

PENNY-WISE

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NEW EAC MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WRITE TO THEIR REGIONAL OFFICERS TO INTRODUCE THEMSELVES AND FIND OUT ABOUT OR SUGGEST REGIONAL ACTIVITIES.

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INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR: COIN COLLECTING IN 2050

Harry E. Salyards

In trying to envision coin collecting 50 years from now, I find myself coming back to something I've said before, in a variety of ways--let me say it again: the 1950s are NOT coming back. That time of seemingly-endless collector interest, of burgeoning coin clubs and collector-oriented publications, was ultimately premised on a great discontinuity: between how an intense collecting minority and the overwhelming majority of the population *perceived* the circulating coinage. To the former, the prospect of *treasure* was ever-present; not only was a dime worth something in genuine purchasing power, but it might be *worth* a dollar, or ten, or a great deal more than that, if it were a '16D. And this was so not because of absolute rarity, but because of demand. Whereas the bulk of the population simply saw it as small money, and no doubt found our determined perusal of the accumulated pocket change on Friday nights to be either a harmless eccentricity or--from the perspective of parents of young collectors--a fortuitous way to encourage saving.

Those days are gone forever. Nonetheless, some of us keep grasping--witness those periodic letters to the editor of *Coin World*, which all run something like--"I went to the bank and got two rolls of halves, and I found two '63s and a '58D! Keep hunting! You never know what you'll find out there!"--which I read with a certain melancholy, because I'm absolutely certain that the 1958D Franklin is never going to be in the category of a '16D Mercury: there is neither the demand for it in circulated grade, nor any realistic prospect of completing the rest of the set from circulation. The circulating coinage is correctly perceived on *all* sides as junk, tokens by the billions. The treasures have long since been removed. So there's nothing to sustain those nascent collectors, who back in the 50s were sustained by the prospect of finding duplicates of something of real value, so that they might trade one of their 'dupes' for something else, something which they'd never be able to afford to purchase outright. Collections *were* built "on a shoestring" back then, as *Coin World's* "Clearinghouse" editor James Johnson was fond of saying.

So, if coin collecting in 1900 was primarily a pastime for the elite, which by 1950 was becoming a hobby for the multitude, in 2000 it is clearly a field in transition. Those collections formed in the middle of the 20th century are being cashed in--the Big Name ones for Big Bucks, with comparable publicity; the vast majority, Grandpa's partially-filled Whitman folders from the attic, are sold off for their bullion silver value, with no publicity whatever. Many coin clubs and shows have disappeared; only the big remain. Grade and price inflation continue their endless race. Yet the circulating commemorative quarters have people--ordinary non-collector people--at least *looking* at their change. Out of all the accumulations of those, maybe one person in ten makes a real set, and one in a hundred aspires to build a set of the earlier Washington quarters; maybe one in a thousand will become fascinated with the 19th century quarters, and one in ten thousand will write the new reference on the Draped Busts. This would be a *trickle up* phenomenon: *against gravity*, against the general human tendency to lose interest in any given activity--so it seems inevitable that collecting *will become more elite again*.

But what will happen *if coins cease to be*? Just as no one in 1950 would have foreseen cash cards or electronic banking, our current monetary world will seem just as quaint to the citizens of 2050. Coins may no longer be necessary. In that event, today's commemorative quarters could become what Indian head cents were to the 1950s generation--reminders of a "simpler" time! Perhaps there will be a rebirth of broader collecting interest as coins as a *whole* disappear from everyday use, just as the discontinuation of the large cent started the ball rolling in what has become our specialty. Either way, I believe it will continue to be a world of collecting specialties, for which the research literature will continue to expand and improve in quality. Beyond that, the only certainty is that collecting will continue to change in unforeseen ways.

* * * * *

Important Discovery: 1796 Draped Bust, Stemless Reverse Large Cent ('96 NC-7)

Rod Burress



A 1796 large cent variety of uncertain status has been more clearly verified with the discovery of a new specimen. This variety, originally called NC-6 (Obverse 26, Reverse BB) of 1796 and plated in Sheldon's *Early American Cents* (1949), was delisted in *Penny Whimsy* (1958). The coin in question weighed 10% less than the normal 168 grains and had been heavily tooled. Sheldon believed that most of the obverse had been re-engraved to give the appearance of a previously unknown variety. The reverse of the cent was untampered with, and was the same reverse as the stemless S-143 (Reverse T of 1796).

There was no basis to refute Sheldon's decision until a few years ago, when a half cent struck on a cut down large cent was discovered by Mark Borckardt. The portions of the large cent which were visible matched the attributes of the delisted 1796 cent, sufficient to reestablish it as a new variety, even though the stemless feature was not visible. (See Mark Borckardt's excellent writeup for the January 1995 *Penny-Wise*.) The designation NC-7 was assigned at that time, because a new variety of 1796 Draped Bust discovered by Denis Loring in 1970 had in the meantime been assigned the number NC-6.

The newly discovered specimen plated above, discovered in 1999, gives final verification to the existence of 1796 NC-7. The new specimen grades but AG-3 on the obverse and less than Fair-2 on the reverse, but clearly shows a full, bold date with unique spacing and position relative to the bust above. It also shows the stemless reverse feature. It is a choice coin for the grade. LIBERTY is almost totally invisible. Enough wreath, berry, and lettering detail show on the reverse to verify the attribution, even if the stemless feature had not been visible.

What to look for: Collectors who would like to find another specimen should look for a 1796 Draped Bust with a stemless reverse; however, that feature has been so well-publicized in the numismatic press as to create doubt that there are many more 1796 stemless specimens awaiting discovery. The collector should therefore look for a 1796 Draped Bust obverse with the top of the 6 just touching the bust--NOT embedded or overlapping it, as on S-114, S-118, and S-119--and the serif of the 1 very close to the hair above.

* * * * *

The Girl on the Penny: Anne Willing Bingham of Philadelphia

Red Henry

On the way back from a local coin show a few months ago, I stopped in a West Virginia junk store to look for old books and other entertaining items. I was browsing casually along a shelf of miscellaneous unsorted books when my eye lit on a book title, gilt on gray cloth binding: "The Golden Voyage: The Life and Times of William Bingham, 1762-1804." I was going on past when something said, *Stop. Look at this book.*

"William Bingham... William Bingham..." I said to myself. How did I remember this name? From history? Books? Maps? Family History? Coins? I took the book off the shelf and began examining it, trying to think of where that name came from. After twenty or thirty seconds, a faint echo finally ran through my mind, of some words written by Walter Breen in his *Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*: "The portrait of Ms. Liberty is after a drawing by Gilbert Stuart, modeled by Mrs. William Bingham (née Ann Willing)." Was the William Bingham in this book the same as Anne Willing's husband? The dates (1762-1804) seemed right. I turned to the index and quickly looked up a couple of items. The William Bingham of this book did indeed have a wife named Anne Willing. He was from Philadelphia, and he knew Gilbert Stuart. The pieces were fitting together already. I had an important book here for copper collecting.

By far the most common obverse type on our surviving early-date large cents is the "Draped Bust" design, introduced on cents dated 1796 and continued (with some changes) through 1807. This design was used on U.S. coins from half cents through silver dollars, and collectors have known for years the identity of the person whose portrait was chosen to portray Ms. Liberty. However, little has been known about her besides her name and the fact that she was from Philadelphia. This biography of her husband enables us to fill in many facts about her family, and about how Mr. Stuart came to draw her portrait.

Anne Willing came from a successful Philadelphia family well known for its prosperity and the politics (patriotic and otherwise) of its members. Anne's great-great grandfather Edward Shippen, b.1639, became Mayor of Philadelphia, Speaker of the Assembly, and Chief Justice of the colony, and was reported to possess "the biggest person, the biggest house, and the biggest coach in the city." His son Joseph, b.1679, produced a famous family including grandson Edward Shippen, Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, and Edward's daughter Peggy, who in 1779 married a popular young American general named Benedict Arnold. One of Peggy's sisters, the widowed Mrs. Theodosia Prevost, later married a dashing military hero and lawyer named Aaron Burr.

We find interesting facts closer to our story if we follow the family of Joseph Shippen's daughter Anne. She married Charles Willing, of another prosperous Philadelphia family. Among their offspring were William Willing and his son (also named William), pioneering American surgeons. Another child of Anne and Charles was Mary (or Molly) Willing, who married William Byrd III, who inherited and dissipated one of the largest fortunes in Virginia. Following her husband's suicide on New Year's Day, 1777, Molly Willing entertained officers commanding a British invasion of Virginia with such hospitality that she earned the salacious sobriquet "Willing Molly" from disapproving local patriots.

But we find a more direct connection to our story if we consider the family of Molly's brother Judge Thomas Willing, b.1731, who served as Mayor of Philadelphia and as associate justice of the Supreme Court of the Province. His business and shipping operations extended from Philadelphia to Europe and the West Indies. Thomas was partner in business and politics with Robert Morris, and these two were local leaders of resistance to the Stamp Act, as well as in passing the Philadelphia resolution to convene the Second Continental Congress, to which Thomas was a delegate.

At age 32, Thomas married 18-year-old Ann McCall, a young lady known for her "amiable features" and good manners. The oldest of their many children, born about 1764, was named Anne. Her parents' house and

large grounds had been established by her grandfather Charles Willing, and it was located in Philadelphia between Third, Fourth and Spruce Streets and Willing's Alley. Anne, nicknamed Nancy, grew up in an opulent household, and was given a thorough education in English, foreign languages, music, and other accomplishments considered suitable for young ladies of her day. She naturally became acquainted with many of the most remarkable people in town (many of whom were her relatives), and during the Revolution, George Washington made his headquarters for some time in the house next door, in which young Anne was a familiar visitor. By age 16, when she met William Bingham, she was "the most beautiful young woman in Philadelphia."

On October 26th, 1780, Anne married the 28-year-old Mr. Bingham, an energetic businessman whose dealings in America and the West Indies guaranteed the couple a life of plenty and ease. Anne's beauty was remarked on by men and women alike. A lady in Philadelphia wrote: "Nobody here will be able to make the figure they do; equipage, house, cloathes, are all the newest taste,—and yet some people wonder at the match. She but sixteen and such a perfect form. His appearance is less amiable."

Following their marriage, William Bingham continued his pursuit of wealth and influence. He and Anne made an extended trip to Europe for business and personal reasons, enjoying social life in both Paris and London. While visiting the latter city in April of 1785, they made the acquaintance of portraitist Gilbert Stuart.

Stuart, an artistic genius noted alike for talent and improvidence, was engaged in painting portraits at the price of 30 guineas a head (about \$160.00, a lot of money in the 1700's). He reportedly did not like to paint either children or groups, but somehow—probably by offering plenty of money—Bingham arranged to have a family portrait made of himself, Anne, and their two children. The family portrait was begun but never completed. The temperamental Stuart apparently gave up the project, possibly due to suggestions or requests concerning the work, or other "interference" by the Bingham. Along with the unfinished portrait, Stuart's preparatory sketch of Anne has survived, and is presented at top right. This, the basis of her figure in the unfinished family portrait, is the only view of Anne which I have found except for the Draped Bust coin types.

When comparing this view of Anne with the large cent design, we should consider that she was 21 when this sketch was made, but about ten years older when her portrait was taken for the Mint in 1795. In addition,



*Anne Willing Bingham,
drawn by Gilbert Stuart, 1785*



*1st Hair Style Draped Bust
cent, 1798-1807*



*Draped Bust dollar,
1795-1803*



*2nd Hair Style Draped Bust
cent, 1798-1807
(EAC Library photo)*

according to descriptions printed by Alberts, she gradually gained a little weight as she grew older. The possibility that her portrait may have suffered at the hands of the mint engraver is discussed below. To my eye, Anne as seen in the sketch resembles the original “first hair style” design more than the revised “second hair style” design introduced during 1798. Photos of a few items are presented above, so that you can judge for yourself. The designs for the larger silver denominations may have been made with more care, and the larger planchets of the halves and dollars permitted a more detailed presentation, so a typical Draped Bust dollar obverse is presented together with the cent obverses.



The Bingham's association with Gilbert Stuart did not end with the abortive family portrait. By the spring of 1796, Bingham was a very wealthy United States Senator, and extremely influential in the government. In April of that year, while Stuart was residing in America, the Bingham's arranged with him and President Washington that the painter should make a full-length portrait of Washington at Bingham's expense. In November, the majestic eight-foot-tall canvas was finished. Bingham had Stuart make him a replica of the painting before shipping the original to England as a present to his friend Lord Lansdowne, a great admirer of Washington. This full-length portrait has been extensively reproduced, and is now one of the most familiar views of President Washington.

Before Stuart began Washington's portrait, in August 1795 or earlier, he executed a mint commission to make a profile sketch of Anne to be used in new U.S. coin designs. Why was Anne chosen as the subject of the sketch? I believe that several factors were at work. First, she and her husband knew Gilbert Stuart and (in spite of the 1785 family portrait debacle) were on reasonably good terms with him. Second, Anne's remarkable personal attractiveness was still widely regarded in Philadelphia, the city of the government and of the mint. Third, and most important of all, William Bingham had for his whole life pursued power and money—and what better combination of these achievements could be imagined, than for his own wife to be portrayed on United States coins? She would personify the combination of money and governmental power—his goals and dreams.

The new Draped Bust type was used at first on silver coins, and the cents had to wait until mid-1796 for their new design. Mint Engraver Robert Scot and Assistant Coiner Adam Eckfeldt collaborated to produce the new master die. The accuracy with which Scot reproduced the Stuart sketch has been called into question. Gilbert Stuart may have been a most celebrated portraitist, and Anne Bingham may have been the most beautiful woman in the city, but Breen sardonically wrote, “not that this or the Gilbert Stuart connection could be proved by Scot's device punch.”

My judgement of the design is more forgiving than Walter's. I believe that the Draped Bust cents are some of the nicest coins produced during the mint's early years, and I will always enjoy the examples in my collection. In fact, now I may have to start concentrating on the Draped-Bust cents. In the unexpected way in which historical connections frequently reveal themselves, I have found more interest than I expected to find in Anne and her family. You see, Anne's grandfather Charles Willing had a granddaughter, b.1766, named Evelyn Taylor Byrd, a Virginia lady well known to regional genealogists. She had a great-grandson, b.1842, named William E. Cameron, who also lived in Virginia, and he had a great-great grandson, b.1948, named...Red Henry.

The Girl on the Penny: Bibliography

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THE COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL

July, 1876.

Answers to Correspondents.

Louis. You ought to find fair specimens of American copper cents, from 1816 to 1857 in your neighborhood, but if you want them in fine or uncirculated condition, unless you have unusual facilities for inspecting large quantities of coppers, you must apply to coin dealers or purchase at coin sales. The fact that no cents were coined in 1815 is so well established by all numismatic authorities, that we do not deem it worth while to discuss the point with your friend, who must have been imposed upon in his purchase of an 1815 cent at \$3.00. Twenty years ago, cents from 1793 to 1814, were frequently found in circulation, but at the present time most of them have found their way into the hands of collectors. Still, by looking over large lots of old cents, one sometimes finds even the rare ones, though mostly in very poor condition. From our own experience, without regard to varieties, but merely to distinct types, we consider the following order about correct as regards rarity of those dates at the present time:

1793 Liberty cap, 1804, 1793 Ameri, 1799, 1793 ring or link, 1793 wreath, 1809, 1796 Liberty cap, 1796 Fillet head, 1808, 1811, 1806, 1813, 1795, 1810, 1794, 1800, 1797, 1805, 1801, 1807, 1812, 1798, 1802, 1803, and 1814.

* * * * *

Emission Sequence of the 1831 and 1832 Half Cents

William R. Eckberg

The mint had trouble getting rid of half cents in the early 1830s. It struck none that were dated 1830 and probably struck only proofs in 1831, but a large order in 1832 got the press started again. Until recently, there has been little evidence that would allow us to develop a proper emission sequence for the 1831 and 1832 half cents. Cohen and Breen each numbered the variety that shares the 1831 reverse as number one because the die was left over from 1831, but beyond that there was little discussion. Ron Manley (*P-W XXXII*, 166-169 and also his *Half Cent Die State Book*) contributed the first significant information in a long time. He showed convincingly that leftover dies were not routinely the first ones used to strike the coins of any given year. He also discovered a thin die crack from above star 7 to the hair on late strikes of the 1832 C2. This die crack is not found on either of the other two varieties of the year. Thus, the C2 was the last 1832 variety struck. He also showed, based on punch and border criteria that the C2 reverse was the last of the three produced. By the same criteria, he showed that the 1832 C3 reverse was produced before that used for the 1831 and 1832 C1. He also pointed out that the C3 reverse is sloppily made (badly repunched letters) and badly rusted. He suggested (very reasonably) that such a die would have been used only if it were the only one available. From this, he concluded that the 1832 C3 was struck before either the 1831 or the 1832 C1.

