point B, in any sort of universal manner. This despite the fact that about as many 'reams of paper and barrels of ink' have been expended upon this, the Attrition Problem, as upon that other perennial unsolvable, the Grading Problem. One thing that clearly *doesn't* seem to work are those adult-created marketing techniques. Not that that should be surprising, given that the techniques are created by *adults*, whose usual genius is fostering demand for the *evanescent*--be it Power Rangers or Beanie Babies--and the signals are all *external*. There's something *internal* to the collector who perseveres; but trying to pin it down is about as futile as the task of those medieval philosophers who sought the anatomic location of the soul.

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## **The Third Die: Part I - Middle and Late Date Cents**

Craig Sholley

Early last January Eric Newman called to discuss the collars (I always look forward to Eric's calls, he asks tough questions). While I had some very basic idea of what the collars looked like both from my background in the stamping industry and a brief study of certain features on the coins, our discussion made it quite apparent that additional study was needed.

I told Eric that I'd look into the subject further and get back with him. I figured this would be a quick project, as I really hadn't expected to find much. Well, it's now been 5 months and the study is still expanding!

Breen stated that the close collar was first introduced on half cents in 1831 and on cents in 1834.<sup>1</sup> There's just one problem - there's literally no historical documentation supporting this! Breen took a very brief mention in the Mint records of the change from "open" collars to "close", reeded collars for certain silver denominations and extended this to the early copper coinage. But, the copper coinage is not mentioned at all, and there is no description of what an "open" collar was!

So, what's the real story? Were Middle Dates struck in an open or close collar? And what did the collars look like on both the Middle and Late Dates? While the Mint records reveal nothing, the physical features of the edges of cents in combination with physics of metal flow provide conclusive evidence of certain design features of the collar used on these issues. And there is some non-Mint historical documentation that provides additional information.

Most Middle Date and all Late Date cents show a flat, smooth, slightly tapered edge showing no convexity or concavity. This edge generally extends the full height of the coin (rim to rim) with a slight rolling at the rim. These features provide very strong evidence that the edge was formed by compression of the planchet against the collar.

First, blank planchets do not have a flat edge; they have a slightly convex edge. Secondly, the planchet expands a good bit during striking. Measurements of blank planchets and finished coins show an expansion of about .030". This expansion (metal flow) will not produce a flat edge. The edge would be either concave or convex depending upon how the edge of the planchet was work-hardened during upsetting.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Breen's half cent encyclopedia, pp. 320, 378, 476 - 7, 480. Other authors have placed this as late as 1838.

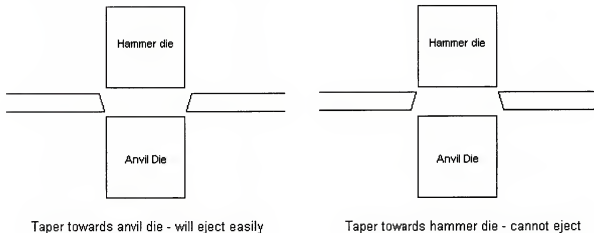
<sup>2</sup> Concave and convex edges are seen on the "uncompressed" portion of the edges on Middle Dates, with convex being predominant and the convexity being significantly greater than that on blank planchets.

On the Middle Dates, the flat edge is often seen for only part of the circumference of the coin, generally around 200° to 270° with the rest of the edge being convex, although many do have a flat edge for the full 360°. Late Dates, however, are generally flat for the full 360°.

For those Middle Date varieties which do not show a full 360° flat edge, it is worth noting that the portion of the edge which is flat changes from year to year, varieties within a year, and even on different coins of the same variety. For example, the edge on 16N2 is generally flat for the entire circumference whereas 17N6 is only flat for about 270°. Also, one 19N2 may be flat from the E in UNITED clockwise through the I in AMERICA and another may be slightly different, being flat from N in UNITED through M in AMERICA, and so on. This is due to both the collars being slightly different and the planchet landing a bit differently in the striking chamber from strike to strike. However, if one looks at enough coins of a date or variety, virtually the entire circumference of that date or variety will be found with a flat edge.

Two key features of this flat edge - the fact that the entire circumference is involved and the taper - provide definitive evidence as to what the aperture (the hole) of the collar looked like. First, since the flat edge is seen on the entire circumference, the collar was obviously a complete circle. And secondly, since there is a taper, the aperture was tapered. This tapering is quite important.

Putting a taper into a die that “captures” and forms a piece of metal is a design requirement. If the collar were machined with a “straight” aperture, the compression of the struck coin against the collar would solidly jam the coin in the collar and it could not be ejected. To prevent this problem the aperture is deliberately machined with a taper. The taper must always be towards the anvil die or the coin cannot be ejected as can be seen from the following diagrams:<sup>3</sup>



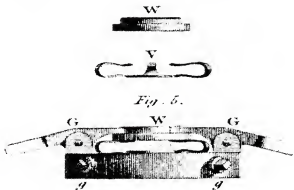
<sup>3</sup> The diagrams are intended to illustrate the taper of the aperture and do not show the actual cross-section of a collar. An actual collar would have been around half an inch thick and would have extended down over the lower die for a good portion of this height, perhaps 5/16ths of an inch or so.

So, by simply looking at the edge we can easily tell which die, obverse or reverse, was the hammer and which was the anvil. For the 62 varieties of both Middle and Late Dates I have examined so far, all but one shows that the obverse was the hammer die as the edge is tapered towards the reverse. The sole exception is 25N6, on this variety the reverse was the hammer die as the taper is towards the obverse.<sup>4</sup>

From measurements of coins, the aperture for Middle Dates from 1816 through 1837 was approximately 1.110" to 1.125" with a taper of about .003" to .006". In 1838 the collar was tightened slightly and from then on the aperture typically measures around 1.085" to 1.100". The taper for these issues typically runs .002" to .004".<sup>5</sup> This tightening of the aperture in 1838 corresponds to a slight reduction in the die diameter. These design changes may have been due to Gobrecht trying to improve the strike on the cents.

While the features on the coins reveal quite a bit about the aperture of the collar, they obviously cannot provide any information on what the rest of the collar and its associated mechanisms looked like. Fortunately, there is some historical documentation that provides the answers. Since the mechanism changed with the introduction of the steam press in 1836, I'll discuss the screw press first.

In the American Edition of the New Edinburgh Encyclopedia published in 1815 in Philadelphia, there are drawings of Boulton's steam powered coining press and the associated tooling. One of the drawings is that of the collar and its mechanism as shown below:<sup>6</sup>



<sup>4</sup> The 1823 "Restrike" dies show that both the obverse and reverse die for the large cents were exactly the same size. See Craig Sholley, "Early U.S. Coining Dies in the ANS Collection" from *America's Large Cent*, Proceedings of the Coinage of the Americas Conference, November 1996, John Kleeberg, editor.

<sup>5</sup> The diameter was measured near the reverse. Since the collar extended over both dies, the measurements only apply to the "striking chamber area" of the collar. These measurements also are approximate, as a struck coin will tend to expand slightly as it is ejected, so the actual aperture diameter is probably a bit smaller. From the measurements it is the author's estimate that the entire aperture was machined such that it was only about .005" larger than the die at the lower side and tapered to about .020 larger than the die at the upper side.

<sup>6</sup> The drawing shown is actually from the 1818 Encyclopedia Britannica - the clarity is much better and it has an exploded view.

While some may feel it's a bit of a stretch to draw a parallel from Boulton's steam press to the Mint's manual screw presses, it should be noted that Boulton's press was really nothing more than a "beefed-up" screw press (complete with swing arm, etc.) that was powered by a steam engine. The tooling is therefore identical to that on a manually powered screw press. Also, not only was this mechanism obviously common knowledge by the early 1800s, but Boulton was also the Mint's supplier for copper planchets and had provided technical information in the past. And, after all, here is the collar in print, in Philadelphia, in 1815 - the year before the flat edges appear on the cents!

As can be noted from the drawing, the collar and its mechanisms are extremely simple - a good design practice. The collar is secured to a tri-lobed leaf spring that is set in a fixture with two levers used to depress the collar. This fixture bolts fast to the lower die cup using three bolts, two of which are shown.

The collar is depressed as the press is opened. This is accomplished by two rods which are fixed at one end to the levers (G) and at the other end to the upper die stake, or "slider" which is a large block of metal to which the upper die cup is bolted. The die stake also serves as a "bushing" for the screw to press against and eliminates the torque of the screw while transmitting the vertical strike.

When the screw descends, the rods are pushed down along with the upper die and the ends of the levers are likewise depressed allowing the spring to raise the collar in place to form the striking chamber. As the press is opened the process is reversed and the collar depressed allowing the feed fingers to sweep the struck coin off the die and into a chute while simultaneously dropping a planchet on the lower die.

The spring mount not only permitted the depressing of the collar for feeding, but also protected against misfed planchets. If a planchet were only slightly misfed, the rising collar would tend to slide the planchet back on to the die (the tapered aperture probably helped this). If the planchet were significantly misfed such that it remained on top of the collar or partially in the striking area, the spring mount would protect the dies (and collar) by depressing as the dies closed.

With the introduction of the steam press in 1836, the design of the collar itself probably did not change much, however the mechanism did. While there is no historical record of the mechanism, as I indicated in my article last month, the original press still exists. This press shows that the collar was still spring mounted to prevent damage, but instead of depressing the collar to permit feeding and ejection, the lower die was raised.

One other feature of the coins themselves provides us with a good bit of information on the collars. This is the vertical marks frequently seen on the edges of Middle Dates and occasionally on the Late Dates. These vertical marks, or striations, often run the entire height of the edge and have been reported by various authors in past issues of *P-W* where they were generally mistaken for faint reeding in the collar or evidence that a planchet had possibly been reeded prior to

striking (see figure 1).<sup>7</sup> While some of the striations on some varieties do resemble reeding, they have characteristics that show that they definitely are not.

The best example of this I have found so far is on three varieties of 1819 - N2, N8, and N9. These three varieties share neither a common obverse nor reverse, and the current emission sequence is thought to be 2-9-8 with N10 coming between 2 and 9. While viewing the cents in my collection, I noticed that there were striations on the edges of N2, N8 and N9 looked very similar and looked like they occurred in the same position relative to the reverse letters and obverse stars. A photograph of the heaviest striations is shown in figure 2.



Fig. 1 - faint reeding-like edge marks on 16N2



Fig. 2 - heavy edge marks on 19N8 and 19N9

I stacked the coins together using Mylar film as separators to prevent scratching, and not only did the striations match up, but there was also a definite progression to them. N2 shows few and fainter lines that N9 or 8. N9 and 8 show virtually the same lines with the ones on N8 being a bit stronger. In all I matched about 10 lines on N2 to N9 and 8, and stopped counting at about 122 matches between N9 and 8!

To confirm this, I started double-checking N2s, 8s and 9s at shows and consistently found the same lines. In April I met with Tom Reynolds and Bill Noyes at a show and showed them the lines on my coins. We then proceeded to match these with coins from Reynolds stock. Not surprisingly (to me, at least) there were the lines on Tom's coins.

So, what are these striations? Well, they're definitely collar related since they appear in the same position on different coins and different varieties. This rules out planchets reeded by the Castaing machine prior to striking. And they're not caused by reeding in the collar since many of the lines are far too broad and the wrong shape (see the following photographs).

The key point of the striations is that most of them, especially the broad heavy ones, line up perfectly with the dentils or the spaces between the dentils. Why is this important? The dentils are right at the edge of the die, so that a die actually is quite similar to a serrated knife. Now, a screw press is not a "high tolerance" machine, there's quite a bit of mechanical "play" in the mechanisms, so as the press was opened and closed and the collar depressed and released, the dies chaffed against the collar forming many of the striations.

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<sup>7</sup> See Herb Silberman, *Partially Reeded Edges of Some Large Cents*, Sept. 15, 1972, pg. 13; John Nicholas, *A Significant New Find - Another 1834 N7 Large Cent*, Nov. 15, 1980, pg. 240; George Ewing, Jr., *Edge Devices*, Sept 15, 1981, pg. 229; Robert Showalter, *The Plain Over Reeded Edge Half Cent*, Nov. 15, 1985, pg.303.

Chaffing by the dies does not cause all of the striations. On several varieties the striations are very fine, close together, and are seen for the complete 360° of the edge. They are particularly visible on 31N9 and 36N3 although many other Middle Dates also show them. These striations were caused by file or cutting lines in the collar. I call these collars “rough collars” for lack of a better term.

As most collars have a very smooth appearance, except for the chaffing marks, it would appear that the collars were ground or honed after machining and filing. The “rough collars” apparently were put into use with out going through this step.<sup>8</sup>

Not surprisingly, the later cents are a bit different. I have not seen any of the 1836 - 39 issues nor any Late Date with any evidence of chaffing. This is probably due to both the introduction of the “embattled rim” in 1836 and of the steam press early that same year. The embattled rim dies had a small step machined at the edge of the die to produce the rim and thus the dentils are no longer at the edge of the die, and the steam press had a mechanism with much less mechanical play than the screw press. These two factors may have eliminated the chaffing.

