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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: THE COMMITMENT OF THE COLLECTOR

Harry E. Salyards

In the aftermath of the publicity announcing--finally--the availability of gold coins from the *S.S. Central America*, I reread Dave Bowers' account of the wreck, in his *American Coin Treasures and Hoards*; and I also reread a thoughtful article by Adam Goodheart, "Into the Depths of History," that appeared in the January/February 1999 issue of *Preservation*. Subtitled "...take it or leave it," the article explores the pros and cons of deep water salvage operations. The opponents interviewed mount two central arguments: One, that with the advent of widespread fiberoptic virtual reality, the preservation of an intact wreck on the ocean floor could become "a more compelling experience for people than seeing the same things in some museum in Connecticut." In other words, lack of general accessibility should cease to be an argument for removal. The analogy cited is tourist travel to the Pyramids--who after all, a couple of generations ago, could have imagined Cairo International Airport, or the Hyatt on the Nile, as means to visiting those ancient Egyptian treasures *in situ*?

And yet--that is **real** travel. Seeing some wide screen fiberoptic panorama of a deep water wreck is--like going to the IMAX. It may be breathtaking, even truly stunning; but it's **not real**. It's entertainment. It's like Everest--without the threat of high-altitude cerebral edema: which is to say, a counterfeit Everest, tending inevitably toward Disney.

The second argument made against salvage is the national heritage one: that these sites are public resources akin to the Grand Canyon. The problem with that argument, in my opinion, centers on those very words, "public resource." They are subject to a thousand gradations of meaning, watered by the political dialogue of any given year. Yellowstone and Yosemite and the Grand Canyon are relatively safe for public funding; but as we pass down the list by rank from the greatest and grandest, those words "public resource" begin to turn on us--would preserving the *Central America's* wreck site, for example, have protected a public resource, or merely expended public resources on yet another pet project? Whipsawed by this appropriations dialogue, thousands of obscure (and not so obscure) historic sites scramble for scraps of funding annually. And the overwhelming majority of the public could not care less. Consider the fiscal woes of the A.N.S.: to collectors, that surely is a "public resource": but don't hold your breath waiting for the public to bail it out! In the American public's view, private museums come and go, as they have since the days of Charles Wilson Peale--and that's that. Which brings us back to shipwrecks.

If the *S.S. Central America* had been made into an IMAX film, for example, families looking to be entertained would have plunked down their money for tickets--watched with greater or lesser degrees of interest--and then moved on to the next vacation stop. No greater commitment would have been generated. The virtual reality of gold on the ocean floor would have been the same as the virtual reality of watching *Star Trek*. In either case, imagination may be tweaked; but there's no guarantee of intellectual or emotional investment.

On the other hand, a collector completes the circle. A collector redeems some fraction of that newly-coined gold with his own hard-earned cash, for the simple privilege of holding it in his hand. And, after 143 years, knows what was en route from California that fateful September day--knows it as an emblem of the dreams that perished that day--knows it as a living artifact of that earlier America on whose shoulders we stand: **truly knows it** in a manner that the "public resource" crowd could never understand--because, in contrast to the future of an object condemned to the uncertain custodianship of a public museum, he also understands that when he's gone, another collector coming after him will cherish it in turn, as a particular **private resource**--for contemplation, and real awe at the panorama of human achievement it represents.

EMISSION SEQUENCE OF THE 1835-DATED HALF CENTS

Ron Manley

BACKGROUND

There are only two half cent varieties dated 1835. Both were minted using the same obverse die. However, each variety was minted using a different reverse die. The variety 1835 C-1 was struck using the same reverse die as 1833 C-1 and 1834 C-1 (the only half cent varieties having those dates). The reverse die used for 1835 C-2 was a new die used only for that variety. For attributing the two varieties, the spacing between the letters S and T in STATES is usually examined on a specimen's reverse: on 1835 C-1, it is distant; on 1835 C-2, it is close.

In 1977, Milton Pfeffer¹ speculated that when the 1835 half cent mintage began, a choice was made to use a "brand new" reverse die instead of the clashed reverse die leftover from use in both 1833 and 1834. However, Roger S. Cohen, Jr.² and Walter Breen³ considered 1835 C-1 to be the first half cent variety of 1835. Until now, convincing die state evidence has been lacking to firmly establish the emission sequence of these two 1835 varieties.

Cohen and Breen presumed that a reverse die recycled from an earlier year would be used to strike the first variety of the following year. I observed in the course of extensive research for *The Half Cent Die State Book* that this assumption has generally proven false for most dates in the half cent series. Instead, I have found that a new reverse die was generally selected to initiate a new year's coinage, if one were available. A die from a previous year was used again only if the die in press suffered terminal damage or needed to be removed from press temporarily (i.e., to remove clash marks).

OBSERVATIONS

Recently, my friend Bill Eckberg discovered a faint new crack on the obverse of certain 1832-dated half cents. As a result, Bill has elucidated the mintage order of all three 1832 varieties⁴. My own earlier work had been successful only in establishing that 1832 C-2 was the last 1832-dated half cent variety minted⁵. Bill's findings prompted me to reexamine my 1835 half cent specimens.

Using magnification to study an uncirculated EDS 1835 C-2 specimen (from my State 2.0, with an uncracked reverse), I was surprised to note minor but *plain* repunching at

¹ Milton B. Pfeffer, *Penny-Wise*, Vol. XI, No. 3, 1977, p. 149.

² Roger S. Cohen, Jr., *American Half Cents, the "Little Half Sisters"*, 2nd edition, 1982, pp. 95-96.

³ Walter Breen, *Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents*, 1983, pp. 362-364.

⁴ William R. Eckberg, *Penny-Wise*, Vol. XXXIV, No. 1, 2000, pp. 9-13.

⁵ Ronald P. Manley, *The Half Cent Die State Book*, 1998, pp. 261 and 264.

the right base of the 8 in the date. I considered the possibility that this was due to strike doubling but concluded this was extremely unlikely, as only the 8 showed this sort of repunching. LDS 1835 C-2 specimens (from my State 3.0, with an arcing reverse crack) were found to show similar repunching at the base of the 8. Only a trace of repunching at the base of the 8 was seen on an uncirculated EDS specimen of 1835 C-1. No repunching was visible at all on LDS 1835 C-1 examples. Several members of EAC Region 8 have corroborated these findings. Unlike the bold repunching on the 5, the repunching at the base of the 8 is not immediately obvious and probably requires at least a VF+ grade specimen to be seen.

Specimens of 1835 C-1 are ALWAYS found with obverse clash marks⁶, contrary to the view held by Walter Breen⁷. However, specimens of 1835 C-2 are often seen without them. Both Breen⁸ and Cohen⁹ rationalized the lack of obverse clash marks on EDS 1835 C-2 specimens as being due to repolishing the obverse die after the 1835 C-1 mintage. This was a reasonable conclusion, albeit a wrong one.

DISCUSSION

Any repunching of a letter or numeral is always done before a die's earliest use in coinage. Therefore, *repunching will be sharpest and most evident on specimens from the first use of the die.*

Thus, the first 1835 half cent variety minted was not 1835 C-1, but 1835 C-2. The proof of this is the plain repunching at the base of the 8 on both EDS and LDS 1835 C-2 specimens — repunching which is missing on LDS 1835 C-1 specimens and seen at most as a trace on EDS 1835 C-1 specimens. Apparently, most of the repunching at the base of the 8 disappeared from the 1835 obverse die after it was repolished when the 1835 C-2 mintage ended. The final trace of repunching then later vanished as a result of normal die wear.

It is now clear that EDS 1835 C-2 specimens lack obverse clash marks because its obverse and reverse dies had not yet clashed — not because earlier clash marks from the 1835 C-1 mintage were removed by repolishing, as had been proposed by Cohen and Breen. The leftover reverse die from 1833 and 1834 was used again only after the 1835 C-2 reverse die shattered and had to be discarded.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the numerous members of EAC Region 8 that shared their findings with me.

⁶ Ronald P. Manley, *ibid*, pp. 273-274.

⁷ Walter Breen, *Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents*, 1983, p. 362.

⁸ Walter Breen, *ibid*, p. 364.