Was the C1 reverse left over from 1831, or was the 1831 obverse not struck until 1832? I have recently discovered evidence in the form of a previously undescribed die break progression on the 1832 obverse die that provides new and somewhat unexpected information relevant to the strike order of the C1 and C3. These results are also most consistent with the 1831 originals having been struck in the year of their date.

The obverse dies

The years 1831-32 were transitional for the half cent obverses. Each date has a single obverse. These two exclusively share the same, small date logotype. They also appear to come from the obverse hub at about the same stage of its deterioration. Beyond that, however, the dies do not appear to have been worked at the same time. The stars on the 1831 obverse are of the earlier, large size, while those on the 1832 obverse are of the later, small size. Based on the star size alone, the 1831 die would appear to have been made first. That, of course, does not prove that it was used first. I will show that the first reverse die made was the second one used during 1831-1832.

The reverse dies

There can be no doubt that the 1832 C3 reverse was the first one of the three 1831-1832 reverses produced. It was most likely produced not later than 1829, since it is of the 1809-1829 type. It was followed—probably years later—by the C1 and finally the C2 reverses. Manley's punch and border dentillation/bead analysis establishes this beyond doubt.

Breen suggests that in its earliest state the C3 die is "perfect", though he does not illustrate such a coin and also reports that all known proofs are of a rusted and repolished late die state. Manley reports that he has never seen a non-rusted die state. This state is also lacking in the Missouri Collection. Accordingly, and lacking any evidence to the contrary, we must conclude that Breen's State I does not exist and that all C3s show heavy die rust. The rust varies but not in any way that can be used to determine the die state. From this, it is clear that the 1832 C3 reverse was heavily rusted before it was ever used.

Although the most obvious characteristic of this die is its extensively rusted condition, the rust is not the only—and was probably not the first—problem with it. Several of the letters of the reverse legend are obviously and rather sloppily repunched. The D is so obviously repunched that this is the most commonly used diagnostic for the variety. It is also logically the reason that the die was not used when it was first produced. During its years of storage until 1832, it must have become severely rusted, making it even less fit for striking coins.

The 1831/1832 C1 reverse was completed next. It, too, is imperfect, with a clear guide line showing between S O. Light rust is found below the T and between the TA of STATES. The guide line and rust are also found on the 1831 strikes, so this die, too, was imperfect from its first use. However, the die is much less rusted than the C3 and was evidently considered good enough to be used for striking proofs in 1831!

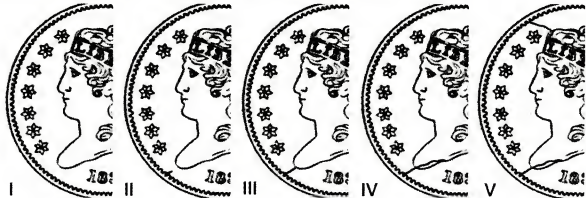
The C2 die was the produced last. This was most likely the only reverse die made during 1832. This time, the Mint actually seems to have gotten it almost right as this die lacks rust damage or signs of major engraving errors.

The new obverse die break

Heretofore, the only real evidence of deterioration in the 1832 obverse die has been the light break from the border near the seventh star to the hair recently described by Manley. I have detected and here report another, earlier, light die break. This one goes from the sixth bead below the first star to the end of the bust, later meandering through

the bust itself and terminating at the bottom of the bust near the 1 in the date. This had not been previously described. It is light and remains so through the mintage, but it is visible on the Breen 2 (=C2) plate coin (apparently a proof), the Breen 1832 color plate (also a B2 proof) and on all of the C2s illustrated in Manley. As the bust is one of the highest surfaces on the coins, the crack on the bust is not visible on coins with any rub at all; it can be seen only on truly Mint State or Proof coins.

To establish the relative striking order of the C1 and C3 varieties, I examined plated coins in auctions where the images were of sufficient quality that the presence, extent or absence of the crack could be determined with relative certainty. I also polled the half cent collectors on Region 8 and asked them to check their coins for this crack. As the result, I was able to build a database of at least 10-15 mint state coins of each variety and a number of AU and lower grade specimens as well. Five distinct stages in the progression of the 1832 obverse die can now be described:



- I Perfect die
- II Crack at border below star #1 varies in length but does not extend to the bust
- III Crack of state II now extends to the bust line
- IV Crack of state II now extends through the bust, terminating above the 1
- V Crack from above star #7 to the top of the hair

Obverse State I is common with the C1 reverse and rare with the C3. State II has only been found with the C3 reverse. Thus the die cracked while striking the C3s. State III is found on LDS specimens of C1 and on many specimens of C3. State IV is the usual state with both the C3 and C2 reverses. State V is the terminal C2 die state.

When were the coins struck?

The progression of the 1832 obverse die during the striking of C1 and C3 clearly demonstrates that these two varieties were struck alternately and that most of C1 was

struck before most of C3. The simplest emission sequence that can be invoked to explain the mintage of the 1831s and 1832s is as follows:

- 1831 C1, Proof Only(?); reverse lightly rusted but not cracked
- 1832 C1, State 1.0: obverse state I; reverse lightly cracked [the usual state]
- 1832 C3, State 1.0: obverse state I; reverse rusted [one reported]
- 1832 C3, State 2.0: obverse state II; reverse rusted [two reported]
- 1832 C3, State 3.0: obverse state III; reverse rusted [common]
- 1832 C1, State 2.0: obverse state III; reverse crack heavy [rare]
- 1832 C3, State 4.0: obverse state IV; reverse rusted [common]
- 1832 C2, all states as described by Manley

This emission sequence differs from Manley's in several respects. First, it assumes that the 1831 originals were struck before any of the 1832s. Such an assumption is supported by the fact that most of the 1832 C1 variety is in an earlier obverse die state than most of the C3 and a later reverse state than the 1831. The possibility that a few 1832 C3s were struck before the 1831s is not inconsistent with the die state evidence I have presented. However, it depends on the assumption that the 1831s were not minted until at least 1832—in other words, that true 1831 "originals" do not exist. Occam's Razor (a concept in formal logic) holds that the simpler of two competing and equally-plausible hypotheses is the one that must be accepted. Therefore, in the absence of any evidence for the speculation that the 1831s do not bear the date of their striking, I have to reject it and conclude that both the C1 and C3 reverses must have been available at the beginning of the 1832 mintage.

The poor workmanship and badly rusted state of the C3 reverse most likely precluded its having been selected to be the first die used for this coinage. If it was rejected as unfit for use when it was made, why would it have been the first selected in 1832? This leaves the C1 as the first 1832-dated half cent minted, followed by and alternating with the C3. When these reverses deteriorated beyond what was acceptable, the newer and better C2 reverse completed the year's coinage. Indeed, the flaws inherent in these dies might have spurred the Engraver's Room to begin production of the C2 die even before the date's mintage had gone very far!

The remaining mystery is to understand why the C3 reverse die was used at all. There is no evidence for heavy die clashing or major deterioration in the C1. The reverse crack at A1 is not heavy enough to be offensive until the scarce late die state, and that was struck after some of the C3s. To my eye, the reverse crack of the C1 is never more offensive than the extensive rust that is always found on the C3. The

explanation could be that there was some as yet undocumented clashing that required temporary removal of the C1 reverse and its replacement with the C3. It could also be simply that the two dies were stored side-by-side and different ones were picked up on different mornings. We may never know for sure, but we can now state with certainty that the emission sequence for 1832 is C1 > C3 > C2.

Acknowledgments: I wish to thank the members of Region 8 who graciously checked their 1832 half cents for small die breaks upon my request and then reported their findings to me so quickly, especially Jeff Noonan, Bob Rankin and Gabriel Schaff. Extra thanks are due to R. Tettenhorst and Ron Manley for helpful suggestions, discussions and comments that have considerably strengthened the conclusions presented here. All errors are my own.

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CENTS.

The desire to make collections of cents has made so much variation in the prices that it is impossible to say that any date has a fixed and definite value.

In general, all the cents can be procured in ordinary circulation, with very little trouble, by a diligent searcher, excepting only 1793, 1799, and 1804. It is, in fact, unnecessary for any collector to pay a premium for any cent except these years, unless he desires to enrich his collection with proof or uncirculated coins. We have already explained the difference between a proof and an uncirculated coin. But it may be repeated here with benefit. The proof coins are those struck in the Mint from the master-die, the original die cut by the engraver. The custom of the Mint has been to strike about a hundred sets, more or less, of the entire coinage of the year from the master-die. These are very beautiful and perfect specimens, and are known as proofs. They always command a premium, which increases as years advance. The master-die is afterward used to impress in soft steel and make other dies, from which the great bulk of the coinage is struck.

In the cents the difference between the proofs and other issues is very great, and the former command extravagant prices, as the annexed table shows. The collector, however, must not be misled by this table into supposing that he will have to pay these prices for fine or uncirculated specimens. Patience in collecting will enable him in time to make his set of cents fine enough at little cost except for the rare years, 1793, 1799, and 1804.

The numerous varieties of 1793 command various prices. The rarest is the Liberty-cap cent, like that of 1794. In fine condition it brings from \$4 to \$6. The Link cent, having the chain around the words ONE CENT, is worth \$3 to \$5 in first-rate condition. The Wreath cent, in various varieties, brings about the same price; but this cent of 1793 has so varied in price of late years that it is impossible to name a fixed value to any variety. The mania for coins has largely increased the supply, while it has also increased the number of collectors and the demand.

The cent of 1799 is the rarest of the copper coins. The collector must beware of counterfeiters, which abound in the cities, well executed by altering cents of 1797 and 1798. A first-rate 1799, of undoubted genuineness, is worth about \$10—but the price falls rapidly as the condition of the piece deteriorates. Close examination with the aid of a magnifying-glass will not in all cases detect these counterfeiters. The collector should at least adopt this rule, not to purchase a 1799 which has the slightest scratch or flaw on the surface any where near the last 9 in the date.

1804 is not so rare a cent as it is commonly reputed, and yet it commands from \$3 to \$7.50, according to condition. We recommend the collector not to purchase this date, but search diligently among old coppers until he finds it. We have had no difficulty in finding some fair specimens among copper cents in bulk. It is, however, very rare in first-rate condition, and the same is true of all the dates from 1800 to 1811, except perhaps 1802 and 1803. The cent of 1808, with filleted head resembling 1807, is rarely found except in very poor condition. Its existence even has been disputed, so rarely is the date legible.

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This passage from the very earliest years of large cent collecting appeared in W. C. Prime's *Coins, Medals, and Seals, Ancient and Modern*, published by Harper's, New York, in 1861. In some respects it is quaint in its naivete', as in discussing "the cent of 1808 with filleted head"; in others, it is sound enough in its advice—patience in collecting remains a virtue, and will enable the collector to complete a date set of cents "fine enough at little cost except for the rare years, 1793, 1799, and 1804." Nor does the author flinch from admitting that the prices of the various varieties of Wreath cents have him thoroughly confused; this was well before any consensus as to the relative rarity of these had developed. All-in-all, I think it provides a fascinating window on our hobby as it might have been practiced by our great grandfathers.

—the Editor.

The Noyes Photographs: A New Emission Sequence for S49 - S54

Craig Sholley

Early last summer Bill Noyes called and asked if I'd be interested in helping on one of his projects. Bill explained that he was using his photographs to do die state and emission sequences for large cents. He was having some problems with the S49 through S54 sequence and wanted me to take a look. I told Bill that I thought he was crazy, that there was no way you could do this work from photos, and that he should stand a bit further away from the developing fluid. Bill, probably having heard this before, just said that I should take a look and if I still felt the same to simply send the photos back. That sounded reasonable, so I agreed.

The photos arrived shortly thereafter along with some notes from Bill. I spread photos on the table, got out my trusty 5X magnifier, took a look, and was absolutely stunned. The photos were literally incredible - wear, clash marks, cracks, and flow lines were clearly visible. It was almost the same as looking at the actual coins.

Bill felt that the both the Sheldon/Breen emission sequence of 49-50-51-52-53-54 and revised Breen sequence of 49-51-50-52-53-54 are clearly wrong and that one of the keys to the sequence lay in a rather peculiar feature found on S52, S53, and S54. He noted that all S52s have an incuse mark on the reverse just left of center and under the I in AMERICA. S53 and S54 have the same mark, except that it is now raised. This feature has never been mentioned by any other researcher.

I also found another feature that had only been briefly referred to by Breen: dentil fusing on the reverse above the F of OF and across to the M of AMERICA. This fusing along with the mark noted by Bill clearly established the emission sequence as 51-49-50-52-53-54. A brief description of the varieties along with photographs of the features establishing the sequence is as follows:

S51 - Reverse is perfect; no dentil fusing.

S49 - "State A" coins without the obverse crack from E of Liberty to the hair do not have dentil fusing on the reverse. Early "State B" coins with this crack have two dentils over the left side of the first A in AMERICA and two dentils over the left side of M in AMERICA fused. On late "State B" coins with a heavy crack, this fusing has progressed and starts at the **third** dentil past F through the dentil over the center of M.

S50 - All coins have the dentil fusing as on late S49B.

S52 - The dentil fusing now starts at the **second** dentil past F. All coins have an incuse mark just left of center under the I in AMERICA. This mark was probably caused by a piece of metal getting stuck to the die. The metal caused an indentation in both the die and the coins. The metal may have come from the rim crumbling

S53 - Dentil fusing as on S52. All coins now have a raised mark the same shape and length and in the same position as the incuse mark on S52. This resulted from the die being cleaned prior to the installation of the new obverse die (this was likely standard procedure when installing a new die). With the piece of metal gone, there is now an indentation in the die which causes a raised mark on the coins.

S54 - All coins have the raised mark as on S52. Early state coins also have the same dentil fusing as S52. Later this fusing progresses to the **first** dentil past F.



S51- no dentil fusing



Dentil fusing on early S49



Dentil fusing on S49B



Dentil fusing on S52 and S53



Incuse mark under I on S52



Raised mark under I on S53 and S54



Dentil fusing on late S54

Discussion

As the foregoing clearly illustrates, determining the correct emission sequence often rests on relatively minute changes to the dies. This is further complicated by the fact that, due to strike variation, wear, and damage, all of the relevant features cannot be seen on every coin. So, if you don't see the "right" coins or you miss a relevant feature, the result is an incorrect sequence.

In this vein, the Noyes photographs are nothing short of revolutionary: numismatists now have ready access to every known "decent" coin and in many cases every known coin. For the first time you can now examine all of the coins in juxtaposition to one another and for as long as you wish. The importance of this for the determination of die states and emission sequences cannot be overstated. Many times Bill and I have not noticed or realized the importance of a feature until we have examined the photos several times.

Additionally, the Noyes photographs provide the capability to easily do overlays using scanned images and advanced image processing software. Again, there have been several instances in which this capability has proven to be the key in determining an emission sequence.

Sheldon and Breen did not have these luxuries. They had been basically limited to viewing coins in isolation, taking notes, and then comparing those notes with other observations. Additionally, new coins have turned up which they had not seen. Given these factors, it is not surprising that many of their conclusions are in error. On the contrary, what is surprising is just how much they got right. While Bill and I have revised most of the emission sequences for the die-chained varieties, we have also confirmed many of the ideas of Sheldon and Breen. The result is not so much an overturning of their work, but rather a revision and enhancement based upon the new data and improved techniques.

Once all of the photographs have been examined, Bill will be producing a DVD-ROM publication with all 20,000 plus photographs along with a description of each variety and the die states and the emission sequences of the die-chained varieties. The die states will be "keyed" to specific photographs to that the relevant features can be easily viewed. It should be noted that due to the impossibility of constructing complete and definitive emission sequences, the varieties will be presented in numerical sequence using the Sheldon numbers. We will not be renumbering the varieties due to the emission sequence problem – doing so serves no useful purpose and would only create more confusion.