The Late Dates do, however, occasionally show a “rough collar” - the early state 51N5 in my collection shows these lines quite nicely, though they are not nearly as strong as those on the Middle Dates.

From the foregoing, a number of fairly solid conclusions can be drawn about the collar. First, the Middle Dates were obviously struck in a pretty tight collar. Do we wish to call this a “close” collar? Well, to make a bad pun, it’s close enough for me! Secondly, from the features and measurements of the edges, the collar was machined and ground and it had a taper to facilitate ejection. Also, the collars changed diameter in 1838 or so as a result of Gobrecht’s design revisions. And finally, the available historical documentation indicates that on the screw press the collar was depressed to permit feeding and ejection. On the steam press, a review of the press mechanism shows that this action was changed and the lower die was raised to eject the struck coin and receive the blank planchet.

My email is now back up, so anyone interested in sending data, asking a question, or just getting in touch can email me at: [craigs@pa.net](mailto:craigs@pa.net).

### *Acknowledgements*

Thanks to Bill Noyes and Tom Reynolds for their contributions. Special thanks to Eric Newman whose questions that got this study going and for the copies of the encyclopedias cited herein.

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<sup>8</sup> The letter from Patterson to Eckfeldt of Sept. 22, 1836 concerning the striking of the Gobrecht Dollars does provide some support for this proposition. In this letter Patterson referred to striking the dollars in a “close reeded or ground collar” [emphasis by the author].

## NEW JERSEY COPPERS, PART 43: MARIS 11G and 11h

Ray Williams

It doesn't seem like two months since the last issue of Penny Wise! Wasn't it just last week that I was making my last minute notes and phone calls, to meet Harry Salyards' deadline for publication of NJ Coppers Part 42? I've received phone calls with good news from friends. One obtained a few nice NJ's from the EAC Convention, and another acquired an uncirculated Maris Coin. Still another picked up a 28-S at a flea market (for \$20!!!) Although I haven't added a NJ to my collections since C4 last November, I take pleasure in the successes of my friends, and I'm inspired to keep searching!

In my endeavor to collect NJ's by die variety, I've made the following observations. At the time of the first NJ Copper Symposium (4/20/91) I owned 5 varieties. Collecting my first 50 varieties was fun, I stayed within my budget and purchased a quality I could afford and enjoy. Varieties 50 through 70 were challenging and rewarding, but they started to stretch my budget and I started selling my US Coins. Varieties 70 through 85 (where I am presently) came slowly and expensively. My goal is to ultimately exceed 90 varieties, and with all the miraculous medical achievements to extend the average life span, I may have a chance to do so!

As you can see at the top of the page, we'll be covering two varieties – Maris 11G and 11h. I was also going to discuss the Maris 12G, but I decided to do the two unique coins now and save the more common coins for the next issue. I've been receiving e-mails and calls after a Condition Census has been published in Penny Wise. Some of the information provided, I would have published if I had known... So, starting in this issue, I'm going to let you know which varieties are next, so you can contact me with stories, auction appearances, sales, and specimens you own or have seen, or any suggestions that you have that relate to the varieties. Please don't underestimate the importance of your input – I'd like your input even if it were about a basal state R-1 variety! On to the Condition Census...

The Maris 11G is one of the desirable counterless obverses combined with a rare reverse, resulting in a unique coin. The 11 obverse is known paired with 3 reverses, and reverse G is paired with 5 obverses. In addition, to this coin being unique, it is also in an unusually high grade of preservation. Owned by William Sumner Appleton at the time

Dr. Maris wrote his classic reference, it was sold by Stacks as Lot 92 of the Massachusetts Historical Society Sale, 10/23/70 (plated). The coin realized \$4,250.00! The present owner and Walter Breen (1955 manuscript) call this coin UNC. In the Stacks Sale and in the condition census John Lorenzo has been updating, the coin is called AU. Taking into account that I don't know if John Lorenzo has personally seen this coin; I'm going to list it as UNC. UNC or AU – it doesn't matter when it comes to a high-grade R9 coin. If someone out there locates another high grade 11G, then we'll worry about grade and ranking.

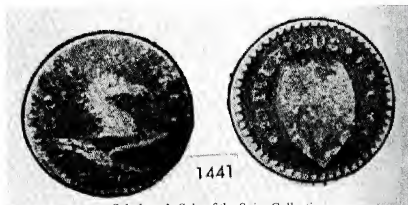
This coin can be seen plated in Crosby's Early Coins of America, Plate VI, #18; Stack's October 23, 1970 Sale, Lot 92; Breen's Encyclopedia #884; and in various "Red Books" over the years.

UNC Eastern Collection Stacks 10/23/70, Lot 92; Mass. Historical Society; William Sumner Appleton

Breen's Encyclopedia, #884



The Maris 11hh has the same obverse as the previous coin (and is still desirable as such) but this time it is paired with a unique reverse. The only auction appearance that I am aware of is Lot 1441 in Schulman's legendary sale of the Dr. Jacob Spiro Collection, where it is plated. F.C.C. Boyd was the successful bidder at \$105! Everyone seems in agreement that it grades a G-4. The obverse appears to be in a late die state and mushy looking. The reverse appears sharper in the Spiro plate. I don't feel that the quality of Schulman's plates did justice to the coins, Dr. Spiro deserved much better.



Schulman's Sale of the Spiro Collection  
March 1955, Lot 1441

The 11 and G dies are photographed and described in earlier Condition Census reports by John Griffiee. The hh die has not had the visibility of the others, so allow me to quote Walter Breen: "Narrow Shield, but wider than the h. Letters very closely spaced, and heavily punched in. Dexter chief very near the foot of R. Extremely large, heavy, coarse serrations, many of them rounded at the tops. They are very wide and crowded together, and with them this die can be recognized "across the room"."

G-4 Noted Western Collector

F.C.C. Boyd, ex. Spiro 3/55 Lot 1441

I plan to cover Maris varieties 12-G and 14-J in the September 15 issue of Penny Wise. Please call, write or e-mail before August 15 with any information you can share on these varieties. Please don't assume I know or remember what you may have to share. Your identity will be kept confidential and your name will not be used without your permission.

The 1999 NJ Copper Symposium will be held at the C4 Convention in Boston, November 5, 1999 at 5:00 PM. If you have any thoughts with respect to topics for the program, please contact me. We want to continue to make this an anxiously anticipated annual event. This is your chance – all those times you've thought, "I'd like to know..., I'd like to see..., I wish they would...". As Frazier would say, "I'm listening."

Ray Williams  
924 Norway Ave, Trenton, NJ 08629  
609-587-5929 raydianewilliams@juno.com

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## Steam Presses and Half Cents - One More Time

Craig Sholley

I read Ken Cable's articles in the May issue; hopefully the following will address most of the questions and clear up some of the confusion. I'll first address his questions on the steam press.

Mr. Cable stated that part of the reason he thought the Mint used Boulton's press was that the Thonnelier press was "relatively new technology" and that the Boulton press was "tried and true". Here again Mr. Cable has reached an incorrect conclusion because he has not researched the subject.

The Thonnelier press was not new technology; it was a slight redesign of the press invented by Diederich Uhlhorn in 1817. So, this type of press had been in use in for 17 years prior to Peale seeing the one at the Paris mint in 1834 (Peale had also seen the original Uhlhorn design as he had also traveled to a couple of mints in Germany). Boulton's design was thus not more "tried and true" than this design, it was merely older, and less efficient too!

A photograph of Uhlhorn's experimental press, as well as several photos and engineering drawings of production models and those of the Thonnelier design, can be found in Denis Cooper's book, *The Art and Craft of Coinmaking - A History of Minting Technology*, London, 1988. Cooper is a former Chief Engineer of the British Royal Mint and his book is a "must have" for anyone studying minting technology.

An excellent synopsis of Peale's travels is presented in an article by Sister St. John Nepomucene, *Franklin Peale's Visit to Europe in the Mint Service*, which originally appeared in the *Journal of Chemical Education*, March 1955 and was reprinted in *The Numismatist*, December 1958.

Mr. Cable goes on to mention Breen's statement regarding the installation of a hydraulic press at the Mint in 1893. On page 194 of his encyclopedia of proof coins, Breen states that the Mint installed this press to strike proofs. However, this is a bit of a misrepresentation. The Mint Report for 1893 states that this press was a replacement for the large screw press used to strike medals; it does not mention proofs. Most researchers have simply assumed that it was also used for proofs. This is correctly noted in Taxay's *U.S. Mint and Coinage*, another "must have" for interested researchers.

The original 1836 press was retired in 1875. I don't know if it was "replaced", but since it was purchased and continued in use by a private party and is still in operational condition today, I suspect it was merely old. By 1875 the presses were being produced by the firm of Morgan and Orr in Philadelphia. The Morgan/Orr presses also used the same design, but advances in technology had made them more powerful and compact.

Mr. Cable asked how the steam press is different from present day presses. While I am not sure of what the Mint is using at this time, when I last visited in the mid-1980s they were using presses with the same basic mechanism.

On Mr. Cable's question of "automatic shutoffs" on the hydraulic and steam press, I can say that the steam press did not have an automatic shutoff. The Mint records and other historical sources show that an operator was required for each press. This was due, in part, to the fact that the feed tube only held a limited number of planchets and the operator had to keep refilling the feed tube (the operator also had to replace the collection box when it became full). As to the hydraulic press, I don't know - this is beyond the scope of my studies and I'm simply not interested in it.

Regarding the close collar (that's *close*, not *closed*, but I'll get to that in a minute), Mr. Cable stated that I said proof coins were struck with a close collar. I did not. I only mentioned specific issues that are known to have been struck in a close collar. With reference to the Capped Bust Halves, I specifically identified only the "Crushed Lettered Edge" issues. Not to be confused with the normal proofs, these are Overton numbers 1833 O-116, 1834 O-122, and 1835 O-111 (with possibly a fourth variety, unconfirmed, of 1836). All of these issues share a common reverse with 1836 O-106, and were thus struck in 1836. They have unique obverses not shared with any other issue and all have "needle sharp" strikes. They show flat wire rims on both sides and have square edges with the lettering nearly obliterated.

With respect to my statement, I do note that I made an error as to which 1804 dollars were definitely struck in a close collar. I meant to say "restrikes" and wrote "originals" instead. My apologies if this caused any confusion.

On Mr. Cable's statements concerning the proof half cents of the 1840s being struck multiple times, I'd really like to know what he meant by "at least from the hammer die". Is he implying that proofs were struck with only one die one or more times and then struck with both dies? Or that the press could be set up to prevent the reverse from exerting any pressure during a strike? I hope Mr. Cable will enlighten us on this curious statement.

Regarding the Gobrecht dollar not being struck on the steam press, Mr. Cable is quite correct that the "temporary" use of the screw press referred to by Patterson did translate into the whole three years that these coins were struck. To understand this requires some knowledge of what went on with the dollar coinage. Since this is really not the proper forum for such a discussion, I'll be brief. The Mint, wishing to reintroduce the dollar and having been authorized to do so, planned for a business strike circulating pattern issue. Unfortunately, the press wasn't ready, so they were struck as proofs on the screw press - all the better to impress people - and continued to do so for the rest of these issues. For a more in-depth treatment, readers should see R. W. Julian's series on this issue which was printed in *Coin World* starting July 21, 1982.

As to Mr. Cable's point on the "frequent interruptions" in the operation of the original steam press stated in Patterson's letter to Woodbury on June 30, 1837, this statement does not refer to a problem with the press in normal use. Rather, it refers to the problems encountered when they tried to strike half dollars on it. As I had explained in my first article, the press for half dollars

was delayed until mid-1837. The Mint, however, was under enormous pressure from the banks handling the French Indemnity payments to coin half dollars instead of quarters. Due to their constant complaining the Mint tried, in November of 1836, to coin half dollars on the press. Not surprisingly, a press designed for cents and quarters wasn't too good at striking halves as is shown by the letter to George Newbold on March 1, 1837, which I quoted in my previous article. These are the "interruptions and embarrassment" to which Patterson is referring in his June 30 letter. I apologize for not being clearer on this sequence of events.

The Mint records directly contradict Mr. Cable's conjecture on redundant presses. Through 1839, the records show that the Philadelphia mint had only three presses - the cent and quarter press, the half dollar/dollar press, and one for gold and small silver. And from the striking rates listed in 1842 edition of *A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations* by Jacob Eckfeldt and William DuBois (60 per minute for dollars and half dollars, 75 per minute for quarters and 90 per minute for half-dimes), calculations can be run which show that these presses had more than enough capacity to meet demand well into the 1840s.

On the collars, Mr. Cable stated that the correct terminology is *closed* not *close*. I'm not sure if Mr. Cable is merely assuming that the antonym for open is the proper term or if he actually has a source. Whatever the case, he is clearly mistaken as shown by the Mint records. Let me quote two of the letters on this subject. The first is the Sept. 22, 1836 letter on the Gobrecht dollars I quoted in my original article on this subject. I'll just re-quote the relevant portion here: "...*the pieces being struck in close reeded or ground collar.*"

The other letter is one dated Nov. 8 1836, from Patterson to Woodbury, concerning the new Reeded Edge halves. Again, I'll just quote the relevant portion: "*The old coin was struck in what we term an open collar, this is struck in a close collar...*". This letter has also been quoted by Taxay on pg. 174 of *U.S. Mint and Coinage*, by Breen on pg. 390 of his encyclopedia of coins, and by Julian in a couple articles.