⁹ Roger S. Cohen, Jr., *American Half Cents, the "Little Half Sisters"*, 2nd edition, 1982, p.95.

The Open Collar?

Craig Sholley

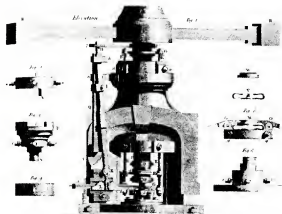
Last month Eric Newman called and asked if I would be responding to Mr. Cable's article. I said that, somewhat reluctantly, I would and our conversation switched to our favorite topic: the open collar. Given the discussion of the close collar, Eric suggested that I write something on the open collar if for no better reason than to have everybody "throw rocks at it". So here goes:

Eric and I have been discussing the open collar for a couple years, trying to figure out what it looked like. There is only a passing mention of it in a single Mint record, this being the letter dated Nov. 8 1836, from Patterson to Woodbury, concerning the new Reeded Edge halves:

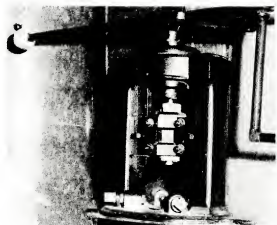
The old coin was struck in what we term an open collar; this is struck in a close collar, which makes the edges of the pieces thicker, and gives them a mathematical equality to their diameter.

From this letter it's clear that the open collar was used on the Capped Bust halves. Eric and I also think it's a fair inference that the collar was used on all coinage that had a lettered or reeded edge imparted by the "Castaing machine". And I would speculatively add the 1795 Plain Edge and the Classic Head cents since they never show any collar contact.

From various historical records, we also know what a screw press looked like and how it operated. From the coining dies in the ANS, ANA, and private hands, we also know the basic form for the dies. To this we can add the evidence from the coins themselves: the coins are not perfectly round, they are fairly well centered, and show no evidence of contact with the collar - no "flat spots" or distortion of the lettering or reeding.



Boulton's Screw Press



Small Stamping Press



Cent Die



Half Dollar Die

At this point I'm going to depart from my usual articles. Rather than tell you exactly what we think the collar looked like, I'll just provide the basic ideas we've been working with and then let those of you who as so inclined take a stab at it.

Since the coins are well centered, the collar was likely a complete circle since any other form would not provide the requisite centering. The collar could not really be a close collar with a "larger hole" since this likewise would not provide the requisite centering. The collar also could not have been "in place" during feeding since this would interfere with the feeding and ejection. And the collar could not have been "in place" during the strike since the coins do not show any collar contact.

So Mr. Phelps, your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to design screw press collars that will center a planchet fairly consistently (within about .030 - .040"), not interfere with the feeding, never contact the coin during striking, and fits the known die forms. Publish your thoughts in *P-W* over the next few issues. Eric and I will offer ours in the September issue. This speculation will self-destruct in 10 seconds....pffff!

THE COLONIAL RARITY SCALE

Dennis Wierzba

Should the rarity of colonial coins be measured on the Sheldon/EAC scale? That numeric scale for large cents, where R1 indicates more than 1250 survivors, R2 equals 501-1250 examples, and R3 equals 201 to 500, seems excessive for the surviving colonial population at those rarity levels. However, the tradition of using R1, R2, and R3 for state coinage rarities is not likely to change. The challenge is to find a simple, easy-to-remember system to resolve the conflict. My proposal for a colonial rarity scale is as follows:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| R1 = over 350 (Sheldon/EAC R3-) | R6- = 22-30 |
| R2 = 201-350 (Sheldon/EAC R3+) | R6+ = 13-21 |
| R3 = 138-200 (Sheldon/EAC R4-) | R7- = 8-12 |
| R4 = 76-137 (Sheldon/EAC R4+) | R7+ = 4-7 |
| R5- = 53-75 | R8 = 2-3 |
| R5+ = 31-52 | R9 = 1 |

The bridge is mapping the split Sheldon/EAC R3 and R4 levels into the colonial scale R1 to R4. This is simple mental arithmetic to those familiar with the Sheldon/EAC scale. With the lower number of both surviving specimens and colonial collectors, split rarities such as high R5 (R5+) and low R5 (R5-) are needed, meaningful levels of precision.

A COMPLETE LIST OF EARLY HALF CENTS KNOWN WITH LETTERED EDGE BLUNDERS

Ron Manley

Since January 1996, Dan Trollan has provided in the pages of Penny-Wise his growing list of early large cents known to have either missing or blundered edge lettering. Following his lead, I present a list of early half cents with similar errors. This list is short, but that is not to be unexpected since over seven lettered edge large cents were minted for every lettered edge half cent. Walter Breen wrote on page 18 of his 1983 *Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents* that he personally had never seen any half cents with blundered edges. I will be pleased to update the following list in the future should additional specimens become known to me.

1793 C-2	Kermit Smythe collection; reported in P-W, Vol. XXXII, No.3, 1998, p.239.	"TWO HUNDRED FOR A DOLL"
1793 C-3	Bowers & Merena 11/95:3066	"boldly doubled with the two impressions approximately 90 degrees separated".
1794 C-1a	Bowers & Merena 11/94:2002	"TWO HUNDR A DOLLAR"
1794 C-1a	Bowers & Merena 3/97:8	"HUNDRED and FOR partially overlapping".
1794 C-1a	Superior 2/98:596 (Gerald Maas sale)	"TWO HUNDRFOR A DOLLAR", with F in FOR impressed over E in HUNDRED.
1794 C-1a	Tom Reynolds at CSNS 9/99 show; Ron Manley	"TWO HUNDFOR A DOLLAR", with F in FOR impressed over R in HUNDRED.
1794 C-2	McCawley & Grellman 1/96:57 (John Schoentag sale)	"unlettered edge"
1794 C-4	McCawley & Grellman 8/95:5 (Gary Ruttenberg sale)	"unlettered edge"
1794 C-4a	Bowers & Merena 5/96:399 (Louis Eliasberg sale, Part 1)	"TWO HUNDREDOR A DOLLAR", with F in FOR overlapping the final D in HUNDRED.
1794 C-8	Superior 2/98:605; Ron Manley	"TWO HUND DOLLAR"
1795 C-1	Kagin's 298 th sale 9/72:591	"HUNDRED FOR A DOLLAR"
1795 C-2a	Reported by Milton Pfeffer in P-W, Vol. X, No.1, 1976, p.27	"unlettered edge"

Presses, Collars, and Mint Records - One Last Time

Craig Sholley

Ken Cable's articles in the last issue of Penny-Wise raised some issues that do need addressed. I'll first comment on one of Mr. Cable's general statements and some seeming inconsistencies in his statements and then address some of the specific points.

In "*Mint Happenings of the 1830s*" he stated: "I cannot bring myself to accept as fact, published or not, much information that has been published in recent numismatic history." Mr. Cable is doing himself and others a great disservice by making such a comment. Aside from Stewart, who had access to Mint documents, the great majority of solid, factual information on the Mint has been published only recently. Breen, following Stewart's lead, was really the first numismatist to research the "mint records". Taxay, Newman, Julian, myself and others have followed Stewart and Breen, resulting in more and more information being published.

Perhaps what makes Mr. Cable distrustful is the constant review and revision of information, but this is only natural. The research is relatively new and there are literally hundreds of thousands of pages of material. New records are found which amplify or modify previous findings. The information is evolving.

I also couldn't help but notice some apparent inconsistencies in Mr. Cable's writings. He freely admits that he has not seen the relevant records yet rejects Julian's explanation of the half cent figures and then turns around and quotes Julian on Boulton and the use of the term "closed" for the collar. He's also repeatedly emphasized the importance of "original source documents" and says he distrusts recent writings, yet quotes 1996 articles - again without having the supporting records. Now maybe it's me, but this just doesn't seem to fit.

So, let's move on to some of the specific items in Mr. Cable's two articles. I'll first address "*Mint Happenings of the 1830s*" and then the collar.