Bill's DVD-ROM will be nothing short of revolutionary. Anyone with a relatively inexpensive computer system will have immediate access to all of the coins photographed, including all of the "CC" coins! And while viewing "on screen" is a bit more unwieldy than using actual photographs, it does have the advantages of easier storage, retrieval, and overlay manipulation. Also, inexpensive "photo-quality" color printers are readily available so that anyone can reproduce the photos as needed. I feel that Bill's vision will result in a renaissance in large cent research and set the standard for all numismatics.

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DISCOVERY OF A NEW SPECIMEN OF 1808 C-1

Ron Manley

In early October 1999, a new specimen of 1808 C-1 was discovered by EAC members Mike Bristow, Ken Schugars, and myself. The coin grades Good 5 and is thus tied for Condition Census #3. It's a nice piece with average surfaces and no significant defects other than wear. This is its story, as told from my perspective.

This 1808/7 overdate variety was discovered by Roger S. Cohen, Jr. in 1952. It is the most elusive obverse-reverse die pair combination of all the half cents minted for circulation. When the Cohen collection was sold at auction by Superior Galleries in February 1992, the discovery coin (graded therein as Good 4) realized the highest price of any of the 389 lots in the sale (lot 244 @ \$18,150). Even Cohen's lesser specimen (graded as only Fair 2) brought a price of \$11,550.

This R-7 variety was minted using the same obverse die as the R-3 variety 1808 C-2, but it has a different reverse die. Only six specimens of 1808 C-1 are listed in the most recent edition of CQR. Its extreme rarity can be attributed to the nonparallel alignment of its obverse and reverse dies. As a result, all known 1808 C-1 specimens are found with reverse die cracks through the tops of most of the letters in UNITED STATES. In addition, the letters in AMERICA and in TY of LIBERTY are characteristically struck very weakly.

In 1956, Walter Breen found a specimen of 1808 C-1. His 1983 half cent *Encyclopedia* lists this coin with the grade of Very Good and as Condition Census #2 of the four specimens that were known to him. This coin apparently is the Breen State I plate coin.

The finest known 1808 C-1 specimen is easily the Very Fine specimen in the Missouri cabinet, obtained by trade from Jim McGuigan. It is listed in CQR as VF30 and is the 3-inch plate coin for the variety in Breen's *Encyclopedia*.

The last piece officially reported in *Penny-Wise* was more than a decade ago. Rick Leonard commented that he had seen a specimen cherished by Frank Goss "as a plain 1808" (*Penny-Wise*, Vol. XXI, No.1, p. 23, 1987). As a featured variety at the 1988 EAC "Half Cent Happening", Frank's 1808 C-1 was one of only two examples of the variety exhibited (the other being the aforementioned Missouri cabinet specimen).

The latest find appeared in perhaps one of the unlikeliest of all places--an internet eBay auction (as Item #176500168)! The coin was advertised only as "1808/7 Draped Bust Half Cent AG/G cond. N/R". Although the ad had first appeared on the evening of October 5, 1999, I didn't see it until early the next morning. When I looked at the scanned images, I literally nearly fell out of my chair!

With heart racing, I checked and rechecked the diagnostics for 1808 C-1: leaf point nearly touches D, ending below D upright, characteristic strike weaknesses, and yes, even the reverse die

cracks were visible! This was one of only eight varieties my collection lacked--a variety so rare (and costly), I never dreamed I would have a real shot at obtaining one. For comparison, there are over two 1796 "no poles" for every 1808 C-1 known. As the fourth bidder, I cautiously placed what became the new high bid--a whopping \$7.68 (CQR lists a value of \$21K for 1808 C-1 in G-5)! The auction would close the evening of October 8th--two nailbiting days to go...

Later on the afternoon of the 6th, the bidding remained at only \$65. Clearly, if anyone lurking in cyberspace had discovered the identity of this little beauty, they were remaining silent. The day of the 7th went by with no new bids--I began to get cautiously optimistic about my chances. The day of October 8th arrived--still no new bids. Each hour I checked for new bids. Each hour there were none. Finally, with only one hour and six minutes remaining in the auction, someone (who I later learned via email was Ken Schugars) placed a bid of \$79.77. I remained high bidder due to my hidden maximum bid. Would there be more bids?

Thirty minutes to go--no new bids. Twenty minutes. Ten. Five. Four. Three. Time to get out the champaign and celebrate? Wait--not so fast--with only 2 minutes and 9 seconds remaining in the auction, my high bid had been bested!! Now the tables were turned--someone had spotted the 1808 C-1 and moved in like a shark for the kill. How high was their max. bid? I turned the computer over to my son Matthew, who has a true gift for speed. I had him raise my bid to \$10K--not good enough, then \$13K--still not good enough, then... time ran out--the auction had ended, with a high bid of \$13,100. I was crushed, angry, a basket case....

Attempting to regain some composure, I emailed the unknown winning bidder my congratulations--but with language not entirely dignified. Later that evening, I received an email from Mike Bristow--the high bidder. When Mike realized after the auction ended that he had been bidding against me, he actually felt bad. Mike had bought a copy of my half cent book from me at the most recent EAC convention--and apparently had been enjoying it. The next morning, Mike and I spoke over the phone and had a very pleasant conversation. We discussed our collecting interests, how to safely get the 1808 C-1 to him, and my desire to purchase it from him.

Mike contacted me again after he had safely received the 1808 C-1. He took digital images of it and put them up on his web site. We talked to each other again on the phone, discussing the coin's die state (my State 2.0), its grade, reverse rotation--and terms to sell it to me privately (thanks Mike!). A few days later, the new pride of my collection arrived at its new home by registered mail.

Closing on a personal note, I find it satisfying that now each of the three modern authors of half cent reference works (Cohen, Breen, and myself) has found an unattributed specimen of 1808 C-1 (a third of the known population). Fate or coincidence?

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NEW JERSEY COPPERS, A CASE STUDY

Ray Williams

Here I am, several days before the publication deadline for the next New Jersey Condition Census, and I don't have all the information yet. Rather than doing a poor job on the Maris 16 and associated reverses, I'll just wait until the March issue of Penny-Wise. If you have any interesting information about the Maris 16, please contact me ASAP.

In the meantime, I'd like to talk about a coin that has recently come to my attention. Fellow EAC'er Mario Byrge had contacted me about a New Jersey copper he had found at a flea market. As he tried to attribute it, he realized that he could not match it up with any known varieties. He asked my assistance in trying to attribute it. Could it be that he had stumbled upon a new variety? Or was it just difficult to attribute because of the condition? The suspense and possibilities were intriguing!!!... So - I asked him to ship me the coin, so that I could research it.

The scans of the obverse and reverse (shown below) are obviously not pictured on the Maris plate. Very visible is the UCTO, of AUCTORI, as an under-type. The coin is "medal turn", weighs 102.3 grams, 28.8 mm N-S and 28.5 mm E-W, and has a specific gravity of 8.90 +/- 0.02. The style is crude, such as the contemporary counterfeits that have obverses in the Maris 80's. Where should I start my investigation?

My first thought was to try to identify the under-type. Without any personal success, I asked Robert Martin to give it a try. I find Connecticut's difficult to identify under best of conditions, let alone as under-types. After some work with the coin, he called and asked if the coin could be shown to Mike Ringo - I agreed.



Photos provided by Mike Ringo

Mike identified the coin immediately as a cast counterfeit. Any further work on the under-type was senseless. I called Mario and let him know it didn't look good. If indeed the coin was a cast counterfeit, it couldn't be contemporary. Who would make a cast with such crude designs and lettering, while making the under-type with much better skill? The coin does "ring" to an extent. If this were cast, it would be modern, with the under-type added to deceive the collector. I told Mario that I would get a second opinion.

Off the coin went to Charles W. Smith. Shortly thereafter, Charles e-mailed me and basically confirmed what Mike Ringo had said. New information I obtained from Charles was the specific gravity and his observation of air bubbles. Having those opinions from individuals that I recognize as experts, I advised Mario that the coin was a modern counterfeit.

A disappointing outcome, yet some intrigue still remains: Who made this cast counterfeit? Is it unique? Are there similar style counterfeits of other State coinages? I would appreciate any thoughts, observations or speculations (hard facts would be welcomed, too). What a fun hobby this is!!

Happy Hunting!!!

Ray Williams

924 Norway Ave, Trenton, NJ 08629

609-587-5929 raydianewilliams@juno.com

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MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP NOTES

EAC-2000 TO TAKE PLACE IN CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA, APRIL 6-7-8-9

EAC 2000 will be held at the Radisson Resort in Cape Canaveral, Florida on April 6-7-8-9. Hotel phone (407) 784-0000, or 1-800-333-3333.

This first class resort offers only the very best in rooms, restaurants, pools, exercise facilities, a large convention hall and much more. Located a couple of blocks from the Atlantic Ocean it is within view of the Kennedy Space Center and the Cape Canaveral Rocket Launch Sites.

It is just 45 minutes from the Orlando International Airport – after leaving Orlando International Airport you automatically exit northward. The first exit is Highway 528 (the Beeline). You will see a sign that says Cocoa (east) – take that right. From there it is non-stop (except for a \$1.25 toll booth) all the way to the resort in Cape Canaveral.

Approximately 20 miles from the toll booth is a fork in the road. Take the fork to your right that says to Cocoa / Cocoa Beach. Then in about 5 miles you will pass over the top of I-95. Keep going on 528 (the Beeline). About 12 miles later is the Port Canaveral and Cruise Ship Terminal on the left. The Radisson is one mile past the terminal on the right. It is also near world famous Ronjon Surf Shop and an hour from the Orlando theme parks of Disneyworld Seaworld, and Universal Studios.

One really does not have to leave the convention for anything else because it is that complete of a resort.

Security will be available on the morning of April 6. The social mixer will be that evening, and at the usual times the bourse, sale, annual meeting, and Happenings will occur.

The room rate for the convention is \$99.00 for a double.

We are planning for a great convention. We hope it will be one you'll never forget.

Thanks,
Tom Morley
Box 3182

Cocoa, FL 32924

(321) 632-7641

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OPEN LETTER TO THE EAC MEMBERSHIP

Greg and Lisa Heim

It is with great regret that Lisa and I will not be able to attend this year's EAC Convention in Florida. This would not be a big deal if Lisa and I were not chairing two committees at the convention. Although the reasons are personal, we feel we owe the club an explanation. As many of you know, our daughters are young (27 ½ months and 10 months). Lisa started teaching full-time in September, and unfortunately she already has used 11 of her 15 sick days. Half of these days were used when our youngest daughter Stephanie was in the hospital five days with a serious respiratory virus. When it became apparent that Lisa was not able to go, we had a hard time justifying the expense (significant for us) of my going alone to Florida for a vacation that was meant for the two of us. Regarding the exhibits and the Half Cent Happening – Lisa and I will still be coordinating them up until the convention. Arrangements are being made to gather "coordinators and helpers on-site." Please see the individual reports on these events, which follow. In closing, we hope that all those involved understand our situation. We wish to coordinate these events in 2001 and beyond, if you will have us. Thank you for your time.

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EAC 2000 – CALL FOR EXHIBITS

Greg and Lisa Heim

It is time to start thinking about exhibiting at EAC 2000. Preliminary reports show that we will have 12-16 showcases available. With the exception of Las Vegas in 1997, the "problem" we have had in the past is finding room for everyone. Exhibits are non-competitive, but should be informative, eye appealing, and educational. If you have exhibited something in the past, we would love to have it again. If you are a first-time exhibitor and have any questions, drop us a line. Because Lisa and I are unable to attend the convention, it is very important that all of the exhibits are lined up prior to the convention. March Wells will be appointing a "coordinator on-site" who will have our floor plan and layout, so the earlier we hear from you the better. Our e-mail is gang-of-four@erols.com. Our phone number is (732) 297-8661 from 9 AM to 9 PM ET.

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EAC 2000 – HALF CENT HAPPENING

Greg and Lisa Heim

To review, here are the varieties for the 2000 Half Cent Happening: **1795 C-5b, 1797 C-3a, 1800 C-1, 1805 C-2, 1840 (All varieties)**. For those not familiar, here is how the Happening works: 1) Members bring in coins corresponding to the aforementioned varieties. Each table will have its own variety and will be constantly monitored by at least two people. **ALL COINS MUST BE IN A PROTECTIVE HOLDER!!** 2) Members can rank the five best coins for each variety on a provided ratings sheet. 3) The ratings sheets are

turned in prior to the end of the Happening. The results are tallied, then published in the May P-W. What Lisa and I need from you is your help. The following is needed: 1) Setting up the room: This has to be done about one hour prior to the Happening. Bill Weber has agreed to coordinate the set-up. He needs bodies to get the room ready for the event. 2) Coordinator(s) during the Happening: We need a person or people to run the Happening. Mike Packard has agreed to be one of these people, but there is a chance he might not make the convention. Even if he is there, he needs help – someone to monitor the sign-in table and hand out ratings sheets, etc. 3) Monitors: We cannot understate the need for monitors. The more people volunteer, the less time each person has to monitor. An absolute minimum of 10-12 monitors are needed. The coordinator will make sure monitors are rotated so they are not at the same table for too long. All of this needs to be done PRIOR to the convention. This way all of the pieces are in place and the event can run smoothly. I know that you will all come through and make this Happening great. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, our e-mail address is gang-of-four@erols.com. Our phone number is (732) 297-8661 from 9 AM to 9 PM ET.

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EAC 2000 – LARGE CENT HAPPENING

Jon Warshawsky

The 2000 Large Cent Happening will include the following varieties:

1794	S35	1823/2	N-1
1800	S193	1846	N-12
1811	S286	1848	N-42

Special thanks to everyone who submitted their favorites for consideration. I received input from Bob Grellman, John Wright, Chuck Heck and a gang of Region 8 members. This year marks the first time we have included a Classic Head cent in the list, so that all major design types are represented.

This Large Cent Happening is an opportunity to look at a large number of the varieties side by side, something which almost NEVER happens outside of the EAC convention! Several years ago we had 15 examples of the Starred Reverse cent on the same table, an R7 or R8 event.

I need you help to make the Happening run smoothly. If you are interested in working the sign-in table (2 volunteers) or being a table monitor (12 volunteers – 2 per table) please drop me an email at jwarshawsky@dtus.com or call me at (619) 251-6566.

If we have another Dan Holmes table, we will welcome and trust Dan to monitor this table.

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Please see page 58 for Announcement of the Colonial Happening!

REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Dear EAC Member,

This April we will have another EAC National Convention. This year as most of you know, the Convention site is the Radisson Resort Hotel, Cape Canaveral, Florida – a great facility that you will enjoy.

As is our normal custom, there will be a Thursday evening reception where everyone can meet old friends and have a good time. In past years the generous donations of members who wish to act as hosts, have made it possible for the reception to be a great event. Donations will be needed to help pay for the food and drinks that will be furnished to all.

Checks can be made payable to "EAC 2000" and mailed to Bob Grellman, P.O. Box 951988, Lake Mary, FL 32795-1988.

Thank you,
March Wells
President

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EAC REGIONAL MEETING, BALTIMORE, NOVEMBER 13, 1999

Red Henry

EAC Region 3 had a pleasant and productive meeting on Saturday, November 13th, at the big Baltimore show. 24 EAC members and guests were present:

Ira Stein	John F. Brady	Tim Rolands
Mark Switzer	Chuck and Karyn Heck	Ken Searchman
Craig Sholley	Tom Powell	Donald Neiman
Jerry Bange	Ed and Miriam Castrfiste	Roxanne Goldberg
Frank Goss	John F. Nicastro	Art Himmelstein
Mike Packard	Larry Goldman	Bill Eckberg
Enoch Blackwell	Bob Schoen	Carl G. Huszar
		Red Henry

After the introductions, Bill Eckberg briefly discussed some current EAC news items, including the Half Cent Survey and plans for the EAC 2001 Convention in Region 3. Then Ira Stein took the floor, and presented a very thorough and informative talk on digital photography, discussing everything from camera types and lights to image processing, printing, and file formats for various applications. After some questions, Ira concluded his program and the meeting was adjourned.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

**White Plains, January 29
Charlotte, February 12**

REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULED AT THE "WESPNE" SHOW, JANUARY 29

Chuck Heck

Region 2 of EAC will meet at the Westchester Stamp, Coin, and Paper Money Show, at the Westchester County Center – Bronx River Parkway and Central Ave. – White Plains, New York – We have a tentative time scheduled for 11 AM on Saturday January 29. Call (516) 589-8900 for information.