On this point, Mr. Cable may wish to chime in again with the old pun about history repeating itself and historians repeating each other, however this is no more the case here than it is with the half cent mintage figures. Both Julian and I have copies of these letters and neither of us gave them to Taxay or Breen. Breen could have repeated Taxay, but that would still leave three independent confirmations of the content of the letters.

Turning our attention now to the subject of striking 1836 proof half cents on the steam press, I must give Mr. Cable credit for his persistence. In spite of the evidence to the contrary, he is absolutely determined to concoct a scenario in which these issues might have been struck on the steam press. Unfortunately, his latest conjecture is no more valid than his previous attempts.

To understand the capabilities of the steam press and how it was used requires detailed knowledge of the Mint records and the design of the press. By his own admission, Mr. Cable has never researched the Mint records, has not seen the press or the drawings, and does not have a mechanical background. Now, not only have I researched the Mint records and seen both the press and the drawings, but I also was a Process/Quality engineer in the metal-working and other

industries. During this time I developed both processes and mechanical designs, some of which I am told are still in use today.

Having said that, let's discuss why the press couldn't and wasn't used to strike proofs even on an experimental basis. I've already made a number of points on this subject, but let me make two more concerning the feed mechanism. First, the mechanism was fed by placing a stack of planchets into a vertical feed tube that was part of the mechanism. Doing so with polished proof planchets would have resulted in their being severely scratched both by dropping them in the tube and by their sliding against one another during feeding. You could not place just one planchet at a time in the tube as, despite what Peale said, the dies could, and did, clash. Secondly, the coin was ejected out the rear of the press where it slid down a chute running between the moving mechanism of the press into a collection bin beneath the press. A proof coin thus ejected would be so scratched and nicked that it would be unfit for sale, and the Mint was not producing proofs for fun. And don't even suggest that someone reached in to catch the coin because having done so he would have lost his arm at least up to the elbow!

To this we can add one last point, this being the Mint records in the National Archives. Peale and Patterson, while quite capable fellows, were tireless self-promoters. They took credit for everything (including the inventions of others!) in writing, and repeatedly. Had they been successful in somehow striking proofs on the press they would have wasted no time in telling everybody, especially Secretary of the Treasury Levi Woodbury. Well, there's no such letter. And please don't propose that by fate this is the one letter that was lost. The Mint, like other bureaucracies, worked "in triplicate" especially for official correspondence. They even had special ledger books into which all letters were copied. Duplicates were placed in other files.

So, we are left with two possible scenarios: 1) they tried a very foolish experiment which resulted in 100 pieces of scrap, or 2) they knew it wouldn't work and never even bothered. Number 2 gets my vote.

I'll now turn to Mr. Cable's confusion over the mintage estimates. I can quite understand his confusion as this is a pretty confusing subject especially for the 1833 - 1835 half cents. I'll start with the basics. Please note that due to the laws concerning the minting of gold and silver, this discussion pertains only to **copper coinage**.

Through 1835, when the accounting method was changed, the Mint **did not** report what we think of today as "mintage" figures - i.e., the number of coins struck in a specific year. What they reported was the number of coins *officially delivered* in a year. What do I mean by this? "Officially delivered" means issued to the Treasurer of the Mint or other party (principally the Bank of the United States) pursuant to a warrant signed by the Director of the Mint.

These figures were recorded, along with the warrant number, in various account books one of which is the "Chief Coiner's Copper Account Book". To get the figures for the Mint Report (the "official mint records" referred to in the Redbook), they would go back through these books and total up the figures. [Don't let the fact that there were multiple records confuse you; remember that we are dealing with a bureaucracy - they worked "in triplicate".]

One might think that this total is then a “mintage” figure, but it is not. Coinage executed in late December of a given year was often not officially delivered on a warrant until the succeeding year. These quantities were recorded in the account books as “on hand”. Since these “on hand” quantities were not officially delivered they **were not** included in the figures compiled for the Mint report.

So, you could have, for example, 10,000 coins struck in a year, but only 9,000 appearing in the Mint Report since only that quantity was officially delivered. The next year you could have only 4,000 struck, but 5,000 appearing in the Mint Report since the entire quantity struck plus all of the “on hand” pieces were officially delivered.

In addition to this we have the Mint’s reuse of dies from previous years which only serves to make the whole issue even more confusing.

Robert Maskell Patterson took over as Mint Director in July of 1835. Patterson introduced the system of only striking coins with dies of the current date, canceling old dies, and accounting for the copper coinage in the year it was struck. With this change in systems, the figures for half cents, which were already amiss, got very screwed up. With this in mind I’ll turn to a discussion of the 1835 half cents.

Here Mr. Cable groundlessly speculates that “someone” shifted the Mint Reports figures to the prior years for no good reason. He then offers the conjecture, again groundless, that possibly none of the December 31, 1835 delivery were dated 1835! As with so many other points, a little research on Mr. Cable’s part would have revealed the true story. In fact, I made this easy for him by quoting the relevant authors and records.

To reiterate, the Mint Report for 1836 lists 398,000 half cents, however the account books show no deliveries or warrants for half cents in 1836. The last delivery of half cents is 539,000 delivered on warrant number 143 on December 31, 1835 with no “on hand” quantity shown (the 589,000 in my previous article is a typo, and I apologize). Therefore despite Mr. Cable’s disbelief, an error does exist.

Also, unless Mr. Cable is prepared to assert that there was a striking of half cents in 1836 for which there is no record, the 1835 half cents were struck that year. I suggest that he not even offer that speculation as the numbers in the account books and the numbers in the Mint Reports do agree, it’s just the dates that don’t.

The mintage figures were first revised by Breen and later by Julian based on their work on these records. This is something that Mr. Cable freely admits he has never done, so I fail to see how he can criticize the work or somehow magically divine that these two researchers are wrong and the Mint Report is correct. Furthermore, since the Mint Reports were compiled from the account books, the account books thus take precedence over the figures in the Mint Reports.

Breen, Julian and myself all found these records independently of one another in the course of our individual research. Julian did not give the data to Breen nor did Breen give the data to

Julian, and neither of them gave the data to me - I found it during my research on the steam press (when I read the 1836 Mint Report stating that all copper coins were struck on the press, I pulled the account books to see what was struck and made some notes). In preparation for my previous article, I then contacted Julian to double-check the records (Julian has these on microfilm). So instead of historians repeating each other, the real truth is that there were three independent checks of these records over some 30 years followed by a double-check this year!

Mr. Cable is quite correct in his conclusion that these were not all dated 1835. Here again, a little reading on his part would have made this issue clear. As best as can be determined by the records, about 141,000 of the 539,000 half cents delivered in 1835 were dated 1834.

Regarding the figures in the Redbook, prior to Breen, Julian, myself, and others “poking around” in the Mint records, the only records anyone had for “mintage” figures were the Mint Reports. Early editions of the Redbook merely reported the Mint Report figures - after all there was nothing else and no one had any reason to suppose that something might be amiss. So, it should come as no surprise that the 1957 Redbook shows a figure of 398,000 half cents for 1836. As the real truth began to emerge as a result of the research, the editor of the Redbook revised the figures, and that is where we stand today.

The “mintage” figures in the Redbook for the early coinage are then **estimates** based on research and, as we’ve seen from some of the articles I’ve published lately as well as recent ones from Julian, are subject to revision based on new information. This is not groundless conjecture or “guess work”; rather it is based on continued research yielding new information from the Mint records and other historical sources.

On the 1836 Proof half cents, I agree with Mr. Cable’s point that Breen was making quite a stretch when he tried to date the First Restrikes. However, as I said in my article, he did make an important distinction that I feel shows these are restrikes. In his half cent encyclopedia, Breen talks of the square borders of the First Restrike which are completely unlike those of the Originals. In my ensuing discussion, I mistakenly started off using the term *rim* and then switched to *edge*. Since a few EACers called and I also discussed this with others at some recent shows, most understood what I was saying. However, this obviously confused Mr. Cable, so let me repeat: the markings from the close collar appear on the edge of the coin.

And as I said in my previous article: “This offers the opportunity to develop some solid data on whether Breen’s Original and First Restrike are the same or separate striking. If their diameters are the same and they show the same edge markings, then they are likely the same striking. However, if the diameters are different or they show different edge markings, then the Breen classification does have a solid basis.”

Regarding Mr. Cable’s comments that he has seen these markings on the Capped Bust Halves and early Seated coinage, since Capped Bust Halves were struck in open collars and Seated coinage was struck in reeded collars, Mr. Cable cannot be seeing edge marks. I’m not sure what he’s referring to, but it clearly is not edge marks.

Where does this leave us with regard to these issues? I think I clearly summed this up in my previous articles, but allow me to reiterate. The Cohen/Breen data has already provided some information. Additional data may be garnered from the coins themselves as I've described. Also, a study of the historical records, some of which I've indicated in my previous article, may provide additional clues.

One thing is clear, empty speculation will not provide answers. Someone will have to do the hard work of getting the information.

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A Quaint Set of Illustrations of Early U.S. Copper Type Coins, as taken from *The Coin Collector's Journal*, Volumes 4-6, published by Scott & Co., NY, 1879-1881  
--the Editor.



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## EAC GRADING: SCIENCE, INTUITION AND ART

Jon Warshawsky

Editor's Note: The following article is scheduled to appear in Jon's ongoing column in *Numismatic News*. It should be of assistance to both new and *not so new* collectors, in clarifying the *process* of EAC grading. I thank Jon for sharing it in this early publication.

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Those of us who focus on the early copper cents and half cents unwittingly enter one of the most challenging schools of grading in numismatics. The collector who begins by learning types, dates, die varieties and die states almost invariably comes to recognize the need for some degree of knowledge in another field: metallurgy. While the cent collector will heap praise upon the infinite variations in color to be found on any of the Mint's first copper coins, the reasons for this fascinating color stem from copper's dubious distinction as the most reactive coinage metal in common use during much of U.S. history. Preservationists might call it the worst possible choice for use in circulating coinage (although zinc seems to crumble when you look at it the wrong way...) It corrodes rapidly and to disastrous effect if improperly stored, which makes grading and care key to the enjoyment of the early cents.

Still, the appeal of a large cent with fading Mint red or original chocolate brown is unrivaled in numismatics. Sheldon wrote that silver and gold appear very much the same from one coin to the next, while copper, with its variations, compares most closely to autumn leaves. For the numismatists smitten with the old cents, the problem is one of properly grading prospective purchases while preserving those coins in their collections. Our purpose here is to remove some of the mystery from the art of Early American Coppers grading, recognizing that this is an art and not a science. (EAC'ers, incidentally, do not charge a fee for providing an opinion as to the grade of a coin – largely because the organization recognizes grading as an opinion rather than a statement of fact.)

You will not become a large cent grading expert by reading this column.

As always, it is essential to see a lot of coins to understand how they wear, corrode, tone and weather the abuses of handling and those ill-advised persons who attempt to make them appear as something they are not. An experienced EAC grader will look at a coin and arrive at a number fairly quickly. That number may not have much to do with the sharpness grade, but if you understand the thought process behind that number before you turn the page then your time will have been well spent and you may find that you enjoy grading and holding the early cents. In some ways it is "pure numismatics," a throwback to the days when collectors studied their coins.

### Sharpness, Surfaces and Color

In an earlier column I listed the three pillars of large cent grading – sharpness, surfaces and color. If you are looking for these three numbers on a slab somewhere, forget it. If a large cent happens to be encapsulated, the number on the insert is usually close to what EAC considers the sharpness. EAC standards use sharpness as a starting point and then use surfaces and color ("condition") to arrive at a net grade. To illustrate the importance of assessing all three, consider a 1795 large cent with moderate wear; most of

the detail in the hair as originally struck is present. Unfortunately, the cent may have spent a few months in a puddle at some point, so the surfaces look like a bad case of acne. Sharpness grade is probably Very Fine-30 or something close to it, but the EAC net grade is nowhere near this. The price any knowledgeable collector would pay for this cent is a small fraction of what a true VF-30 coin would command. Certification services might return the coin as "corroded" and not assign a grade – although any coin has a grade. Looking at the edge, you notice that it is reeded and realize that while the grading services refuse to touch it that this is a Sheldon-79, worth well into five figures and certainly worth a grade. Every cent has a grade.

Grading early copper is often difficult. The fundamentals are well defined, however, and by reviewing these you will become more comfortable with these remarkable coins. Each of the three pillars of grading bears closer examination, but do not overlook the basic equation while immersed in the details: Net grade = sharpness – (or rarely +) condition, with condition composed of surface and color factors.

Determine sharpness first. Then consider surfaces, which are exceedingly important in grading copper. Finally, consider the coin's color – this is more subjective, but here again there are guidelines, some of which follow. You may hear that there is no cookbook approach to grading early cents and half cents, but you will find little argument with this three-point approach.

## Sharpness

Sharpness is the most easily explained aspect of grading. Copper is a soft metal, the coins circulated, higher portions of the metal were rubbed off through friction and the result was a "flatter" coin with much relief lost. Photographic guides such as Brown & Dunn do a creditable job for most series in showing the progressive loss of sharpness from Mint State to Good or About Good.