Regarding the hydraulic press, I never said it was not used to strike proofs. I merely pointed out that Breen misquoted the 1893 Mint Report, which does not mention its use on proofs and went on to say that its use on proofs is therefore an assumption by Breen and others. I said nothing more. So, Mr. Cable's statement that I said it was never used to strike proofs is a complete misrepresentation on his part.

As to Julian not specifically stating that Peale copied the French press, I called Bob and he said that it was a general article and he just didn't mention that point.

I guess I should also point out that the origin of the design for the Mint's steam press is not my discovery. Taxay, Julian, and Reiver published this information well prior to my studies. I have only added a few points not previously covered.

Regarding the pressure on both dies being the same, I can appreciate that this may be tough to visualize, but this isn't a forum for discussing general physics so I really recommend that Mr. Cable go to the library. I'm not trying to be "smart"; this is what I do when I have this sort of question.

Concerning the Reeded Edge half dollars, the Mint tried to strike these on the "cent" press in November of 1836 since the banks handling the French Indemnity were pressuring them. The press couldn't handle it, so they were forced to wait for the heavier press and resumed striking in February of 1837. There were no subsequent problems mentioned. For more information I can only refer Mr. Cable to the records I quoted or suggest he obtain the records from the Regional Archives at Philadelphia. They can pull the records and copy them. There is a fee for this, but I don't think it's significant.

Since Mr. Cable still questions Julian's explanation of the half cent mintages and my support of his explanation, I can only suggest that Mr. Cable obtain and review the relevant records for himself and then present his own discussion.

Regarding the edge markings, I refer Mr. Cable to my article in the July 1999 issue, "*The Third Die: Part I - Middle and Late Date Cents*".

As to Mr. Cable's speculation that the Mint may have "cooked" it's books, no they didn't. The Mint wasn't a commercial enterprise trying to impress or fool stockholders so there was no need. The working account books correlate quite nicely with the "official" records. If Mr. Cable finds this statement unacceptable I again can only suggest he get the records for himself.

Regarding Patterson stopping the use of back dated dies, this resulted from a discussion I had with Bob Julian and is supported by some of my own work. Patterson effectively stopped the use of back-dated dies by 1836. Given the pressure of the French Indemnity coinage, it appears that there was still some usage on gold and silver, but nothing like before. This applies only to business strikes; proof and experimental coinage (such as the CLEs) are an entirely separate matter. If Mr. Cable finds this explanation lacking then we will simply have to disagree.

Well, I think that addresses most of the points raised without re-hashing what has already been written. If I haven't covered a specific point, I recommend that Mr. Cable review the numismatic literature and/or obtain the relevant documents from the archives.

So, now for the collar...

In support of his argument for the term "closed", Mr. Cable quotes a 1996 article by Bob Julian. Bob and I got a bit of a chuckle out of that since this is just about the time that we first began discussing the "close" versus "closed" terminology. Like Mr. Cable I noticed the use of both "close" and "closed" in the numismatic literature. Since minting technology is my "thing", I wanted to know which term was correct. I called Bob and he wasn't sure, so I began digging in the mint records and sometime in 1997 I came up with the two records I quoted in my previous

articles. So, rather than having support for his argument, Mr. Cable has merely quoted out of date information!

In my previous article I did make a bit of a mistake by not quoting the full sentence from one of the records. This caused Mr. Cable to launch into a rather lengthy argument based on English grammar. Now, I did note that the full quote could be found in both Breen and Taxay along with the page numbers, but I guess Mr. Cable didn't check. I'll re-quote the two records here in full. I think this will make the correct term immediately apparent to all.

The first record is the one Mr. Cable used as the basis for his English grammar argument. This is a letter from Patterson to Chief Coiner Adam Eckfeldt on Sept. 22, 1836:

The dies for the new dollar having been sunk by Mr. Gobrecht and the impressions approved by the Treasury Department, I am exceedingly desir'd that you shall take, without delay, the necessary measures for an early issue of dollar coins. For this object I pray you to have the hubs and working dies prepared, and the proper arrangements adopted for cutting and milling the planchets, and coining them in the larger screw press, the pieces being struck in close reeded or ground collar.

The other letter is one dated Nov. 8 1836, from Patterson to Woodbury, concerning the new Reeded Edge halves:

The old coin was struck in what we term an open collar; this is struck in a close collar, which makes the edges of the pieces thicker, and gives them a mathematical equality to their diameter.

Mr. Cable offered the argument that the word "close" was either a typo or referred to the spacing of the reeding. However, taking these two letters in combination it is clear that the term is neither a typo nor does it refer to the reeding.

In the first place, it's not a typo since both letters are originals in Patterson's own handwriting. Secondly, the term "close" definitely does not refer to the reeding since the reed spacing would have no effect on either the diameter or the edge! The Director is clearly using the term "close" as the opposite of "open".

Regarding Mr. Cable's English grammar argument, the problem with this argument is that there are two separate definitions, with different pronunciations, of the word spelled "close". Mr. Cable chose the verb transitive form (pronounced "kloze") meaning to shut. However, the word can also be an adverb (pronounced "klose") meaning near or proximal or tight.

Mr. Cable's choice of the incorrect form and definition is quite understandable since he admittedly does not have a mechanical background and therefore would not realize that the adverb form of the word is often used in the mechanical field. For example, the term "close tolerance" is used to refer to a machining with very tight tolerances, in other words, a precision part. During my time in industry I frequently heard, and used, this term along with "close fit" to refer to a tight fit.

From the foregoing mint records, it's quite evident that Patterson is using the word in its adverb form and exactly in this sense. This usage is entirely expected as a mint is certainly a mechanical industry - it's really nothing more than a metal parts stamping plant!

I guess I should add one more point, this being Breen and Taxay's reference to a letter from Mint Director Samuel Moore using the term "close" in reference to the collar. I had been hesitant to mention this since neither Julian nor myself have been able to find the letter. Having had subsequent discussions with Eric Newman on this, I now think I know where to look. From the foregoing discussion, this letter is probably superfluous, as I doubt the "coffin" needs any more "nails", but if I find it I'll report it.

So, for the record, the mint records use the term "close" and Breen, Taxay, Newman, Julian and myself having read the records choose to take the records at "face value" and use this term. Mr. Cable, not having done the research, may use whatever he wishes.

A NEWLY DISCOVERED LETTER, AND A CLASSIC *PENNY-WISE* ARTICLE: COPPER PLANCHET PROCUREMENT AT THE MINT IN THE 1840s.

Jim Hopkins, and Paul and Robert Carter

Introductory Note by the Editor: On Washington's Birthday, I received a letter from EAC'er Dave Bowers, forwarding a letter from Jim Hopkins, of Austin, Texas. Jim's letter is as follows:

I have corresponded with you before about historical-numismatic topics, and thought you might be interested in a recent find. I have begun collecting U.S. stamps and covers, and found an early stampless cover at a dealer recently. It was addressed to "Robert Patterson, U.S. Mint, Philadelphia," and was priced at only \$10. I purchased it, and enclose herewith a transcription of the letter, from John Patterson (I assume, no relation), regarding the manufacture of planchets. I had considered the possibility of using this for a short article, since the content is interesting, but I do not have access to the references I need to do this. Therefore, I thought I would share it with you, along with a photocopy of the lettersheet itself, front and back, since you might have use for the material. I hope you will find this interesting.

Reading through the original letter, at the reference to Crocker Brothers, something clicked--and I found myself searching the 1967-1986 Index to *Penny-Wise*, where I located the Carters' classic article. Since only a tiny minority of the current membership has probably ever seen it, I believe it definitely merits reprinting. So what follows is:

1. a photostatic reproduction of the original letter, which offers a nice "contemporary feel";
2. a transcription of the letter, for those unaccustomed to 19th Century penmanship;
3. the Carters' original article, published in *Penny-Wise* way back in 1968.

