

# PENNY-WISE

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Volume XXXV Number 1

JANUARY 15, 2001

Consecutive Issue #202

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Penny-Wise, published continuously since 1967.

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Printing: Lithotechnical Services, Inc., 1600 West 92 Street, Minneapolis, MN 55431

## INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR: COLLECTING WEALTH

Harry E. Salyards

In his introduction to the December 11 issue of The Coin Collector, EAC'er Dave Bowers spoke at length on the subject of "'Building Wealth' vs. Enjoying Yourself." He lamented not only the tendency to mindlessly pile up dollars, but the equally mindless tendency to spend conspicuously to impress other mindless spenders. And he talked about a wealthy friend who "probably could have 50% more if he did not collect so intensely and extensively." But that friend would then have missed the "rich enjoyment" of building those collections--the excitement of the next prospective auction--the camaraderie of fellow collectors. And therein lies the real enrichment of collecting: making connections.

And what is "enrichment" after all, but building wealth--not necessarily 'dollars and cents on a balance sheet' wealth, but a wealth of connectedness--with the present world, and the world that has gone before. Collecting gives each collector a context--a personally-defined perimeter of meaning. Outside that perimeter, the Second Law of Thermodynamics rules--Everything tends from order to disorder, from preservation to decay. Inside that perimeter, each collector maintains a bastion against this tendency toward scatter. This requires an expenditure of energy (since the natural forces, whether of corrosion attacking a copper or mildew spotting a document, all run in the opposite direction--i.e., toward ruin.)

Furthermore, I submit that it is this fundamental, internally-generated energy that separates the true collector from the mere hoarder--be that a hoarder of electronic dollars on his balance sheet, or junk Morgan dollars in his basement. Each of those folks have bought into somebody else's view of reality. Those electronic dollars will buy prestige in somebody's ranking of the filthy rich, or that junk silver will be just what is needed to buy bread when the international economy collapses. Instead, the true collector is willing to say--this is how I define my collection; this is what I am looking to build. And in the process of building that collection, he discovers his pleasures multiplied a hundredfold by the unexpected connections.

I never cease to be amazed by that connection-making. A recent example: I purchased a set of Conyers Middleton's History of the Life of Marcus Tullius Cicero (London, 1750), primarily because it was inexpensive enough to be attractive as a leather binding restoration project (yet another of my hobbies!) My 11th edition Britannica told nothing about Middleton, even though the title pages describe him as "Principal Library-Keeper of the University of Cambridge." But before I could search any farther, along comes George Kolbe's Christmas greeting--with a copy of an offprint from the Journal of the History of Collections, "Sir Charles Frederick and the forgery of coins in eighteenth-century Rome"--a piece which could be read with benefit, by the way, by those persons paying five-figure prices for Sacajawea/Washington mules--wherein who should I find? None other than Conyers Middleton, prominent 18th century collector of Roman coins and other antiques, whose collection passed intact to Horace Walpole, and wasn't dispersed until 1842! Now you may say, who cares? But the point is, because I was able to make a connection, I care. And someone who has been dead for close to two and a half centuries has come alive again, in one man's mind in Nebraska! And in the glow of making that connection, I feel wealthy indeed.

\* \* \*

Personal announcement: Effective January 1, your editor began a two year term as chief of the medical staff at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital, a community hospital and regional referral center with a medical staff of approximately 75. This will entail additional time commitment on my part, and I would sincerely appreciate adherence to the deadlines for submissions. I also want to go on record as stating that an absolute deadline of February 26 will apply for the March issue, in order to insure timely delivery of the Sale catalog with it. I will enforce this. And don't assume that because you send it "Express Mail" it will be in my hands in the quoted "two to three days"--one Express Mail envelope sent from Pennsylvania on December 28 arrived here on January 8. A word to the wise. . .

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## **“The Internet – A Cherry Picker’s Treasure Trove”**

**Ed Fuhrman**

Collecting coins has been a passion of mine ever since I found my first Indian head cent in an old box my Grandfather gave me. I was only five years of age at the time, but I can still remember that moment very clearly. My collecting interests changed over the years until 1997 when I began collecting Draped Bust half cents. I believe every collector has fantasized about finding a buried treasure chest full of rare coins, or discovering some new coin or variety never seen before. On November 15<sup>th</sup> 2000, my fantasy became reality.

It was midafternoon and I was browsing the half cent listings on eBay when a coin listed as “1800 VF Draped Bust Half Cent No Reserve!!!” came up. The obverse of the coin had a nice chocolate brown color but had some scratches on the neck and drapery. After seeing this, I almost passed on it, but I decided to look at the reverse anyway. My eyes nearly popped out of my head!!! The reverse clearly had visible large cent undertype above the “AM” in AMERICA. I knocked over a few chairs and nearly trampled one of my cats as I made a mad dash for my Breen book. I knew the coin was rare, but I remember Breen writing that all known examples with undertype were from the early die states. This piece, however, clearly had all the diagnostics of the latest die state (Manley state 5.0). It had the open base of the hair curl left of the 1 in the date. The rust lump at the “E” in UNITED was very thick and connected to the wreath. The word “OF” was weak and the coin lacked dentilation overall.

At this point, I began an extensive search of all of my reference material including auction catalogs, fixed price lists, old books, or anything I thought might have more information. I found no record of a VLDS 1800 C1 half cent struck on a spoiled cent anywhere!! I was hesitant to contact any fellow EAC members until after the auction was over because I didn’t want to start a bidding war.

The last day of the auction finally arrived (Nov. 22). When I got online, the bid amount was still very low at \$115.77. I knew that I was not the only EAC member to have spotted this coin, so I was prepared. The first day the coin was posted, Ron Manley had placed a bid, so I knew I had

serious competition. With 2½ hours left in the auction, another bid was placed bringing the high bid to \$211.01. After that things got very quiet. I had hoped it would remain that way, but this was not to be the case. Five minutes left in the auction, and still no more bids. I was getting ready to make my move. Then suddenly, with two minutes remaining, a new bidder jumped in and tried to grab the coin. The price moved up quickly -- \$512.50, \$625.50, then \$725.50. Ron Manley still had the high bid. With only one minute left in the auction, I made my move. I entered the highest bid I could afford and to my utter surprise I won the lot at \$1,225.10.



Afterwards, I spoke to Ron and he congratulated me on having the winning bid. It was at that time that I learned of the coin's true rarity and importance. I knew the coin was very rare to begin with, but I never imagined it would turn out to be the discovery coin for a LDS 1800 C1 struck on a spoiled cent planchet.

Who knows what other rare half cent rarities will show up in the future. Maybe an 1802 C1 or perhaps an 1804 C2. Only time will tell...

\*\*\*\*\*

## A Late Die State 1800 C1 Half Cent With Large Cent Undertype

Ron Manley

The discovery specimen of a very late die state (VLDS) 1800 C1 half cent with large cent (LC) undertype appeared unattributed in an eBay auction on the Internet in late November 2000. It clearly is one of the last 1800 half cents struck, being from my State 5.0. Its discoverers (all EAC members) are listed in bidding order and include myself, Mike Bristow, John Wright, Paul Hofseth, and Edward Fuhrman (see Ed's accompanying article for a full description of the coin and its undertype).

At the end of the eighteenth century, prepared half cent planchets were unavailable at the Philadelphia Mint. No half cents were struck in 1798 and the half cents delivered in 1799 are believed to have been struck in 1797 (1-3). In the spring of 1800, the Mint began using rolled-out spoiled cents to strike new half cents. These numbered about 20,978 pieces (1,3). Most (3), if not all (1) of these, however, were dated 1797. This was the 1797 "low heads" mintage.

Although most 1800-dated half cents were struck on prepared Boulton planchets which arrived by ship from England on July 8, 1800, a few thousand 1800 C1 half cents were struck over spoiled cents. All 1802-dated half cents are believed struck on cut-down spoiled cent planchets. However, 1800 C1 half cents struck over spoiled cents remain rare.

The finest known example was in the William H. Cottier collection, sold by Edouard Frossard in 1882 (3). This uncirculated half cent clearly shows undertype from a 1798 large cent and is plated on page 198 of Walter Breen's half cent book (3). In 1913, this coin was willed by the Joseph C. Mitchelson estate to the Connecticut State Library. However, before 1972, the existence of 1800 half cents struck on spoiled cent planchets was generally unknown. By 1983, Roger Cohen knew of six specimens (2) and Walter Breen four (3). Probably fewer than a dozen survivors are confirmed today. *Until the discovery reported here, all those known were early die state (EDS) coins.*

At the EAC 2000 Half Cent Happening, 1800 C1 was a featured variety. R. Tettenhorst displayed four low grade examples with visible large cent undertype. Although wear and the presence of undertype made die state determinations difficult, none appeared to be late strikes. None were expected. Walter Breen wrote: "Archive records are absolutely clear that these [half cents coined in September 1800] and later deliveries through December 12, 1800 were all on the new Welsh copper planchets from Boulton & Watt, which had arrived on July 8" (3). Thus, the discovery of a VLDS 1800 half cent with LC undertype is a significant find.

In my July 2000 article, I may have unknowingly predicted this discovery: "It seems more half cents were delivered from September-December 1800 than there were available planchets. A possible solution to this renewed dilemma would be if a small quantity of 1800 half cents on

spoiled cent stock were included with the vast majority on Boulton & Watt stock in these deliveries” (1).

The few 1800 C1 half cents with LC undertype sold at public auction have all brought significant prices. In Superior’s 1992 sale of the Roger Cohen, Jr. collection, lot 102 (an EDS piece miscatalogued as late die state) realized \$1,430, although it was only graded Good 4. A second EDS example (lot 103) graded About Good 3 sold for \$578. The scudzy example in McCawley & Grellman’s January 1997 sale went for \$610. This new, unique LDS find was no exception, bringing a profit of over \$1,000 to the surprised seller.



**Figure. Large cent undertype from NIT on the reverse of a newly discovered very late die state 1800 C1 half cent.**

I have been unable to attribute the Sheldon variety from the LC undertype on this VLDS 1800 C1 with complete certainty. However, it closely matches the 1798 variety S157. The only possible matches among 1800 cent varieties are S199 and S200.

Are there additional VLDS examples of 1800 half cents on spoiled cent planchet stock waiting to be discovered? I believe there must be. The cut-down large cents used were rather excessively rolled out, creating underweight half cents. It is unclear whether the thin half cents that resulted were due to intentional attempts to eliminate LC undertype or not. Either way, all 1800 and 1802 half cents struck on spoiled cents whose weights are known to me are light weight (typically 73-80 grains) and few show visible undertype. The discovery coin from the VLDS is also light weight at 78.0 grains (5).

Certainly not all VLDS 1800 half cents were struck on spoiled cents. A State 5.0 piece in my collection, for example, weighs 86.4 grains and was evidently one of the many struck on a



## The Strawberry Leaf Cents - Real or Counterfeit?

Craig Sholley

The Strawberry Leaf Cents are as controversial as they are famous. Throughout their history they have been called re-tooled fakes, counterfeits, patterns, and genuine. Crosby considered them genuine, Sheldon thought they were patterns, and Breen initially called them patterns, but then changed his mind. More recently Eric Newman has called them numismatic fakes from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and at the 1996 ANS Coinage of the Americas Conference Dr. John Kleeberg presented a paper asserting they are contemporary counterfeits.

For the purposes of this discussion I'll mainly address Kleeberg's paper, as it's the only published argument that these coins are fake. This paper also has as its basis what I feel is the basic flaw in all of the "these are counterfeit" arguments.