We plan the following agenda:

1. A grading seminar – selected coins will be brought for grade comparison.
2. Show & tell – please bring any coin you would like to share with other EAC'ers.
3. EAC 2000 in Florida – an update on the annual convention.

Hope to see you there!

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REGIONAL MEETING AT CHARLOTTE COIN CLUB SHOW

Jerry Sajbel

An EAC regional meeting is planned in conjunction with the Charlotte Coin Club's annual three day show, February 11-13, at the Charlotte Merchandise Mart, on the corner of Independence Blvd. and Briar Creek Road.

Scheduled for approximately 2 PM on Saturday the 12th, this will be our second annual meeting at the club show. Last year we sat at Butternut's table and had seven or so EAC members in attendance, to meet each other, discuss coppers, and have show and tell activities. Several examples each of 1793, 1799 and 1804 cents were passed around, and the meeting lasted an hour. This year, we again have comments and recent coppers that we'd like to share with other EAC members.

Further info on the meeting or the show can be obtained from Jerry Sajbel (Bourse chairman, club president) at (803) 547-1994, (704) 587-7935, 800-395-5152, extension 7935, or via email at sajbelj@basf.com or sajbels@cetlink.com.

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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 March issue of P-W, all will be declared elected to full membership at that time. Chairman of the Membership Committee is Rod Burress, 9743 Leacrest, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215.

NAME	CITY, STATE	MEMBER #
James P. McAvoy	Sandston, VA	4787
Evan Iatesta	Lafayette, CO	4788 junior
R. David Marsh	Douglasville, GA	4789
David McDonald	Westminster, MD	4790
Peter Koch	Hackensack, NJ	4791
Dennis Tarrant	Grand Rapids, MI	4792
Scott Martin	Bow, NH	4793

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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
Xylol	4 oz bottle plus 100 wooden stick Q-tips		\$3.00
Acetone	4 oz bottle plus 100 wooden stick Q-tips		\$3.00
Wooden Stick Q-tips	\$4.50 per 500		\$8.50 per 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
Cotton Liners	100 percent soft cotton flannel interior		send SASE for sample
	standard 2 x 2 Coin Envelopes	SASE for sample	Fit inside
VIGOR 10X Triplet magnifying glass	very high quality optics		\$23.00 pkg of 100
	on market to my knowledge for its size and price		best glass
	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 \$4.25 per order (\$5.00 western states) for shipping. Shipping by UPS - You must give a street address.

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The Official CQR / Noyes Condition Census for U. S. Large Cents 1793-1814:
An Appreciation and Review

Harry E. Salyards

The history of large cent condition census-taking stretches back more than half a century. It began with William Sheldon and a handful of close collaborators, tracking what they believed to be the six finest examples of each die variety of early cents. This was necessarily an activity centered in New York City, for that was home to most of the collectors--though Ted Naftzger was certainly making a name for himself in Southern California--and almost all of the serious sale activity. In addition, the local presence of the George Clapp Collection at the American Numismatic Society provided a ready benchmark for comparison. This census information was first published in Sheldon's *Early American Cents* (1949), and was updated for *Penny Whimsy* (1958).

Ten years later, large cent collecting had ceased to be a phenomenon of the New York-New England corridor. Writing in *Penny-Wise* for September 15, 1968, Denis Loring posed the question, "How about a readily accessible 'Guide to Condition Census Pieces,' giving the location of those coins which, according to some centralized, nationally recognized, authoritative source, are deemed to be in the Condition Census? In this way, a prospective buyer need not be in doubt as to whether a coin touted as 'second finest known' is really just that." The key word lurking here is "touted." The 1960s price explosions in United States coins, early cents included, had not only made a shambles of Sheldon's scheme of valuation according to numerical condition, it had created a promotional niche for alleged-condition census coins. As John Wright put it in his sardonic masterpiece, "John's Primer of Technical Terms," in *Penny-Wise*, May 15, 1978, "...recent usage [of the term 'condition census'], depending on the writer, includes any piece within twenty grade points of the lowest-grade coin censused twenty years ago. Generally, this includes about half of all known large cents." Indeed.

During the 1970s, and up until Dr. Sheldon's death in 1977, he and Denis Loring were involved in what was called at the time, "The 1973 Revision of *Penny Whimsy*." This obviously included updated condition census information, and originally included the concept of "Basic Value," a kind of updated Basal Value, acknowledging the run up in the price of early cents, but one allegedly "independent of gross fluctuations in the cent market." (*Penny-Wise*, March 15, 1973, page 39). This proceeded onward in the pages of *P-W* for several years, but no comprehensive volume was ever forthcoming; and the whole idea of "Basic Value," obviously a remnant of Sheldon's fascination with numeric grades as code for prices, was eventually abandoned. Subsequently, the mantle of keeping the census data passed to Del Bland, who continues to maintain copious and detailed notes on both pedigree and grade of the finest examples of each variety. Del has contributed condition census data to that seemingly-endless project, the Breen large cent book, and we continue to await its appearance. In addition, many other collectors have contributed to this data bank over the years, and my failure to mention each individual by name should in no way be construed as belittling their efforts. Finally, this is not the place to unravel or lament the circumstances by which we came to have two parallel 'camps' keeping their respective versions of the condition census. It is the place to acknowledge that one man, Bill Noyes, had a different idea for approaching the problem, and that idea was photography.

Beginning a dozen or so years ago, and building on the nucleus of the Sheldon-Naftzger Collection, then still intact, Bill set out to photograph ALL the significant coins. He lugged his camera equipment to dozens of FUN Shows, EAC's, ANA's, and Long Beach's over the years. The Noyes 'picture books' of 1991 were the first fruit of this project; and this *CQR/Noyes Condition Census* is the latest. Consider the amount of work that went into photographing and assembling the data from these thousands of coins! Consider as well the sound advice that Bill offers in his preliminary "Criteria and Advice for Buying Large Cents": "Look at the coin...What is your first reaction?...If there is a major problem, do not buy the coin...I have never regretted

paying a premium for an absolutely choice Large Cent in Fine or better condition...Be realistic about your financial ability...You never have to agree on grade with the seller, but only on price...Even if you buy a choice coin at a fair price, you should not buy it unless it fits into your collection because mistakes will tie up your capital...Nothing is worse than refusing to take a loss. Everyone makes mistakes...Do not trust anyone with your money!...Most importantly, enjoy your coins"--these nuggets of wisdom should be pondered and implemented. As I read through them, I remember all the instances in which I violated them: rationalized a coin with a problem, particularly a major problem confined to one side...or resisted paying a premium for some particularly nice coin, slavishly comparing its asking price to some price 'guide'...or bought a coin that was 'far afield' because it seemed like such a 'deal'...and so on, and so on. The point is, Bill has tremendous perspective to offer--and that perspective is not tainted by the simultaneous desire to sell you a coin. Think about that. Where else are you going to find such blunt honesty? I know that that unvarnished Yankee approach to offering an opinion puts some people off Bill; to me, it endears him. His listings by variety are carefully crafted and to the point--free of the commercial sellers' breezy 'cataloguese'--and his advice runs in parallel. You won't find him "feeling our pain"; but you will find him showing us the way to straighten up and avoid it in the future!

Now, amid all the laud, I should acknowledge one point: I don't agree with all of Bill's rankings. (Should that surprise anyone?) I personally own condition census coins which Bill has listed both ten grade points above and below where I'd list them. And my response to that is, so what? The coin is the coin. It's no more possible to always achieve the perfect photograph, than it is to do anything else perfectly. And if the photograph doesn't perfectly capture color and surface, ranking errors will creep in, especially among a group of coins that are all more or less EF-40 sharpness, for example. Again I say, so what? It's been my experience that the people who go ballistic over such discrepancies are usually looking to turn a profit in the near term. Plus, consider the alternative: before Bill undertook this project, it wasn't a matter of comparing a pile of quality photographs; it was a matter of comparing piles of notes, and trying to remember how, say, the Ruby coin looked in 1974, compared to this coin in your hand in 1984. (Or comparing the coin in hand to a muddy halftone in some auction catalog.) That was also a system more susceptible to issues of who owned the coin, rather than what the coin was. So all in all, a photographic archive is a tremendous advance.

Let me return for a moment to the coin called "EF-40" according to "EAC grading," as reflected in this *Noyes/CQR Condition Census*. I believe such a coin forms the crux of the distinction between EAC grading and all forms of "commercial grading," plasticized or non-plasticized. In classical parlance--indeed, in traditional European grading to this day--the "EF" coin is one "very close indeed to Mint State." (Sheldon: *Penny Whimsy*, page 35.) Bill adheres to this definition:

"Extremely Fine: color and surfaces are the key; only very minor problems may be tolerated--if eye appeal is disturbed at all, the grade must be reduced.

A.U.-Mint State: examine luster, color, and surfaces closely...Anything not on the coin when it came from the mint should reduce the grade."

Now, Sheldon thought he was "fixing" the situation by creating intermediate points of pricing between EF-40 and MS-60, at a time when mint state coins were worth only 50% more than EF's. How quaint that sounds now, when the advance in price between those two points may well be 1000% or more! The end result has been the interpolation of as many pricing points along the way as the market will bear: thus "EF-48" and "AU-53" and "AU-58PQ" and so on, *ad nauseam*. Slab grades make an effort to cleave to these pricing points on the spectrum; EAC grading keeps the focus on the coin itself, not 'what's it worth.' By such a rigorous standard, not many early cents will qualify as "EF-40," much less "AU-50." And as noted above, less-than-perfect photographs will continue to lead to disagreements in rank among them. But to dwell on that is to miss the forest for the trees. Because, in this book, Bill Noyes and his contributing editors have given us a tremendous body of useful information, a quantum leap above all the previously-published data. And at its asking price of \$35 plus \$3 postage it's an exceptional bargain. I heartily recommend it.

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TALKING BEGINNERS - ATTRIBUTION - PART 3

Steve Carr

Did you get a chance to practice attributing any 1824's? Did you get adventurous and try other middle dates? I hope so. Attributing is mainly experience. The more you do, the better you get.

This time, let's try attributing some draped bust cents. We will try our skill on three different 1802 large cents. As a year, 1802 is fairly common, with lower grade examples available at most coin shops/shows. But the year also has a few "goodies" to be found, including 2 NC's and three harder to find varieties, S-234, S-235, and S-238. The year also has a number of die breaks, cuds, and several varieties with engraving errors, including stemless wreaths and error fractions. Altogether a fascinating year that is sometimes difficult to attribute, particularly with low grade cents.

For draped bust cents, we use different markers than we used with the middle dates. The most commonly used obverse markers relate to the alignment of the word LIBERTY with portions of Liberty's hair. For 1802's, three of these markers are used:

PC (point of curl)– This is the tip of the small upward pointing curl to the left of the two hair waves on top of Liberty's head. It is usually under the letters B or E. Locations are described in relation to the point of this curl. Most, like "under the upright" (the vertical bar in either B or E), are easy to understand. Only one might present problems, "under the inner curve." The inner curve is the inside edge of the lower curve of B (see drawing below).

HWH (highest wave of hair, top of head) – The first peak in the hair wave on Liberty's head, counterclockwise from her forehead. It is usually under the letter R, but is sometimes found between the E and R and very seldom under the E.

JHF (junction of hair with forehead) – This is where Liberty's hair meets her forehead. Usually under the letter T or between T and Y, it can range in location from the right side of the letter R to under the letter Y.



The most commonly used reverse markers on draped bust cents include the number of berries on each wreath stem, the position of the fraction numerals, engraving errors (we will see a few of these when we look at the 1802's), and the position of the seventh and the highest leaf tips in relation to the legend:

PSL (point of seventh leaf) – The position of the tip of the seventh leaf, counting clockwise from the wreath bow at the bottom. Usually located under the letter D.

PHL (point of highest leaf) – The position of the top leaf tip on the right side of the wreath. Usually located under the final S in STATES.

As mentioned last time, to properly read these markers, they must be viewed so the base of the letter is horizontal. If you have trouble aligning the letter, you might lay a clear plastic ruler (or some other non-abrasive straight edge item) over the coin, perpendicular to the letter base and aligned at the end of the marker.

Now, we need a quickfinder. Quickfinders are available in William H. Sheldon's [Penny Whimsy](#) and Bill Noyes' [U.S. Large Cents, 1793 – 1814](#). Barry Murphy also published an [Attribution Guide: Early Date Large Cents and Half Cents](#), which is my favorite. I like Barry's quickfinder because it has fewer initial choices, which makes it quicker to reduce the number of possible varieties. A word of warning, though. All these quickfinders have limited use on heavily worn coins.

A. Fraction 1/000	228 R-2
B. Stemless wreath	
1. Double fraction bar, extra S under final S in STATES	241 R-10
2. Single fraction bar, no extra S in STATES	231 R-1
C. PGI under upright of D in UNITED	
1. No berry at T in CENT	
a. Rim break over B in LIBERTY, HWI between ER, JHF under left foot of T	234 R-4
b. HWI under left stand of R, JHF under center center of T	235 R-4-
c. HWI center of R, JHF under right foot of T	236 R-1
2. T over Y in LIBERTY	233 R-3+
3. HE in AMERICA joined at feet	
a. B low and leans right	HC-2 R-7-
b. Date even	230 R-1
D. 4 berries right, none at E in ONE	238 R-4+
E. 4 berries right, none at T in CENT	
1. JHF right side of T	239 R-3
2. JHF left side of T	240 R-4+
F. Fraction bar practically touches both ribbons, T over Y	232 R-1
G. Incomplete bow loops	
1. Bisecting crack, wide fraction	HC-3 R-51
2. R almost touches HWI, cobweb variety	227 R-3-
3. 1 touches hair, sometimes rim break at 802	226 R-3
4. B leans right, arc crack usually at BERTY	229 R-3
H. Scratch from left end of fraction bar	225 R-3
I. Scratch from left ribbon to U in UNITED	242 R-3-
J. large berries, wide date, point from right end of fraction bar	237 R-2

Let's start attributing. Here is our first coin.



Let's start at the top of the quickfinder and work our way down. The first item says "Fraction 1/000." The fraction on this coin is pretty indistinct, so we cannot say for sure what it is. For now, let's pass on this option and move on. If none of the others work, we may come back.

The second item on the quickfinder is "Stemless Wreath." Our coin is definitely missing the wreath stems, so this is our choice. We now move to the two sub-categories. This coin does not have an extra "S" under the final "S" in "STATES" and the fraction bar appears to be only a single line. That would make this coin an S-231.

Let's check our attribution. In Penny Whimsy, we find that the word "LIBERTY" is well to the right on S-241, with PC being beneath the left edge of the upright of B, HWH being between E and R, and JFH under the left edge of the upright of T. For S-231, LIBERTY is located farther left, with PC between B and E and HWH under the center of R (there is no indication of the JFH location mentioned). JHF on this coin is between the T and Y, HWH is under the R, and PC is between B and E. That makes this coin an S-231, a very common variety. Further proof of this attribution is the arc crack in front of Liberty's face and a crack through AT in STATES.

Let's try a second coin.



Checking the entries in the quickfinder, we determine that this coin has a normal fraction and stems on the wreath. So, we move to the third category, "PSL under upright of D in UNITED." This matches our coin. Now we have to check the three sub-categories.

This coin has a berry to the right of T in CENT, so sub-category 1 does not work. The T in LIBERTY has a slanting protrusion to the left, three quarters of the way up the upright. That might be a Y. The M and E in AMERICA are close at their bases, but do not appear joined. That brings us back to the second subcategory, which would make this an S-233.

Again, let's check our attribution. The obverse description in Penny Whimsy and U.S. Large Cents – 1793-1814 has PC below the right edge of the upright of B and HWH under the left edge of the upright of R. Both Match this coin. The reverse description has PHL just right of the left side of S, M and E joined at their bases, and all T's lacking their right feet. These match this coin, making it an S-233. It is also interesting to note that the quickfinder was confusing about M and E being joined at their bases. On my modified version of this quickfinder, I moved sub-category 2 under subcategory 3 and made it sub-sub-category c.