Buffalo Apr 26th 1845

R M Patterson Esq

Sir

Upon favour of the 23rd inst
is received. In answer to Enquiry whether
I am a manufacturer of copper. I beg to
say that I am not. My Business is Importing
Hardware of all kinds from England which
Business I have prosecuted for nearly fifteen
years. In carrying it on I am obliged to
purchase at times old copper from those who
purchase new copper from me. And in all
respects my Business is the same as Messrs S
& Willeys of New York. I have however very
great facilities for making payments and
I think could satisfy you that all my
Transactions would give perfect satisfaction
as well as a benefit to this Section of the Country
and to the Union of the United States. Should you
on reflection conclude to become purchasers from

me on the same terms as from Mrs Crocker Bro^{rs} & Co.
I would make such arrangements as would enable
me to commence operations and by the 1st May next
have such quantities forwarded as would meet the
wants of this Section & West. In doing so I
should require one or two planchets, (which ^{you} may
enclose and send by mail), to enable me to make
them the exact size & weight to correspond with those
issued by the Mint. I cannot close without repeating
that the wants of the West require them, discarding
any great pecuniary object other than such a small
commission as might be made to repay me for my
trouble &c. an Early reply will oblige

Very Respectfully
John Patterson

Buffalo Sept 26th 1845

Robt Patterson Esq--

Dr Sir

Your favor of the 23^d inst is received. In answer to enquiries whether I am a manufacturer of copper, I beg to say, that I am not. My business is Importing Hardware of all kinds from England which Business I have prosecuted for nearly fifteen years. In carrying it on I am obliged to purchase at times old copper from those who purchase new copper from me, and in all respects my Business is the same as Mrs A & S Willets of New York. I have however very great facilities for making planchets [sic] and I think could satisfy you that all my transactions would give perfect satisfaction as well as a benefit to this Section of the Country and to the Mint of the United States, should you on reflection conclude to receive planchets from me on the same terms as from Mrs Crocker Bros & Co I would make such arrangements as would Enable me to commence operations [sic] and by the 1st May next have such quantities forwarded as would meet the wants of this Section and West. In doing so I should require one or two planchets (which you may enclose and send by mail) to enable me to make them the exact size & weight to correspond with those issued by the Mint. I cannot close without repeating that the wants of the West require them, discarding any great pecuniary object other than such a small commission as might be made to repay me for my trouble. An Early reply will oblige.

Very Respectfully--
John Patterson.

Interpolated Comments by the Editor: Several points in this letter bear emphasis, before you read the story of the Mint's major supplier of copper planchets:

1. The Mint Director was actively seeking new/additional sources of planchet stock in the Fall of 1845, for this letter is in response to his own communication of September 23. Large cent production was up almost 63% in 1845, compared to 1844--but was still well below coinage levels of 1837-1838. Did he foresee a shortage? Were the Crocker Brothers having trouble keeping up with the Mint's demand for planchets? And should we see any desperation in the Mint Director's having written to someone in far away Buffalo, who wasn't even regularly in the copper manufacturing business?

2. When John Patterson of Buffalo talks about benefiting "this section of the country," is he just making a standard, chamber-of-commerce-style 'booster' comment, or is he saying "New York and Pennsylvania," as opposed to those cranky(?) New Englanders up in Taunton?

3. It's abundantly clear that the Mint Director wasn't shy about sharing information with this man--not just the name of the Crocker Brothers (which, as a non-manufacturer of copper himself, this importer in Buffalo was not likely to have previously known), but also the terms on which the Mint has been dealing with the Crockers, since John Patterson promises to provide copper planchets "on the same terms."

4. Western New York and points West were apparently experiencing a shortage of large cents; but how would having a local supplier of the preliminary product--the blank planchets--have any remedial effect on this? Perhaps because the same kind of arrangement was contemplated as the Crocker Brothers apparently enjoyed, in the distribution of the finished product! Read on. . .

* * *

THE OLD CROCKER BROTHERS COPPER WORKS OF TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

A Penny-Wise Classic Article, Reprinted from Volume II, pages 224-228, 1968

Paul M. and Robert Carter

One and a half miles southeast of Norton Center, Massachusetts, on State Route 140 going toward Taunton, the Wading River (formerly Three Mile or Coweset River) crosses. At this point, on the left side of the highway, the Taunton Copper Manufacturing Company, better known as Crocker Bros. of Taunton, was located. Actually the name was a misnomer, as the old works lay within the boundaries of the town of Norton; and an association with Taunton was not made until 1849 when a branch of the company was located there.

The site of the Taunton Copper Manufacturing Center had become established as a manufacturing area as early as 1792 when a saw mill and a grist mill were located there. In July 1795, William Augustus Crocker along with Samuel Leonard, Seth Smith, Jr., and George and Daniel Gilbert, leased the area from Josiah and Elkana Woodward for a mill site and store. The deed specifically provided for construction of a trench to operate a slitting mill, for diversion of the river flow, and for a dam "across said river to be raised as high as necessary for use of said mills." This slitting mill remained in operation for 28 years until it was destroyed by fire in 1824.

The following year Crocker erected a cupola furnace, a refining furnace, and a building for a rolling mill on the site. In 1826 he associated himself with his two brothers, Samuel L. and George A. Crocker, for the purpose of founding a company to manufacture and process copper.

On February 12, 1831, the three Crocker brothers were joined by Daniel Brewer and Samuel Crandell and became incorporated as the Taunton Copper Manufacturing Company, under the firm name of "Crocker Bros." According to local records, the size of the works were doubled at this time. It is interesting to note that the company was said to have a capital of \$200,000, a tidy sum for this era in history, when a quart of milk sold for five cents, a dozen eggs for a dime, and skilled labor earned about \$1 to \$1.25 per day. Craftsmen in copper refining were brought over from England, probably from the Soho area; and a start was made in the alloying of copper to produce brass.

Crocker Bros. was a progressive company, and improvements were made continuously. One example was the addition of condensers to the cupola stacks to trap the zinc oxide which escaped as gas, smoke, or ash. These condensers collected as much as \$50 a day of this material. The zinc oxide was used as pigment in paint, although it was not as white or of the same quality as lead.

During the period 1835-36, the company dug a canal, three-quarters of a mile long, from the mill pond of Augustus and Allen Lane, which produced a head of 20 feet, making it feasible to use an overshot water wheel. This was a source of power far superior to the undershot and breast wheels commonly seen in this area. When the canal was completed, an additional three acres was leased from Josiah Woodward at a sum of 50 silver dollars per year, on which site a new building for a rolling mill was erected. (It is interesting to note that the lease specified silver dollars, an example of the esteem with which paper currency of the period was regarded.)

Directly behind the new building was erected another building, 45 by 30 feet, built directly over the canal. This building housed a water wheel, probably breast type, and two planchet presses. It was in this small building that copper planchets for U. S. large cents were produced, in compliance with the terms of the Mint contract. As near as can be determined, production of the planchets during the entire term of the contract was under the supervision of William Allan West. The planchets were produced in a finished state, with raised rims, and ready for stamping, except for a final scouring at the Mint. An average of 60 tons of these planchets were shipped annually to the Mint by Crocker Bros. This amounted to a return of approximately \$50,000 a year, which was a very lucrative contract.

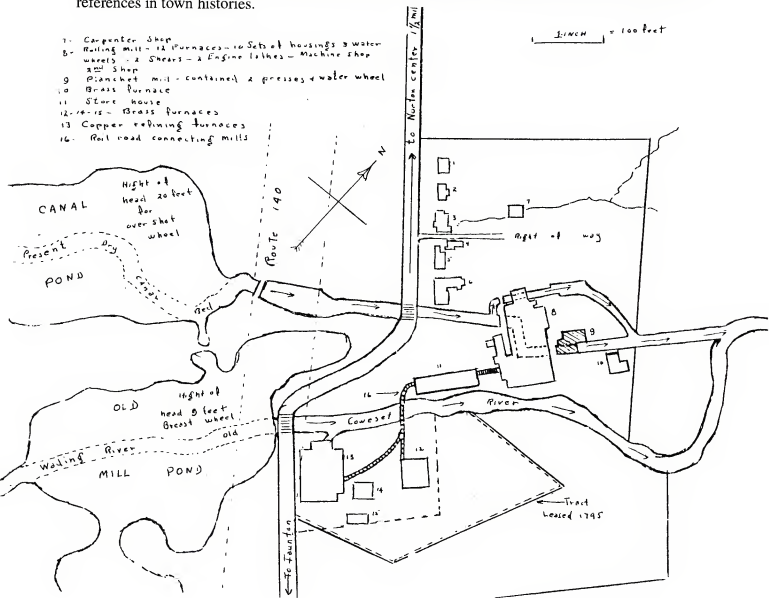
With the abundance of production, one would expect these unstamped planchets to be common even today in this area, but strangely enough they are very scarce. The authors have seen only seven, two of which they once owned.