In his paper Kleeberg stated that he looked closely at the letters on the reverses and concluded that they were hand-cut, not punched. He also states that he looked at the vines and bars on the edge and likewise concluded that they were hand cut. Since genuine Mint product was struck from dies that were made with punches, Kleeberg thus concludes that the Strawberry Leaf Cents are counterfeits.

And this is the flaw in the argument. Aside from the Parmelee-Staples coin which has not been seen in years, the Strawberry Leaf Cents are not nice coins. The ANS NC3 is an AG3 and the privately held one is a corroded G4. The unique NC2 is only a Fair 2. So, reduced to its ultimate simplicity, the "counterfeit" argument is: "We've looked at three low grade/corroded coins and the letters don't look right so the coins are counterfeit." As anyone who has looked at a high-grade coin versus a low-grade, worn-out, and corroded one can tell you, this is not a good basis for such an argument!

Having said that, let's take a look at some of the specific points raised in Kleeberg's paper that he claims shows that the letters are hand cut (see figs. 1 and 2). On the ANS NC3, he notes that the N in ONE is small and does not have much of a base to its left foot, whereas the N in CENT is bigger and has a big base to its left foot. He also points out that the lower serif of the first S in STATES lines up with the side and top, but the lower serif of the second S extends a bit further to the left. Regarding the E's, he notes that the E in CENT is "crowded" with the top pendant touching the crossbar, that the E in ONE is less "crowded", and the E in STATES is rather loose.

Comparing the reverses of NC2 and NC3, he notes that the top of the T in CENT on NC2 is "crowded" while the top of the T on NC3 is broad and that the lettering on NC2 is larger than on NC3. He then states that, in his opinion, the edges on the Strawberry Leaf Cents do not match other wreath cents and that the edge devices are therefore likewise hand cut.

As a result of these features, Kleeberg concludes that the letters and edges are hand cut and that the Strawberry Leaf Cents are thus counterfeits. Attempting to further support his theory,

Kleeberg mentions that the heads and bows do not match any other 1793 cent and that, in his opinion, the diameters of the Strawberry Leaf Cents vary while the diameters of the other Wreath cents are “carefully controlled”.

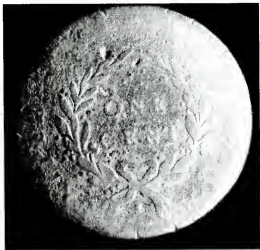


Fig. 1 - NC2 reverse



Fig. 2 - NC3 reverse

Kleeberg’s arguments appear to be pretty good until you start looking at other low-grade coins. As part of this study I looked at 25 lower grade S5s through S9s (reverses F, G, and H) and found the same differences in the lettering on these coins that Kleeberg uses to contend that the lettering on Strawberry Leafs are hand cut. I don’t want to belabor the point with a massive number of photos, so I’ll just use a couple S7s.



Fig. 3 - S7 reverse



Fig. 4 - S7 reverse (heavily worn)

Not only do these photos show the drastic effects wear, corrosion and damage can have on the appearance of the letters, but they also show three of the four points Kleeberg uses to claim that the letters are hand cut! Note that on the better of the two, the Ss in STATES appear a bit different - the lower serif of the last S looks further left than that on the first. Likewise the Ns in ONE and CENT appear a bit different, with the N in ONE looking a bit smaller overall than that

in CENT. The Es also look different. The E in ONE is “crowded” (also note the damage), the E in CENT a bit more open, and the E in UNITED very open. And look at what the wear has done on the lower grade coin. All the letters look much “fatter” and some are seriously distorted. In fact, they hardly even look like the same letters! So, just from this one example we can clearly see that criteria Kleeberg used to determine that the letters on the reverses of NC2 and NC3 are hand cut does not hold.

Furthermore, there are some interesting similarities between the Strawberry Leaf reverses and the reverse of S7. First, note the similarity in the T in CENT on the NC3 to that on the S7 - these are the same punch. Likewise the Os in ONE are very close as are the Cs. The laurel leaves in the wreath also match between NC3 and S7. To compare just a couple, look at the leaves below the Ts in STATES on S7 and compare them with those below TA on NC3 - they’re the same punch. Comparisons can likewise be made between several others.

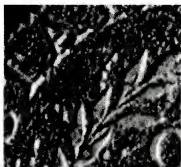


Fig. 5 - S7 laurel leaves



Fig. 6 – NC3 laurel leaves

Now I’d like to compare the so-called “strawberry leaves” or trefoils. In particular note the left leaf of the triplet - it ends to be a bit longer than the right leaf and the angle between the left and top leaf is more open. The leaves below I in AMERICA on the S7 show this particularly well. Now look at the inside leaves on the NC3 and you will see the same features!

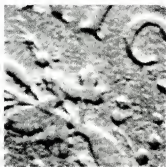


Fig. 7 - S7 trefoil



Fig. 8 – NC3 trefoil

Computer graphic overlays show that these apparent matchings are not just a visual anomaly. Both the letters noted and both laurel and the trefoils match very well between the reverse of S7 and the reverse of both NC2 and NC3. Thus I completely agree with Breen’s claim that these pieces are “punch linked” to known Mint product.

Kleeberg's claim that the edges do not match to other Wreath cents is also quite wrong. At both the 2000 EAC and ANA conventions I stacked both privately held Strawberry Leaf Cents with some worn Wreath Cents (S5 and S7). Not only did the pattern match perfectly, but those who stopped by to view them, including Bill Noyes, were unable to tell which coins were which. I did take photos but they unfortunately turned out too dark to scan for publication.

As to Kleeberg's comments that the heads and bows don't match any other Wreath cent, this should come as no surprise. The heads and bows were hand cut; none of them match. If this lack of matching is criteria for being a counterfeit, then every single Wreath cent is a counterfeit!

The last two points I'll address from Kleeberg's article are the weights and his comment concerning the diameters of these coins. Kleeberg notes that, allowing for wear, the weights of the Strawberry Leafs are "good". But, as to the diameters he states that the Strawberry Leafs vary whereas other Wreath Cents are "carefully controlled". Now, I don't know how he arrived at these conclusions, but he's quite wrong. The Wreath Cents I've measured so far (about 30) vary in diameter by as much as .048", running from 1.066" to 1.114". The Strawberry Leafs measure 1.062 to 1.065. Thus, the diameters of the Strawberry Leafs are far less variable than other Wreath Cents and, allowing for wear, well within the range of the known diameters for this type of cent.

Since the punches and edges match to other Wreath cents, the diameters are good, and the weights are good, the Strawberry Leaf Cents are genuine Mint product and Kleeberg's argument that they are contemporary counterfeits is totally disproved.

The last point I want to discuss is Eric Newman's argument that the Strawberry Leafs are numismatic counterfeits of the 1860s re-engraved from another variety with the metal just "moved around". Eric and I have had a couple discussions on this, and he is disturbed by the low grade and appearance, feeling that they have been artificially aged. Again, we have the argument that because the coins are low grade and "don't look right" they're counterfeits.

Eric's argument fails on several points:

1. As I've pointed out to Eric, "low grade" is not a good argument that the coins are counterfeit. 95% of the other NCs are just as low grade and ugly, so if you use this argument then the other NCs that cannot be die-linked to other varieties are, by extension, also fake. This is not a good position.
2. Eric proposes a re-tooling of a genuine coins and keeping them "in weight" by merely pushing the metal around. This argument does effectively counter the fact that all known period counterfeits are low in weight whereas the weights of Strawberry Leafs are within the expected range. However, it does create other problems. First, as Kleeberg points out, the two reverses are punch linked to each other - ONE CENT on each being the same. Other letters, the wreath leaves and trefoils also match. Secondly, as I've pointed out, the reverses are punch-linked to known Mint product. So, the reverses are die struck and have not been tooled. This leaves the only the obverse that could have been tooled. Since the reverses do

not appear on any other varieties, these coins were already rare varieties before any tooling was done. The proposition that someone with enough knowledge to create rare numismatic fakes would choose already genuinely rare varieties for alteration is absolutely inane.

3. The trefoils on the obverse are the exact same punch as those on the reverse. To me this clearly shows that the obverses are not "tooled", but rather were prepared using the same punches as the reverse. Newman argues that the trefoils could have been shaved from another coin and fused on to the obverse and the coins artificially aged to hide the addition. However, this argument really doesn't hold up to serious examination. First, while the technology to perform the suggested operation certainly existed from the later part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century on, it did not exist 140 years ago. Secondly, the fact remains that he is still proposing the tooling of already rare varieties - this is silly.

To sum this up, comparison to other NCs show these coins are not artificially aged, the weights are good, the diameters are good, the punches match other varieties, and the coins are not "tooled". The objective evidence is that Strawberry Leaf cents are genuine while there's not a single piece of solid evidence that they are not.

So, now I suppose the last question is where the Strawberry Leaf cents fit in the emission sequence. With no die chain to other varieties, this becomes a bit of a guess. However, in looking at all of the varieties next to each other and noting both similarities and differences, it is my conclusion that they are a transitional design between the Chain cents and the other Wreath cents. I thus consider them to be the first of the Wreath-type cents.

\* \* \* \* \*

## EARLY DIE STATE PROGRESSION ON 1807 HALF CENTS

Bill Weber

Greg and Lisa Heim – with their customary foresight and affection for the series – will again enhance EAC's upcoming Half Cent Happening. They've requested we bring our early and late state 1807's for an in depth die state study. Happening participants can/will derive more factual, confirmable data regarding the 1807's availability, various die states and census levels then ever before possible.

Provided below for your comparison and comment are aspects I've noted on a few early die state 1807's. Each coin will be available for further viewing next March in Fredricksburg.

Early Die State 1 – Diagnostic Keys:

1. Obv. and rev. fields are perfectly **smooth and flat**.
2. Incomplete dentil below foot of 7.

State #1 F/VF CSNA – 5/84:

OBV: **NO** faint wavy die crack from top of 7. Faint but clear shallow die pits opposite Liberty's lips. Full dentilation.

REV: Both **T**'s in **STATES** have defective **right** serifs – as if the tips were broken. Inner curl of D and left upright of T2 are repunched. Vestige of spine at tip of 4th leaf on right branch. No dentils from T2 to M.  
83.6 gr. 23.6 mm. D/S **early** 1.0 D/R 12:00.

State #1 EF Thompson – 6/56: Cohen's early die state Plate Coin.

OBV: Faint wavy die crack to left and right from top of 7. Faint but clear shallow die pits opposite Liberty's lips. Full dentilation.

REV: **T** in **CENT** is normal – **all other T's** have defective right serifs. Vestige of spine from tip of 4th leaf. NO details from T2 to M.  
82.3 gr. 23.7 mm. D/S 1.0 D/R CCW 11:55.

State #1 VF George – 11/00:

OBV: All features are as described for Thompson example above.

REV: **All T's** have defective right serifs. Vestige of spine from tip of 4th leaf. NO dentils from T2 to M.  
85.3 gr. 23.5 mm. D/S 1.0.

Nice 1807's of Die State 1.5 evidence a "halo" like quality of their borders created by die wear or other treatment, i.e. lapping or rehardening. **Very little** if any loss of detail in Liberty, 1807 or dentils.

#### 1.5 Die State Diagnostic Keys:

1. Obverse and reverse border fields evidence a "halo" of satiny, cartwheel like qualities and the **appearance** of being slightly convex.
2. Dentil below foot of 7 is fully formed.

State #1.5 AU George – 11/00:

OBV: Faint wavy crack from top of 7. Die pit below O and opposite Liberty's lips. Outer border "halo" from K-8 to K-5. Dentilation, LIBERTY and date are bold.