Ready for coin three? The most obvious feature on this coin is the die break in front of Liberty's face. But the quickfinder does not list die breaks or cuds. At this point, it might be more practical to look through either Penny Whimsy or U.S. Large Cents – 1793-1814 and try to find a match. Following this course, there are two possible varieties with this type crack, S-231 and S-239. The crack on the S-239 comes from the Y to a point in front of Liberty's jaw. That on the S-231 comes from the Y to a point in front of Liberty's neck. That makes this coin an S-239.



COIN #3

Following the quickfinder (to "check" our attribution!), we find that the fraction is indistinct, but it appears that a 1 is present. The wreath has stems and PSL is between the inner and outer curve on D in UNITED. There are four berries on the right wreath stem with no berry at T in CENT. That makes this coin category E. We have two choices now, JHF to either the right or left side of T. This coin has JHF to the right of T, making it an S-239.

Not so hard, huh? Try your skills on some different year draped bust cents. Next time we will attribute some 1795 Liberty cap cents.

SOURCES:

Murphy, Barry, *Attribution Guide: Early Date Large Cents and Half Cents*, nd.

Noyes, William C., *United States Large Cents - 1793-1814*, Bloomington, MN: Litho Technical Services, 1991.

Sheldon, William H., *Penny Whimsy*, NY: Durst Publications, LTD., 1990.

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The First Complete Description of 1796 NC-7 (*See lead article on page 4 of this issue*) as it appeared in George H. Clapp and Howard R. Newcomb's *The United States Cents of the Years 1795, 1796, 1797, and 1800*, published by the American Numismatic Society, 1947.

No. 34. (New Variety. Obv. New, Rev. S. 1797.)

OBVERSE 20. LIBERTY evenly spaced; point of curl below right side of upright of B; highest wave of hair to left of R; junction point of hair and forehead below center of T; date widely and evenly spaced, point of 1 closer to hair than to curl, 6 high with knob just touching drapery. A very heavy break in the die starts at rim opposite chin, curves upward through the mouth and then downward across the hair, just touching the lower ribbon, and on to rim.

REVERSE BB. No stems. Fraction bar short, numerator high, 1 widely separated from oo which are close; UNITED STATES compact, first S low and close to T; AMERI close; CE almost touch at top and are below NT; point of leaf below center of curve of D; point of lowest leaf on right slightly right of center of C; sixteen leaves and five berries on left, nineteen and five on right branch. Same as Rev. S, C-N No. 27, 1797. (Only one example known, collection of Geo. H. Clapp)

John P. Kennedy published a description of this new variety in *The Numismatist*, 1928, Vol. XLI, p. 351, but reverse was not identified as being the same as 1797, D-97. It was illustrated in the August number, p. 462, but the illustration is very poor.

Mint's First Steam Press to Run Again!

Craig Sholley

By now most of you have seen the announcements in the numismatic press about the commemorative striking on the steam press. Yes, the first steam press will run again, and the press will be on display at next year's ANA convention in Philadelphia. I'm sure EACer's will find the story of how this came about interesting, so here goes:

In 1998 I made a couple visits to the Franklin Institute and examined the press. I had originally intended to just write a couple articles and then do a speech for the 2000 ANA convention. I emailed ANA Education Director and fellow EACer Gail Baker about doing a presentation at the Franklin Institute on the press and things sort of snowballed from there.

Gail and I planned to meet at a coin show to discuss what we wanted to do. Thinking about this, I came up with a really crazy idea: What if we refurbished the press and struck tokens on the afternoon of March 23, 2000, the 164th anniversary of its first operation? Gail had a crazy idea too: What if we moved the press to the convention?

Gail set up a meeting with John Alviti, Senior Curator, at the Franklin Institute to discuss what we wanted to do. The end result was that we had his support; all we had to do was convince the C.E.O. of the Franklin Institute. Gail took it from there. She wrote a wonderful letter committing the ANA to refurbishing and moving the press, and the Franklin Institute said YES!

On Sept. 15, Gail, myself, ANA Curator Bob Hoge, and Gallery Mint Museum mechanic Joe Rust met at the Franklin Institute to begin refurbishing the press. Joe and I began disassembling the feeding mechanism and die holders (somewhat to the dismay of Gail who asked: "Are you sure you guys remember where all those pieces go?"). Once we had the feed mechanism out, we hand cranked the press and it turned with no binding or grinding - the bearings were still good! I couldn't be there the following day, but Joe cleaned the press, flushed and oiled the bearings, and added fresh oil to the oil reservoirs. The museum staff found some old token planchets and after a brief break-in, Joe, Gail, and Bob struck four of the Franklin Institute tokens on the press.

Joe took the feeding mechanism and die holders back to GMM where Ron Landis is making new dies based on the original 1836 Steam Press token which I loaned Ron as a model. From the design concept published in the various announcements, Ron's design is fantastic (but then I wouldn't have expected any less).

Some time prior to March 23, 2000 we'll all met at the Franklin Institute to prepare for the commemorative striking. A limited number of medals will be struck and sold to defray the costs of refurbishing and moving the press. The press will then move to the ANA convention, and then on to the ANA Museum at Colorado Springs for "an extended display".

While this would not have happened without the resources and backing of the ANA, I think it's worth noting that it started with two EACer's and their crazy ideas.

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MINT HAPPENINGS OF THE 1830s

Ken Cable

This is being written in October 1999, not in time for the November printing. This is primarily in response to Craig Sholley's comments regarding my May articles on steam presses and the half cents of the 1830s. As I mentioned in May, I appreciate all the time and effort Mr. Sholley has put into researching original Mint records, and recognize that he has come up with some very interesting findings, some of which seem to answer nagging questions of even the most revered numismatists of the present day.

Due to the demands of my daily business life, I have precious little time to devote to leisure activities, and this puts me at a slight disadvantage when it comes to detailed research. Most of my articles have been written from a "devil's advocate" aspect; that is, gathering data, observing aberrant patterns or something that arouses my curiosity, and then posing relevant questions or conjectures, from a standpoint not of mechanics but of sheer logic. The majority of what limited personal time I have is spent studying **the coins themselves**, and where applicable or available, related textbooks or research material. Occasionally I'll stumble upon a publication which addresses a particular coin or coin type in which I am interested.

The gist of all the articles I have written (including this one) is that I cannot bring myself to accept as fact, published or not, much information that has been derived in relatively recent numismatic history. Call me a "doubting Thomas" if you will, but for quite some time I have seen printed matter that I politely challenge. Hence my earlier article on **original source documents**. Here I will attempt to address Mr. Sholley's comments from his July article "Steam Presses and Half Cents – One More Time."

My feeling of "tried and true" on the Boulton press stemmed from having had the opportunity to examine a hoard of high-grade British and Canadian coppers (mainly halfpennies, farthings, and tokens) minted from the 1790s through the 1810s, as well as numerous stray Birmingham products. Although they had engrailed and/or scalloped edges, these coins were of exceptional quality, exhibiting strong, stereotypical strikes on the portrait of George III, ships, and other applicable devices. Although many U.S. coins minted prior to 1828 are sharply struck (such as the 1796 quarter, many early date half eagles, and numerous silver and gold issues of the 1820s), in terms of consistency of quality the Boulton press outperformed the machinery that had been concurrently used by the Philadelphia Mint. I was not familiar with the details or the history of the Thonnelier press, and I stand corrected on its having been chosen for the U.S. Mint. Although I have examined a few period coins from France and other countries under French rule, I am not as familiar with their characteristics as I am with the British pieces. For the record, I refer Mr. Sholley to an article written by R. W. Julian in the November 19, 1996 issue of **Numismatic News**, entitled "Mint Leaps Forward in 1836", in which he quotes: "As the 18th century came to a close, an invention in England was to change forever the way coins are made. Matthew Boulton and his partner James Watt harnessed the power of the steam engine to a coining press and created steam-powered coinage presses. Not only did they run more efficiently, but Boulton devised an automatic feeding device that did away with the need to put each planchet into the press by hand." Also, as a historian, I have read much literature, mostly unrelated to coins, which details how successful the enterprise of Boulton

& Watt was in inventing, marketing and maintaining the steam engine. While Julian mentions that by the 1830s the Paris mint had "high-quality equipment" and the Birmingham Mint was "no longer on the cutting edge but still one of the advanced institutions", it is not specifically mentioned that it was a variant of the French technology which was chosen by Peale, it is a logical interpretation, though, and Mr. Sholley's research of the Mint records bears this out.

Regarding the hydraulic press, I was misled by an article that appeared in a numismatic publication several years ago, causing me to interpret that it was used to strike Gobrecht dollars. Interestingly, Gobrecht also designed medals struck by the Mint, and perhaps I was led to believe that such medals were struck from a hydraulic press, and that the Gobrecht dollars may have been struck from the same type of press as the 1836-vintage medals. Just a point of curiosity as this is not my collecting domain, but if the steam press was **never** to this day used to strike proof coins, nor was the hydraulic press used, as Mr. Sholley maintains, then what type of press **was** used to strike proof coins into and throughout the 20th century, and what type of press is used today by the San Francisco Mint to produce proof coins – which are of the ultimate quality? This is an open question to any EAC members and beyond.

Re: the collar issue, my understanding has been that all Lettered Edge halves, proof or business strike – with the **exception** of the Crushed Lettered Edges – were struck in an open collar. (I expand upon the collar concept in my article entitled "Close Encounters?" also in this issue.) What I have observed, the CLEs notwithstanding, is that the quality of strike of the Bust halves deteriorated during the 1830s, losing progressively more detail as each year went by. I've seen many mint-state specimens of various varieties of 1830, 1833 and 1834 struck from very worn dies. Coincidentally with the introduction of the steam press, when the Reeded Edge halves were first coined their quality was a dramatic improvement over the Lettered Edge halves.

Re: my comments on the Braided Hair proof half cents, I have always believed that the hammer die plays an active role, whereas the anvil die is more passive. I have read articles stating that the pressure on both dies is equal, including Mr. Sholley's, yet I can't visualize an **absolutely uniform** movement of the two dies. I see it more as, say, when someone applauds, where one hand usually remains in a fixed position or moves minimally relative to the other hand. With what limited data I've gathered on proof half cents, I've noticed that the Liberty device on at least one example of 1840, 1841 and 1849 (Small Date) proofs is perfect, begging the question of whether such fine detail could have been brought up with a single striking.

Re: Craig's comments on the problems with the half dollar press, this is confusing because material I have read to date states that Reeded Edge halves were mass-produced beginning in **February** of 1837. One such source is the aforementioned Julian article: "Patterson intended that the steam press be used for the new Gobrecht dollars of 1836, which were coined in December of that year, but there was a problem and the screw press had to be used instead. In November there was an abortive attempt to coin reeded edge half dollars in the steam press, but only a small number had been made when the project was halted for mechanical reasons. In February 1837 half dollars were once again struck in the steam press, this time successfully." Perhaps Craig can quote from an 1837 (or 1838) Mint Report when in 1837 halves were first coined, and if there were quality control

problems with the first batches of 1837 halves that fell from the steam press. I'm not aware of any problems with this issue except for occasional softness of high points on the reverse.

Re: the "close" vs. "closed" collar issue, I refer Mr. Sholley to my accompanying article entitled "Close Encounters."

Probably the most salient aspect of my confusion regarding the mintages of the half cents of the 1830s stems from Mr. Sholley's discussion of the "accounting method" and that it changed in 1835. For starters, the December 31 date sounds suspicious to me, even if it is a "true date" as recorded in the original accounting books at the Mint. Yes, this is a conjecture, but perhaps the entries in the Mint's logs of 1835-36 were fudged to make it look like the half cents were minted in 1835 so the year would not show a zero or inadequate output of half cents based on what was ordered during the calendar year. In the everyday corporate world we deal with, it is common knowledge that accountants and bookkeepers try to jockey numbers around to make a financial or productivity reporting period look better, and I'm sure that notion was just as true 164 years ago as it is today. Mr. Sholley also states that the practice of reusing past-dated coin dies ended in July 1835 with the introduction of Robert Maskell Patterson as Mint Director. However, considerable research I have done suggests that dated dies were reused for silver and gold coins as late as 1839 or '40, and, with some (pardon me) speculation, as late as 1846. As Mr. Sholley correctly asserts, the CLE halves bearing 1833-35 dates were struck in 1836. Also, it is believed that the 1834 O-110 half was struck in 1836. Perhaps Mr. Sholley could clarify if he meant only **half cent dies** were not reused, or whether this change took place **immediately** upon Patterson having taken office.

It is hardly "groundless speculation" on my part that the mintage figures of the 1832-35 half cents were shifted to the prior year from 1833-36 "for no good reason". I don't understand that statement. The reason I suggested for having shifted the years is a perfectly good one. That – based on the very research that Mr. Sholley refers to – it was logically deduced that, since no business strikes were coined with the 1836 date, yet the Mint Report for 1836 indicated that 398,000 new half cents were on hand, they had to bear an earlier date, which was likely 1835. Following this reasoning back to 1832, these "researchers" were able to legitimately reconcile the mintage figures based on deliveries of half cents likely dated the previous year. I never said there was anything unreasonable about that. And this piece of the puzzle is not speculative at all; I am merely quoting a footnote that has appeared in the Redbook for over 30 years, as well as numerous other sources.

Perhaps my most speculative idea regarding this whole mess of the 1830s half cents is to ask why it took more than a century for the numismatic community to come to the conclusion that was finally publicized on the mintage figures. Certainly by the mid-1800s it was known that an 1836 half cent could not be found in circulation despite a supposed "mintage" of 398,000. I don't see that Craig's comments on his independent research address this issue of timing. And what about 1831? The popular consensus is that no (or just a few) business strikes are dated 1831 so what dates did the 2,200 "Original" half cents delivered that year bear? They certainly weren't dated 1830, so were they dated 1829? Were they post-dated 1832? Were they **coined** or delivered at all, or merely **ordered**? Were they melted on the spot because they were not needed?

Re: my comments on the First Restrikes, I never mentioned anything about the edge of the coin. I was referring to the rim, and in fact Breen in his Half Cent Encyclopedia (p. 369) refers to "knife rims". I'm not exactly clear what Mr. Sholley is referring to by "edge markings" – it cannot be reeds as copper coins were not reeded, and with the exception of very early (1790s) issues, the edges were not embellished in any way. Perhaps Craig can clarify this. To date I have examined five distinct 1836 half cents (3 Originals, 1 First Restrike and 1 Second Restrike), four of which were in slabs so the edges could not be viewed. I only caught a passing glimpse at the Second Restrike (which is not a focal point of my studies) and one of the Originals at a coin show. Only one Original, which I believed to be a slightly circulated Proof, was not slabbed, but I was able to make a side-by-side comparison with this Original and the First Restrike. I noticed a slight difference in the rim's height and uniformity, but it was not profound. (Perhaps this specimen was misattributed by its cataloguer and is actually a First Restrike too!) Mr. Sholley apparently also assumed I was talking about edge markings on Bust Halves when I referred to the "late Capped Bust and early Seated coins". I was not, and here the operative word was "late". Specifically, in the Capped Bust series I was referring to Reeded Edge halves of 1836-39, Reduced Size quarters of 1831-38, dimes of 1828-37 and half dimes. While all these coins were struck with reeded edges, that was not the gist of my discussion. I was actually referring to the height that the rims were raised above the fields of the coin, and the usual sharpness of detail often absent or weak on coins struck in an open collar (mainly near the edges, such as tops of legend letters and dentils bordering the rim). I have seen a couple of the Crushed Letter Edge proof halves, and have been under the impression that the tightness of the collar was a major influence in the overall sharpness of the strike. I have also examined business-strike quarter eagles of 1829-33, which have very high rims and superb detail, especially on the obverse.