Crocker Bros. shipped these planchets to the Mint in kegs; and after the planchets had been stamped, many of the cents were shipped by the Mint in the same kegs back to Crocker Bros. for distribution to banks and wherever needed. It is easy to see why the term "keg rubbed" is applied to many of the uncirculated large cents when one considers the means and length of travel by rail and over unpaved roads. Can you imagine a more spine-shattering ride than a no-spring, horse dray over a cobblestone road? It is small wonder that there is a single MS70 left!

Even today, the stone work of these mill buildings is still in evidence and in a fine state of preservation, in some places reaching a height of 10 to 12 feet above the old, silt-filled canal waterway. The stone work is plumb and true, having been closely laid to withstand the pressure of the water as it rushed off the wheel. The masonry had been done by Irish stone masons who immigrated to the Taunton area during a potato famine in Ireland. Also still to be found are some massive chestnut beams, protruding from the ground, mute evidence of the durability of a native wood. (Unfortunately, this fine timber is no longer available, most chestnut trees having been destroyed by a blight about the turn of the century.) One can also see at the river bank an old slag head which is green from the copper not completely extracted from it.

As one stands on this old site today and lets his mind turn back over the past hundred years, he can imagine the water cascading over the powerful water wheel and hear the roar of the river as it rushes into the wheel pit. Perhaps he can smell the acrid smoke from the cupola furnaces as it belches from the tall stacks of the refining buildings, or he can hear the clank of machinery and the creak of heavy ore wagons drawn by straining horses. Surely he can appreciate the sweat and heat that men of that era, working with tools and a form of power now long obsolete, had to exert in producing materials so vital to the new nation.

The old large coppers have long since passed from the scene, having been replaced with a more acceptable, smaller, lighter, easier-handled cent. But the coppers served a purpose and they have survived in surprising numbers to become the most cherished coins for collecting of the entire U.S. coinage series. They have been thoroughly studied, researched, and written about, so that more is known about them today than when they were in circulation. The same is not true about the Crocker Brothers. It is hard to understand why so little is on record of this old, progressive, and respected concern. All that remains are a few old deeds, some meager files, and a few scanty references in town histories.



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

* * * * *

"HAPPENINGS" AT EAC, THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 6

HALF CENT HAPPENINGS

Greg and Lisa Heim

To review, here are the varieties for the 2000 Half Cent Happenings: 1795 C-5b, 1797 C-3a, 1800 C-1, 1805 C-2, 1840 (all varieties). For those not familiar, here is how the Happenings work: 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 best five 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.

* * *

LARGE CENT HAPPENING

Jon Warshawsky

The 2000 Large Cent Happening will include the following varieties:

1794	S-35	1823/2	N-1
1800	S-193	1846	N-12
1811	S-286	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.

* * *

COLONIAL HAPPENING

Dennis and Michael Wierzba

The following colonial coppers will be featured:

St. Patrick Farthings: Any farthing NOT photographed by Bill Noyes for John Griffie'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

* * * * *

REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Dear EAC Member,

The 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

* * * * *

REPORT OF EAC REGION #2 MEETING

Chuck Heck

The New York/New Jersey Region held a meeting at the WESP Nex Show in Westchester on January 29, 2000. We had a great room and I want to extend a warm "thank you" to show organizer, Mark Simon, who makes everything possible.

Members attending were:

Glenn Marx	Louis Bach	Ron Sohns
Joel Springarn	Walter Reed	John Cloutier
Bob Rankin	Dave Palmer	Chuck Heck

After the usual EAC introductions, we discussed the upcoming convention in Florida and the future ones scheduled for Virginia and Las Vegas. There seemed to be interest in the new mail bid section for the sale this year.

Discussion next focused on the Lusk/Noyes photo project. There was much talk about pricing of a private commercial venture whose inventory was supplied by many individuals free of charge.

Next, Dave Palmer spoke in detail about the Stack's sale of the Perkins Collection of Connecticut Coppers. He mentioned that prices were very high and that he felt very lucky to win several lots. We spoke briefly of the new S-66 in the Bowers & Merena Rarities Sale at FUN and the upcoming March Wells Collection being auctioned by Superior.

After the auction briefing, we spoke a while on the Tom Reynolds' theft. We all felt great pain for a man of such character, to be put upon by those devoid of any.

A call for new business brought quite a wide selection of show and tell. John Cloutier passed around a beauty – an S-144 in strong VG with no problems and light brown color. What a great looking coin! This completes John's 1798 number variety set. On those NC's! Walter Reed brought 3 different die states of S-271 for everyone to enjoy. The first had no hint of a comet; the second had a nice comet, the third was a blazing comet with additional die cracks. Spectacular! Joel Springarn brought the ANS slide set of 1794 Large Cents along with a personal viewer for anyone to see. Thanks to all who gave of their collections so that others could benefit.

Our next NY/NJ meetings will be held at the same WESPNE X Show – on June 17 and November 25 at 11 am. Please plan to attend.

PS: Walt Reed showed off a beautiful S-295 in Au that he purchased on the floor. Maybe not a cherry pick but a definite cherry coin!!!!!!

* * * * *

WEST COAST REGIONAL MEETING REPORT

Phil Moore

Jon Warshawsky chaired the Region 7 meeting at the Long Beach Coin Show, 7:00PM, Friday, February 11, 2000.

Those in attendance were:

Dan Demeo	Doug Bird	Sandy Pinnell
Alan Meghrig	Julian Leidman	Lee A. Richardson
Phil Moore	Doug McHenry	Bill Noyes
Jay Pinnell	Tom Reynolds	Bill Yates
Ron Shintaku	Gary Rosner	Jon Warshawsky

The discussion started with Jon asking how many in attendance were coming to the EAC convention in Florida. He followed this up with requests for volunteers to help staff the Large Cent Happening tables. Jon also mentioned that a 1794 Cent Whist Match was being arranged for the convention. Details will follow on this event. Bill Noyes also requested that everybody bring any of their significant large cents, which he may not have seen, to the convention for photographing.

Jon asked how many attended the March Wells Sale at Superior. Tom Reynolds stated that there was a small crowd but very active bidders. He further stated that a few of the pieces had dropped in rarity since March had bought them a decade or so ago, so the prices realized were considerably lower than when he had originally purchased them. Overall it was a strong sale of a high quality collection. Superior did not get catalogues mailed until shortly before the sale, which may have contributed to reduced turnout from the eastern collectors.

Tom announced the Charlotte Frankenfield had passed away the previous week. Our condolences go out to J.R. and his family. All in attendance signed a card that was mailed to J.R.

It was stated that a newly discovered 1796 C1 Half Cent was auctioned by Heritage recently in a slab as F15 for \$41,000. It was further stated that there may be a question of authenticity, although with the coin encapsulated it is difficult to draw any conclusion.

There were no new cherries found on the floor, although Tom reflected on an 1835 N18 in XF that he had purchased in a bulk lot in the Heritage auction at the FUN show, only to learn later that it actually was an N12. Doug Bird mentioned a new (?) Starred Reverse in VG8 that had wandered over to his table at FUN.

The discussion then turned to the Internet. Jon indicated he was putting together an Internet Panel Discussion for EAC 2000 that would focus on ways to promote early copper on the internet. It was mentioned that existing web sites using links to tie related sites such as coinfacts.com were utilizing Noyes photographs. Also many web sites use links to tie related sites together.

Our next scheduled western regional meeting will be at Long Beach on Friday, June 9, 2000 at 7:00 P.M.