With early cents, however, die varieties make determination of sharpness less straightforward. A favorite example is the so-called Shielded Hair obverse of 1794. The dies were axially misaligned, so that the left portion of the obverse with the heavily detailed portion of Miss Liberty's hair was protected by an abnormally high rim and tends to wear less than the rest of the coin. Even in Fine, these varieties (S-64, NC-6 and S-65) display more hair detail than usual. The 1794 Heads of '93 (S-17a through S-20) had far less detail in the dies than did the Heads of '94, so these may look more worn than they are. Breen (1987) and others have warned that unscrupulous sellers may manipulate the grading practices for these rare cents anyway by representing a coin as less worn than it is, but the advanced student of large cents has seen high-grade examples and can use these as a reference point for arriving at the sharpness grade of more circulated specimens.

After you have seen how each die variety wears, you will develop a mental picture of how coins struck from each die appear in Very Fine, Fine and so on. One of the more difficult transitions from collecting a fairly mass-produced series such as Washington quarter dollars or Peace dollars to collecting early coinage – cents, half dimes, silver dollars or almost anything produced prior to 1836 – is the seemingly endless list of exceptions related to die variations. These exceptions have precluded the publication of a comprehensive grading guide for early cents or half cents. For colonials, the variations are even more extensive. There is no substitute for experience.

Given the adjustments for die variety, there are several salient points to consider when grading early cents:

- ◆ The obverse tends to affect the accepted grade more heavily than does the reverse. The detail in the hair above the ear (for all cents through 1807) is paramount to assessing sharpness. A 1794 cent with a significant flat spot above the ear will rarely be more than Fine, even if the reverse wreath contains a greater level of detail. Some varieties, however (Sheldon 47-49 and 52 come to mind) display wear more readily in this area, but in general this is the first place to check. For the cents of 1816 – 1857, the high points of Liberty's hair are also key.
- ◆ Color and surface condition can affect your perception of sharpness. Cents tend to come with either uniform color – fields and devices blend together – or contrasting color, often with the devices lighter than the fields due to friction or subtleties of the natural toning process. The latter can appear to be sharper than they are.

It often helps to compare a coin with quality color photographs of others like it that have appeared in a significant sale, such as Superior Stamp & Coin's catalogues of the Robinson S. Brown Jr. (1986 and 1996) or Jack H. Robinson collections. Accurately determining a cent's sharpness sets the high end of the range of possible grades.

## Surfaces

The surface characteristics of a copper coin are paramount to determining the difference (and there usually is one) between that coin's sharpness and net grade. Intuitively, corrosion detracts from the appearance and value of a cent. Irregular visible pitting is the worst, while a light even porosity (think of ultra-fine grain sandpaper texture) calls for a deduction but probably not as much because the eye tends not to focus on any particular area of distraction.

Part of the complexity of EAC grading lies in the relationship between sharpness, color and surfaces. A VG-10 with a few pits will be downgraded, but a VG-10 is expected to have a few problems, so the net grade and loss in value will be less significant. Surfaces and color are much more important for high-grade (VF and above) cents than for low-grade pieces, although rarer varieties in G-4 will also find a ready buyer if the surfaces and color are nice. Color, discussed below, becomes far more important for the highest grade (AU50 and better) pieces, but surfaces always matter. Beginning collectors tend to value sharpness over surfaces and color, while advanced collectors – unless they have the means to acquire cents rating highly in all three areas – tend to appreciate nice surfaces and original color.

In addition to corrosion, cent collectors are concerned with surface marks. Too many nicks on a 40 coin may result in a deduction, while the same number on an 8 is acceptable. One collector whose sense of aesthetics is widely respected avoids any early cents with nicks or dings on the portrait, especially on the nose. Almost all cents have surface marks of some severity. The placement of those marks matters as much as the absolute number.

I keep a 10X Bausch & Lomb triplet magnifier with me to evaluate surfaces. Any cent that passes inspection at this level of magnification is either free of corrosion or sufficiently smooth that it will present a good appearance. In general, glossy cents have

desirable surface characteristics while dull ones are less desirable. A dull cent may have a large number of small contact marks – remember, large cents weren't in museums for decades after they were struck – or minor porosity. Beware, though, of cents that have been coated with wax. These appear quite glossy, and the wax can hide various traces of corrosion such as small pit marks. Also do not confuse a coat of Blue Ribbon or Care with true gloss. If you can disturb the gloss with the gentle application of a Q-tip, it lies on the surface and not in the surface of the coin. All of these substances can be removed by those skilled in this art, without resulting damage to the coin.

## Color

Sharpness is easily explained as an assessment of the progression of wear on the highest points of a coin's design. It may be slightly subjective, because wear is not a discrete phenomena while the Sheldon grading scale (3, 4, 8, 12 and so on through MS-70) is applied in discrete intervals. Surface condition is also only slightly subjective, because corrosion is either present or absent – the degree to which corrosion calls attention to itself may vary from one viewer to another, but it is remarkable how a group of cent experts will arrive a similar opinion. Color, in comparison, is less easily defined, and it takes no great effort to leaf through any catalogue to find 20 ways of describing a nice, light brown cent with original surfaces.

Because copper is reactive, the patina on an early cent is an historical record of what has happened to the coin (atmospherically) since it was minted. This record can include natural events, such as exposure to oxygen or moisture, or (more ominously) man-made circumstances such as immersion in sulfur or coin cleaning solution. Blazing mint red early cents are prohibitively rare and for most varieties do not exist. Most collectors of early copper will base their assessment of a cent's net grade on shades of tan, brown or black. Cents cleaned or treated to simulate Mint red are universally rejected by specialists.

Large cents all look slightly different. This is one reason they are so appealing. A cent with original, light brown surfaces and a cent with an even dark chocolate brown color may both be considered choice, desirable pieces. On one occasion, I purchased a dark chocolate brown 1794 Sheldon-70 because the color was a nice match for a 1794 S-67 I had acquired a year earlier. The S-69 in my set is a light brown with nice surfaces, also a nice coin but it does not match. Color in this case does not affect the net grade, but the differences may matter to some collectors anyway.

Black or very dark cents have probably begun to corrode. This corrosion, even if not obvious to the naked eye, is often caused by airborne moisture. A cent need not resemble the surface of the moon to have some level of porosity. A noted cent collector in southern California remarked recently on an important 1799 overdate cent that, while not visibly corroded, had dull, lifeless surfaces from years spent in the damp English climate. Even when a series of cents such as the 1799 issues are known to occur frequently in black, such color will cause a deduction in net grade.

Very light brown cents with a yellowish cast to them and dark areas within the lettering and wreath device have probably been cleaned, although copper retines over time and the adverse affect of this unnatural color will diminish. Dark brown cents with a greenish cast have often been recolored – a surprisingly common circumstance among the

early dates. Recoloring can be done expertly or poorly, with varying effects on the net grade of the coin.

With respect to color, remember that glossy brown coins or those with natural-appearing contrast are apt to find favor with copper specialists. Large cents are almost never improved by cleaning in that the natural patina of old copper is part of its charm. Mint red has little resemblance to the modern Lincoln cent, but by studying the fading red on some of the late date (1840 – 1857) issues you can become familiar with the progression of natural toning.

At the 1999 EAC Convention, an Ohio collector exhibited the late Dr. Sheldon's "color set" of large cents. These coins were collected not for their die variety or condition as much as to present a sample of the spectrum of colors occurring naturally among the old cents. With reds, browns, golden tan and others, it was a fascinating display and points to the futility of attempting to arrange the cents into discrete color categories. Here again, experience will guide you to what looks natural and away from cents that look porous or "improved."

### **Look at the Coins**

If the preceding seems somewhat ambiguous, it is because there is no answer key to grading question. Even well-known examples have "changed" grades over the years as a new generation of experts takes another look at an old friend, perhaps as it returns from a decades-long visit in a famous collection.

The best time to learn how to grade a large cent is, of course, before you spend next month's salary on one. Fortunately, there are a couple of ways to learn.

First, visit any copper dealer's display case. This is an opportunity to examine hundreds of properly graded (by EAC standards) early copper coins. Because almost none are in slabs and many are not labeled with a net grade, you can grade the coin and then compare your assessment to that of the dealer. Most dealers who are EAC members – among them Chris Victor-McCawley and Tom Reynolds – are conservative graders who follow EAC grading practices. There are few, if any, better places to learn.

There is no substitute for viewing the coins. However, a second way to become familiar with grading large cents is to secure copies of the three key copper sale catalogues, all from Superior Stamp & Coin, mentioned above. Each catalogue contains hundreds of properly graded large cents. Many of the nicer cents available are from one of these three massive catalogues, so you can use these as a gauge of what constitutes a reasonable net grade for a given cent.

In the long run, those who learn the numbers and cherish the coins tend to stay involved in numismatics. Those who buy the grade and accept the coin tend to find the hands-on world of the large cents too much work. A carefully arranged collection is largely the product of the care taken in its acquisition, however, and the appearance of a beautifully assembled set of early cents inspires superlatives like no other area of numismatics.

*The author wishes to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Denis Loring, who contributed his time and expertise to this article.*

Send correspondence on early copper coinage to [jon@mintmarks.com](mailto:jon@mintmarks.com).

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### **EAC MEETING AT P.A.N. SHOW, MAY 8, 1999**

Carl Huszar

Our EAC meeting at the P.A.N. Show in Monroeville, May 8, 1999, was really just a get together of three people: Myself, Harry Colborn, and Dave Hirt. Our discussion focused on the recent EAC Convention – Harry attended – and he told us about it. Dave told us about his adventures building a numismatic book collection. I offered my story about purchasing an S-8 that to the best of my knowledge has never been in the hands of a collector. With that and some general conversation, we went back to the bourse floor to have some fun.

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### **MID ATLANTIC REGIONAL MEETING**

William Eckberg

Region 3 met at the Atlantic Rarities Coin Exposition of the Maryland State Numismatic Association, at 1:00 PM on June 12, 1999. The following members and guests signed in:

Stephen O. Spielvogel  
Mike Packard  
Ken Seachman  
Don Neiman  
David L. Palmer  
Ira Stein  
Craig Sholley

Walter Reed  
John Cloutier  
Norman Brand  
John F. Nicastro  
Frank Goss  
Bill Eckberg

After the traditional round of introductions, we discussed the upcoming EAC 2001 convention to be hosted by our region in Northern Virginia, including the current status of negotiations for the location. Members were urged to volunteer to serve on the various committees that will be formed to work on the convention, particularly on hospitality, registration, etc. They were also urged to think of topics for the educational forums. There was considerable interest in having a presentation on methods and procedures for digital coin photography; Ira Stein had much to offer on this subject.

Mike Packard had brought a copy of Ron Manley's new book and discussed it. This led to a brief discussion of the status of the long awaited Breen large cent book. A general discussion ensued about whether or not authors should renumber varieties to reflect updated emission sequences as Breen did, but as Manley did not. There was strong

opinion (and reasoned arguments) on both sides with little consensus. Fortunately, there was no bloodshed, and nobody brought up EAC grading standards or the condition census of Sheldon varieties!

Nobody had any recent cherrypicks to report. We also discussed the current status of Tom Reynolds' coin inventory after his robbery.

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### **NY – NJ REGIONAL MEETING**

Don Valenziano

A NY/NJ regional meeting was held June 19, during the WESPEX coin show in White Plains, NY. We talked about the '99 EAC convention, the proposed mail bid section in next year's sale, and future convention sites.

Phil Kalanta shared what appeared to be Homer Downing's large cent scrap book. Frank Stillinger showed a reverse brockage of an S-295, and a coin that made such an error. Chuck Heck displayed some 94's for grading.

The following members were in attendance:

Bob Rankin	John Koar
Steve Ellsworth	H. Craig Hamling
Phil Kalanta	Chuck Heck
Robert Soltisiak	Don Valenziano
Frank Stillinger	

\* \* \* \* \*

### **REGIONAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **COMING IN OCTOBER TO NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

We are planning an E.A.C. meeting / get together at the Sacramento Valley Coin Club's fall coin show. The show is Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> at the Sacramento Community Center, 14<sup>th</sup> & J streets. If you would like to attend please drop me a line so I can send out the confirmed time and date when it becomes available. At this time we are looking to Saturday morning. Randy Snyder, 3206 Petty Lane, Carmichael, CA 95608

\* \* \* \* \*

There will be an EAC Region 7 meeting at the Long Beach Coin and Collectibles Expo on Friday, September 24th at 7 P.M. Scheduled meeting room is 102-B. Please contact Jon Warshawsky (jon@mintmarks.com) with any agenda items.

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**REGION 3 MEETING ON OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup> AT ANNANDALE, VIRGINIA**

EAC Region 3 will host a meeting at the Virginia Numismatic Association convention on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1999. The show's location is the R. J. Ernest Cultural Center, on the Annandale Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, just off the Capital Beltway on State Road 236 (take Exit 6 West).

The meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM, so that dealers as well as collectors can attend. All EAC members and their guests are invited, along with interested members of the general public. Last year's VNA convention at this site attracted an excellent number of copper dealers and collectors for a regional show, and we're looking forward to another great event this year!