REV: **All T's** have defective right serifs. A complete "halo" with satiny surfaces beneath the entire legend and fraction. NO vestige of spine from tip of 4th leaf. NO dentils from D to M. 84.9 gr. 23.5 mm. D/S 1.5

State #1.75 AU Hugh Campbell – 6/67: Ex-Steigerwalt's sale 5/07, New Netherlands 59th sale 6/67. Plated in Breen (in error) as State III.

OBV: Very slightly off-center, dentils and top of LIBERTY lack full detail. Other features are as described for State 1.5 above.

REV: The right side of I and second **A** in **AMERICA** are recut. NO dentils from E2 to M. Other features are as described for State 1.5 above.  
85.8 gr. 23.5 mm. D/S 2.0 D/R 12:00

\* \* \* \* \*

## NEW JERSEY COPPERS, PART 50: MARIS 21 ½ -R, 23 ½ -R

Ray Williams

Since the last issue of *Penny-Wise*, another C-4 Convention and NJ Copper Symposium are now history. Thanks to all who contributed to the educational events! Diane was again successful in locating a numismatic stocking stuffer this year – a French Colonies copper. It's not a horse-head, but it sure beats getting socks and a tie!

Due to a number of situations, we'll only be discussing the Maris 21 ½-R and 23 ½-R varieties. Also, on January 16<sup>th</sup>, Stack's will be auctioning the "William O'Donnell Collection of New Jersey Coppers." The 84 lots contained in his collection are all important for anyone doing pedigree and condition census research. I've made a list of these New Jersey's, with grade and pedigree. You can insert this information in past condition census reports. Every coin is either high condition census, Maris plate and/or well pedigreed. Let's start with the Maris 21 ½-R.

### Maris 21 ½ -R; Rarity 8

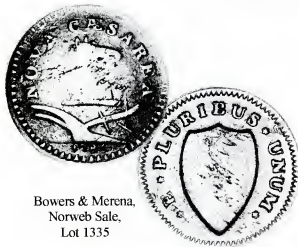
In the Stack's Picker Sale Catalog, the plated 21 ½-R is listed as being the unique coin that was on Plate 9 of the 1914 ANS Exhibition Catalog. Since then, a VF example has been found in the Western Collection. Wouldn't it be nice if someone out there could find a misattributed R reverse, and it turned out to be a 21 ½! The head is large; the date is small with the numerals closely spaced. There is a period after the legend. The obverse and reverse are aligned medal turn for the ANS coin. This fact, along with stylistic similarities of the head, is reminiscent of some of the coulterless variety characteristics. Hillyer Ryder is credited with discovering this variety, and the first appearance of the designation 21 ½-R (to the best of my knowledge) is in the Gutttag Brothers 1927 Catalog. The line drawing in the Gutttag work seems to be of a higher-grade coin than the Picker coin. Could it have been made from the VF example in the Western Collection?



Maris 21 ½-R, Stack's Picker Sale  
Lot 199

Maris #	Pseudonym	Condition	Pedigree	Comments
21.5-R	Western Collection	VF		
21.5-R	Eastern Collection	VG	Stack's Picker Sale, lot	

**Maris 23 ½ -R; Rarity 7**



Bowers & Merena,  
Norweb Sale,  
Lot 1335

The 23 ½ obverse is very similar to that of the 21 ½. The main differences are that the 23 ½ has no stop (period) after the legend, and the handles extend further with respect to the N on the 23 ½ obverse. This variety was discovered by Dr. Hall in 1895. The Norweb description claims four are known; Bill Anton at the First NJ Symposium claimed two exist. The Wierzb-Siboni Census has three known examples. I don't know who the "Connecticut Collection" is, that is referred to in the Norweb sale. The most accurate census that I can determine is below, consisting of three varieties.

Maris #	Pseudonym	Condition	Pedigree	Comments
23.5-R	Norweb Collection	VF+		
23.5-R	Western Collection	VG		
23.5-R	Western Collection	G	ex Ted Craig	

**The William O'Donnell Collection of New Jersey Coppers  
Auctioned by Stack's, January 16, 2001**

Lot #	Variety	Grade	Rarity	Pedigree
91	6-C	VF	4	Oechsner lot 1240; Spiro lot 1431
92	6-D	EF	1	B & M 11/93 lot 2017; Stack's 3/59 lot 430
93	8 ½-C	VF	8	Taylor lot 2157; ex Picker
94	9-G	VF	7	Oechsner lot 1242; Spiro lot 1436
95	10-G	VF	6	Boyd Brand Ryder, lot 1207
96	10-h	VF	7	Oechsner lot 1243; Spiro lot 1438
97	10-gg	VF	8	Superior 2/99
98	10 ½-C	F	9	Stack's 1/93 lot 990
99	11-H	VF	5	Foreman lot 131; Bareford lot 105; Spiro lot 1439
100	11 ½-G	F	7	
101	12-G	EF	4	Stack's privately
102	12-I	F	4	Barnes lot 6; Picker lot 184; Garrett; Maris
103	13-J	EF	6	
104	14-J	EF	2	Maris Obverse Plate Coin
105	15-J	UNC	4	Maris Obverse Plate Coin ex J W Garrett lot 1400
106	15-T	AU	4	Stack's 1/98 lot 175; Oechsner lot 1249; Spiro lot 1452
107	15-U	VF	5	Barnes lot 12
108	16-L	VF	2	EAN 10/98 lot 633
109	17-J	VF	4	Maris Obverse Plate Coin; Picker lot 187; Garrett; Maris lot 373
110	17-b	EF	1	B&M 3/90 lot 1220
111	18-J	VF	6	Griffee lot 32; B&M 9/88 lot 3083
112	18-M	VF	1	Griffee lot 33; Norweb lot 1326
113	18-N	VF	5	

Lot #	Variety	Grade	Rarity	Pedigree
114	20-N	EF	4	Taylor lot 2183
115	21-N	AU	3	Bareford lot 129
116	21-O	EF	4	Picker lot 197
117	21-P	VF	5	Barnes lot 337
118	21-R	VG	7	
119	23-P	EF	4	Stack's 6/97 lot 940; J W Garrett lot 1416; Maris Collection lot 395
120	23-R	VF	2	Maris Plate Coin; Stack's 1/93 lot 997; Picker lot 201; J W Garrett; Maris Collection
121	24-P	AU	2	Stack's FPL Fall 92 lot 313
122	24-R	VF	5	Stack's 3/94 lot 327; H Garrett lot 1341
123	27-S	EF	5	Maris Obverse Plate Coin; J W Garrett lot 1421
124	27-j	EF	7	Oechsner lot 1269; Spiro lot 1490
125	28-L	EF	3	Stack's FPL; Taylor lot 2198
126	29-L	VF/EF	4	Griffie lot 49; Taylor lot 2201
127	32-T	AU	3	
128	33-U	VF	5	H Garrett lot 1353
129	34-J	EF	2	
130	35-J	VG	6	
131	37-J	VF	5	
132	37-X	VF	6	Oechsner lot 1277
133	38-Y	VF	3	Picker lot 213
134	38-Z	VF/EF	4	
135	38-b	AU	6	H Garrett lot 1369
136	38-c	VF	3	Picker lot 216; J W Garrett; Maris
137	41-c	VF	5	Taylor lot 2221
138	42-c	F	5	Maris Plate Coin; Taylor lot 2223; Mass Historical Society lot 99
139	43-Y	VF	4	Barnes lot 59
140	44-d	VF/EF	4	Picker lot 218; J W Garrett; Maris
141	45-d	EF	5	Maris Obverse Plate Coin; Taylor lot 2228
142	45-e	VF	5	Picker lot 218; J W Garrett; Maris
143	46-e	AU	1	
144	47-e	VF	5	
145	48-f	F	3	Barnes lot 72
146	48-g	AU	1	Griffie lot 80; J W Garrett lot 1445
147	49-f	AU	5	Tony Terranova
148	50-f	VF	2	Oechsner lot 1290
149	51-g	EF	5	Sherr lot 3225; J W Garrett lot 1449; Foreman lot 1408
150	52-i	AU	3	
151	53-j	AU	4	Maris Plate Coin; J W Garrett lot 1451
152	54-k	EF	2	Stack's privately
153	55-l	EF	5	Picker lot 228; J W Garrett; Maris
154	55-l	VF	5	B&M 3/90 lot 1253; Chapman 11/11 lot 167
155	55-m	EF	4	
156	55-m	VF	4	76 EAC lot 2040
157	56-n	EF	1	Taylor lot 2245; Chapman 9/31 lot 1001
158	57-n	F/VF	6	
159	58-n	VF	4	Stack's 1/93 lot 1010; B&M 11/91 lot 207; Chapman 4/04 lot 457
160	62-g	AU	2	Eliasberg lot 79
161	63-r	EF	5	Taylor lot 2260

Lot #	Variety	Grade	Rarity	Pedigree
162	63-s	EF	1	
163	64-t	AU	1	H Garrett lot 1427; B&R 10/80 lot 1467
164	64-u	F	5	Picker lot 240; J W Garrett; Maris
165	66-v	EF	5	Stack's 1/93 lot 1018; Hessberg lot 1328
166	67-v	EF	1	Picker lot 243
167	68-w	VF	5	Taylor lot 2273
168	72-z	EF	5	Maris Plate Coin; H Garrett lot 1439; B&R 10/80 lot 1477; Maris Collection lot 487
169	72-z	F	5	
170	73-aa	EF	4	Breen Plate Coin; Picker lot 245
171	75-bb	VF	4	H Garrett lot 1446
172	76-cc	VF	7	Maris Plate Coin; H Garrett lot 1447; B&R 10/80 lot 1482; Maris Collection lot 492
173	77-dd	AU	4	Eliasberg lot 83
174	83-ii	F	7	Taylor lot 2289

This collection contains 81 different varieties, all of which are significant for one reason or another. Mike Hodder has again done an outstanding job cataloging. Each O'Donnell Coin is plated, weighed, rarity given, nicely described and pedigreed. There are over 250 lots of colonials and 52 New Jersey coppers in addition to the O'Donnell collection (all but 5 are plated). If you are not on the Stack's mailing list, you should call and purchase a copy of this sale – it deserves a place in your library next to Spiro, Garrett III, Norweb, Oechsner, etc.

The next condition census in the March 2001 Issue of Penny-Wise will cover Maris 23-P and 23-R. Any comments about these should be sent to me before February 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to become a part of this census, please contact me. I'll see you all in Virginia for the EAC Convention.

Happy Hunting,

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 609-587-5929 raydianewilliams@juno.com

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**COUNTERSTAMPED LARGE CENTS WANTED**

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

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

# Updated Rarity Estimates for Draped Bust Half Cents

William R. Eckberg

I have examined the surviving half cent population by recording those offered at auction on eBay (1). This database now contains more than 3% of the estimated surviving population. Previous articles have examined the Classic Head and Coronet types (2, 3). This report will focus on providing updated rarity estimates for the Draped Bust half cents. It is followed by a separate article identifying the probable delivery dates of each variety and thereby the probable actual mintages for the 1803-08-dated issues. Ron Manley and Roger Cohen examined the mintages of the 1800 and 1802 issues (4, 5).

## Surviving Population and Original Mintage Estimates

I have shown that the survival of half cents varies somewhat by type and that the surviving fraction of Draped Busts is approximately 1.35% of the original mintage. The derivation and validation of these estimates were reported previously (1). The reported mintages for these dates are given in Table 1. We can test whether or not survivorship is proportional to the reported mintage using the chi-square test (described in 1).