The essence of this latest communiqué is that research is not absent in my studies, although it has taken on a different form than that of Mr. Sholley. Data has been gleaned largely from studying thousands of high-grade pre-Civil War U.S. and foreign coins. That is the "hard work" I've done. You can say I'm "from Missouri" – whether we're talking about an 1836 proof half cent, an 1835 business strike half cent, an 1838 Seated half dime or whatever, when one studies a coin or series in depth, questions are often raised as to why a certain coin appears as it does, or why a certain pattern or trend is observed. Then, of course, there is an amount of speculation that cannot be avoided if we try to justify the causes for the effects initially observed. I hope Mr. Sholley – and other EAC members – will continue to provide feedback and new insight into issues I raise and will continue to raise as I get more involved in focused studies.

* * * * *

MAKING SENSE

John D. Wright

This is the year that Britain abolished the slave trade, though existing slaves were not freed. The US will do the same next year. The first gas street lights appear in London this year. Napoleon experiences his first non-victory, as French versus Prussian & Russian forces fight to a draw at Eylau with 20,000 casualties on each side. Turning this attention southward, Napoleon invades Portugal, whose king John VI flees to Brazil.

In the new world, Old Faithful geyser is seen for the first time by a white man. Robert Fulton's 'Clermont' is the first commercially successful steamboat, paddlewheeling up the Hudson River from New York City to Albany in just 32 hours. It can navigate in as little as seven feet of water and its twenty horsepower engine produces speeds of up to fifteen miles per hour.

British man-of-war 'Leopard' fires on US frigate 'Chesapeake', boards her, and removes four alleged British deserters. President Jefferson closes all US ports to all armed British vessels, then Congress passes the 'Embargo Act', prohibiting all ships from leaving any US port for foreign ports. The hurts the US more than it does Britain or France against whom it is directed.

The US mint in Philadelphia strikes almost three million coins in seven denominations this year, omitting half dimes, dollars, and eagles. A major design change is introduced on half dollars and half eagles this year, to be followed on cents and quarter eagles next year and on half cents and dimes the year after. The only US overdate made this year is the cent. Of course, by now you have more than enough clues to tell that the year is 1807. Though ALL quarter eagles before 1834 are quite scarce, the 1807 quarter eagle is slightly less so than most, so the scarcest Guidebook listing for any 1807 US coin is one of the large cents.

As I pointed out in an article in Penny-Wise over a quarter of a century ago, the American liberty cap actually has two parents – the Mysian 'pileus' (PILL-E-us, a stiff conical cap) and the Phrygian 'cybrasia' (sur-BRAY-ze-uh, a soft flop-over cap, sometimes with a neck train). The design change on the half eagle this year switches to the cybrasia from the pileus, which will never again be worn on any US coin design. The cybrasia eventually will be seen on fifteen types and seven denominations of regular issue US coins, and the pileus will be seen only on the end of a pole held by Miss Liberty on Liberty Seated designs.

Since my prime coin interest is early US copper, let's get on to the really good stuff. But half cents don't cut it – half cents of 1807 are boring to me. There is only one variety and it is common. But an original red uncirculated 1807 half cent is a really tough coin to see, let alone to obtain.

Large cents of 1807 come in six varieties, with four – or maybe five – distinct variations. This is one of only four years of US large cents to have a large fraction 1/100 on the reverse. The large-fraction years are (some) 1807's, (all) 1804's, (some) 1803's, and (all) 1795 Jefferson Heads (only). The large-fraction 1807's are Sheldon numbers 275, 276. The normal small-fraction 1807's are numbers 271, 274. But most S-271's show a major flaw behind the head, which has a separate listing in the Guidebook, as the 'comet variety'.

The last and most fascinating 1807 cents are the only US overdates of this year. All 1807 over 6 cents have a small fraction. The more common S-273 has a large date with pointed 1, while the far rarer S-272 has a small date with blunt 1 and the tail of the 7 NOT extending below the 6. This variety is the last and least expensive of the 'Famous Four' large cents: the 1794 Starred Reverse, the 1795 Reeded Edge, the 1803 with large date and small fraction, and the 1807 with small 7 over 6.

And to add one bonus to an already fascinating year, the most common 1807 cent (S-276) comes with the reverse normally aligned (head-to-toe), inverted (head-to-head), crossways left, and crossways right. Not all rotations are easy to find, so this would be a very challenging and yet inexpensive small group to search out. And once you get all four rotations, you ask "so what is it worth?"

The best answer to that is to quote William Jones, Secretary of the Navy and acting Secretary of the Treasury in 1813, who had to be quoting someone else as he was too incompetent in financial matters to have thought of it himself. It might have been from Samuel Butler's Hudibras:

"What is the worth of any thing
But so much money as 'twill bring?"

* * * * *

LARGE CENT CLASSIFICATION

E. Larry Knee

At the risk of being hauled away and locked up in the stocks, I'm listing below my proposed large cent classification outline:

U.S. LARGE CENTS

<u>I. EARLY AMERICAN CENTS</u>	<u>1793 – 1807</u>
A. Flowing Hair	1793 – 1796
1. Chain	1793
2. Wreath	1793
3. Liberty Cap	1793 – 1796
B. Draped Bust	1796 – 1807
<u>II. CORONET CENTS</u>	<u>1808 – 1857</u>
A. Classic Heads	1808 – 1839
1. Turban Head	1808 – 1814
2. Matron Head	1816 – 1835
3. Young Head	1835 – 1839
B. Braided Hair	1839 – 1857
1. Petite Head	1839 – 1843
2. Mature Head	1843 – 1857

DISCUSSION:

The Flowing Hair Chain was probably modified from the Fugio Cent but, of course, this time the chain has 15 links instead of 13. Our first regular issue U.S. Mint cent was short lived it seems due to newspaper criticism that the chain was "but a bad omen for Liberty, and Liberty herself appears to be in a fright." (Don Taxay: U.S. MINT and COINAGE, page 104) I'm sure Benjamin Franklin could have defended the chain part very easily but he had died in 1790. The Flowing Hair Wreath was also short lived as Liberty still seemed to be "in a fright." However, the Mint had been looking for a permanent engraver

for a long time and finally in August 1793 that position was filled. Joseph Wright, whose tenure in office lasted but a few weeks before he died of yellow fever, engraved the Flowing Hair Liberty Cap (Robert Scot and John Smith Gardner continued this design to 1796). Don Taxay in his work writes about Wright's effort on page 105:

"The Liberty Head is classical, strong and noble, yet delicately modeled and thoroughly feminine."

(Darn, the word "classical" is used in describing a Liberty Cap!)

The Draped Bust cent was engraved by Robert Scot but designed by Gilbert Stuart, a renowned portrait painter. This fact was learned about 50 years after the striking by a letter written by the Mint Director James Ross Snowden: (Taxay, page 106)

"The head of Liberty on the dollar of 1795 was designed by Stuart, the celebrated portrait painter, at the request of the Director, as we learn from a relation of the family. Stuart facetiously remarking that 'Liberty on the other coins had run mad' – referring to the disheveled hair on the previous coins – 'we will bind it up, and thus render her a steady matron'."

(Darn, the "matron" word shows up too soon!)

Now what makes me classify the cents of 1808 – 1814 under the Coronet heading? My dictionary makes me do it!

"Coronet – 1: a small or lesser crown usu. signifying a rank below that of a sovereign; 2: an ornamental wreath or band for the head usu. for wear by women on formal occasions.

And besides, have you ever noticed all the similarities between this issue and the next?

This cent of 1808 – 1814 has been mostly known in large cent circles as the Turban Head. That's the way Ed. Frossard classified it in his work of 1897. Then in recent years a question was asked – had Frossard ever seen a turban? Now I cannot, of course, answer that, but believe me, Frossard didn't see a turban when he looked at this coin. His description is as follows:

"Head of Liberty facing to the left. The features are strongly marked and some what masculine; the bust is broad and cut nearly square in front, but short under the shoulder. A plain band inscribed LIBERTY confines the hair, which falls in short curls over the forehead and temple, and in longer curls over the shoulder."

(Page 449 – Early American Coppers Anthology published by Sanford J. Durst)

So I will ask this question, which perhaps does have an answer – did Frossard call this cent a Turban Head because most of the people at the time called it that? You know how it is, the newspapers from time to time would explain that the main device on the dime of 1916 – 1945 was in fact a representation of Liberty, the wings crowning her cap are intended to symbolize liberty of thought, but most all citizens called it a "Mercury Dime."

The cents starting in 1816 have in recent years been called "Matron Heads" and this fact seems to have spurred on the name "Young Head" for the next group. All this is much better than "type of 1816" for example. My dictionary defines:

Matron – "1a: a married woman usu. marked by dignified maturity or social distinction. b: a woman who supervises women or children (as in a school or police station). c: the chief officer in a women's organization.
2: a brood female."

These cents, however, have a claim to the name "Classic" just like the Turban Heads do. In his 1971 work, Numismatic Art in America, Cornelius Vermeule stated that the art work of Pennsylvania Quaker Benjamin West influenced the making of the 1816 cent. In West's painting of "Love Conquers All" he depicts Venus; and Vermeule on page 6 describes her as follows:

"Her classic profile, her diademed brow, the golden beads binding her hair, and the bun behind enter the numismatic repertory with the large cent of 1816."

Besides, by classifying the Turban Head with the Matron Head we may be able to dispense with the so called feud between John Reich and Scot which they probably were not aware of. In 1807, Mint Director Robert Patterson wrote of Mr. Scot, "though indeed a meritorious and faithful officer, is yet so far advanced in life that he cannot be expected to continue his labours." (Taxay, page 108)

And let's not forget William Kneass. Don Taxay believed that Kneass engraved the Young Head before his stroke in 1835, which was his effort to continue the heads of Scot. Under these younger looking heads we of course have plain cords, beaded cords, Wavy-Top, Silly and Booby Heads. Was William Kneass a good employee? On June 16, 1835, Mint Director Samuel Moore wrote a letter asking permission to hire Christian Gobrecht. (Taxay, page 170): "Mr. Kneass, our present Engraver . . . is an acceptable, popular and very useful officer: perhaps one of the most rapid in execution in the U. States. I do not know whether another could be found, whose celerity in his profession could have sufficed to furnish all the dies we have necessarily employed within the past 5 years. The intensely studious care with which Mr. Gobrecht executes is not more remarkable than the quickness of Mr. Kneass in multiplying copies – united they would make a force in this department of the Mint sufficient, it is believed, for the whole establishment including the Branches."

The Braided Hair's which were engraved by Christian Gobrecht, have been named Petite Head and Mature Head by EAC'ers Jules Reiver and George Ramont. When thinking about the Petites don't forget the 1839 piece. The Mature Head isn't tipped and has more head and therefore is a larger device. Don't forget about the 1868 cents!

We have now nearly made it to the end, so let's summarize. To do that I will quote from Cornelius Vermeule's book, page 1:

"Most persons, including numismatists who specialize in other areas or ages, regard the U.S. Series as devoid of artistic interest. Nothing could be farther from the truth. One reason this misconception has persisted is that the Federal coinage was long dominated by the ideal form of the abstract concept (or "virtue") Liberty on the obverse and the varyingly naturalistic substance of an eagle on the reverse. But, although the types of American coins seemed to change too seldom, not being affected by external matters such as the death of a ruler, there was always such a

wide variety of denominations in all metals as to preclude monotony in the series as a whole. Coins from 1793 through 1836 manifest all the symptoms of a young republic striving to find its iconographic and artistic identity and therefore, have always been objects of charm and at worst, primitive beauty."

Sounds good to me.

* * * * *

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS?

Ken Cable

There seems to be an element of confusion among numismatists regarding the nature of the collars used by the Mint for preparation of the edges of coin planchets. Prior to 1828, all U.S. coins were struck in what is known as an **open collar**, and during 1828 the Mint employed a new technique which I and many other numismatists have known as the **closed collar**.

I have seen the term "closed collar" in many numismatic publications, and I have seen the reference to a "close collar" (without the "d") in as many if not more publications. Of course I did not keep track of or save all this correspondence, but I certainly can cite a few references to the "closed collar". First, I note an article written by R. W. Julian in the November 19, 1996 issue of Numismatic News, entitled "Mint Leaps Forward in 1836": "In the late 1820s the screw press was modified to use closed collars for small coins, to give them a more precise roundness; prior to that time coins had been struck in an open collar, which merely centered the planchets for the dies to strike." Another source I am particularly fond of is John Dannreuther's article in the December 1980 issue of the Coin Dealer Newsletter Monthly Summary, on the "Forgotten Type Coins", where he addresses early U.S. gold. As he compares the 1821 - 27 Capped Bust To Left quarter eagles to those of 1829 - 34, he states, "With the closed collar (a major difference) and the complete new dies (the first by John Reich, the second by William Kneass) there are significant enough differences to call them separate types." The CDN graph books also use this term in reference to the modification of the Capped Bust dime (on p. 59 of the Mint Type and p. 30 of the Proof Type graphs for June 1997): "The new Mint equipment (with closed collars) resulted in more uniform coinage, but with the dies still finished by hand, this series still has many variations in number punch sizes and placement." A fourth source that I retain is from a Brockton, Massachusetts newspaper from 1991 which addresses the remote possibility of existence of a lettered-edge half dated 1837 having been used as a "test piece" for experimentation with the new steam press: "But the new steam press used a closed collar around the coin; the enormous pressure would flatten any previous letting. Thus the new coins abandoned the use of raised lettering around the edges and the closed collar itself was engraved to cause a reeded effect." Although this information was quoted by a reporter, he raises ideas and issues which are (no pun intended) "right on the money" and suggest someone who has a good working knowledge of the subject.

Regarding the issue of "close" vs. "closed" collar, my interpretation of "close reeded or ground collar," as indicated by Craig Sholley in his first 1836 Mint reference (Sept.22), is that "close" refers to the **distance the reeds are spaced apart**. It can easily be observed, for instance, that the reeds on a Large Size Capped Bust quarter of 1815 - 28 are spaced further apart than on a Reduced Size Bust quarter (1831 - 38). In fact, the Reduced Size quarters went to the **extreme** in close reeding, as when comparing the edge of an 1838 Bust quarter with that of an 1838 Seated Liberty quarter, the reeds on the latter, and most U.S. quarters minted

up to the present day, are more distantly spaced, though not as much as on the pre-1831 quarters. The collar for quarters thus had to have been re-engraved for the Seated Liberty design.

My understanding of the distinction between an open collar and a closed collar is that in the latter case, in addition to the collar die being engraved with the closely-spaced reeds which would make an impression into the edge of the planchet, it serves as a support to prevent movement of the planchet as it is being reeded, and controls peripheral metal flow as the coin is struck. In this respect it is a "closed" mechanism.

I like to think of the concept of a collar as it relates to coins in a similar fashion as motor coordination of the human body and its control. Here the closed collar would be analogous to a cast, which immobilizes a particular body part such as a limb—in that respect the cast is a "closed" item (until it is cut off professionally). A splint or brace or sling, which also serves an immobilizing function, would be an "open" object because it is readily removable. A bivalved cast, which is one that is split into two (or more) sections, can be removed or partially removed at the patient's discretion, and is analogous to the segmented collar that was used by the Mint to engrave edge lettering for the St. Gaudens double eagle. That is the best real-life comparison I can make.

I could make the simple comparison of a shirt collar that is closed when it is buttoned and open when it is not, but no matter how objective I try to be, I can't make sense out of the term **close collar**, other than perhaps as an idiom for **close reeded collar** that has passed down 163 years. I think in the second quote Sholley refers to (Nov. 8, 1836), "close" was either a poor choice of word or simply a typo. I have read dozens of 1830s publications (mostly non-numismatic) and noted hundreds of typographical errors that were clear from context. In fact, some of the articles were so sloppy they appeared like text from the 1430s (Middle English) rather than the 1830s! I'm not insinuating that the Mint was sloppy, but even if they worked "in triplicate", with the pressure the Mint personnel were under, an error could have been copied and copied again. And consider that in 1836 there were no word processing systems, and only human proof-readers. The numismatic researchers Sholley cites, most notably Walter Breen, perpetuated the use of the 1836 term simply because they apparently had no other **original source** available to them.

If anyone is aware of any other contemporary reference which supports the hypothesis of a **close collar**, I'd be eager to see it. For now, I believe it's a matter of plain English: the past tense of **close**, the verb is **closed**. Case "closed", I hope.