\* \* \* \* \*

**2000 EAC SALE**

Tom Reynolds

The 1999 EAC Sale was a huge success with a corrected hammer of \$316,091. Thanks to all consignors and bidders!!! (There were five buy back lots that I missed when I prepared the prices realized. The following lots should be changed to 0 on page 165 of the May 15, 1999 issue of PENNY-WISE: Lots 74, 283, 415, 453 and 497.)

The 2000 EAC Sale will be a combination Floor Bid Sale and Mail Bid Sale. I will catalog the Floor Bid Sale with detailed descriptions and photos. Bob Grellman will catalog the Mail Bid Sale. The descriptions will be briefer without photos. Floor Bid Sale coins will be limited to a maximum of 500 lots and each lot must have a minimum value of \$100. The Mail Bid Sale will not have a maximum numbers of lots but it is hoped that the number will not exceed 300. Mail Bid Sale coins must have a minimum value of \$20 per coin. Mail Bid Sale coins may be group lotted. The Floor Bid Sale will be on April 8, 2000. The Mail Bid Sale will close on April 15, 2000.

**THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT COINS TO THE 2000 EAC SALE WILL BE DECEMBER 1, 1999.**

Coins submitted to the Floor Bid Sale should be reasonably problem free. Even though a coin may have a value of more than \$100, it may be put in the Mail Bid Sale if it has substantial problems. Coins submitted to the Mail Bid Sale should also be reasonably nice for the grade.

**PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER CONSIGNMENT DEADLINE. THIS IS DUE TO THE CONVENTION COMING EARLIER IN APRIL AND COORDINATION NECESSARY BETWEEN BOB GRELLMAN AND MYSELF.**

**EAC SALE****2★0★0★0****CALL FOR CONSIGNMENTS****★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★**

The **Sale Committee** is soliciting consignments for the 2000 EAC Sale to be held in conjunction with the annual Early American Coppers Convention. The Convention will be held in Port Canaveral, FL, April 6 -9.

The **Early American Coppers Convention** is devoted exclusively to early U.S. copper coins. Your early U.S. copper coins will thus receive full exposure to serious copper collectors and dealers. Significant pieces will be photographed. There will be a mail bid only section that will close April 15.

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

Type	Lots
Half Cents	30 - 100
Large Cents	350 - 400
Colonials	15 - 20
Hard Times Tokens	15 - 20
Literature	10 - 15
Conder Tokens	25

In **past years**, choice, scarce and rare coins have brought very strong prizes. The 2000 Sale should continue this tradition. Better coins and consignments are requested. All coins for the Floor Bid Sale must have a minimum value of \$100 per coin. Mail Bid coins must have a minimum value of \$20 per coin and may be group lotted.

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

Gross Receipts	Commission Rate
\$000,001 - \$200,000	8.0%
\$200,001 - \$350,000	6.0%
\$350,001 and over	4.0%

**There are no buyer's fees in EAC Sales!**

**There will be 4% consignor buy-back charge.**

**CONSIGNMENT DEADLINE → December 1, 1999**

All coins should be sent via REGISTERED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED  
 Consignments may be hand-delivered to Tom at major coin shows.  
 Feel free to contact Tom Reynolds in advance to discuss your coins, and to review the advantages to you and to the Club of consigning to the EAC Sale.

**CONTACT →**

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

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**NEW CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP**

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

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CITY, STATE</b>	<b>MEMBER #</b>
Fred M. Eines	New York, NY	4743
Glenn Marx	Fairfield, CT	4744
Gary F. Coleman	Charlotte, NC	4745
Stephen C. Allen	Matthews, NC	4746
Thomas C. Vincent	Lacey, WA	4747
Michael Keeton	Hershey, PA	4748
Lloyd Hurt	Snellville, GA	4749
Michael Jeffers	Buchanan, GA	4750
Lisa Heim	North Brunswick, NJ	4751 (Associate)
Stephanie Heim	North Brunswick, NJ	4752 (Junior)
Mark D. Woods	Oxford, MI	4753
Joel Cohen	Voorhees, NJ	4754
Lowell J. Dosch	Pasadena, CA	4755
H. David Austin	Oxnard, CA	4756
Tom Edmondson	Volcano, CA	4757
Cindy Grellman	Lake Mary, FL	1331 (Associate)

\* \* \* \* \*

ROD BURRESS, EAC #109	9743 Leacrest	Cincinnati, OH 45215 (513) 771 - 0696
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**For Sale**

#4 Soft Jewelers Brush	\$8.50 each			
Jewelers Tissue	4 x 4 inch sheets	box of 1000	\$7.00	pkg of 250 \$2.50
Xylo 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 1000	
Blue Ribbon Coin Conditioner (bought small qty at prem price)				\$13.00 ea
Cast iron Notary Machine unconverted	for the do-it-yourselfer			\$16.00
Double Row Coin Storage Box for 2 x 2 holders	14-inches long	color red		
premium quality heavy duty	.103 pasteboard		\$4.25 each	
Heavy Duty 28 lb Kraft 2 x 2 Coin Envelopes	colors gray, white, brown			
pkg of 100	\$3.25	box of 800	\$21.00	send SASE for sample
Cotton Liners	100 percent soft cotton flannel interior			Fit inside
standard 2 x 2 Coin Envelopes	SASE for sample			\$23.00 pkg of 100
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 each with cord
Attribution Guide for Matron Head Cents	1816 - 1835		\$4.00	approx 37 pgs
Superior Galleries Auction Catalogues	Please call or write.			

Add \$4.00 per order (\$4.75 western states) for shipping. Shipping by UPS – You must give a street address.

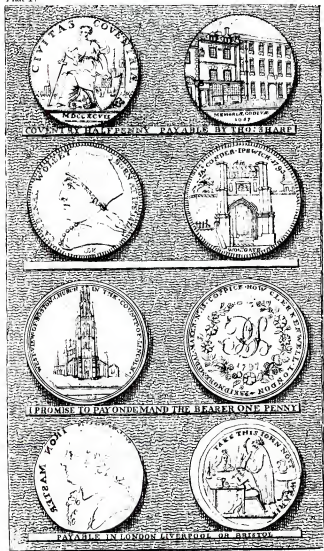
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It is with deep regret and sorrow that I report the death of my friend Wayne Anderson. He left us on June 30, 1999 at the age of 58 after a valiant fight with lung cancer. Wayne was a serious student and collector of many interests. Among which were antique knives, weapons, marbles, and of course Conder Tokens. He was founder and president of the Conder Token Collectors Club. Fortunately, we were able to share many wonderful hours over twenty years discussing a variety of subjects and personalities. His gift to us was his complete honesty and enthusiasm in every thing he did. Wayne will be truly missed by all who knew him.

Dick Punchard

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Plate 1.



2 Taylor Imps 1864

AN  
ARRANGEMENT  
OF  
*Provincial Coins, Tokens, and Medalets,*  
ISSUED IN  
GREAT BRITAIN, IRELAND, and the COLONIES,  
WITHIN THE LAST TWENTY YEARS;  
FROM THE FARTHING, TO THE PENNY SIZE.

By, *JAMES CONDER.*

"It is certain that Medals give a very great Light to History."  
*Addisou.*

IPSWICH:

Printed and Sold by George Jernyn.

SOLD ALSO BY T. CONDER, N<sup>o</sup> 30, BUCKLESHURRY; AND H. YOUNG,  
N<sup>o</sup> 10, TAVISTOCK STREET, LONDON.

1798.

## REMEMBERING WAYNE ANDERSON

Harry E. Salyards

When Wayne Anderson died, on the evening of June 30, the copper collecting community lost a quiet star--and I lost a dear friend. As it happens, the news came to me when I was feeling particularly estranged from the Mainstream--that whole vast conglomeration of Hype and Hoopla, the ungraspable commonplace of billionaires buying out other billionaires; the vast irrelevance of our so-called "representative" government; the pseudo-culture of the pseudo-family, replete with its melodrama of pseudo-relationships, as spun out by Hollywood Etcetera. In fact, I was watching *Gettysburg*, to try to imagine a time when men aspired to something more enduring than sound bites and photo ops, when Dick Punchard called me with the word of Wayne's passing.

And I'm thinking--what a contrast was Wayne! He was genuine. He had a Midwesterner's inherent skepticism of All of the Above, a reserve that let you slowly and cautiously into his confidence--and a totally disarmed frankness once there. He was comfortably well off, but I suspect that he could have had much more money, if money had been the controlling force in his life; it wasn't. He had given up his career in banking--it was never going to be his bank, anyway, and he didn't see any point in sitting around in a suit five days a week making somebody else happy--so he decided to be happy himself. Those of you familiar with Garrison Keillor's *Prairie Home Companion* will realize how difficult a decision this must have been, for one imbued with the native Minnesotan work ethic! But having made that decision, he never looked back. He went through an apparently nasty divorce. He paid his debts, and remained close to his children. He continued to do financial consulting work--on his schedule. He remarried Linda Rydberg, the love of his life. And he occupied himself with the many collectibles he loved--his coins, his knives, his books, and most of all in recent years, his Conder tokens.

Their beauty and rarity attracted him--but so did their historical associations. I mean it as a compliment when I say that Wayne repeatedly amazed me by the depth and breadth of his historical knowledge. Many people in numismatics have disappointed me in the terrible narrowness of their perspective; Wayne was the startlingly refreshing opposite. A couple of anecdotes will suffice to illustrate this. When I mentioned, apropos of the Middlesex tokens in praise of Thomas Erskine (#1010-1013), that Erskine had sacrificed his office of Attorney General to the Prince of Wales to defend Thomas Paine in that libel suit over *The Rights of Man*, as I'd read in Erskine's article in the 11th edition *Britannica*, he'd read it, too--he had his set of that classic encyclopedia in a vertical bookcase in the corner of his home office. And when I brought a trio of French crowns from my collection to share with him, tangible illustrations of that incredible rush of history contained in their changing legends--from

LUD.XVI.D.G.FR.ET.NAV.REX / SIT NOMEN DOMINI A BENEDICTUM 1789, to

LOUIS XVI ROI DES FRANÇOIS 1792 / REGNE DE LA LOI L'AN 4 DE LA LIBERTE, to  
REGNE DE LA LOI 1793 / REPUBLIQUE FRANÇOISE L'AN II,

I brought along my copy of Victor Guilloteau's *Monnaies Françaises*, to put them in their numismatic context. I needn't have bothered; he already owned a copy.

Many more memories crowd around me, vying for attention; but I'm left with one in particular. When I last visited him at his home in late May, I brought along a group of five key Liberty Seated halves which I'd bought in the January Rarities Sale--that was another series he'd collected, once--and I knew he'd appreciate seeing them. I also told him how I'd bought the group for something like 60% of my aggregate maximum bids. He looked at each of them in turn, nodding his approval; and then he said, "you're like me, Harry--you make up your mind to go for something, you bid wild and crazy, and it's all right. . . it's all right."

And now, after all the suffering, he's all right. Characteristic Midwestern understatement. God bless you, Wayne. We miss you.

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William R. Eckberg

While large cent collectors continue to wait in vain for the new Breen book, half cent scholarship continues unabated at a high level. The 1999 EAC convention saw the appearance of a major contribution in the form of Ron Manley's book. As its title indicates, it provides information about half cent die states that is better than that in Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents 1793-1857. More than that, however, the new book provides substantial and novel insight into the emission sequences of many dates. It is truly a valuable and useful book and deserves a place in the library of any serious early copper collector.

The book begins with an introduction that describes what it is about. Essentially, this includes all of the business strike half cents produced by the US Mint; they are described sequentially by Cohen numbers, with the equivalent Breen and Gilbert numbers given for reference. Manley does not deal with proof-only issues, other proofs (except tangentially), patterns, restrikes or the Edwards copy. Additionally, he does not provide a condition census other than to indicate the general level of availability (or lack thereof) of mint state examples of a variety, and, where no mint state example is known, how the finest known examples grade.

As one might expect, he next discusses what constitutes a die state and then discusses reverse rotations, arguing convincingly that these can be used to determine die states and in some cases even to authenticate or attribute varieties. For many varieties, Manley has revised the die state sequences from those reported by Breen. Make no mistake, this is a major contribution, and if that were all that he had done, it would justify purchase of this book by any serious collector. But in addition, he describes only die states that he has verified. Accordingly, the confused and sometimes misleading states described by Breen (some described as "not seen") are gone.

Moreover, the new book illustrates the vast majority of the die states with photographs; lots illustrated in a number of significant recent auctions are also noted. While the number of die states described by Manley is significantly less than that described by Breen, the number of states illustrated is significantly greater. Of special note, his die state

sequence for the 1804 C-7 is based on the examination of 100 specimens, or 80-90% of the known population. It is doubtful that any other R4 coin has ever been more thoroughly researched!