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**EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS
Treasurer's Report 1999**

John D. Wright

	1999 Beginning	1 January	64,788.23
<u>Acct</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>In</u>	<u>Out</u>
101	Dues	37,588.00	37,588.00
102	Adverts	2,070.00	2,070.00
103	Interest	2,110.69	2,110.69
104	Donations	.00	.00
105	Issues	136.00	136.00
106	Tapes In	.00	
206	Tapes Out		.00
107	Medals In	24.00	
207	Medals Out		-975.00
108	Conv In	1,567.79	
208	Conv Out		-3,712.50
109	EACSale In	130.00	
209	EACSale Ou		-32,871.66
110	Other In	.00	
210	Other Out		.00
211	P-W Print		-26,923.58
212	P-W Postg		-7,802.53
213	P-W Suppt		.00
214	Organiz		-1,632.17
115	Libr In	55.00	
215	Libr Out		-36.50
	TOTALS	<u>43,681.48</u>	<u>-73,953.94</u>
	2000 Beginning Balance		<u>34,515.77</u>

108/208 – This includes checks written by the EAC Treasurer for the annual EAC convention, and funds delivered to the EAC Treasurer after the convention by the Convention Chairman to close out the Annual Convention account. It includes deposit-checks written for future conventions and does not include deposit-checks written in prior years for this convention. The Convention Chairman has his own accounting for convention receipts and expenditures handled by him.

109/209 – This includes checks written by the EAC Treasurer for the annual EAC Sale (including printing and mailing of the Sale catalog), and one buyback commission that was paid directly to the EAC Treasurer.

EAC lost two packets of sale coins and about \$325 cash in Tom Reynolds' robbery. This represents about a \$12,300 loss to EAC that may or may not be recovered. Normally consignors are paid from purchasers' payments. The EAC Treasurer wrote \$20,000 in checks to pay consignors this year because one buyer at the sale has not yet paid for his purchases. All consignors have now been paid in full. EAC thanks the two consignors who volunteered to wait the extra six months.

* * * * *

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 individuals are received by the membership committee before the May issue of P-W, all will be declared elected to full membership at that time. Chairman of the Membership Committee is Rod Burrese, 9743 Leacrest, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215.

NAME	CITY, STATE	MEMBER #
Peter J. Witkowski	New York, NY	4794
Richard Christie	Yorkville, IL	4795
George Wallace Powell, Jr.	Falls Church, VA	4796
Mark DiLaurs	Calobases, CA	4797
Ronald G. Kroupa	Cedar, MI	4798
Tadek Osipowicz	Bethesda, MD	4799
Steve Martin	Orlando, FL	4800
Eric A. Kreuter	Yorktown Hgts, NY	4801
Robert McGowan	Bath, ME	4802
Walter J. Lickteig	Chino Hills, CA	4803
Michael Powley	Port St. Lucie, FL	4804
Paul Totoritas	S. Farmingdale, NY	4805
Dan Maquire	Cape Canaveral, FI	4806
Hugh Broome	Donalsonville, GA	4807
Franc Vivalo	Mohegan Lake, NY	4808
Carl R. Loyd	Oroville, CA	4809
Roy Flora	Lahaina, HI	4810
John W. Myers	North Reading, MA	4811
Robert M. Roote, Jr.	Avoca, NY	4812
Robert Ueckert	San Antonio, TX	4813
Gary Groll	Crofton, MD	4814
Michael A. Iatesta	Lafayette, CO	4815
Sonny Gilbert	Panama City, FL	4816
Thomas Rothacker, Sr.	Middlesex, NJ	4817

* * * * *

COUNTERSTAMPED LARGE CENTS WANTED

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

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

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TALKING BEGINNERS - ATTRIBUTION - PART 4

Steve Carr

Last time, I ended "Talking Beginners" by saying we would attribute 1795's this time. I apologize to anyone who may be disappointed, but we're going to look at attributing late date cents (1843-1857) instead. Scheduling "difficulties" left me picture-less at the last moment and forced me to jump ahead a column. We'll come back to the 1795's in a couple months.

Late date large cents offer some of the toughest attributing problems for beginners. My earliest attempts at attributing these cents were done using Newcomb's United States Copper Cents 1816-1857. I was usually able to narrow the choices to (only) several different varieties, but then I would notice something on the coin that did not fit any of the possibilities. I'd set the coin down for a couple of days and then try again. Often this second attempt led to completely different varieties than the first. I got frustrated. Was it really this hard? Or did I just not have the knack for attributing these cents?

Fortunately, the answer to both was "no." My earliest attempts were with low grade (G-VG) coins. Many of the markers needed to identify late dates are worn, corroded, or nicked away on coins in this grade. When I started looking at higher grade coins (VF and up), I was able to attribute them with much less difficulty. But Bob Grellman's book Die Varieties of United States Cents 1840-1857 is what really makes attributing late dates fun and easy. Well, not necessarily THAT easy, but certainly fun!

What makes late dates harder to attribute is their similarity. By 1840, all the design elements, except the date, were present in the hub, which was used to make many individual dies. Thus, every die had similar placement of Liberty, the stars, legend, wreath, and denomination. That leaves only date placement and individual die changes (flow lining, cracks, crumbling, repairs, etc) as useful markers. This makes the differences between dies minuscule and attribution a fine art. After all, almost anyone can tell an 1823 N-1 from an N-2. But who can tell an 1849 N-27 from a late state N-29, even with a loupe. Proper attribution might even require breaking out the stereomicroscope!

The starting point for attributing late dates is the date placement. Once potential varieties are narrowed using this information, markers from individual die changes are used to make the final attribution. Since each die deteriorates in a unique way, these markers make identifying the coin a cinch.

Both Frank D. Andrews and Howard R. Newcomb used date position in their markers, but their descriptive terms for the alignment (touches, almost touches, distant, does not touch, very close, near, just touches, more distant, near, and embedded, are examples for 1848) just left too much room for interpretation. Fortunately, Jules Reiver developed a 6 point date reference system for identifying date number positions. His system was first published in *Penny Wise* (Volume V, p. 2, January 15, 1971) and was later used in Die Varieties of United States Cents 1840-1857. This column will look at this system.

This system uses numbers (from 0-9) to indicate date digit placement in relation to the bust, point of the hair curl, and the dentils. These numbers are arranged in line, from first point through sixth, to give the date reference number. A totally random number might be 4-7-5-6-3-7. This number is then referenced to a listing of date reference numbers by variety. The correct match or matches, narrows the number of possible varieties.

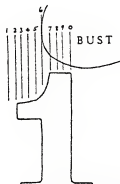
Before we look at these six, a few points need to be made. First, strike can affect date digit location. The digits on a strong strike will be wider and taller than those on a soft strike. Second, digits can "move" with die wear and die lapping. Third, the digits were punched into the dies with no concern as to whether they would align with Jules Reiver's system. In other words, digit position may not line up exactly (or in some cases, not even close) to those listed in Die Varieties of United States Cents 1840-1857. Fourth, large cents made from 1840 into 1843 have the "petite" head alignment. These cents use a 4 point date reference number that will be discussed in a later "Talking Beginners." Finally, according to Dan Argyro, the marker least likely to move is the point of the curl above the "8."

As Jules suggests in his article, you should indicate ALL the possible positions when you start identifying them.

Let's look at the six position markers.

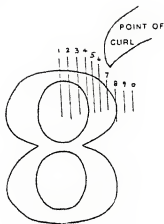
POSITION #1

This position identifies the vertical alignment of the point of the bust and the first (or only) "1" in the date. A line is "drawn" from the bust tip toward the edge, parallel to the upright of the "1." Where this line intersects the top of the "1" determines its date reference number.

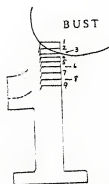


POSITION #2

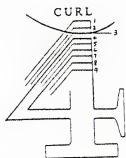
This position identifies the vertical alignment of the point of the curl and the "8." A line is drawn, parallel to the centerline of the "8," toward the rim. Where this line intersects the "8" determines its date reference number.

**POSITION #3**

This position identifies the distance between the top of the "1" and the bust.

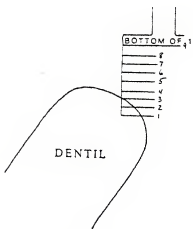
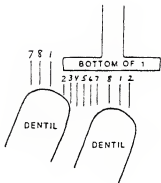
**POSITION #4**

This position identifies the relation of the top of the "4" or "5" and the curl above.