Table 1. Chi-square test of the surviving population of 1803-1808 half cents.

year	reported	percent	observed	expected	$\chi^2$
1803	97,900	3.1	181	43.3	438.50
1804	1,055,312	33.0	588	466.4	31.73
1805	814,464	25.5	116	359.9	165.31
1806	356,000	11.1	250	157.3	54.59
1807	476,000	14.9	143	210.4	21.57
1808	400,000	12.5	136	176.8	9.40
	3,199,676	100.0	1414	1414.0	721.10

The chi-square value calculated is very large. As a date, the 1803 is about four times as common and the 1805 is about one-third as common as the mintage predicts. While these are the most divergent, none of the dates survives in expected numbers. Therefore, either survivorship is not proportional to mintage or the reported mintage figures do not reflect the dates on the coins. Both could be correct. However, as I have noted elsewhere, there are logical reasons for each case where the survivorship of a date or variety is known not to be in proportion to other dates in the group, and only proportional survivorship is a testable null hypothesis (2). Until there is evidence otherwise, the best conclusion is that the reported mintage figures do not reflect the dates on the coins. It is well known that it was common practice for the Mint to use dies in years after the date on the die. A rigorous and independent test of our hypothesis that survivorship is proportional to the actual (as opposed to reported) mintage appears in the accompanying article.

The survival estimates reported herein were derived in two ways. For all common to scarce (R1-R3) varieties other than the 1804 C6, the estimated number of survivors was determined from the frequency at which the variety appeared on eBay. This exception is discussed below. For coins that appeared to be R4 and higher, I consulted Ron Manley,

Mike Packard and Frank Wilkinson. This was necessary as the R5-7 varieties and the 1804 C7 are underrepresented in the eBay database. The estimates given for such varieties, shown in *italic* type in the tables, are those for which the estimates were derived with the generous help of these respected specialists. For the other R4 varieties, the numbers obtained in these discussions confirmed the eBay data. Estimates derived directly from the data are in **bold roman** type. Any errors are my own as final assignments are mine. Numbers larger than 1,000 are rounded to the nearest 100; those between 50-950 are rounded to the nearest 10.

#### 1800-1802

Ron Manley has recently (4 and personal communication) derived corrected mintage figures for these dates. My own findings show that the 1802 C2 is R2+, with nearly 800 specimens in existence. That is twice as many as would be expected from the mintage and the overall survival data for Draped Bust half cents. This is not surprising, as the 1802 half cents, like those of 1796 and 1811, have been known for many years to be the rarest half cent dates. Like these, they must have been saved out of proportion, so the date is more common than would be expected from the mintage. I find the 1800 C1 to be R2. This is consistent with reports in the 1/200 Survey and other published rarity ratings, but it is slightly scarcer than would be expected from the mintage (4).

		estimated	
		survival	R
1800	C1	1,400	2
1802	C1	16	6
	C2	790	2+

#### 1803

There are four varieties from this date, two of which are common and two of which are quite scarce.

		estimated		estimated
		survival	R	mintage
1803	C1	3,200	1	227,200
	C2	80	4+	6,100
	C3	2,100	1+	151,500
	C4	350	3+	24,600

The C2 variety is described as R5 in Cohen, Breen and the 1/200 Survey, and R4+ in CQR; the latter estimate seems more accurate. The C3 and C4 appear to be less common than had been supposed. The C3 barely reaches R1. The C4 has been considered R3. My findings place it near the high end of R3.

#### 1804

There are twelve varieties of this date. Five are common, five are scarce to very scarce, and two are rare to very rare. The C13 is the commonest half cent in circulated condition. Cohen (6) estimated that about one-quarter of all 1804 half cents are of this variety. My findings indicate that it accounts for more than one-third, making it more

common than Cohen suggested and the commonest half cent by far in circulated condition. It is even more common than any other Draped Bust *date*, except the 1806.

	estimated survival	R	estimated mintage
1804 C1	570	3-	40,500
C2	14	6+	1,000
C4	60	5	4,300
C5	210	3+	15,200
C6	970	2	71,200
C7	120	4	8,600
C8	2,400	1	174,600
C9	1,500	2	103,700
C10	2,600	1	184,700
C11	850	2+	60,700
C12	1,800	2-	131,600
C13	7,800	1	556,700

Several of the 1804 varieties are more common than has been supposed. The C1 is on the edge between R3- and R2+. Enough examples of the C2 have turned up that it is no longer R7, but it remains very rare. The C5 appears commoner than its current R4 rating. Also, the C7 is not R5. Ron Manley reports that he has seen 100 different examples and estimates that there are 120 of this variety in existence (6). Enough examples of C11 appeared that it should no longer be considered R3. Its price structure may still be affected by its status as a red book variety, but it is not scarce. The C6 appeared from my data to be R2+, but it is generally believed to be R2. This discrepancy is easily accounted by supply and demand. The variety is avidly collected by die state, and several large accumulations are in long-term collections. Thus it is more difficult to obtain than its surviving population would suggest. The surviving population for this variety was calculated from the probable number delivered and the observed fraction of Draped Bust half cents surviving (see the accompanying article).

#### 1805

There are four varieties for this date. Two are common, and two are very scarce to rare.

	estimated survival	R	estimated mintage
1805 C1	1,900	2-	137,400
C2	35	5+	2,500
C3	140	4	10,200
C4	1,600	2	114,500

With nearly 2,000 specimens extant, the C1 may qualify as R1+ or may be R2-. Both of the "small 5, stems" varieties appear to be overrated as rarities. The C2 is R5+, and the C3 is R4. Perhaps their status as red book varieties makes them price as if rarer than they are, but it may also be that sellers have not yet come to grips with the fact that many have been discovered. The C4 is slightly less common than the C1.

## 1806

There are four varieties for this date as well. Like the 1805, two are common. The other two are very scarce to rare.

	estimated survival	R	estimated mintage
1806 C1	5,200	1	373,400
C2	170	4-	12,000
C3	24	6	1,700
C4	2,500	1	179,500

While my findings confirm the reported rarities of all varieties of this date, the C4 apparently would not make R1 without the specimens from the Chapman hoard. The C1 is far more common; it is the second commonest variety of the type.

## 1807

Although two dies were produced bearing this date, only one was used. The other was overdated in 1808.

	estimated survival	R	estimated mintage
1807 C1	4,500	1	323,100

This variety is the third most common, despite being described as R2 in the 1/200 Survey and some other references. Perhaps the fact that it is very difficult to obtain choice has led to the perception that it is more scarce than it is.

## 1808

There are three varieties of this date. One is common, one is not so common and the other is extremely rare.

	estimated survival	R	estimated mintage
1808 C1	9	7	640
C2	720	2+	51,200
C3	3,600	1	256,100

The common overdate variety (C2) has been considered R3, but my findings indicate it to be only R2+.

## Conclusions

We are approaching accurate survival data for the half cents. I have used a database of eBay auction appearances to add information. This database currently contains about 3% of the estimated surviving population. As might be expected, most of the changes I have proposed here drop the rarities to lower values as unattributed examples have been found.

## References

1. Eckberg, William R., 2000a. How many half cents are there? *Penny-Wise XXXIV*, 172. In the original article, the survivorship was calculated at 1.2%. Tripling the size of the database increased this apparent survivorship slightly, to 1.35%.
2. Eckberg, William R. 2000b. Survival of the half cents of 1809-1811. *Penny-Wise XXXIV*, 267.
3. Eckberg, William R. 2000c. Rarities and hoard coins: the half cents of 1825-1857. *Penny-Wise XXXIV*, 254.
4. Manley Ronald P. 2000. Original mintages of the 1797 and 1800 half cents. *Penny-Wise XXXIV*, 179.
5. Cohen, Roger S., Jr. 1982. *American Half Cents, the "Little Half Sisters"*.
6. Manley, Ronald P. 1998. *The Half Cent Die State Book—1793-1857*.

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## PARMELEE, PLATE 10



# Delivery Dates of the 1803-1808 Half Cent Varieties

William R. Eckberg

*I believe that the 1803 dated coins were minted in 1804 and 1805. I have not found any records which would indicate the number of 1803's struck. I feel that there probably is no record, and again, the lack of concern by the Mint for the Half Cent leaves an enigma for the present day numismatist—Roger S. Cohen, Jr.*

*There is no way of correlating these [varieties] with the deliveries—Walter Breen.*

The purpose of this report is to address Cohen's enigma and Breen's conclusion using an approach developed from the scientific method. In an accompanying report (1), I estimated the surviving population and mintage of each variety from 1803-1808. Herein, I test these estimates against reported delivery dates and numbers. If we have accurate estimates of mintage figures for varieties, reliable and detailed mintage reports and an accurate emission sequence, we can correlate the mintage estimates to the delivery dates and thereby simultaneously test the reliability of the emission sequence and the survival data.

## Fit of Survival Data to the Reported Deliveries

Roger Cohen's initial emission sequence for the 1803-1808 half cents (2) was supplanted by Walter Breen's (3). Ron Manley made corrections to Breen's emission sequence (4). My survival data support Manley's emission sequence and strongly indicate that Breen's conclusion (quoted above) is wrong. Table 2 lists all of the deliveries and the varieties they probably included. From the survival data by variety (1) and the probable 1.35% surviving fraction of Draped Bust half cents (5), I calculated the approximate original mintage of each variety (1). These data were then compared to the delivery data. Taking Manley's emission sequence (4), I tested deliveries against the mintage estimates based on the surviving population. Having done an initial, rough estimate, I refined it to reduce the variance as much as possible, consistent with logic and other available information. The fit of the data to the deliveries is shown in Table 1. The date and size of each of these deliveries are given in Table 2.

Table 1. Deliveries of 1803-1808 Half Cents Compared to Survival Data

variety(ies) delivered	observed	expected	$\chi^2$
1803 C1, 2	103.2	99.7	0.124
1803 C3, 1804 C1, 2, 4	86.1	76.0	1.337
1804 C5, 6, 7	31.4	41.7	2.578
1804 C8, 9	123.2	117.3	0.298
1804 C10	81.8	78.3	0.150
1804 C11, 13	273.3	294.3	1.505
1804 C12	58.2	49.6	1.490
1803 C4, 1805 C2, 3, 4	65.9	62.6	0.177
1805 C1	60.8	52.7	1.245
1806 C1, 2, 3	170.6	156.4	1.282
1806 C4	79.4	87.4	0.727
1807 C1	143.0	156.4	1.146
1808 C1, 2	22.7	22.8	0.001
1808 C3	113.3	118.6	0.235
	1412.9	1414.0	12.295

**Table 2. Probable Delivery Dates for Draped Bust Half Cent Varieties, 1803-1808**

<b>date</b>	<b>size</b>	<b>variety(ies)</b>
12/31/03	92,000	1803 C2, 1
2/7/04	135,000	1803 C1
2/14/04	75,000	1803 C3
2/24/04	74,000	1804 C4, 2, 1803 C3, 1804 C1
3/8/04	24,000	1804 C1
3/31/04	95,000	1804 C5, 7, 6
6/26/04	119,000	1804 C9(?)
6/30/04	148,000	1804 C8(?)
9/29/04	176,542	1804 C10
11/12/04	1,770	1804 C10(?)
12/31/04	231,000	1804 C11, 13
3/30/05	439,000	1804 C13
5/10/05	113,000	1804 C12
6/29/05	142,464	1805 C2, 1803 C4, 1805 C3, 4
12/7/05	34,000	1805 C1
12/19/05	86,000	1805 C1
7/11/06	32,000	1806 C2, 3, 1
9/16/06	131,000	1806 C1
9/19/06	16,000	1806 C1
10/2/06	54,000	1806 C1
10/8/06	10,000	1806 C1
12/13/06	28,000	1806 C1
12/30/06	85,000	1806 C1
1/17/07	49,000	1806 C4 (possibly C1)
3/31/07	20,000	1806 C4
6/13/07	55,000	1806 C4
6/29/07	75,000	1806 C4
8/4/07	239,000	1807 C1
9/28/07	39,000	1807 C1
3/14/08	18,000	1807 C1
3/31/08	46,000	1807 C1
4/4/08	14,000	1807 C1 (possibly 1808 C1, 2)
4/29/08	28,000	1808 C1, 2 (possibly only C2)
5/11/08	24,000	1808 C2
5/16/08	210,000	1808 C3
6/29/08	60,000	1808 C3

The statistically-inclined may be surprised to note that the numbers “observed” in Table 1 are not integers. There were different proportions of the coins from each date that could not be attributed. I therefore had to assume that these were distributed like the attributed coins and accordingly apply this correction factor to the observed numbers. The critical value of  $\chi^2$  for  $p = 0.05$  and 14 d.f. is 22.362. Since the actual value is much less than that, the delivery data fit the survival data very well. Manley’s arguments for his emission sequence are compelling, and the present data are fully

consistent with it. They also answer his query as to why the 1805 C1 might have been abandoned when both the obverse and reverse remained in excellent condition. It was the end of the year, and no further half cents were struck until the third quarter of 1806 (Table 2).