Although this is a book that emphasizes die states, Manley does not get carried away with minute or trivial changes. There are a number of varieties for which he does not describe more than one die state, even though minor changes, e.g., in field characteristics, are described. He also gives rarity "guesstimates" for the die states. In some cases, his estimates of relative scarcity differ markedly from those of Breen. My own collection has several die states listed by Breen as "rare" and by Manley as "the usual state." That suggests to me that Manley is, alas, probably right. A few of the die state rarity estimates seem unlikely, though. There are some common varieties (e.g., 1825 C-2, 1826 C-1 and 1835 C-2) for which each of the die states is described as rare or scarce. If an R1 variety has only 3 or 4 die states, they can't all be scarce to rare. For the most part though, the die states he describes as rare almost certainly are.

Manley has also made a significant contribution to our understanding of the emission sequences for many years. Gilbert and other early authors provided little or no useful information on emission sequences. Cohen's first edition (1971) proposed a rational, though flawed emission sequence; Breen (and Cohen in his 1983 second edition) corrected several errors in the emission sequence. Manley has confirmed many of these changes, but he has provided completely new emission sequences for several years. Both Cohen and Breen generally listed a variety as the first struck in a given year if it shared a reverse used in a previous year--a very reasonable and logical supposition. However, Manley demonstrates from die state evidence that this is definitely not the case for several years. For example, the 1802 C-1 (reverse of 1800) was struck between the earliest and latest states of the 1802 C-2. Similarly, the 1804 C-1 was struck after the C-4, C-3 and C-2 varieties, and the 1805 C-2 was struck first and the C-1 last. Thus he argues that the Mint used a new reverse die at the beginning of a coinage year if one was available. If this assessment can also be applied to other years for which no die state evidence can be given, the 1828, 1832 and 1835 C-1/B-1 varieties were not the first struck for those years, even though Cohen and Breen agreed on their strike orders.

In my opinion, the book has two shortcomings. Because he has gone so deeply into the emission sequence and has made such a significant contribution to it, he could and should have renumbered the varieties to reflect his more accurate information. In choosing not to do so, he has been too modest and has missed an opportunity. Large cent collectors no longer use Frossard or Hayes numbers; half cent collectors no longer use Gilbert or Empire numbers. Manley's emission sequence improves significantly on those of Cohen and Breen, and he should have given us "M" numbers. Alas, since he did not, we will forever have our varieties listed according to an inaccurate emission sequence. Furthermore, by sticking to Cohen numbers, he has also perpetuated the error of listing the "thick planchet" 1795 no-poles as separate varieties. Differences in planchet weight are not a valid criterion for separate variety status. These should be delisted.

He also declines to delist the 1804 C-3 "variety." His explanation is that "only greater confusion would result." I disagree. Any such confusion would only be temporary. I don't care whether we delist the C-3 (per Cohen) or the C-5 (per Greg Heim), but we need to delist one of them. He speculates on whether discovery of a 1795 C-1 with the reground die (no pole) would be considered a new variety. If we define a die variety as a unique combination of obverse and reverse dies (and even if we also include any edge dies), clearly such a coin would not represent a new variety, even though it would be very expensive and would eventually find its way into a Midwestern collection. Being an expensive and rare die state does not confer variety status on a coin.

It would be a mistake not to acknowledge the quality of the photography and reproduction. Frank Wilkinson is credited with having taken over 90% of the photographs. The standards of quality coin photography for early copper have risen dramatically through the publication of the recent large cent books. The quality of the photography in this book easily equals that in the large cent books. Every photograph is extremely sharp and clear, and all prints are large and of high resolution with excellent tonal range. Mint state or AU pieces are illustrated for nearly every variety for which coins of such quality exist.

In summary, this is an excellent volume. If you have any interest at all in die state analysis, half cent emission sequences or even excellent photographs of great copper coins, you need this book. It supplants Cohen

in the way that Cohen supplanted Gilbert. It does not rehash the wealth of supplementary information in Breen, but it does correct a number of Breen's errors. It takes a rightful place with Gilbert, Cohen and Breen as an essential addition to the library of any half cent collector and a useful one for collectors of other series.

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## **BUTTERNUT BITES: #4**

## **Coins and Home Security**

(This is the first of three articles regarding security of coin collections.)

Steve Ellsworth

**"DEALER ROBBED"** **"COLLECTOR BURGLARIZED"** These are headlines that appear almost weekly in the major numismatic publications. It has been previously said that one out of three collections will eventually be stolen. Many are never reported. The impact is not only financial, but emotional as well. A sense of violation occurs that is difficult to describe. The loss has a negative impact to the victim in particular and to our hobby in general. Simply put, it's bad for business.

The age-old adage "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" could never be truer than with coin security. The easiest way to prevent crime is to avoid it, by not giving criminals the opportunity to perpetrate their crimes against you.

In hopes of keeping the "joys of collecting" enjoyable and the dreams alive, these guidelines should help reduce the risks of theft to collectors and dealers. After studying hundreds of thefts, it is my belief that nearly always, one or more of these guidelines have been ignored. Security risks can never be eliminated, but they can be managed to a tolerable level. Security is a constant. Vigilance must always be maintained. Be alert and aware of your surroundings. Criminals avoid vigilant persons.

Some of these suggestions you may already know about and practice. Some may be new that you could put into practice. Few people can do all that I suggest, but the more suggestions you implement, you lower your risk of being a target and eventually a victim. Hopefully, my recommendations and suggestions will be useful and helpful to most collectors and dealers...if they continually practice and use them.

Most security can be developed and divided into four parts: ***operational- perimeter-external and interior-security.***

*Operational security is how you operate or refers to as "your mode of operation." You need to ask yourself, "What kind of target am I?"*

*Perimeter security is considered in the immediate area near the target...your coins and collection. As an example, in home security, your property line to your home would be the perimeter.*

*External security is considered the outside shell or walls of your home or car. Internal security is inside your car, home or anywhere you can physically touch your coins. Your objective should be to try to think of ways you can protect and improve on each of these four areas.*

*Operational:*

Sanitize your home address by using a post office box on all coin publications and mailings. If you are a professional collector or dealer, your home address should be removed from the phone book, listing only your name and town. Don't forget about your stationery, envelopes, business cards, and checks. I recently gave a personal check with my street address to another dealer, who unfortunately suffered a theft, which included my check. Will the thief assume that the address on my check is another potential target? Also, insure that your trash does not give away that you are a dealer or collector of rare coins.

Insurance is an excellent idea for both collectors and dealers. The normal costs are approximately 1% a year. For professional collectors and dealers, this cost is a deductible expense. Most policies have a number of restrictions and exceptions including coins left in unattended vehicles. Some homeowners' policies will cover a small coin theft, but many have exclusion clauses. Read your insurance policy carefully.

*Perimeter:*

If you live in a rural area or a location that lends itself to a fence, install one. Even a simple split rail, three plank or a low three-foot picket fence will make most thieves uncomfortable entering. Add a gate on the walk or driveway and you double the level of mental stress for a thief.

A dog can be a wonderful companion and a loving family pet. To a thief they are their worst nightmare. Unknown intruders that intend to do harm, most dogs identify. They have a keen sense that most humans have not developed. What kind of dog is best? Buy a couple of dog books, read and determine what is best for you and your family. My thoughts are, the bigger the better. My personal favorite is the English Mastiff. They are very sweet and loving dogs and rated number one with children. They are nicknamed the 'gentle giants,' since they weigh over 200 pounds. However, with a mouth that can rival a grizzly, a provoked Mastiff can snap a person's leg in half. Add a second dog to the equation, and you have compounded the thief's problem. Noise is not conducive to a successful burglar. Even a small barking dog hinders a perpetrator. Most female dogs tend to be slightly more protective, and slightly more intelligent than males.

A few well-placed external lights should be on at night or have motion sensors that will turn them on. Thieves do not enjoy working at night in lighted areas. However, most home burglaries occur on weekday mornings between 9:30 and 11:30, not by professionals, but by amateurs who may be skipping school, either to support a drug habit or simply for thrills.

*External:*

If you do not have an alarm system, get one! I would not own a tool shed without an alarm. It is sad but true that most alarm systems are installed after a burglary. I would recommend that you use a company that is well known in your community for a couple of

reasons. First, service. It is important to have rapid service and repair. Second, name recognition. The alarm signs themselves are a deterrent. The signs and stickers should be at the property's entrance, as well as on ground level windows and doors. Simulated stickers or signs are of little use. Thieves know the real alarm signs from the phonies. There are several nationally known companies, but ADT & Brinks are the most widely used. An alarm system should not be kept a secret.

If possible, a silent central alarm system is best. At a minimum it should cover all doors and have at least one internal motion or pressure sensor. Thieves almost always roam the house in search of your special hiding places, and given enough time, will usually find them. A couple of motion sensors or internal door or mate sensors will do the trick. The alarm cables need to be buried and protected by metal conduit. A back-up battery system with at least a 12-hour cell will enable your system to work in power outages. Whether you work out of your home, office or have a coin shop, I recommend a silent panic button. They are a low cost, when installed in conjunction with the alarm system you have chosen. Don't forget to include smoke and fire alarms in your system as well. The added cost is minimal, and your additional objective is to try to protect life, as well as property.

Door locks should be double-keyed, double-sided dead bolts. Internal latch dead bolts are not as secure, since a thief can break a hole in the glass or door, reach through and turn the knob to gain entry. Regardless of how the thief gains entry into your home, the double-keyed dead bolt will prevent a quick exit for the burglar to carry your stolen property. In most home burglaries the bed linen is usually taken. The purpose is not so the thief can get a good night's sleep, but rather the bed itself is the collection point with each layer of bedding acting as a ready made satchel. A normal two-bedroom home will provide a minimum of ten satchels for your property. If the thief's entry point is through a small window, exiting with large amounts of your property is hindered. Your objective should be to make the entry and exit very time consuming. A determined thief will gain entry, the question is how long will it take, and how long for them to escape. Security chain locks are unreliable as they can be pulled out of most doors or door jams with a slight jar. Steel doors and frames offer better protection. On any new moves, have the locks changed. Even if you haven't moved, change your locks every five years. Get into the habit of keeping your doors locked, even when home or working in the yard. Also, keep your garage door down and locked. Most garages will have some valuable tools that may be of help to the burglar.

Never let a stranger into your home. In an emergency, you should make the phone call for help, on behalf of the stranger. If strangers say they are from an authorized service, phone to insure that the service call is authorized. Service people expect this and are not offended by it. And never tell a stranger you are home alone.

#### *Internal:*

A beautiful display of rare coins and currency has no place in a home or office. An alternative is photos of your prized or valuable coins. Most likely a photo album would be something that a burglar would not want. They could also be used, should your collection be stolen, in recovery and identification purposes. One of the coin-grading services offers a unique photo service for collectors considering this option.

The best idea is to display your coins at a local coin show as an exhibit. This way many people can share in your collection who would not only understand its value, but would appreciate your numismatic efforts. Not only is it fun, but you may get ideas to

improve your display to enable you to exhibit at a larger regional or a national show in competition. This seems to me to make more sense that keeping your coins at home and risking a burglary, or hidden in a bank vault for time and eternity, never to be seen or shared with anyone.

Use an answering machine that is silent or on which the volume can be turned very low when answering calls. Some burglars carry cell phones and simply dial your number and listen at your door or window to see if they can hear an answering machine. A continuous ringing phone is a signal that it is clear to enter. I prefer a phone network answering service, with no machine at all. When you are away for any extended length of time, set your machine or service to "no ring" or immediate pickup. Be sensitive to your phone message; one that announces that you are away on vacation for two weeks will not do. If you are away, don't forget to have your mail and newspaper stopped. A stack of mail or newspapers also announces your absence. In the summer, have your lawn cut when you are away and let your neighbors and local police know that you will be away.

Two or three lights that turn on at different time settings would be another good idea. A slightly loud radio or stereo left on could also help give the illusion that the premises are occupied.

Use a bank safety deposit box for the majority of your coins. Don't make the mistake of filling it with common date proof and mint sets and low-grade inexpensive coins. Today most tennis shoes are worth more money than all but a couple of proof or mint sets. Unless you lock your shoes in a safe deposit box, use the safe deposit box for only your more expensive coins. A word of caution is that most banks do not insure against both burglary and fire. For large collections, I would recommend multiple boxes in multiple locations.

If you decide to use a safe, a small home safe would probably do for the coins you are currently studying. The safe needs to have a burglar entry time of at least 15 minutes (TL-15) and have a minimum Class C fire rating. A safe with a TL-30 is even better. Older safes use older technology. Don't forget to bolt it to the floor from the inside if the safe could be carried or dragged from your home. Larger cabinet safes, weighing 300 lb. or more, will provide more security. Your alarm can also be connected to your safe with numerous specialized electronic security features. Be sure to place it on a solid cement floor, in a semi-hidden place.

If you have already made purchased a small cheap safe, your money has not been wasted. Place it in the master bedroom, filled with some cheap costume jewelry and a few inexpensive coins along with a perhaps \$100 in cash. Tape a paper with the combination to the outside. Should a burglar gain access, they may be content with the "dumb" owners and not vandalize your home in their frustration of trying to open the hidden, more secure safe.