POSITION #5

This position identifies the vertical alignment of the left edge of the base of "1" and the dentil below.



POSITION #6

This position identifies the distance between the left edge of the base of "1" and the dentil below.

Going back to our theoretical date reference number (4-7-5-6-3-7), we would find that the bust tip extends about half way between the upright and the end of the serif, the point of the curl is just right of the center of the right side of the "8," the top of the "1" just touches the bust tip, the top of the "4" is moderately far from the curl, the bottom left side of the first "1" is even with the right side of a dentil, and the left edge of the base of the "1" is fairly high above the dentils. If we look this number up under the 1849 listings, we find two varieties that are similar, N-8 (4-7-5-6-3-7) and N-7 (4-7-5-5-2-5). To find the correct variety, we would have to look at the individual die markers, as listed in [Die Varieties of United States Cents 1840-1857](#).

Next time we will attribute a couple of late date cents.

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A special thanks to Bob Grellman and Jules Reiver for allowing their pictures to appear in this article.



American Numismatic
ASSOCIATION

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Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279
719 / 632-2646 • FAX: 719 / 634-4085
ana@money.org
<http://www.money.org>

November 8, 1999

Dear EAC Members,

The first steam press used by the US Mint to strike United States Large Cents will be exhibited at the ANA World's Fair of Money® in Philadelphia in August, 2000 and then will travel across the country to Colorado Springs for an extended educational exhibit at the ANA Museum. To commemorate this adventure, the press has been refurbished, refitted and will, once again, strike medals, thanks largely to the efforts of Joe Rust and Ron Landis of the Gallery Mint Museum.

On March 23, 2000, at the Franklin Institute Science Museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the 164 year old press will be presented to the Numismatic Community in a special ceremony. A very limited number of commemorative medals, modeled after the first steam press tokens struck on this press March 23, 1836, will be struck in gold, silver and copper. The dies will be designed and hand engraved by master engraver, Ron Landis. Master machinist, Joe Rust has agreed to be the chief coiner. The money raised will help to offset the cost of returning this magnificent machine to the numismatic community.

The gold and silver medals will be struck on a pre-order basis only at a cost of \$595 and \$50 respectively. The copper medals will be available at \$18 each. Fifty per-cent of this cost may be considered a tax deductible donation to ANA. Attendees at the March ceremony will be able to participate in the striking of their medals. The remainder will be sold at the Philadelphia Convention. The total number of medals sold will not exceed 20 gold, 200 silver and 2000 copper. Orders may be placed by phone with a credit card, or by mail with a check.

Since this historical coinage press was used to strike Large Cents from 1837 to 1857, it is of special interest to members of EAC and collectors of Early American coppers. Please consider supporting this project -- both as an organization, dedicated to the preservation of historical artifacts -- and as individuals.

Please let me know how you would like to participate, or if you have any questions, comments or suggestions. I can be reached at 719-632-2646, ext. 153; via e-mail at education@money.org; or by mail through the ANA. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Gail Baker
Director of Education

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Pre-Order Form

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City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

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_____	Silver	\$50	_____
_____	Copper	\$18	_____
_____	3-medal set	\$645	_____

Shipping and Handling (mail orders only) please add \$3.00 _____

Grand Total _____

____ Please send me an invitation to the Striking Ceremony on March 23, 2000 at the Franklin Institute Science Museum in Philadelphia, PA.

____ Visa ____ Mastercard ____ AmEx ____ Discover

Card Number _____ Exp Date _____

Pre-ordered medals may be picked up at the March 23rd ceremony, or, after April 1, 2000, they will be shipped from Colorado Springs. Fifty per-cent of the medal cost may be considered a tax deductible donation to ANA. Return this form with payment to: ANA Education Department, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 or call 719-632-2646 extension 153.

MAKING SENSE

John D. Wright

This year Napoleon announces that France must guard the coast of Spain against Britain. His armies invade both Italy and Spain, taking Barcelona, Madrid, Naples, and Capri. He abolishes the Inquisition in Spain and Italy. Extensive excavations are begun at Pompeii. Britain invades Portugal to oppose Napoleon in Spain, and *The Times* of London sends Henry Robinson as the world's first war correspondent, to cover the "Peninsular War."

This is also the year of the first performance of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony--used more recently as the theme piece for the movie "The Longest Day"--*ta-ta-ta-tummm*: Morse code for 'V' for Victory.

In the young United States, men's pigtails go out of style. Thomas Jefferson declines to run for a third Presidential term. Importation of slaves into the United States is banned, but open slave-trading and illegal imports continue. The *S.S. Phoenix* is the first steamship with an American-built engine. Next year this side-wheeler will make the first ocean voyage by a steamboat.

The U.S. Mint in Philadelphia strikes two denominations of copper coins, one of silver, and two of gold. One of the gold coins is a one-year type. This should be enough clues to pin the year down as 1808.

There were only 2710 quarter eagles coined in 1808, and since this is the only year of the large head, capped bust quarter eagle, this is probably the second rarest U.S. type coin. Silver coinage of 1808 was limited to 1.4 million half dollars, which was about the same number of cents and half cents combined.

The new "Classic Head" design, begun last year on half dollars and half eagles, is extended this year to cents and quarter eagles. Half cents will not use the new design until next year.

Half cents of 1808 come from two obverse and two reverse dies. One obverse has a small 8 over 7 and the other has a large normal 8. The 1808/7 half cent is scarce and popular, while the 'normal' tall 8 coins are quite common.

Large cents of 1808 come in three die varieties, none of which are scarce. One of these is often referred to as the "twelve star" variety, because the first star is opposite a large reverse die failure at D STATE and is often weak or missing. Classic Head cents (1808-1814) are normally found in low grades, dark, and rough. But a high grade piece of this type on a hard planchet is an item of true beauty.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JON WARSHAWSKY writes,

I very much enjoyed your assessment of Bill Noyes' Condition Census and photo project. Both your review and the article on the revised emission sequence of the 1794 'Reverse X' cents point to the renaissance the photo library will spur in cent numismatics and, perhaps, numismatics in general someday. It is true that our quest to 'make out the big cents' has been based on glimpses of the surviving coins, with comparatively few 'experts' having seen the entire picture.

What is really remarkable is that as much as EAC focuses on 200-year old coins and dusty old books (all of which I thoroughly enjoy!), technology may be changing the face of numismatics in the most positive way, by making information available to everyone. March Wells and I have discussed a presentation at EAC this year concerning the Internet and possibilities for this organization. While I will present a lot of ideas that are a few years away from acceptance or implementation, the basic premise is that we can take advantage of global access to information and the unique characteristics of early copper to remove the ambiguity and controversy from the identification of large cents and half cents. While grading will always have a subjective component, attribution, pedigree and price information does not.

The work that Sheldon started in the 1940s among his circle of acquaintances was destined to be incomplete given the technology of his era. I think over the next few years we can revisit his intentions and reconsider whether the grand plan of one Condition Census is now attainable. Because our membership owns an overwhelming proportion of the 'collectible' early cents, EAC is in a position to lead the online aspect of numismatics beyond the usual bid-and-buy sites, and in the process attract new members. While the Noyes-Lusk CD project is a great start, we need to think about how to compile the staggering amount of knowledge EAC generates into the most usable format.

Consider, for example, the series on the New Jersey coppers, which I do not collect. As a series of articles spanning years, this is hard-won data in an unwieldy format. Now, what if there was a database. . .

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RED HENRY writes,

Middle-date collectors, how many reverse rotations are known for 1816 N-2? I have three examples of this variety, with the reverses rotated very close to 2:00, 4:00, and 6:00. John Wright, in *The Cent Book*, states that this reverse is frequently seen rotated about 1/8 turn to the right, and occasionally crosswise (I presume this means to somewhere near 3:00). But are there other rotations besides these? Does the reverse go all the way around, making this a middle-date S-276? Please drop me a line, if you know of other rotations for this variety, and I'll publish the results in a future *P-W* article.

To all of you who have written, thank you for your kind responses to "The Girl on the Penny," last issue's article about Anne Willing Bingham. That article has drawn more interest and comments, by mail, e-mail, and word of mouth, than any other article I've ever written for *P-W*.