What is especially striking in Table 1 is that about one-third of the variation is due to the 1804 C6, which appears only about two-thirds as often as expected. It is avidly collected by die state, and this probably explains why it is under-represented in the eBay database. No other variety appears to vary more than 20% from the expected. *I stress the fact that these data confirm and correlate both the survival estimates (and therefore the rarity estimates based on the survival data) and the Manley emission sequence.* What is also striking is that reassignment of almost any delivery without violating the known emission sequence renders the survival data inconsistent with the emission sequence. In other words, in nearly each case, if the delivery did not contain the variety(ies) assigned, the survival data would be nonsensical. The exceptions are described below.

### **Deliveries and The Varieties Included (from Table 2)**

The deliveries listed in Table 2 are taken from the Mint Treasurer's receipt book for copper coins (7). It divides the deliveries up somewhat differently and in much more detail than those reported in Cohen (2) and Breen (3) and taken from the Mint Director's reports. The additional detail in the Treasurer's reports allows the correlation of the die varieties with the deliveries that Breen was unable to achieve. The only two discrepancies between these sources occur in 1804 and 1807 and are discussed below.

#### **1803**

There was only one delivery during 1803: 92,000 on December 31. It consisted of all of C2 and the first strikes of C1. Die state evidence demonstrates this order of striking. An earlier delivery of 5,900 was not listed in the Treasurer's receipt book and almost certainly consists of the last delivery of 1802 C2s (3 and personal communication from Ron Manley).

#### **1804**

The first two deliveries of 1804 (February 7 and 14) most likely consisted of the rest of 1803 C1 and most of C3, respectively. The third delivery (February 24) finished off the 1803 C3 and included some of 1804 C1. The 1804 C4 and C2 could have been delivered with the first of the 1803 C3s on February 14 or with the last of them on February 24; neither the statistical data nor die state evidence can distinguish these possibilities. However, since the 1803 C3 is a new obverse die, it seems likely that it was used before any new 1804 dies were on hand. Thus, the first C3s probably preceded the 1804 C4 and C2, and those were most likely delivered on February 24.

March 8 apparently saw the delivery of the rest of the 1804 C1s. However, this delivery is not accounted for in the Mint Director's reports, so it does not correspond to any of the deliveries cited by Breen or Cohen. Was this an omission in the Mint Director's report, or did these coins never leave the Mint? Were they melted to alloy gold and silver? My own findings are more consistent with the interpretation that it was an error of omission in the Director's report, but this is not definitive evidence. Hopefully, one day someone will find a record of what happened to these coins.

The first three spiked chin varieties (C5, 7 and 6) were evidently delivered together on March 31. Since the 95,000 coins in that delivery represent about 8 days of work (personal communication from Craig Sholley), and the damage that caused the spiked chin must have occurred after only 450-500 of these were struck, this event probably occurred in mid March, 1804. The rest of the spiked chin half cents were not delivered until late June. Two deliveries on June 26 and June 30 likely consisted of the C8 and C9 varieties. Since the quantity of coins delivered on June 30 represents about two weeks' output, most (or all) of the June 30 delivery must have been struck before June 26. Hence, we cannot say with any certainty which variety was included in which delivery. However, the size of the June 26 delivery correlates better with the estimated mintage of the C9, and that of the June 30 correlates better with that of the C8, so it may be that most or all of the C9s were delivered before the C8s, despite having been struck after them (die state evidence establishes the order of striking, 4). September 29 saw the delivery of most or all of the C10s. Breen (3) suggested that the March 31 delivery "probably" and the June deliveries "possibly" contained some dated 1803. There is no reason to support these speculations.

There followed an intriguingly small and enigmatic delivery of 1,770 on November 12. It may have consisted of the rest of the C10s, the first of the C11s or some other variety, discovered or undiscovered. At 1.35% survival, we would expect only about 20 coins from that delivery to remain. According to Breen (3), this delivery used the last of the half cent planchets from the first 1803 delivery. However, this makes no sense, as the Mint had nearly 3,000,000 half cent planchets on hand from other deliveries at this time (3). It seems unlikely that a new die would have been brought into use for such a small mintage, so I suspect that this delivery either consisted of the last few C10s or another, as yet unidentified variety from a die that quickly broke. However, there is no known die state in which the C10 reverse shatters (the obverse was used later to coin the C12), so it is unclear what these coins may be or why such a small number was struck.

December 31 evidently saw the delivery of the C11s and, when the C11 reverse failed, the first batch of C13s, the first use of the stemless reverse. It may lack the stems as the result of having been rushed into service when the C11 reverse failed.

## 1805

Breen suggested that the first two deliveries of 1805 included "many dated 1804" (3). The data indicate that these deliveries *exclusively* consisted of 1804-dated coins. The rest of the 1804 C13s were evidently delivered March 30, 1805 and the second delivery of that year evidently comprised the C12s on May 10. Both of these deliveries used the stemless reverse.

The first delivery of 1805-dated coins evidently occurred on June 29, 1805 and also contained the entire mintage of a variety dated 1803! Manley has recently shown that the emission sequence for these coins is 1805 C2>1803 C4>1805 C3>1805 C4>1805 C1. The June 29 delivery must thus have contained the first four of these varieties. The first of the C1s (resurrecting the still-good stemless reverse) must have been delivered nearly six months later, on December 7. The last were apparently delivered twelve days later.

## 1806

Breen speculated that the deliveries of 1806 “probably include[d] some dated 1804 and 1805” (3). However, the data show this not to be the case. The first delivery of this year, July 11, evidently consisted of the 1806 C2, C3 and the first of the C1 varieties. September October and December saw the delivery of the rest of the C1s. In this context, it is interesting to note that Manley reported that this variety comes with several die rotations (5). He speculated that the obverse die may have been loose. However, this could be due to the dies having been removed from and replaced in the press on several occasions (4).

## 1807

The 1806 C4 apparently came in three or four deliveries beginning in January or March and ending in June 1807. It is possible that the January delivery comprised the last of the C1s. This cannot be distinguished statistically, though the fit is slightly better with the delivery assigned to C4, and this is the assignment used in Table 1. Breen speculated that these early deliveries “probably” contained “many 1806s” (3). I find that they probably contained 1806s, *exclusively*. The 1807s must have begun to arrive in a large delivery on August 8 and continued on September 28. There is a minor discrepancy between the Treasurer and the Director in this year. The Treasurer’s last two deliveries total 278,000; the Director lists a single delivery of 277,000. While one must be in error, the difference is too small to distinguish which is correct.

## 1808

Two deliveries in March 1808 probably completed the 1807 issue. All of the 1808 C1s and the first of the C2s were almost certainly delivered in April. A slightly better statistical fit to the survival data has them delivered on April 29. However, it is also possible that the April 4 delivery represented the first of the 1808-dated coins. The difference is small, so these possibilities cannot be conclusively distinguished statistically. In either case, the 1808-dated mintage must have begun in April 1808. The C1 reverse evidently failed after only about 700 specimens were struck. The last deliveries of 1808, in May and June, consisted of the “normal date” variety and completed the deliveries of Draped Bust half cents.

It may seem surprising that the 1807 C1 mintage continued briefly into 1808 after coinage had been suspended for six months. Ron Manley suggested the following explanation. The mintage apparently continued with the 1807 C1 dies in March 1808 because there was no 1808-dated obverse available. John Reich had been appointed Assistant Engraver by President Jefferson on April 1, 1807 and assigned to replace the Scot concepts with his new Classic Head design (3). All of Reich’s attention was initially focused on gold and silver coins. Classic Head cents were introduced later in 1808, and half cents not until 1809. Thus, neither the time nor the desire existed in early 1808 to prepare a new 1808-dated obverse die for the lowly half cent—especially using the old Draped Bust design. Instead, the 7 in the date of an unused 1807 obverse was repunched and overdated 1808/7.

### Annual Mintage Figures Estimated From the Survival Data

Having strongly correlated the deliveries reported by the Treasurer of the Mint (7) with the estimated original mintage of each of the varieties delivered (1), we now calculate the likely mintages for the dates of Draped Bust half cents. The results are

summarized in Table 3. Ron Manley has derived figures for the mintage of 1800-dated half cents (5). That for 1802-dated half cents is taken from Cohen (2).

To derive the probable mintages for Draped Bust dates in Table 3, I added the mintages assigned to each variety of each year, taking the data from the Treasurer's Account Book. There are some caveats in this calculation. I assumed that the 1803 C3 and C4 were minted in even thousands. However, this cannot be established with any certainty, since both were included in deliveries with other varieties dated and delivered in 1804 and 1805. If this assumption is incorrect, the figures for 1803, 1804 and 1805 may be off by a few hundred coins. Another 24,000 coins reported by the Treasurer for 1804 were not included in the Director's report. The 1807 number may be high by 1,000 coins if the Director's report is accurate and the Treasurer's Account Book is inaccurate. It is also possible that some delivery assignments are incorrect. As I indicate above, there is uncertainty in a few of them. Even in the worst-case scenario—that I have made all *possible* incorrect assumptions—the values reported in Table 3 must still be very close to the true mintage figures and are certainly far more accurate than the official Mint reports or anything that has been proposed heretofore.

**Table 3. Probable Mintage for Draped Bust Dates**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Mintage</u>
1800	190,552
1802	20,266
1803	~388,000
1804	~1,359,000
1805	~238,000
1806	555,000
1807	356,000
1808	322,000

The 1803 half cents were struck in three different years. The fact that there are two relatively common varieties for the year means that the reported mintage of 92,000 must be a substantial underestimate. I have confirmed this. Assuming that the C3 and C4 were minted in even thousands, the most likely mintage of 1803-dated half cents is very close to 388,000. Interestingly, despite having the second lowest *reported* mintage for the type, this date must have had the third largest *actual* mintage of the type.

Most of the 1804 half cents were delivered in that year. This date has the second largest reported mintage of the entire series at slightly over 1,000,000. Even this value, however, is low by one-third. The most likely mintage of this date is about 1,359,000, giving the 1804 half cents the largest mintage as well as the largest number of varieties in the series.

All of the 1805-dated half cents were delivered in that year. However, there were also a few dated 1803 and many dated 1804 in the reported 814,464. In fact, there were many more 1804-dated half cents struck in 1805 than there were 1805s! The most likely mintage for 1805-dated half cents is very close to 238,000. Despite having the second largest *reported* mintage, it had the third smallest *actual* mintage of the type.

Despite a relatively large reported mintage of 356,000 1806-dated half cents, the second most common variety was probably entirely delivered in 1807. The most likely mintage for 1806-dated half cents is 555,000.

The reported mintage of 1807 is 477,000. It includes many dated 1806, and some 1807 half cents were delivered in 1808. The most likely mintage is 356,000.