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THE I GET NO RESPECT COIN

Dear Sirs:

My name is S291. I am an 1812 variety of the Turban Head Type. The people that collect us dinosaurs look at me and say "Ho-Hum". The 1809, 1811 & 1813 coins are thought to be the tough ones of the series and get all the respect. It is common knowledge that dealers pay more heed to the odd year coins. And call us even years just common.

Now let's look at this. The early date report at last count had 129 collections listed. This is a good sampling of the collectors searching for us dinosaurs, and should give an excellent indication of scarcity. In the 129 collections the 1809 variety S280 has 95 listed coins, with a 14.1 average grade. The 1811 S287 has 101 listed with a 14.5 average grade. The 1813 S292

has 95 listed with an 18.1 average grade and the 1813 S293 has 85 listed with a 15.7 average grade.

As for me, the 1812 S291, they only have found 66 coins with an average grade of 13.7. If we are not considered a tough variety, we must be very good hidiers.

Could it be that since I was the last coin made in 1812, the clock ran out on me before my dies gave out? On top of this I have only one die state so no one needs to acquire from two to six coins of me to cover the die states. How come I get no respect?

Sincerely,

S291 & Walter Read, EAC #4019

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HERB SILBERMAN writes,

I realize that you haven't heard from me in quite a while, but I am still alive and have read every issue that has been published. I am glad EAC has continued to publish information, and this should maintain the interest in the copper coins.

I am surprised that not a single cent or half cent has been traced to my collections, that were sold singularly or as a complete collection that contained every known die and two newly discovered coppers. Having started collecting in 1950, I was heart broken when I had to sell so many of my beloved coppers.

If I ever finish my book on New Jersey or the history of Nova Caesarea (without my dear friend Warren Lapp to edit the hundreds of pages, which contain copies of many of the original documents, from 1680 to 1800), one document that I would love to include is a copy of an original or a counterfeit of a Great Britain Bill of Credit. Thousands of them were issued from 1723 to 1764 in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York. These Bills of Credit were involved in finishing the Washington Headquarters building in Morristown.

I am sorry that so many of my friends are gone, but not forgotten: Dr. Sheldon, Dorothy Paschal, Douglas Smith, Walter Breen, Dr. Warren Lapp, Eugene Exman and Hilbert, and many more.

* * *

PETE SMITH writes,

Enclosed is the index for *Penny-Wise* for 1999.

I always get a different perspective seeing the total volume for the year as opposed to scanning each issue as it arrives. The articles by Craig Sholley are good individually but great as a collection for the year. He deserved the editor's award.

We lose good members every year. At one time I might have called Wayne Anderson my closest friend. I bought large cents from Jack Borckardt even before I joined EAC. John Fettinger deserved a better obituary than he got. I consider C. Douglas Smith one of the great "old-time" collectors. Making friends is one of the joys of collecting but losing them is a reality.

* * *

STEVE CARR writes,

I haven't seen any notice in P-W, so I wanted the members to know – Doug Bird and I will be teaching an Early American Coppers class at the 2000 ANA Summer Conference. Jerry Bobbe will also help. This will be the first time in several years a course like this has been offered. We will talk about grading, attributing, cleaning, and storing half cents, large cents, and hard times tokens. Should be a lot of fun! Anyone interested in more information can contact either Gail Baker at ANA (719-632-2646, ext. 153) or me.

* * *

RED HENRY writes,

Some big new copper news at the Baltimore show was the emergence of a new example of the 1796 NC-7, the stemless '96 variety. Several people have asked about the coin, so I'll try to describe it, for those who are interested. (This description is subject to fallible memory, after having seen the coin just one time):

Holding the coin was a new experience. Look at the obverse—it says 1796. Turn it over—it's stemless! It was quite a trip. As I recall, the coin is light brown with dark brown around the devices, not glossy but fairly smooth and without problems, with eye appeal quite good for the grade (which I would have made AG3, but I understand that now it's a Fr2). In overall appearance, this is definitely the finer of the two cent-module examples of the variety now known.

The date is very clear—moderately wide spacing, digits fairly straight up. I don't remember seeing much or any of LIBERTY, or of the big obverse die break seen on the ANS specimen. Outer legends on the reverse are weak or gone, but the "stemless" feature is very clear. The lower wreath stands out very well, with deep fields around there, which is encouraging, because if more well-worn specimens turn up, they may still be easily identifiable.

Time (or even year) of strike is a puzzle. The date is punched fairly wide and nearly straight up, reminding me more of the dates on several late '96 l.c. and early d.b. obverses than of the dates on other 1796 obverse dies supposedly made later on. But the other die pairings apparently conflict with this. Since the reverse die is the same as for 1797 S-143 and NC-8 (which has the S-130 obverse), and since the half-cent overstrike specimen is dated 1797, perhaps the '96 NC-7's were struck in mid-1797 or later, the reverse die being paired for a few striking with three different obverses...and who knows? It may even have been after 1797. Breen (Half Cent encyclopedia, p.187) speculated that the half-cent variety B-3A/C-3B, struck on spoiled cent stock, was made in early 1800! I'll be interested in what the large cent (and half cent) experts say about this.

The coin had been found a few days before by an EAC member-dealer in the low-grade stock of a general dealer, and it was sold into a long-term copper collection about four days after I saw it. I'm looking forward to the writeup and photos in PW. Now for a short commercial: Early-Date Report members will see this coin listed in the January 31st edition of EDR!

I stumbled on an interesting book a few months ago, and the Anne Willing article is the result. I haven't had as much time as usual for writing copper articles, because much of my disposable "coin time" has been filled up another way. The editor of the Virginia Numismatic Association magazine had a stroke in early October, and I took over his job for the time being, because no one else in the organization could do it. This means that many of the Virginia state club's top jobs—President, both Vice Presidents, and magazine editor—are now held by EAC people. We didn't plan it that way—at least, I don't think we did—

Today (December 28th) is a good copper day, because I've been trying to upgrade my scudzy S-69 for years but could never find one I wanted. Tom Reynolds's new catalog was in my mailbox this morning, listing an S-69, F12 net VG10, choice brown surfaces. There was some Christmas coin money available. I called Tom as soon as I got back to the house, and he's sending the coin now. It ought to be here in a couple of days. My mouth is watering...

* * *

Chuck Heck writes,

Karyn and I received the very best of Christmas gifts on December 21--our son Chuck and his wife Susan gave birth to their first child--a 6 pound 7 ounce, 20" little boy--QUINN! They live in Fort Worth, Texas, so Karyn and I will miss the FUN Convention and go to Texas the first part of January.

I've been reading your editorials very carefully--I have so many emotions built up inside that I just don't quite know where to begin. So much has changed--some for the better--actually, most for the better. But I'll put those thoughts on another page. Till then--

* * *

Larry Knee writes,

I should be addressing Christmas cards, but I do have an idea regarding *Uncle Sam's Almanac*.

I think you are right about the little Nickel (Flying Eagle cent) and I would guess that the "Big White Man" is the Indian Cent. When the new cent of 1857 was being promoted (with some 1856 cents), the nickel composition was being emphasized. But collectors soon noticed the color and the cents of 1857 to 1864 were also called "white cents." (An early Redbook--1960). So when the Indian Head cent appeared, the "Nicks" became "Big White Man." (I don't remember 1861, but I do remember Big Chief tablets for writing.) So while one branch is perishing (Indians--perhaps as far west as Nebraska Territory), along with the old die (Large cents), the other (Flying Eagles) succumb to a new die in the East. The headdress on the Indian cent--excuse me, Big White Man--is definitely big; compare it to the headdress on the type II gold dollars, for example.

Remember also that in the early 1850s, Peter, the Philadelphia Mint eagle, got caught in the machinery during a test strike of new dies. So the Flying Eagle cents and Indian Head cents each perpetuate the memory of the departed--the Mint eagle, and the Indians.

The names of the Little Nickel and the Big White Man make the cents of 1856 to 1864 worthy of collecting, just like the great names given to the 1794's. I think David Cleaves made a real nice find.

Editor's Note: I received only one other suggestion--a very different one--as to the meaning of the Big White Man. But that letter was unsigned and, consistent with longstanding editorial policy, therefore not publishable. If its author inadvertently left it unsigned, he or she can contact me, and I'll publish their theory in the March issue.

* * * * *

FROM THE INTERNET

Bill Eckberg

Region 8 now has 231 members. This represents an increase of 4 from the end of October.

On the subject of "unusual collections", **Jerry Stubblefield** wrote that he had completed his date set (1793 through 1857) OF HOLED LARGE CENTS THIS MONTH. As everyone would suspect, the 1799 and 1804 were the hardest to find. It has taken the last two years to find all the dates with holes. He considers this the most interesting project that he has taken on. He still needs 9 half cents with holes to complete that date set. If he's desperate, I know where there is a holed 1811 that might fit the collection . . .

Several members wrote announcing the C4 convention in November, but nobody really discussed the convention afterwards.

Dan Freidus asked for information from owners of Higley Coppers.

Ward Van Duzer provided interesting tips for those who keep their coins in 2 X 2 staple type holders. He recommended keeping them in 20 coin per page notebook pages with sheep protectors to increase safety, and the appearance of your albums.

Bob Rankin and **Dennis Fuoss** reported pleasure with the recent USCents.com sale. **H. Craig Hamling** also reported that **Chris McCawley's** inventory is online through USCents.com.

James Higby wanted some advice on the acquisition of a caliper (vernier or dial – is one better than the other?) for measuring coin diameters and a good-quality scale for the weighing of coins. **Carl Honoré** prefers the vernier as much more accurate than the dial caliper. **Mike Hodder** prefers the dial type and thinks that plastic are better than steel (no chance of scratching a proof edge, for example). He also recommends a digital balance.

Fred Lake introduced us to the FUN Show 2000 web address: www.funtopics.com. He and **Cindy Grellman** reported on the continuing preparations and the upcoming EAC meeting at FUN.

Digital photograph was discussed in a couple of ways. **Ira Stein** gave a talk at the Region 3 meeting in Baltimore that was reported to Region 8, and **Gene Braig** recommended a Sony Mavica still camera with 10x optical zoom that captures to floppy disc.

Greg Heim reported that he is working on a new edition to his Half cent Quickfinder and asked for input as to format, etc.

Jim Hart reported from a Las Vegas computer show. The reported attendance was 205,000 with two days to go. The three things that impressed him most were a battery pocket scanner that copies and stores up to 40,000 characters of text that may be later transferred to a computer, a wireless web in palm size that works like the cellular phone, and an internet that works over the electrical power lines instead of phone lines.

Rick Coleman started Topic A of conversation during this cycle with a lengthy ad for which he offered to pay. There were MANY responses, pro and con, to the issue of paid ads on Region 8. **Mark Switzer's** final conclusion was that the Swaps and Sales are a modest

success and not a big burden (especially considering the advantage of getting first shot at the material). The number of coins is not really the issue, but rather the amount of text space. P-W's rule of 12 lines free seems the next logical step, therefore he will go with a 12 line limit for ads with no carryovers from week to week.

David Palmer considered the possibility that the EAC Sale should offer the premiere auction catalogs for coppers coins with plates.

Ron Guth reported that he is putting an attribution guide up on his web site at www.coinfacts.com. One of the goals is to enable viewers to attribute their American coins using on-line images and information. A start has been made in Large Cents, particularly 1839, where all of the Newcomb varieties are illustrated (thanks to **John Wright**).

Bill Eckberg asked for help from half cent collectors for a small research project that appears elsewhere in this issue. He had found a new die crack on the 1832 obverse that could be used to determine the emission sequence for the varieties. Helpful information was received from a number of collectors, both large and small.

COL Steven Ellsworth reported that the long awaited, revised, and user friendly web site of Butternut is up and working. It is at a new address: www.Butternut.org.

Lloyd Hurt reported purchasing an un-attributed 1839 N-15 Lg Cent via eBay.

Henry Hettger wrote that besides his discovery of 1839 N-10, N-12 and N-7 as Doubled Die reverses, it should be known that another doubled die reverse cent has been identified, this one in the 1838 cents. Discovered by **Bob Grellman** recently.

Several writers considered the possible origins of a Starred-reverse that was recently offered on eBay.

Tom Knopp wondered if anybody is doing a "score" of the late dates.

As is typical for region 8, several members reported on regional and local shows.

Mark Switzer closed the year out with the statement that "it's been a great year all around and I really enjoy doing Region 8."

And all the rest of us enjoy participating as well. Here's to hope for a great 2000 for Region 8, EAC and the internet!

* * * * *

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

SWAPS AND SALES

EAC'ers are invited to submit their ads for inclusion in this column. Ads up to twelve lines are free. ADS LARGER THAN 12 LINES MUST BE SUBMITTED CAMERA-READY, AND PAID IN ADVANCE. Due to increased production costs, effective immediately, a full page ad is \$100. Graphic and halftone setup is an additional \$60 per page. One third page is \$35. Ads should be limited to early American Coppers or tokens. Deadline for material to appear in the March 15, 2000 issue is February 29, 2000. All ads must include the individual membership number of a current member in good standing. Copy should be sent to the Editor, Harry E. Salyards, 606 North Minnesota Avenue, Hastings, NE 68901.

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What others think of "The CENT Book" JOHN D. WRIGHT. EAC #7
MARK KLEIN: The CENT Book is all I'd dreamed it could be and more. Reading it is like enjoying a personal chat with John.
RICHARD STRILEY: Being a novice on large cents I found a number of other books confusing and hard to read. I have Adams, Breen, Grellman, Newcomb, Noyes, and Sheldon, but yours is the best.
JULES REIVER: Your book is wonderful. This is the first coin book I have ever seen which can be used to attribute coins without having my coins available for checking. Your pictures are so sharp that they make attributing an absolute pleasure.
SEE FOR YOURSELF - BUY YOUR OWN. See "The CENT Book" ad in this section.

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

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

* * * * *

Ken Stonebraker, EAC 3454

438 Hillview Cr., #304

Linthicum Hts, MD 21090

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

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

* * * * *

Alan V. Weinberg, EAC 1899

23321 Aetna

Woodland Hills, CA 91367

(818) 348 - 3749

I am interested in acquiring ANY 1793 Wreath Cent (except S-6 and S-11c) in choice, true EF-45 to AU-58 (not "slab grade"). Well struck, good color, flawless fields, no rim dings. I will pay QCR "choice" +++.

Also want 1652 Massachusetts colonial silver coinage - Oak & Pine Tree. EF-40 or better, full unclipped flan, well-struck and problem free. Particularly need OT 6 and 3 pence.

I also collect "Old West" and "Deep South" old saloon and military fort trade tokens, silver Indian Peace and pre-1900 American historical gold and silver medals.

* * * * *

PHIL FLANAGAN, EAC #425

PO Box 1288

Coupeville, WA 98239

Phone (360) 240 - 8366

Fax (360) 240 - 8360

BRITISH TOKENS of the 18th century form a fascinating series of mostly copper coins that incorporate many ties with the United States. In general, this series of mostly half pence is of a similar size to U.S. Large Cents. However, I must point out that this British series usually appears in better condition AND cheaper than our Large and Half Cents. Since we take the 3 major credit cards AND have a 21 day return policy, there's absolutely NO RISK! TRY US! Send for our free list listing hundreds of these beautiful coppers from FINE to PROOF. We also have many books on the subject which I'm sure you'll agree, makes collecting much more fun and interesting. Call me right now at 1-800-613-8731 for your copy!

* * * * *

Now Available for Sale: "The Half Cent Die State Book: 1793 – 1857".

This 300-page hardbound reference book was the winner of the 1999 EAC Literary Award. Edited by Bob Grellman, it is packed with new and updated information on all business strike half cent varieties. Separate obverse and reverse descriptions are provided for each die state. Also included are over 250 plated die states, emission sequence revisions, rarity estimates, reverse rotation data for each variety, references to major copper sales, blundered edge examples, and more. All photographs are large (3-inch diameter for varieties; 2-inch diameter for die states).

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(320) 685 – 3835 FAX (320) 685 – 8636 email: davcoin@aol.com

William C. Noyes, EAC #363

Box 428

Monument Beach, MA 02553

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I offer an attribution and grading service for Half Cents and Large Cents. This includes the variety designation, die state (if appropriate), and my opinion of the sharpness and net grade. This info will be placed on a personalized 2 x 2 card to accompany each coin. Price for the service is \$1 per coin, plus return postage. No quantity limit, fast service, lifetime guarantee.