A word of caution about your decision regarding safes. Will a safe that prevents a common burglar access, invite them to return as an armed robber? Large or valuable collections stored at home could be inviting to an armed robber. When a bandit is holding a gun on you or a family member, even the most secure safe should be opened immediately. There have been only a few home armed robberies for coins. And in those robberies, I only know of a few that resulted in a murder. The overall number of robberies is only a fraction of the number of burglaries that occur each year. Unfortunately, organized crime groups

are now routinely targeting many known jewelry and coin dealers. According to a recent Washington Post article, robberies of traveling dealers in Los Angeles have become epidemic.

Editor's note: Steve here included a three-page discussion of the issue of firearms and firearm safety, written from the perspective of his experience in the Army's elite Special Forces. I would be pleased to forward a copy to any EAC'er who requests it. Steve has also promised two additional articles on security issues, for future issues of Penny-Wise.

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## TALKING BEGINNERS – ATTRIBUTING EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS – PART 1

Steve Carr

Attributing early American coppers ranks high on the “anxiety” list of most beginners (and a few advanced collectors as well!). Perhaps it is the most difficult task for a beginner to learn.

Attribution is the identification of an object through its characteristics or qualities. In our case, the objects are early American coppers and the coin characteristics are the number or position of items on each die used to strike the coins. Since each die was uniquely made and has unique marks (more so in the earlier days of the mint), the coins struck from these dies will have characteristics that will set them apart from coins struck from other dies.

I still remember my first attempt to attribute a large cent. It was an 1848 and I had a copy of Howard Newcomb's United States Copper Cents, 1816 – 1857. I spent about 15 minutes trying to figure out the keys, another 30 minutes looking at the coin and trying to match it with those listed, and another 15 minutes trying to figure out what I had misread or missed, as the coin did not match any of those listed by Newcomb. I finished the exercise with a 10 minute pause to consider whether I would ever be able to attribute the cent.

I did, eventually. And today, it would take me considerably less time.

Two things helped me learn to attribute: finding the correct references and gaining experience.

### REFERENCES

Early collectors were at a very distinct disadvantage in attributing their coins. When they looked at two different coins of the same date, they might see noticeable differences, but 1) who cared, as coins were typically collected by date (early American coppers were an exception here), or 2) they made notes of the differences and kept them for their own use. Coin collectors were few and far between and the ability to spread information was limited. In short, there were no published references available to help them identify the different varieties of coins.

For large and half cents, this started to change in the late 1860's. In 1869 Dr. Edward Maris published a 17 page pamphlet entitled Varieties of the Copper Issues of the United States Mint in the Year 1794 and Sylvester S. Crosby published an illustrated article

entitled "The United States Cents of 1793" in the American Journal of Numismatics. Maris' work covered half and large cents while Crosby only described large cents. In 1879, Edward Frossard published his Monograph of United States Cents and Half Cents, 1793 – 1857, the first attempt to list varieties for all half and large cent dates. Frossard used information from both Maris and Crosby, added some of his own, and tended to skip lightly over the later date large cents. Two years later, Frank Andrews made attributing the later cents easier when he published An Arrangement of United States Copper Cents, 1816 – 1857.

All of these resources are dated, however, and most are not easy to use for attribution. For one thing the varieties were given different designations by different authors (thus, a 1796 large cent might be known as a Gilbert 38, a Clapp-Newcomb 30, or a Sheldon S-99). For another, these works should be seen as "works in progress" (as all early copper research should be viewed) which have contributed to the basis of knowledge we enjoy today.

So, you should ask, what are the best references for attributing early coppers today? I'll go out on a limb here and make a few suggestions. These resources work for me and, hopefully, may work for you. I realize that I may step on some toes with these suggestions, and for that I apologize in advance.

I use two types of reference when attributing, a reference book and a quick finder. The reference book usually has a picture of the variety, as well as a detailed description. The quick finder, which is smaller, usually lists only one to three characteristics that set the variety apart from others. I carry the quick finders when I look at coins and keep the reference books at home to check my results.

While collectors often use Cohen numbers when attributing half cents, Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents, 1793 – 1857 (published in 1983) is probably the best current resource. It has large pictures of the obverse and reverse for each variety, along with a fairly detailed description of the variety characteristics. This resource also describes various die states that occur on the variety, assigns a rarity rating to the variety, and gives some information on condition census coins. Breen also includes a grading guide (inadequately illustrated) and some color pictures of each date half cent. His work does not have a quick finder or attribution guide (where you can look for certain attributes on the coin and narrow down the possible choices). Instead, the reader / attributer must look at each variety for the date until the correct one is found.

Ron Manley recently (in 1999) published The Half Cent Die State Book 1793 – 1857. I was only able to glance at this book at EAC '99 and have not been able to use it for attribution. Perhaps Ron's book will be my next half cent "prime" resource.

Greg Heim has published a quick finder for half cents. This quick finder is very useful.

For early date large cents (1793 – 1814), Sheldon numbers are used to identify varieties and some collectors use his Penny Whimsy as an attribution guide. It is an excellent reference, but if you use Penny Whimsy for attribution, get one with good plates (1976 or earlier editions). Personally, I use Bill Noyes' United States Large Cents 1793 – 1814 (published in 1991). This resource uses Sheldon's variety descriptions and attribution

guides, but includes enlarged pictures of the obverse and reverse of a high grade example of each variety. There are extra pictures of different die states and a listing of condition census coins.

Mike Murphy published a quick finder for early date large cents that I find useful for coins with Good+ or better detail. On lower grade specimens, it does not work as well.

For middle date large cents (1816 – 1839), I use John Wright's The Cent Book, 1816 – 1839 (published in 1992). This book has large obverse and reverse pictures of each variety and a very detailed description. It defines more attribution points (even though some of them are non-existent on lower grade coins) than any other source and has a good attribution guide. John also shares stories of the times and about the large cents themselves.

Rod Burress wrote a quick finder for the middle date cents. Similar to the early date quick finder, this works best with coins that grade at least Good. I have, however, attributed some Basal State-1 middle dates using this quick finder.

For late date cents, I use Bob Grellman and Jules Reiver's Die Varieties of United States Cents 1840 – 1857 (published 1987). This reference uses line drawings for significant markings and has a very detailed description. Grellman and Reiver also published a quick finder. This quick finder is useful on VG or better coins, but has limited use on coins with more wear.

Next time, let's do something about that lack of experience. 'Til then ....

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### 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

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## PEDIGREE AND PROVENANCE: A QUESTION OF FORM

Clay Everhart

Lately I have found a new occupation: searching past auctions to see how many of my coins I can find. There is a problem I've rarely heard talked about among EAC'ers. Perhaps the topic makes some of us feel a little uncomfortable, even guilty. I hate to admit it, but I've done it, and I'm not the only one. Let's say you own a coin which can easily be graded as F12. I mean, there's no question, it's a Fine coin if there ever was one. Then you upgrade, purchasing a better example, perhaps a VF20. So you want to sell the F12. You look up an F12 of that variety in the CQR and it sells for \$1000—and since you're not trying to get rich, you decide to ask for \$900. Done, right? But wait a minute, upon looking through the flip you find it was sold at an auction in 1997. You look it up and, amazingly, just a couple short years ago it was sold as a VG8 for \$150!

So here's the dilemma. Do you do the right thing and include the auction ticket in the coin flip and just prepare yourself to bicker, haggle, and barter? Or do you say to yourself, no way, Jose. This really is an F12 coin and whoever graded this coin at the auction must have just consumed a couple bottles of Chateaunoyesand. And since it is an F12 coin, I'm selling it as such and therefore the auction slip is not going along for the ride. Or maybe there's no auction slip, but rather a coin flip with some history and low price. Should that too remain with the coin when sold?

How many times has this happened to dealers and collectors alike? Within the last year I have bought two coins (on separate occasions, from different people) with no history attached, yet upon some hunting and investigation on my part, I discovered they were both coins from the January 1989 Jack Robinson sale. And yes, a coin I bought for VF20 money was listed as F12, and an F12 coin I bought was listed as VG10. And yes, they were priced less than ½ what I paid in 1999. But far from being upset, I'm happy and feel very lucky to have been able to obtain these important coins, regardless of the grade. In fact, the pedigrees I discovered make both coins worth much more to me, so I am not in any way complaining. In fact, I'm thrilled and I couldn't care less about the previous price or grade. I was happy with the price I paid. But in both cases there was no history included with these famous coins, and these are just two examples of several I've found listed elsewhere.

What can we do about this problem? Does this have to happen, over and over again? Every time someone wants to sell a coin for an amount substantially more than it sold for at an auction, does the history have to be lost? Or every time someone wants to sell a coin does he or she have to discard the flip and its history because a low price is on it? I think not. Maybe when a coin is slabbed, the material gets lost. But that aside, there may be a couple things we can do about it. The first thing below is just an idea, food for thought, and the second idea is more tangible.

The first idea is an attitude adjustment. I remember in Macro-Economics 101 I learned that a product *should be sold for whatever the market will bear*. The professor

taught us that of five or six variables involved when trying to set a price on anything for sale, the price the seller paid for the product is the least important; in fact, it's not even on the list. As an example, he said that a Cadillac costs about \$100 more to make than a Chevrolet. (This was a few years ago!) But General Motors sells the Caddy for whatever amount the market will bear – a lot more than a Chevy plus 100 bucks!

Setting a price according to what the market will bear is just the way the supply and demand system works, like it or not, and the rules don't change because we're dealing in numismatics or because we're all nice folks. If a dealer or collector bought a VG10 S-92 coin for \$500, and tries to sell it for \$550, but can't find a buyer, then lowers it to \$525, then \$500, if it still sits advertised yet unsold for a long time, he must decide: should I sell the coin for a loss or should I just let that \$500 sit in my inventory forever? Unless he doesn't need the money, he'll have to take the loss. Yet, on the other hand, if he suddenly takes a closer look at the coin and realizes that no, it's not an S-92, it's a 1796 NC1, should be still just ask \$550 since he only paid \$500 for it? Of course not, he'd be idiotic to sell a coin worth \$4500 for \$550.

True, this is an extreme, unlikely example, but I believe it makes a point. To me, it did not matter that the two coins I bought were previously sold at a lower grade for much less money at an auction—even if the auction had been 10 days ago instead of 10 years ago. Perhaps if we all thought this way, coin sellers wouldn't be as tempted to discard a coin's provenance. If someone tries to sell a coin for more than he can get, it won't sell. Period. If we didn't all think there is something wrong with a coin seller selling a coin for more than 10% above what he paid, perhaps he wouldn't be afraid to leave the history with the coin in the first place. We have to play by the same rules as any other business. Would you base the present price of your house on how much you paid for it?

So that leads me to my concrete proposal. If we had a universal form that we began using for all our coins, a form on which price is never mentioned, perhaps dealers and collectors would be less likely to throw away any historical material. In a perfect world, nobody would throw away these records in the first place, but it is happening, a lot, and a form that is kept with every coin might help a little. I have made a simple one below, but I'm sure other artistic types could do much better. If you think it's a good idea, make copies of the form below, or make up your own form and complete one now, at least for each of your rare and high grade coins. This will ensure that the next person, and maybe future generations who own your coin, will know its history. It's a start.

Let me hear your ideas on this. Also, if you don't have access to a copier, let me know and I'll mail you some forms. Send your request to me, at P.O. Box 2831, Reston, VA 20190.

To me, a coin's history is an important thing. Enough said.

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## Coin Pedigree & Provenance Sheet

Variety: \_\_\_\_\_ Sharpness Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Net Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Coin Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
-----

date purchased: \_\_\_\_\_ your name: \_\_\_\_\_

who/where purchased: \_\_\_\_\_ auction: \_\_\_\_\_

lot #: \_\_\_\_\_ remarks: \_\_\_\_\_  
-----

date purchased: \_\_\_\_\_ your name: \_\_\_\_\_

who/where purchased: \_\_\_\_\_ auction: \_\_\_\_\_

lot #: \_\_\_\_\_ remarks: \_\_\_\_\_  
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date purchased: \_\_\_\_\_ your name: \_\_\_\_\_

who/where purchased: \_\_\_\_\_ auction: \_\_\_\_\_

lot #: \_\_\_\_\_ remarks: \_\_\_\_\_  
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date purchased: \_\_\_\_\_ your name: \_\_\_\_\_

who/where purchased: \_\_\_\_\_ auction: \_\_\_\_\_

lot #: \_\_\_\_\_ remarks: \_\_\_\_\_  
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date purchased: \_\_\_\_\_ your name: \_\_\_\_\_

who/where purchased: \_\_\_\_\_ auction: \_\_\_\_\_

lot #: \_\_\_\_\_ remarks: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## PRUDENT PURCHASES

Evan L. Kopald

Of vital importance when purchasing early copper is from whom the coin is purchased. Ask this question: Has the seller graded this coin by EAC standards?

Most coin dealers, grading services, and auction house catalogers employ the generally accepted grading criteria in the numismatic community. Putting aside cynicism, the grades usually fall below the "net" grading standards of EAC.

The importance of this issue becomes apparent at the time that the purchaser decides to sell his collection. At an auction of early copper the majority of bidders in a sale that features large cents will be large cent dealers and savvy large cent collectors. They will employ EAC net grades to evaluate the coins during viewing and bid accordingly.