Early Date Report members, you should have received your copy of the "Century Edition" by the end of January. Please let me know if your copy has not arrived, or if your address has changed. Also, we have a special announcement to make: the electronic edition of EDR, giving a complete listing of all 131 collections (over 17,400 coins), is now available as an e-mail attachment, to EDR members only. If you would like to receive it, just send me a note and let me know whether you'd like to have the file in Microsoft Word format or as a plain text file. It will probably take two or three minutes to download when it comes into your computer.

I'm uncertain whether I can make it to this year's EAC Convention, so there is no Early Date Report Seminar scheduled for this year. Thanks for the interest which has been expressed. I do hope to schedule such a seminar at the 2001 Convention in Fredericksburg.

Red Henry, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, VA 22604 or redhenry@visuallink.com

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FRED ISKRA writes,

I plan on attending EAC 2000 without my better half. Is anyone interested in sharing a room and splitting the cost? This will be for the nights of April 6, 7, and 8.

Please contact me by e-mail at **Error! Bookmark not defined,**
or phone (320) 289-0044.

Thanks!

* * *

RAY ROUSE writes,

When I sent in my annual EAC dues, I included a note to John Wright that I was disappointed that EAC did not have a Life Membership, because it was a hassle renewing each year.

In return, I got a nice postcard from Mabel Ann that told me that you can pay ahead on your EAC dues, and that both she and John were paid up through 2009. It sounded good to me, so I got out the checkbook and sent in a \$175 check for an additional five years.

Other EAC members might consider doing the same.

A NOTE ON THE WAYNE ANDERSON COLLECTION SALE

IN THE "SWAPS AND SALES" SECTION TO FOLLOW, YOU WILL FIND A NOTICE OF THE WAYNE ANDERSON COLLECTION SALE. AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, WAYNE WAS THE FOUNDER AND FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE CONDER TOKEN COLLECTORS CLUB, AS WELL AS THE FIRST EDITOR OF ITS JOURNAL. WE HAD MANY LONG CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE LATTER, WHICH HE FREELY ADMITTED HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO MODEL ON PENNY-WISE. AND YOU ALL KNOW THE HIGH PERSONAL ESTEEM IN WHICH I HELD WAYNE. WHAT MANY OF YOU MAY NOT KNOW IS, WAYNE'S VAST KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF THE LATE 18th CENTURY TOKENS HAD ITS ROOTS IN HIS EARLY INVOLVEMENT WITH U.S. LARGE CENTS. OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS OF HIS LIFE, AS THE LAST OF HIS LARGE CENTS WERE SOLD PRIVATELY, HE CAME TO FOCUS EXCLUSIVELY ON THE CONDER SERIES. REALIZING THAT HE COULD NEVER HAVE THE LARGEST COLLECTION OF THESE FASCINATING PIECES, HE CHOSE TO CONCENTRATE ON ONLY THE FINEST POSSIBLE EXAMPLES OF SOME OF THE MOST INTERESTING TOKENS IN THE SERIES. THE SUBJECTS WILL BE FAMILIAR TO ALL TOKEN ENTHUSIASTS: SWANS, MARBLE PLAYERS, "SIR ORIGINAL," THE WILDMAN, AND THE GRAVESEND SHIP ARE JUST A FEW OF THE EXCEPTIONAL PIECES TO BE OFFERED. IN ADDITION TO OVER 370 TOKENS OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY, HIS COLLECTION OF RARE TOKEN REFERENCES WILL BE PART OF THIS SALE.

THE ENTIRE TOKEN COLLECTION WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING AT THE UPCOMING E.A.C. CONVENTION. I ENCOURAGE YOUR PARTICIPATION.

--The Editor.

SWAPS AND SALES

EAC'ers are invited to submit their ads for inclusion in the column. Ads up to twelve lines are free. ADS LARGER THAN 12 LINES MUST BE SUBMITTED CAMERA-READY, AND PAID IN ADVANCE. Due to increased production costs, effective immediately, a full page ad is \$100. Graphic and halftone setup is an additional \$60 per page. One third page is \$35. Ads should be limited to early American Coppers or tokens. Deadline for material to appear in the May 15 issue is April 30. 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 I 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 for 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.

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* * * * *

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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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.

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1839	N-10 NGC MS-63 BN, The Discovery Coin for the Doubled Die Reverse see the Internet region for details, discovered 9/99, ex heritage '99 ANA/G511	\$1,150

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1849	N16 AU-50 R-5, tied CC3 EAC '97 #371	\$2,500
1851	N10 20/12 R-1, Grellman, light rim nicks	\$ 75
1854	N7 VF-30 R-2, Grellman, nice surfaces	\$ 160
1854	N8 MS-63 R-3, Heritage Long Beach '97 #6770, tied CC #6	\$1,800
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1793	S-10, F-15, Av	2,900	1822	N-8, VG-8, AV	160
1793	S-9 Electro, VF	175	1824	N-5, Choice AG -3	145
1799	S-188, FA-2, AV. Late Die State, Rim Crack	1,400	1825	N-1, VG-10, Choice LDS	100
1801	S-218, FA-2, AV.	1,100	1826	N-5, VF-35, Choice	275
1801	S-218, AG-3, AV.	1,600	1826	N-5, VF-20, Choice	130
1801	S-218, G-4, AV	2,995	1830	N-6, G-6, Choice	30
1801	S-218, VG-7, Lt. Scratches AV.	4,000	1830	N-6, VG-10, Choice	210
1804	S-266a, VG-10 Choice	1,850	1830	N-6, VF-20, AV+	350
1807	S-272, VF Detail, Porous, Net G-6	1,700	1831	N-4, F-15, AV+	60
1807	S-272, PCGS G-4	1,995	1834	N-5, F-15, Choice	750
1807	S-272, PCGS G-6	2,400	1834	N-5, VF-20, Choice	999
1807	S-272, PCGS VG-8	2,750	1834	N-5, XF Detail, Scattered Mks. & Slight Pitting, Net F-15	799
1807	S-272, VG-7 AV	2,200	1835	N-4, G-6, Scudzy	90
1817	N-1 Sharp XF Detail, Micro Porosity, Net F-12	150	1835	N-13, LDS, Die Crack Thru Star #5, AV-, VG-8	150
1819	N-3, VF-30, Choice	600	1839	N-12, Dark VG-10, AV.	300
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EAC 2000 is almost upon us. We hope to attend, but I have a possible conflict that I may be unable to avoid.

CQR #17 is in the works. I hope to publish it by June 2000 Long Beach or by ANA 2000. As always, I need all the help I can get. Please give me any suggestions, comments, criticism, data, wishful thinking, auction results, private treaty pricing, new finds for CC, and/or anything else that you feel I may need to know to produce the best CQR ever. Remember, I can't do it if I don't have subscriber/EAC member support - and I really do try to do the best I can!!

I need a lot of help with Half Cents (everyone knows that, just putting it "on the record") - HELP!!

The February 2000 March Wells/Superior sale results were quite interesting.

Checks may be made payable to "Jack H. Robinson" or to "M&R", I offer:

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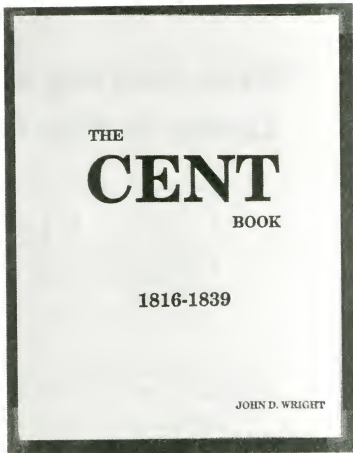
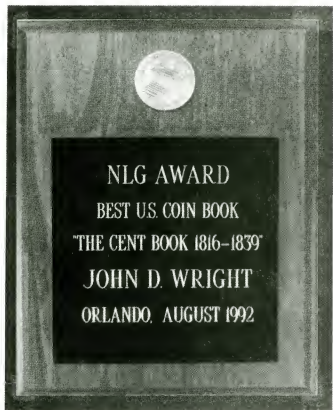
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