All 1808-dated half cents were delivered in that year. Even so, the reported mintage of 400,000 includes many dated 1807. The most likely mintage for the year is 322,000.

### **Mintage From the "Stemless Reverse"**

The results of this project raise an interesting paradox. The survival of approximately 17,000 half cents with the stemless reverse suggests that it was used to strike approximately 1.2 million coins (1804 C13, C12, 1805 C1, 1806 C1). This would be by far the largest mintage using any single half cent die. Was such a large output possible? I present two different and independent arguments that it was.

First, die life varied widely. The survival during use of any group of similar objects has a mean (average) and a standard deviation (tendency for any the survival of any particular item to differ from the average). According to my data, the lives of the thirty-one dies used for this mintage ranged from approximately 7 hundred to 1.2 million coins. The mean  $\pm$  SD is 209,000  $\pm$  248,000 (a huge variance indicating poor consistency in die quality and/or sloppiness in die alignment and striking). Ignoring the 10 dies that failed very quickly (before they struck even 50,000 coins, *i.e.*, after less than 4 days of use), the mean increases to 308,000  $\pm$  251,000. Ignoring these dies thus increases the average but has little effect on the standard deviation. The fifteen reverse dies averaged a significantly longer life than the sixteen obverse dies ( $t = 1.799$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). The average life of the reverse dies (again excluding those that failed very quickly) is 350,000  $\pm$  335,000. Additionally, few of these dies failed before they were retired, so their maximum *potential* lives can only be guessed, and the stemless reverse is heavily worn in its use with the 1805 and 1806 obverses. The 1,200,000-coin quantity is less than 3 standard deviations from the mean. Based on these data, it should not be impossible for a die to have struck that many coins.

Second, the fits to the populations produced in three discrete time intervals (1804 C12 and 13 from December of 1804 through May of 1805, 1805 C1 in December of 1805, and 1806 C1 in the second half of 1806) are so good they are very unlikely all to be coincidental. If the stemless reverse did not strike the estimated number of coins, all four stemless varieties must survive in equally higher than expected proportions. For all four stemless varieties to survive in higher proportions than the other varieties of the era would require that each has been selectively conserved. However, there are no known hoards of any of these varieties in Mint State. Indeed, the most common (1804 C13) is very difficult to find choice. While it is formally possible that they were conserved after circulating for a short time (there are many EF/AU examples of each of these varieties), it is difficult to believe that thousands of examples of these four varieties were culled from circulation shortly after they were struck. Therefore, however unlikely it may seem, the stemless reverse may, indeed, have struck approximately 1.2 million coins (8).

### **References and Notes**

1. Eckberg, William R. 2001. Updated rarity estimates for the Draped Bust half cents. *Penny-Wise*. XXXV, (this issue).
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4. Manley, Ronald P. 1998. *The Half Cent Die State Book 1793-1857*.
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6. Manley Ronald P. 2000. Original mintages of the 1797 and 1800 half cents. *Penny-Wise* XXXIV, 179.
7. Rush, Benjamin and others. 1793-1816. *The Treasurer of the Mint: Receipts for Copper Coins*. Autographic.
8. I wish to acknowledge the gracious and invaluable assistance of Ron Manley through the acquisition and analysis of my eBay half cent appearance database. As I have noted before, he independently came up with the idea to mine eBay listings for information on survivorship. He has served as sounding board, critic, editor and friend throughout the course of this project. My conclusions have been much strengthened—and I have been kept from a few major errors—by his vigilance and constructive comments.

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## Common Cents Report

**Common Cents** is a semi-annual report published in November and May of each year. It is dedicated to establishing a census of Late Date varieties and to provide some insight into the availability of each variety type. Currently we have 46 collections with over 9,000 specimens listed and growing . . . All Late Date collections are welcome whether you only have a couple of varieties or nearing completion. The only prerequisite is that you are an EAC member in good standing. Copies are limited to members and your privacy is insured as no part of your address is published.

Come and join us. Either send for a variety data sheet, photo copy the data sheet printed in July or September 2000 issue's, send me an email or simply list on a plain sheet of paper the variety with the highest grade you have for that variety. I will respond to/acknowledge all submissions immediately with a status of where your collection places within the group and a copy of our latest issue. Deadline for submissions/updates is two weeks prior to publication date.

**Common Cents** - Fred Iskra, EAC #3124 - 236 E. Rooney Ave. - Appleton, MN 56208 - fiskra@fedtel.net

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# A New Study of the Edge Lump on 1825 Half Cents

Ron Manley

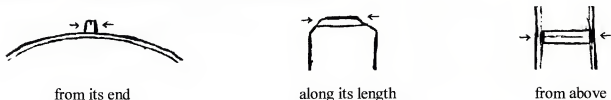
## Introduction

The 1825 half cent mintage represents the beginning of the Late Classic Head type. These were the first half cents minted in Philadelphia since 1811. Two varieties exist, minted using different obverse dies but the same reverse die. 1825 C1, the first variety struck, is considered scarce (R3). Specimens have their lowest hair curl directly above the 5 of the date. 1825 C2, the second variety struck, is common (R1). Its lowest curl is above the space between the 2 and 5.

Most 1825 C1 and some 1825 C2 specimens are found with a small edge lump. This curious lump was apparently first noted on the edge of 1825 C1 specimens, but the exact date of discovery is unknown. No mention of this edge defect was made by Ebenezer Gilbert in his 1916 reference work on half cents (*1*). However, Roger Cohen was aware of the edge lump on 1825 C1 specimens in 1971 when the first edition of *American Half Cents* was published (*2*). The first report of 1825 C2 specimens with an edge lump was made in 1975 by Ron Guth (*3*).

The lump varies slightly in location for both 1825 varieties but it is always found (when it *is* found) on the edge somewhere in the lower right obverse quadrant. The bar-like lump is about a dentil wide. Viewed from either end, it typically shows sharply squared edges and has a flat mesa-like top (Fig. 1). Seen lengthwise, it has rounded edges that taper down to each rim. When eyed from above, some high grade 1825 C1 specimens show the bar bisected by a fine, shallow groove running along its length. The height of the lump tends to vary, particularly among certain 1825 C1 specimens. It may be bold or so faint as to be unnoticeable.

Figure 1. Illustrated views of the 1825 edge lump.



The only previous study of the 1825 edge lump was published in 1975 by Ron Guth (*3*). Guth made several noteworthy observations. He speculated that 1825 C2 specimens having an edge lump “could be the beginning of that particular die variety, and most probably were struck immediately following” the 1825 C1 variety (*3*). However, according to Milton Pfeffer, in late 1975 Guth had “not definitely related the appearance of the lump to any particular die state” (*4*). Guth also observed that the 1825 C2 “with the edge lump is as scarce, if not more so, than its sister”. Guth was correct on both of these points.

## Cause of the Edge Defect

What produced the edge lump on 1825 half cents has been a source of speculation and mystery for years. Roger Cohen considered the lump to be the result of “a defect in the collar of the coining press” (5). Ron Guth agreed with Cohen on this (3). However, Walter Breen wrote that “the explanation for this [lump] is uncertain . . . As close collars were not then in use at the Philadelphia Mint, other sources must be sought” (6). R. W. Julian suggested the edge lump was caused by “an experimental device used to center the planchet in the coining press, but the idea was cumbersome and slow, leading to the idea being scrapped for the 1826 mintage” (7). However, Q. David Bowers wrote that such coins “must have had a collar of some type . . . the indentation was simply a groove in the collar. No other explanation readily suggests itself” (8).

Walter Breen believed that no half cents were struck in close collars at the Philadelphia Mint until 1831 and no large cents until 1834 (6). However, Craig Sholley has concluded that “relatively close collars” were in use at the Mint as early as 1816 (9). Perhaps the first physical evidence of this was reported by Herbert Silberman and George Ewing (10, 11). Silberman wrote in 1972 that many large cents dated 1816 and 1817 show “evidence of reeding on the edges”. He added that “even with the reverse rotated, the markings maintain their relationship to the obverse” (11). Sholley indicated that while such striations resemble reeding, “they have characteristics that show they definitely are not” (12). He concluded that similar striations on specimens of 1819 N2, N8, and N9 were caused by “file or cutting lines in the collar” (12).

Sholley agreed with Cohen that the edge lump on 1825 half cents was caused by a collar defect, “probably a crack” (9). He noted that “unless the die were rotating, this lump should always appear in the same spot relative to the designs. The edge should also be quite flat in the surrounding area from the planchet being compressed against the collar. Sometimes you can see vertical striae on the edge caused by the dies sliding against the collar” (9).

Edge lumps caused by a cracked collar are not unprecedented among early copper coins from the Philadelphia Mint. In 1991, Jules Reiver reported late die state (LDS) 1836 N6 large cents with two edge lumps that he attributed to collar cracks (13). Reiver further noted that early die state (EDS) specimens of this variety had no edge crack and middle die state (MDS) ones only a single edge crack.

## Discussion of the 1825 C1 Edge Lump

Where is the 1825 C1 edge lump found? Four of the five 1825 C1 specimens in Ron Guth’s 1975 survey had an edge lump – all near star 12 – even though one specimen had its reverse rotated 45 degrees CW from normal (3). In 1977, Milton Pfeffer noted that the 1825 C1 edge lump is sometimes seen near the 12th or 13th star (4). Roger Cohen described the location of the 1825 C1 lump similarly to Pfeffer (5). Walter Breen wrote that most 1825 C1 specimens have a lump on the edge “between [the] last two stars” (6). It is unclear whether Breen meant this literally or whether he implied the lump varied its position on the edge from near star 12 to near star 13. Results from the current study are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

TABLE 1. THE EDGE LUMP ON 1825 C1 HALF CENTS

<u>Lump</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>No. of Specimens</u>
Yes	*12	19
Yes	Between *12&*13	8
Yes	*13	10
No	---	11
Total		48

As seen in Table 1, 37 of 48 1825 C1 specimens reported (77% of the total) have a visible edge lump. This is about the same percentage found by Guth in his much smaller 1975 survey (3). In my 1998 book on half cents, I inadvertently wrote that the edge lump varies in position from near the 11th to 13th stars for both 1825 varieties (14). No 1825 C1 specimen has been reported with an edge lump near star 11. *The location of the 1825 C1 edge lump varies from near star 12 to near star 13.* In addition, *the most common site of the 1825 C1 edge lump is near star 12*, as first noted by Guth (3). It was found near star 12 for 51% of the 1825 C1's reported with a lump.

TABLE 2. THE 1825 C1 EDGE LUMP BY REVERSE ROTATION AND DIE STATE

<u>Rev. Rotation</u>	<u>Lump</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Die State</u>	<u>Collections</u>
12:20	Yes	*12	1.0	RMC#1
12:30	Yes	*12	1.0	HB
1:00	Yes	*12	1.0	SAM
1:30	Yes	*12	1.0	WRE#1; RJG; GS#3
1:30	Yes	Between *12&*13	2.0	GS#2
1:40	Yes	Between *12&*13	2.0	RSC#1
2:00	Faint	*13	2.0	RMC#2
2:00	No	---	2.0	NJC
3:20	Faint	*12	2.0	RSC#2
4:00	Faint	*12	2.0	RSC#3
4:00	No	---	2.0	RSC#4
4:30	No	---	2.0	GS#4
4:30	Yes	*13	2.0	RMC#3
5:00	Yes	*13	3.0	WRE#2
5:20	No	---	3.0	CVS#1
6:00	Faint	---	3.0	RSC#5
6:00	No	---	3.0	FCG; RSC#6 & #7; CVS#2
6:30	Yes	Between *12&*13	3.0	RMC#4
7:10	Yes	Between *12&*13	3.0	CVS#3
7:30	Yes	Between *12&*13	3.0	CVS#4
7:30	Yes	*13	3.0	RMC#5

For varieties with rotated dies, it is assumed as a matter of convention that the reverse die rotated. However, it is usually impossible to know for certain whether the obverse or reverse die actually rotated – or if both dies rotated with respect to one another. *The fact that the position of the 1825 C1 edge lump remains relatively fixed with respect to obverse features establishes that*

it actually was the reverse die that rotated for this variety – not the obverse die. Evidently, the reverse die continued to rotate in a CW direction as additional 1825 C1 half cents were struck.