Take for example two recent coin auctions both featuring S-48's. In Stack's March 9, 1999, which had only 28 large cents offered, sale lot 336 is described as:

"1794 S.48 (High R-6). Starred Reverse. Fine-15. This great rarity features [sic] circle of 94 tiny stars around the reverse border. Deep brown, lightly porous fields contrast with light tan reliefs. The reverse shows an edge bruise and several corrosion spots away from the stars but this is one of the finer examples of this famous sub-type available to today's collectors."

Compare the above to the description of lot #1119, one of over 700 large cents, featured in the Superior September 21, 1998 auction where it is described:

"1794 Sheldon-48. Rarity -5, Very Good 7+. Starred Reverse. Sharpness slightly better with a few minor contact marks on the obverse, including some light nicks on the portrait and a faint dull scratch at the base of BE in LIBERTY. The reverse is relatively free of contact marks, a light hairline scratch below UNIT the only notable one. There are no rim nicks or bumps. The surfaces are nice but not perfectly smooth, with uniform microscopic granularity visible under strong magnification. Slightly glossy dark steel brown with lighter steel brown high points. A very nice example of this famous variety, with the reverse dentillation complete all 94 of the little stars still visible, although the ones at MERI are faint due to the usual die buckling in that area. E-MDS. Listed in Pete Smith's Starred Reverse census as VG10 sharpness net VG8."

From the photographs in the two catalogs, it appears to this writer that the Stack's coin is more likely a G-4 coin and the Superior coin superior to the Stack's piece. The Superior piece is also an "established" piece, in that its pedigree can be traced back, ironically, to a Stack's private sale in 1947. Whereas the Stack's coin, lot 336, has no history noted.

The two coins sold for approximately the same price in the two auctions, \$10,000.

The point here is not to castigate one auction house for enthusiastic hyperbole nor to praise another for stalwart accuracy. Instead it is to relate to the reader that one must make

prudent purchases when obtaining early copper for a collection. Make a judgment on grade, deduct for problems, and don't fall under the assumption that the seller knows more about grading of copper coins than you do.

Whether a coin is purchased for \$50 and sold for \$25, or purchased for \$10,000 as a Fine-15 coin and sold as Good-4 for \$5,000, it still an humbling sensation of having been "had" by the numismatic community at large when one suffers a 50% loss.

You have heard expression "Caveat Emptor" until it's grown into a cliché. But the reason a cliché remains in vogue is testament to its veracity. No one is forcing you to put down your hard earned bucks to purchase any numismatic item. If you feel "had" when selling your coins, there is only one person to blame.

Coin collecting is an enjoyable, investment prone avocation. And there are ways to increase the chances that the copper coins you purchase today will increase in value when it is time to sell.

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## MAKING SENSE

John D. Wright

During this year Napoleon Bonaparte is proclaimed Emperor of France. Alexander Hamilton is shot dead by Aaron Burr. Thomas Jefferson is re-elected as our President by a large margin. An expedition of about forty men sets out from St. Louis to explore the Louisiana Purchase and to see if a river route exists between the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean. The expedition has been funded by a congressional appropriation of \$2,500 (about \$60 per man for a two-year trip). Lewis and Clark report seeing herds of at least ten million bison. And this year the first-ever boatload of bananas arrives in New York City.

This is the first of only three years that the United States Mint in Philadelphia made more half cents than cents. And it is the only year to produce more half cents than all other denominations combined.

Of course by now you have surmised that the year is 1804. In U.S. coins this year is most famous for its silver dollar. Over nineteen thousand were made this year, but none bearing this date would exist until thirty years later. The first 'original' 1804 dollars were made for inclusion in a few Proof presentation sets in 1834. A few more were made a quarter-century later to sell quietly one-by-one to wealthy collectors. Today there are fifteen known and the last one sold brought over a million dollars.

And for my favorite series, U.S. large cents, this is the third key date of the series – the 1931-S of large cents. Fewer than a hundred thousand cents were made this year, and several of those were dated 1803. All original 1804-dated cents are from a single pair of dies. Today there are only around 500 to 700 original 1804 cents remaining, which means there are probably over two hundred 1909-S VDB Lincoln cents for every original 1804 cent.

These are augmented by hundreds of electrotypes, cast copies, and alterations from other dates. Assuming you have an 1804 cent in your hand, and you have convinced yourself that it is a struck coin and not a cast piece or an electrotype, look for the following features. The fraction is large as on some 1803's and most 1807's. A long graver-scratch extends the inner leaf tip left of C(ENT). The crossbar of the 4 has a vertical crosslet at its right end. The dies are aligned so the 'O' in the date is opposite the 'O' in OF. There are no die cracks on either side, but there may be a sizeable rim break involving the tops of RTY. If that rim break is present, there may be another even larger one involving the tops of MERIC.

Over 130 years ago, a fantasy of this year was made outside the mint from discarded used dies that had been sold by the mint as scrap steel. The reverse die of an 1820 cent (closed circular wreath, large berries) was mated with an altered, badly broken, and horribly rusted obverse die of an 1803 cent (S.261) to make an "1804 Restrike" cent. These fooled nobody at the time, but are today collectibles that bring several hundred dollars in their own right. It does indeed sound strange that an admitted, obvious fake of an 1804 cent brings more than a decent original example of most nearby years.

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.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RON MANLEY WRITES,

Needless to say, I enjoyed the 1999 EAC Convention immensely. I also enjoyed the May 15<sup>th</sup> P-W Convention issue – particularly the articles by Craig Sholley and Mike Packard.

Unfortunately, I find I'm not nearly as excited about the new 1795 C-4b "subvariety" discovery as reported by R. Tettenhorst. Although its weight of 114 grains places it squarely in the range of weights typical of 1795 C-5b and C-6b specimens, there appears to be too much evidence (for my liking) that the 1795 half cents were all minted with little regard for planchet weight. For example, the known weight variation for 1795 C-1 specimens (lettered edge) is from 77 to 119 grains, and (now) for 1795 C-4 (plain edge) from 53 to 114 grains!

I hope some more of these "1795 C-4b's" turn up. Until then, I can't help thinking that even a broken clock tells the correct time twice a day.

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## 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 September 15, 1999 issue is August 31, 1999. All ads must include the individual membership number of a current member in good standing. Copy should be sent to the Editor, Harry E. Salyards, 606 North Minnesota Avenue, Hastings, NE 68901.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

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

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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.

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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.

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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 18<sup>th</sup> Century Aconder@ series. Superb quality, great rarities, bizarre die states, errors, trial pieces and patterns our speciality. 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!

\*\*\*\*\*

### WANTED 1796 HALF CENT

Interested in purchasing a 1796 Half Cent for my collection. Looking for a decent example in average condition, ranging in grade from VG-8 to VF-20. I would expect a coin in average condition to have nice color and surfaces. Preferably the contact marks should be consistent with the coin's sharpness grade, that is, not of such severity as to require a deduction in grading points. Please, no coins with problems. Call or write with detailed description and asking price. Foil pressing and/or photo would be much appreciated. I am a cash buyer and will pay top dollar for a nice piece. It's time to convert your duplicate 1796 into \$10,000 - \$20,000 in cold cash (actually a certified check). Office (713) 853 - 3850; Home (281) 363 - 9522.

Mark Hays, EAC 1785

51 Wild Meadow Court

The Woodlands, TX 77380

\*\*\*\*\*

Donald P. Kay, EAC 4551

875 Marina Hts. Rd.

Brookings, OR 97415

Wanted to finish Large Cent Collection. Started in 1936!  
1799 Condition VG+. Am a Retired WW2 & Korean Disabled Vet and on a limited budget. Call at (541) 412 - 0314. Thanks.  
At least want a clear date.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ken Stonebraker, EAC 3454      438 Hillview Cr., #304      Linthicum Hts, MD 21090

**PENNY-WISE BACK ISSUES FOR SALE      EXCELLENT QUALITY 2 SIDED COPIES**

PW ISSUES 82 THRU 93 (JAN 1981 THRU NOV 1982) 12 ISSUES    \$ 40.00 POSTPAID  
PW ISSUES 94 THRU 105 (JAN 1983 THRU NOV 1984) 12 ISSUES    \$ 40.00 POSTPAID  
PW ISSUES 106 THRU 119 (JAN 1985 THRU MAR 1987) 14 ISSUES    \$ 46.00 POSTPAID  
ALL THREE SETS AS ABOVE      \$120.00 POSTPAID

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

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

\* \* \* \* \*

Robert Zavos, EAC 2502      1007 Savannah Ave.      Pittsburgh, PA 15221  
email: rzavos@hotmail.com

Bourne	9/12/97	Dick Punchard EAC Literature Library Sale; nice copy; prf	\$12
Bowers & Ruddy	10/1/80	Garrett III, HB, new; pr; Colonial and State Coinage (major NJ reference)	35
	1982	John W. Adams Collection of US Large Cents of 1794; fpl; num ill & hist. info.	25
Bowers & Merena	3/28/90	Boyd Brand & Ryder hardbound; new pr – <i>HT Tokens, Colonials, Conn. &amp; NJ</i>	20
Crosby, Sylvester		Early Coins of America; 1965 Tkn Med Soc Reprint; 378p fine condition	25
Pine Tree	2/15/75	EAC Convention Sale; outstanding Connecticut; cat. by Breen; nice; prf	65
Lapp & Silberman		US Large Cents 1793 – 1857; 1975 Quarterman; 647p dj nice copy	35
Merkin, Lester	8/14/64	Louis Helfenstein Large Cents; 332 lots; many illustrated; prf; nice condition	15
New Neth./Seaby	11/14/73	2 <sup>nd</sup> Auction Sale, Superb early Large Cents [Nafzger]; fine; prf	25
Superior	1/29/89	Jack Robinson Collection of Large Cents & Half Cents; almost new; sb; prf	30
Wait, George W.		New Jersey's Money; 1976; Soc Pap Money Collectors; hb; 434p; num ill; like new	35

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- 1796 S-90, 95, 96, 99, 101, 107, 113
- 1797 S-123, 125, 144, 156, 121a
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- 1801 S-217, 218 and all NCs

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1794	S-44	VG/GD-4	corrosion, edge error, ONE HUNDRED A DOLLAR (leaf)	185
1803	S-257	F-12/GD-4	strong rev. cud, scratches obv. (lite), corrosion, rev.	65
1809	S-280	VG/GD-4-	porous, portrait mark, clear date, details	59
1819	N-7	F-15	smooth brown, purchased as "VF"	160
1820	N-9	F-12	smooth brown, nice coin	55
1820	N-12	EF-40/35	glittering brown tones, obv, field mark	159
1823	N-2	NGC-VF-20	obv. 2 rim cuds, LDS, smooth brown	795
1827	N-6	PCGS AU-53/45	light brown	495
1842	N-9	NGC-MS-61	BN, nice light brown coin, planchet crack	279

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1848	N-36	VG10 Average+	R5	45	Light brown. Just a few light marks from choice.
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1840	N-1	EF-40	light porosity	45	1853	N-22	VF-25	choice	30
1847	N-38	MDS VF-35+	rev. cor. spot	43	1853	N-26	MDS VF-30		35
1849	N-4	VF-30+	minor porosity	42	1854	N-9	MDS VF-30		30
1849	N-20	VF-30	choice	35	1856	N-18	VF-35		32
1851	N-38	EDS VF-35	sharp coin	68					

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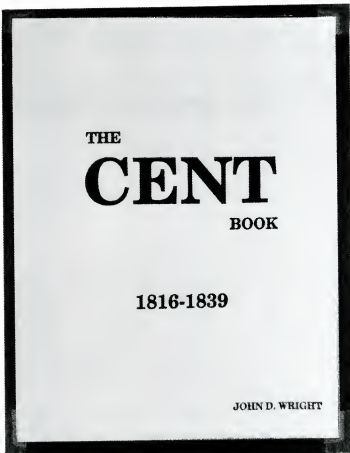
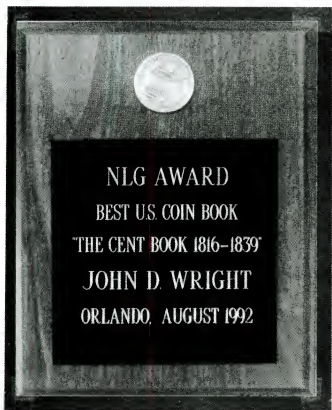
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Roger Cohen used many of the Showers illustrations as plate coins in his American Half Cents. Almost all of the Showers Half Cents are listed in Walter Breen's Half Cent Condition Census for their varieties.

Only one copy of the Showers Collection book has ever been sold publicly. In June, 1984 bookseller George Kolbe sold Lester Merkin's copy for \$4,070. The Merkin copy wound up in Armand Champa's library. In 1994, the Merkin-Champa copy was sold at auction for \$4,180.

Stack's recognizes the great importance of the Showers Collection catalogue for Half Cent collectors. Therefore, we have reprinted the Showers Collection in two limited quantity versions.

The deluxe reprint version, like the original, includes 11 pages of text and 18 pages with pasted down photographic prints made from the original negatives. Each page is interleaved by a blank. The deluxe version is printed on heavyweight card stock cream paper bound in gilt stamped brown library cloth covers. Only 25 deluxe reprints were made. There are only 5 available for sale at \$1,500 each.

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