Please note I am **sold out** of the Attribution Guide for United States Large Cents 1840 – 1857. Estimated publication date for the third edition is 2002.

BOB GRELLMAN, EAC #575

PO Box 951988

Lake Mary, FL 32795 – 1988
(407) 321 - 8747

FREDERICK ORLANDO, EAC #4422 PO Box 880 Shingle Springs, CA 95682-8880

1803	C1	VG			39.00
1806	C1 stemless	PCGS VF 20	CHOICE		87.50
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1825	C1	FINE 15			49.00
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TOM REYNOLDS, EAC #222 PO Box 24529 Omaha, NE 68124
(402) 895-3065

1804	C#12	R2	MS63	\$4400	Crosslet 4. Stemless. Medium brown with 15% mint red. Some darker toning left of 1. Choice, lustrous surfaces. Some minor carbon spots on rev. Removed from an NGC holder graded MS64 Red and Brown. Average++
1806	C#2	R4	VF30	2150	Small 6. Stems. Brown with smooth surfaces. No defects. Die State 2.0. In a PCGS holder graded XF40. Average++
1794	S-44	R1	XF45	9000	Medium brown with smooth, glossy surfaces. Old, short dull scratch inside obv. dentils at 7:00. In a PCGS holder graded AU50. Average+
1799	S-189	R2+	VG7	4900	Brown with smooth surfaces. Two tiny rim nicks at 1:00. Tiny obv. rim bruise at 8:00. Tiny rev. rim bruise at 2:00. Bold date and LIBERTY. Average+

SEND NAME AND ADDRESS TO RECEIVE FREE PRICE LISTS.

HALF CENTS AND LARGE CENTS WANTED WITH 'PERKINS' COUNTERSTAMP

Wanted for my personal collection. Any condition, any name or initials. Also want U.S., British and any other tokens with 'Perkins' on them. I would also appreciate any information on unlisted tokens of the above.

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

* * * * *

GARRY APELIAN, EAC #2686 910 Revere Road Glenview, IL 60025

FOR SALE: 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th edition of Copper Quotes, by Jack Robinson. All are in excellent condition. As a bonus I am throwing in Issue #17 of the Empire Review from December 1962. Of course the Empire Review was one of the forerunners of the famous Rare Coin Reviews by Dave Bowers. This issue has with it an original order form and the original envelope to send your order in. This issue has a great section on early copper with some of the following prices: 1796 ½¢ VF - \$3750, 1811 ½¢ VF - \$125, 1841 Proof ½¢ \$675, 1793 Wreath 1¢ VF - \$475. A great issue. I will send to the person who makes me the best offer over \$25.00 by the end of the month.

* * * * *

DON VALENZIANO, JR, EAC #783 PO Box 223 Hicksville, NY 11802
(631) 667-3297 (Phone & Fax)

HALF CENTS

1794	C6	PCGS F12		\$ 3250
1804	C1	VG10	Breen State 5	60
1804	C1	VG10		50
1804	C6	VF25	Braig State 6.0+	175
1804	C10	VF35		250
1804	C12	XF40		250
1804	C13	VF35		175

* * * * *

DON BOLLER, EAC #214 1540 Glen Oaks Dr. E. Sarasota, FL 34232
Phone (941) 364-9881

PENNY-WISE back issues, for your best offer! Nov. 15, 1990 thru Nov. 15, 1998 (Missing Vol. 27 #6, Vol. 29 #4 & #6, and Vol. 30 #4 & #5). You pay shipping or I'll deliver to the April EAC Convention in Port Canaveral.

WANTED: 1796, Half Cent (VG to VF), & Civil War token collections & soldier accoutrements. Please advise.

* * * * *

FOR SALE: 1786 CONNECTICUT COPPER – Miller 5.10-P

F/VF. Very scarce, high rarity-6 variety. Struck slightly off-center with medium brown, glossy surfaces. Uneven strike resulting in weakness on the left side of the obverse and reverse legends. The bottom half of the date is off the flan. A couple of old scratches. \$175.00

Send for a free list of colonial and state coppers.

HENRY T. HETTGER, EAC #2349

PO Box 2018

Arlington, VA 22202

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1797	S-131	ANACS EF-40, EAC:30	Pleasing brown coin	\$ 2,695
1818	N-6	VF-35	lovely light brown tone	95
1823	N-2	V-25	MDS, 2 cuds, decent coin	775
1826	N-9	EF-40/35,	bold strike, uneven color	225
1829	N-7	VF-30,	corroded, net VG-10	20
1833	N-4	Smooth	F-12	70
1843	N-4	EF-45	lovely piece, choice light color, famous type coin	295
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1853	N-32	VF-20/15		45
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63 rd Sale	April 18-19, 1972	– Colonial medals	3
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Four unrestricted mail bid sales: 12/11/69, 3/27/73, 12/3/74, and 5/11/77			9
Want lists solicited. Postage \$3 per order.			

1794	S 24	XF 40	\$ 12,500
1797	S 134	XF 40	6,000
1798	S 155	F 12	1,000
1798	S 166	VF 20	900
1819	N 2	F 12	150
1826	N 6	XF 40	375
1835	N 7	VF 20	150
1848	N 1	15/12	75
1849	N 24	AU 50	3,000
1852	N 2	AU 55	250

* * * * *

ROBERT ZAVOS, EAC #2502

1007 Savannah Avenue

Pittsburgh PA 15221
email: rzavos@hotmail.com

Am Num Society	America's Copper Coinage 1783-1857; CAC 1984; nice hardbound copy	\$ 25
Bourne	9/12/97 Dick Punchard EAC Literature Library Sale; nice copy	12
Bowers & Ruddy	3/25/81 Garrett Collection, Part 4; Hardbound; New pr; Washingtonia, Indian Peace	25
	John W. Adams Collection; 1982, fpl; [1794 large cents]; fine; pr; sb	25
Bowers & Merena	1/24/90 R. H. Gore & Dennis Long; Hardbound; New pr; large cents; Halfs, Early \$1	25
	3/28/90 Boyd Brand & Ryder hardbound; new pr - <i>HT Tokens Colonials, Conn. & 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; prl	60
Merkin, Lester	8/14/64 Louis Helfenstein Large Cents; 332 lots; many illustrated; pr; nice condition	15
New Neth./Seaby	11/14/73 Early Large Cents [Nafzger]prl; fine: \$20, another copy, fair: \$8	
	\$3 postage/order; Numerous auction catalogues and books - ask for free list	

* * * * *

TOM MADIGAN, EAC #3188

PO Box 348543

Coral Gables, FL 33234-8543

"VARIETY CHECKLIST AND RARITY RATINGS FOR AMERICAN COLONIAL ISSUES AND STATE COINAGES" 23 pages covering those issues most commonly collected by variety, loose-leaf format for convenience. Revised quantities for rarity 1, 2 and 3. Price: \$17.50, free postage.

Fixed Price List of Colonials, State Coinages, Half Cents and Large Cents - 16 pages of interesting coppers for sale including the balance of my collection of Connecticut coppers. I hope to come out with new lists every three or four months, so contact me at the above address or by email at madcoins@gate.net and I will add you to my mailing list.

For Sale: my Late Date Large Cent Collection. Nearly 190 varieties with only 3 or 4 duplicates (interesting die states). Grades range from NGC MS64 RB (55N4) down to mutilated. There are a few R6 varieties as well as a few CC examples. It's a fairly decent collection put together over the last ten years or so, and would be suitable for someone who wants to assemble a large collection quickly. Please request the list if interested and submit an offer. I prefer to sell it intact to the highest bidder. It will be available for inspection at EAC 2000 and if not sold there, I will sell or auction off the coins individually.

* * * * *

The 4th Edition of EDR will be published January 31st!

Are you an *EDR* member? If not, YOUR COLLECTION IS WANTED! This detailed, ranked census of large cent collections is published on January 31st and July 31st of each year. *EDR* now lists 128 collections with over 16,000 specimens. Only *EDR* members receive copies of the report. Your privacy and security are assured, and no part of your address is published in any form. Still in doubt? "Just ask an *EDR* member."



To join us, just send for a collection listing sheet, or send any neat list giving the net grade of the best example of each 1793-1814 variety in your collection. Submissions are acknowledged promptly, and your updates and comments are always welcome. Deadline for our next issue is January 20th, 2000, for publication on the 31st. Those joining after January 20th will still receive a copy of the new edition!

The Early-Date Report - Red Henry, EAC#3718 - P.O. Box 2498 - Winchester, Va. 22604
fax (540)877-2422 — redhenry@visuallink.com

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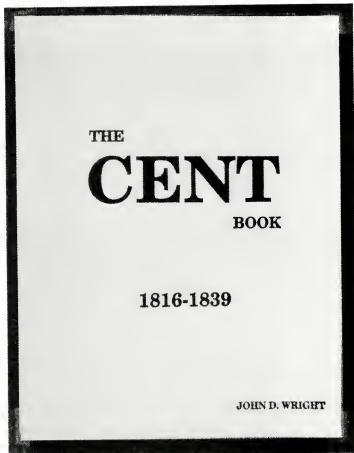
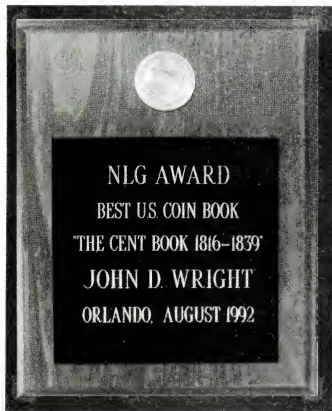
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I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
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FEATURING ONE EXAMPLE:

Gilbert, E. & Elder, Thomas L.

**NEWCOMB'S ORIGINAL HANDWRITTEN NOTES,
2 PAGE UNIDENTIFIED TYPEWRITTEN NOTES ON NEW VARIETIES
OF 1796 CENTS**

and,

**14 PAGE ORIGINAL TYPEWRITTEN NOTES:
1796. NOTES ON GILBERT WITH COMBINATIONS IN COLLECTION
OF GEO. H. CLAPP BY CLAPP WITH SOME DRAWINGS**

The Varieties of the United States Cents of 1796. 1909. 14 pp. 2 plates. Very good, original hard bound brown cloth worn around edges, end papers loose, shaky, gilt. Laid in: Two printed addenda's describing varieties 22-25 and 26-31 with typed in No. 32.

Laid in: Two pages of typewritten notes by Unknown Author with extensive descriptions "New Varieties of 1796 Cents listing No. 31 to No. 40.

Laid in: Two hand written notes by Newcomb on 1796 Cents & Fillet Heads, on Newcomb's stationery. Listing 40 Obverse & Reverse Fillet Head pairings with few corrections and a New obverse & reverse. 13 Obverse & Reverse pairings for the Liberty Caps with some variety corrections.

Laid in: 14 typewritten pages "1796. Notes on Gilbert with combinations in collection of Geo. H. Clapp by Clapp, dated 1932. These notes were correspondence to someone (Newcomb?) on the Cap Varieties (14 listings and a New Varieties with obverse, reverse & combination descriptions) & Fillets (43 listings with obverse, reverse & combination descriptions. Several copy change suggestions are made, and personal remarks in the text along with several drawings interspersed throughout indicating "Cracks, Rim Breaks" and the like. Included in the 14 pages is a two page review of G-25 (Obv. 8, Rev. 6).

Absolutely essential for the researcher of Early Date Large Cents to compare these notes with the text in the 1947 Clapp & Newcomb 1795-1800 book. (350.00)
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The following announcement was received too late to include in the Convention section:

COLONIAL HAPPENING AT 2000 EAC CONVENTION

The following colonial coppers will be featured at 7 PM on Thursday, 4/6:

St. Patrick Farthings: Any farthing NOT photographed by Bill Noyes for John Griffice's book. Any grade of Breen 206 (nimbus) and B214-B218. Quality examples of Breen 208 and B211-213.

New Jersey Coppers: Goiter variety, obverse 37

Primitive style British counterfeits: halfpennies or farthings

Connecticut Coppers: 1785: 4.3-D, 4.4-D, 1786: 2.1-D.3, 1787: 15-F, 40-N, 50-F
1788: 4.1-K, 12.1-E

As always, help needed behind the tables. Please contact Dennis or Michael Wierzbza, 71 Barstow Avenue, Norwell, MA 02061 781-826-5697

* * * * *

EDITORIAL POSTSCRIPT

I apologize for the lateness of this issue. A combination of factors were responsible.

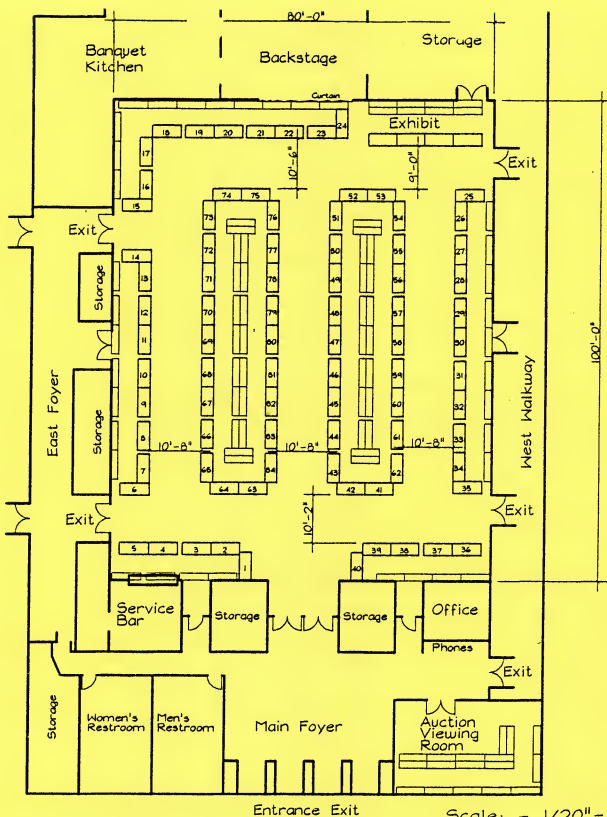
First, a nominal deadline at week's end--in this case, December 31--always creates problems. There isn't time to complete editing all the material in two days, and there is inevitably some material 'in transit'--promised but not yet received, or corrected copy not yet received back. So the process of editing inevitably drags well into the following week--in this case, the week ending January 7. The availability of express mail and e-mail does NOT help; the material all still has to be edited, welded, and collated into a complete text.

Second, it generally takes my typist a week to complete the final fair copy--particularly if this amounts to more than half the number of published pages--allowing for final proofreading and corrections by me. That puts us at January 14.

Third, there are always half- and third-pages that have to be filled up with something. That was finished over the weekend of the 15th & 16th.

Finally, submissions continue to run "late" and "later." The last item to appear in this issue was not received until January 14. This is a recurring problem, and it's time again to draw the line: I will "NOT" accept anything for the March issue that is received after Tuesday February 29--I don't care if a keg of Chain AMERI's turns up!

* * * * *



PROPOSED TABLE LAYOUT

E.A.C. 2000 CONVENTION	84	30"x72"	Dealers Tables
RADISSON	4	30"x72"	Exhibit Tables
RESORT AT THE PORT	98	18"x72"	Back Tables

Cape Canaveral, Florida APRIL 6, 7, 8, 9, 00

Designed by **781**

PENNY-WISE

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

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NC.7 6 JUST TOUCHES DRAPERY / STEMLESS WREATH

OBVERSE: 26 (⁹⁶NC.7) Date evenly spaced with point of 1 nearly touching lowest wave. 1 and 7 centered over A denticle; 6 just touches drapery. The only 1796 with this date position. PC centered under B. HWH between ER. JHF centered under T.

REVERSE: BB (⁹⁶NC.7, Rev T-1797 S.143, 97 NC.8) Left 16-5, right 19-5. Stemless wreath. The 10 is more widely spaced than 00, and the 1 leans to the right. Loop disconnected from knot at the left. PLLR halfway between center and right side of C, PSL even with right side of D.

COLLECTIBLE DIE STATES: None

CONDITION CENSUS: Rarity 8

ANS 1055	1	J.P. Kennedy, 1928 - B.G. Johnson, 42-GHC-ANS
38900	2	Rod Burress, 1999 - Dan Holmes