All State 1.0 specimens seen by or reported to me have an edge lump (or mark) near star 12. The lump's position is a bit variable for States 2.0 and 3.0. *For reasons that are presently unclear, the 1825 C1 edge lump is faint or missing for certain reverse rotations – notably from 60 to 135 degrees CW (2:00-4:30) and around 180 degrees (6:00).*

*The edge lump is found on specimens from all 1825 C1 die states, including the earliest and latest known. It is my belief that all 1825 C1 half cents were minted using the same defective collar.*

### Discussion of the 1825 C2 Edge Lump

Where is the 1825 C2 edge lump found? Only two of the 24 1825 C2 specimens examined by Guth in 1975 had an edge lump (3). It was found between stars 12 and 13 on one and near star 11 on the other. Cohen indicated only that both 1825 varieties are found with an edge lump near the 12th and 13th stars (5). Breen wrote that the 1825 C2 edge lump varies in position “from a point opposite [the 11th] star to near [the 13th] (6). A lump between the 10th and 11th stars was first reported in Superior's 1992 sale of the Cohen collection for lot 307 (14). New data on the 1825 C2 edge lump are presented below in Table 3.

TABLE 3. THE EDGE LUMP ON 1825 C2 HALF CENTS

Lump	Site	Die States	No. of Specimens
Yes	Between *10&*11	0.5 (EDS)	5
Yes	*11	0.5 (EDS)	4
Yes	*12	0.5 (EDS)	6
Yes	Between *12&*13	0.5 (EDS)	3
Yes	*13	0.5 (EDS)	1
No	---	1.0? (EDS)	1
No	---	1.0-3.0 (MDS/LDS)	65
			85 Total

*Curiously, no 1825 C2 specimen has been reported to date with an edge lump between stars 11 and 12.* Perhaps one will be discovered after this article appears. After it became quite evident that no MDS or LDS specimen has an edge lump, I ceased collecting data on these later 1825 C2 die states.

Breen described the earliest use of the reverse die for 1825 C2 as “now repolished; parts of ribbon, stem, and outer leaves under D STA weak” (6). I first became aware that 1825 C2 specimens existed earlier than Breen State I a few years ago during a phone call from Gino Sanfilippo.

A very EDS 1825 C2 specimen was sent to me by Jim McAvoy in late July of last year. Jim had noticed that his coin appeared to have an oval lump on its reverse leftover from the 1825 C1 mintage. The stem end on his coin was not only “all there”, it was bold. It also was the first

1825 C2 specimen I had personally seen with an edge lump. *This previously unlisted die state is my new State 0.5 for 1825 C2.* It is described below.

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**State 0.5 Obverse:** Perfect die.

**Reverse:** *The stem end is boldly struck.* The oval lump between the bases of F A from the earlier 1825 C-1 marriage is still present. Clash marks are usually visible within the wreath. Fields appear finely flowlined under magnification.

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**State 0.5 specimens are known rotated ~15 and 25 degrees CW (~12:30 and 12:50).**

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My State 1.0 for 1825 C2 describes EDS specimens with the stem end still well-struck *but* with the reverse die repolished. This repolishing removed the flowlines and clash marks remaining from the 1825 C1 mintage – including the oval lump between the bases of F A. In my book, I noted reports of EDS specimens with reverse clash marks, but erroneously concluded that these were *late* State 1.0 specimens (15). *Many, probably most, 1825 C2 specimens previously thought to be from State 1.0 are actually from State 0.5.*

Although 1825 C1 specimens from early, middle, and late die states are known with an edge lump, *only* very EDS 1825 C2 specimens (from State 0.5) have been reported with one. *This confirms that the defective collar was replaced early in the 1825 C2 mintage, immediately after the reverse die was removed from press for repolishing.*

Walter Breen was aware of Guth's 1975 article describing 1825 C2 specimens with an edge lump although, strangely, he seemed unaware they were from such an EDS (6). Perhaps he never personally examined any of these coins.

How scarce are 1825 C2 half cents with an edge lump? Only 19 C2 specimens are reported with an edge lump in this survey compared to 37 C1 specimens with an edge lump. Bill Eckberg has recently estimated the numbers of 1825 C1 and 1825 C2 survivors as 440 and 4,100 specimens respectively (16). The 1825 C1 specimens with an edge lump can be approximated as ~77% of the C1 survivors or ~340 pieces. Assuming the 19:37 C2:C1 ratio is representative of those with an edge lump, the number of 1825 C2 specimens with an edge lump (the State 0.5 population) is ~180 pieces – less than 5% of the estimated 1825 C2 survivors.

## Summary

About 77% of surviving 1825 C1 half cents have an edge lump, imparted during mintage by a defective, possibly cracked collar. The location of the 1825 C1 edge lump varies from near star 12 to near star 13. Its most common site for this variety is opposite star 12. Specimens from all 1825 C1 die states are known with an edge lump. However, some rotated 1825 C1 specimens show this lump faintly, if at all.

Less than 5% of surviving 1825 C2 half cents are estimated to have an edge lump (~180 pieces). For this variety, it is found only on very EDS specimens from my newly listed State 0.5. In addition to an edge lump, State 0.5 specimens have a bold wreath stem, an oval lump between the bases of F A (leftover from the earlier 1825 C1 mintage), and usually clash marks visible

within the wreath. The location of the 1825 C2 edge lump varies from midway between stars 10 and 11 to near star 13.

About 620 half cents are believed extant of the original 1825 mintage struck inside the defective collar (this includes all C1 survivors and ~180 C2 survivors). Eckberg has estimated the number of surviving 1825 half cents as 4,540 pieces (16). Thus, ~14% of the surviving 1825-dated half cent mintage was coined using this collar. I have approximated the original 1825-dated mintage as 159,000 half cents (17). Therefore, the 1825 half cents minted using the defective collar was probably ~22,000 pieces. This represents about two days mintage of the 63,000 half cents struck in December 1825.

## References

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## Acknowledgements

My sincere appreciation is extended to Jim McAvoy, who provided the initial impetus for this article, to Craig Sholley for his helpful insights, and to the many other EAC members who provided invaluable data.

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# Boulton Planchets and the 1825-1835 Half Cents

Ron Manley

The Late Classic Head half cents dated 1825-1835 were struck intermittently at the Mint in Philadelphia using prepared planchets. In 1982, Roger Cohen wrote "it is not known as of this writing just who supplied all the Half Cent planchets for the coinage from 1825 to 1835" (1). According to Walter Breen, the new Mint Director Samuel Moore wrote to Matthew Boulton in England on August 10, 1824 "inquiring about prices of half cent planchets" (2). Cohen and Breen were aware of Boulton's reply dated September 22, 1824 (1,2). In his letter, Boulton proposed a price for ten tons of half cent planchets. This would equal 1,866,667 planchets at the authorized weight of 84 grains (1,2). Neither Cohen nor Breen was aware of documentation that confirmed this order for Boulton planchets (1,2). However, Breen concluded that the "most likely source remains Boulton & Watt's Soho Mint" (2).

In 1986, numismatic historian R. W. Julian revealed that Director Moore had indeed ordered "ten tons of planchets (1.9 million) from Boulton" (3). Although Moore's order was placed on December 6, 1824, the planchets were not received in Philadelphia until August 1825 (4). According to Julian, "coinage commenced in December 1825" but "none of the half cents was distributed until after March 1826" (3).

To determine the actual number of Boulton planchets received, we need to know their average weight. In my 1998 article "A Survey of Half Cent Weights by Date and Planchet Type", I reported that surviving 1825-1829 half cents weigh on average 83.3 grains (5). Walter Breen calculated the weight of these planchets as 83.18 grains, using information supplied from an official document at the National Archives (2). Given this average planchet weight, ten tons is equivalent to about 1,885,000 planchets.

How long did these planchets last? Julian indicated the 154,000 half cents reported for 1833 "exhausted the planchets on hand" (4). I disagree. Official Mint reports indicate 1,546,200 half cents were minted from December 1825 through June 1833 (63,000 + 234,000 + 606,000 + 487,000 + 2,200 + 154,000). In addition, Julian reported that "233,342 planchets from the Boulton shipment of 1825" had been melted for alloy by the end of 1829 (3). In all likelihood, the planchets melted were not counted, but weighed. As evidence, this number of planchets at standard weight corresponds to precisely 1.2500 tons. Thus, the number of planchets actually melted is surely an approximation. However, if we accept Julian's exact figure, 1,779,542 planchets are accounted for from 1825-1833. Thus, at least 105,000 Boulton planchets from the 1825 shipment should have remained available for striking half cents on June 19, 1833.

No half cents were reported for 1832 although many are known with that date. It has been traditionally accepted that the 154,000 half cents mentioned in the 1833 Mint report represent the 1832-dated coinage. My recent findings support this interpretation (6).

In late 1833, Moore wrote Matthew Boulton asking for five tons of new planchets (3). At the standard weight of 84.0 grains, five tons should provide about 933,000 planchets. This

quantity would have been more than sufficient to strike the rest of the Classic Head mintage. But, when did they become available for coinage?

According to Julian, the new planchets were loaded in kegs on the ship *Napier*, which sailed for Philadelphia on January 31, 1834 (3). The *Napier* arrived in Philadelphia two months later and the kegs unloaded at the docks there on March 29, 1834 (3). However, Julian wrote that, "according to official records", *these new planchets were not sent to the coining rooms until mid-1835* (3). Julian has little faith in these records, observing that "the official delivery of the 1834 planchets to the coining department may well be a bookkeeping fiction, as so often happened in those days with the copper coinage" (8).

Julian struggled to explain the 120,000 half cents in the 1834 annual report issued by Moore (3). Julian concluded that if these half cents were struck, they *must* have been coined using the new planchets (8).

It is my opinion that the official records describing the delivery of over 900,000 new Boulton planchets to the coining department in mid-1835 are correct. I believe a simple solution exists that solves this mystery – *the 120,000 half cents reported for 1834 were struck using the last of the old Boulton planchets from 1825*. These half cents traditionally have been assumed to carry the 1833 date, although some 1834-dated half cents were likely included (7).

As my calculations have shown, at least 105,000 unused Boulton planchets from 1825 remained available on June 19, 1833 – even accounting for those Julian reported as melted. The number available could easily have exceeded 120,000 if misstruck half cents were included with the planchets melted by the end of 1829 (as I consider likely) or if small weighing errors were made. *If official records are to be believed, the old Boulton planchets were the only ones available at the coining department when this mintage was struck.*

According to Breen, the 120,000 half cents reported for 1834 were struck sometime after June 19, 1833 "but not reported out until after January 1, 1834" (2). Thus, it is possible that this mintage was struck before the *Napier* even arrived at the docks in Philadelphia with new Boulton planchets on March 29, 1834. Since Mint documents confirm that the 154,000 half cents reported for 1833 were actually minted in both 1832 and 1833 and since it is established that the 398,000 half cents reported for 1836 were actually minted in 1835, there are good reasons to believe that the 120,000 half cents reported for 1834 were minted in the second half of 1833 and in 1834.

Julian insists that if any remaining 1825 planchets were used, they would have produced half cents showing "occasional signs of corrosion/deterioration because of the planchets being in storage in a damp climate for several years" (8). Julian used this same argument to explain (in part) why half cents dated 1828 and 1829 were melted by the Mint in 1832 (4). To my knowledge, no deterioration attributable to damp storage of planchets at Mint facilities is known for any surviving 1833 or 1834 half cents. None is known for 1832 half cents either – and these were unquestionably minted using Boulton planchets from 1825! In addition, it is known that many tens of thousands of half cents struck in 1835 were stored at the Mint for *up to 14 years*, apparently without significant harm from Philadelphia's humid air (1). Thus, Julian's argument

appears to have little merit. *There is no valid reason why leftover Boulton planchets would not have been used to strike half cents.*

Dr. Robert Patterson replaced Moore as Mint Director in mid-1835 (3). In his annual report for 1835, Patterson included 141,000 half cents. There can be no question that the Boulton planchets from 1825 were exhausted after striking the 120,000 half cents described in the Mint's annual report for 1834. Thus, *these 141,000 half cents must have been minted in 1835, as Patterson reported, using the first of the new Boulton planchets.* These half cents have usually been assumed to bear the 1834 date. However, my recent study indicates that this mintage consisted not only of 1834-dated half cents, but of 1833-dated half cents as well (6).

Curiously, in 1986 Julian wrote that "the number of half cents actually struck in 1835 (allowing the figure of 120,000 for 1834 to stand) is 419,000" (3). However, in a 1999 article, he concluded that only 398,000 half cents were struck in 1835 (4). As I have shown, the 141,000 half cents reported by the Mint for 1835 were irrefutably minted in 1835 – the old Boulton planchets had been used up in 1834! An additional 398,000 half cents were officially reported for 1836 but these were also minted in 1835. As proof, warrant #143 reported that 539,000 half cents (the sum of the 141,000 and 398,000 half cents included in the Mint reports for 1835 and 1836 respectively) were brought to the Treasurer *on December 31, 1835* (3). Thus, the half cents minted in 1835 totaled 539,000 pieces.

For Julian's assertion that only 419,000 (or 398,000) half cents were coined in 1835 to be true, the total half cents included in the annual Mint reports must be inaccurate, the result of counting the mintage of 120,000 half cents twice (first in the 1834 report, then again in the 1835 or 1836 report). In addition, the official report that the new Boulton planchets were sent to the coiners department in 1835 would have to be false. I believe this is too much to accept.

My recent studies of surviving half cents dated 1832-1835 (6,9) provide compelling evidence that the 1832-1835 half cent mintage totaled 813,000 pieces, not 693,000 as indicated by Julian. Thus, the 120,000 half cents in the 1834 Mint report *must* have existed and been struck using the last of the old Boulton planchets. Calculations indicate that the planchets remaining from the 1825 shipment were just sufficient for this mintage.

## Analysis

Julian reported (3) "the reason for resuming coinage [in late 1832] was based on a rather strange decision to *melt the bulk of the old (pre-1830) half cents on hand*" (italics mine). However, Julian confirms only 160,186 half cents "mostly dating from 1828 and 1829" were melted by June 1833 (3). The difference between the total number of half cents reported as minted from 1825-1831 vs. those reported leaving = 474,200 pieces (1,392,200 - 918,000). As the entire 1825-1826 mintage had left the Mint by 1832, these 474,200 included 472,000 half cents dated 1828-1829 and 2,200 dated 1831. If we literally interpret the Mint's decision to melt the *bulk* of the old half cents on hand, *more than 236,000* must have been melted.

**An accounting of 1825-1835 half cents minted, leaving the Mint, and on hand.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Mint Report</b>	<b>Left the Mint (3)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1825	63,000	---	
1826	234,000	129,000	Includes many dated 1825.
1827	---	64,000	
1828	606,000	149,000	
1829	487,000	148,000	Many Boulton planchets melted (3).
1830	---	92,000	
1831	2,200	336,000	
1832	---	---	Old half cents at Mint melted.
1833	154,000	189,000	Dated 1832.
1834	120,000	42,000	Most dated 1833; Exhausts old Boulton planchets.
1835	141,000	N/A	Dated 1833 and 1834; New Boulton planchets used.
1836	398,000	N/A	Most dated 1835, includes some dated 1834. 452,500 half cents on hand at end of Jan. 1837.

Survivor analysis indicates that ~500,000 half cents dated 1828 and 1829 were melted (6). *This strongly implies the melt included ALL 472,000 half cents dated 1828-1829 still on hand after 1831.* This quantity would have supplied 2.50 tons of copper for alloy purposes. Lack of demand for half cents, a need for copper alloy, and implementation of a modified border design in 1831 are all possible reasons why old half cents still at the Mint were melted. Moore may have decided to melt all half cents on hand before the new Mint facility opened in January 1833 (1).

If, as I have surmised, 472,000 1828-1829 half cents were melted (possibly with most of the tiny 1831 mintage), the number of half cents on hand at the Mint in late 1834 totaled at most 43,000 pieces (154,000 + 120,000 - 189,000 - 42,000). This implies that mintage of the 120,000 half cents reported for 1834 began in the second half of 1833, confirming that old Boulton planchets were used. As 1833-dated half cents were being struck and old Boulton planchets were definitely still available, this makes good sense.

No records exist for the numbers of half cents that left the Mint in 1835 and 1836. However, 452,500 were officially "on hand" at the Mint on January 29, 1837 (1,3). Thus, the number of half cents that left the Mint from January 1835 to January 1837 must have totaled 129,500 pieces (43,000 + 141,000 + 398,000 - 452,500). This would average 64,750 per year leaving the Mint for each of the years 1835 and 1836. This is a believable number, considering that 42,000 left the Mint in 1834 (3) and only 46,450 left the Mint in the period from January 1837 to September 1839 (1).

On the other hand, if *only* ~160,200 1828-1829 half cents were melted (including most of the 1831 coinage), as reported by Julian (3,4), the number leaving the Mint over the same period must have totaled 443,500 pieces (474,200 - 160,200 + 129,500). This would require an average of 221,750 half cents leaving the Mint for *each* of the years 1835 and 1836. Little demand for half cents existed in these years (2). The *only* year after 1825 recorded having over 200,000 half cents leave the Mint was 1831 and *none* are known to have left the Mint the following year

(1832) – evidently due to a lack of half cents on hand and/or to a lack of demand following the enormous 1831 release. Thus, for over 440,000 half cents to have left the Mint in 1835-1836 would be extremely unlikely. This analysis provides corroborative evidence that 472,000 half cents dated 1828 and 1829 were melted, never having entered circulation.

The findings presented herein have led me to slightly reduce the survival rate I calculated for the 1828-1829 mintage that entered circulation from 2.85% (6) to 2.72%. I earlier estimated that ~460,000 half cents dated 1828 and ~133,000 dated 1829 had escaped the Mint melts (6). These estimates are now updated to ~482,000 for 1828 and ~140,000 for 1829.

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## EAC REGIONAL MEETING AT SACRAMENTO COIN SHOW, NOVEMBER 4, 2000

Randy Snyder

### Members and guest in attendance:

Mike Bristow	Stan Henneman	Ron Shintaku	Randy Snyder
Linda Bristow	Frank Stangl	Scott Annechino	Ed Nugent

After the traditional round of introductions, the eight of us formed a circle and enjoyed an hour of lively conversation.

We spoke of grading, counterfeits, internet auctions and hoaxes. We shared pictures, books, coins and tidbits of wisdom.

Scott, a C4 member and recent California addition from New York, wowed us with a long run of beautiful colonial copper pieces.

No cherries were reported at the time of the meeting and it was noted that copper was rather thin on the show floor.

The next Sacramento gathering will be in the spring.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS, INC.**

### **ANNUAL CONVENTION UPDATE**

#### **Hotel:**

As noted previously, the hotel for this convention is the Holiday Inn Select, Fredericksburg, VA. A reservation form is included in this issue. Please remember that the fees that the club pays to use the meeting rooms are based on the number of hotel rooms that we occupy.

#### **Special Events:**

Response to our special event program for EAC 2001 has been outstanding.

As you can see from the Special Event Preregistration form in this issue, the Grading and Counterfeit Detection seminar is full. If you wish to be placed on a waiting list, please send me the form. For those already enrolled, if you find that you will not be able to make the convention, please let me know so that we can give your spot to someone else.

The Monticello/Montpelier tour plans have changed slightly. The original announcement erroneously had this event scheduled in conflict with the Grading Seminar. It will be held on Saturday, instead of Thursday. We intended to take a van, but there have already been more people sign up for this tour than we could accommodate by van, so we will send a car caravan. This will reduce the price somewhat. If you want to take this trip, please let me know if you have a car or not.

The Battlefield tour, to be guided by Col. Steve Ellsworth, already has more than 30 people signed up for it. We have room for about 20 more.

Also, please note the updated Educational Program schedule in this issue. Special thanks are due to Gail Baker for all of her work in organizing this outstanding lineup.

#### **Bourse:**

Bourse space is going well. We already have more than 25 dealers signed up for more than 30 tables. There is still plenty of room, but if you want a 2 x 8' corner table please contact me first as there is only one more of those available at this time.

**EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS, INC ANNUAL CONVENTION  
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM  
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, March 29**

8 AM -12 NOON	EAC Grading and Counterfeit Detection ...a hands-on seminar.	Doug Bird, Mary Sauvain, Steve Carr
2 - 3:30 PM	Preparing a Winning Exhibit	Jerry Kochel

**Friday, March 30**

2 - 3 PM	Middle Date Large Cents	John Wright
7:15 - 8:15 PM	CQR - Past, Present and Future	Jack Robinson
8:30 - 9:30 PM	TBA	Craig Sholley

**Saturday, March 31**

11 AM - 12 NOON	Collecting Early American Coppers	John Wright, Jerry Stublefield, Clay Everhart
1 - 2 PM	The Early Date Report	Red Henry
2 - 3 PM	Early Date Large Cents	Denis Loring, Red Henry
3 - 4 PM	Half Cents	Bill Eckberg, Ron Manley, Mike Demling, Mike Packard

**EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS, INC.**  
**ANNUAL CONVENTION**

**PREREGISTRATION FOR SPECIAL EVENTS**

March 28<sup>th</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001

Holiday Inn Select, FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

We have tentatively planned several special programs and family events to coincide with the 2001 EAC Convention. We are unsure what kind of turnout to expect, and some will be able to accommodate only a limited number of attendees, so we are offering preregistration for these events. Costs are only estimated and may vary depending on the number of attendees.

They are:

- Wednesday 12pm-5pm Fredericksburg/Chancellorsville Battlefield Tour** (limited to 52),  
Approximately \$15 per person; guide (Col. Steve Ellsworth), transportation, park fees.
- Thursday 8am-noon EAC Hands-On Grading/Counterfeit Detection Seminar:** Doug Bird, Mary Sauvain, Steve Carr; Cost: FREE to EAC members (This event is filled: you may still request it as we are keeping a waiting list)
- Friday 9:00am-5pm Washington DC Tour**, Self guided. (Train from Fredericksburg to Union Station, Washington). Approximately \$60 per person; Transportation & Lunch
- Saturday 9 am-4 pm Thomas Jefferson's Monticello.** Approximately \$30 per person, transportation, park fees & lunch. Please note that the previous announcement erroneously listed this for Thursday. We will carpool for this tour. If you will have a car, please advise.
- Sunday 9am-3pm Self guided outing to Kings Dominion Amusement Park.** Approximately \$50 per person; fees and lunch.

Please identify which of these special programs you wish to participate in by checking the appropriate box and completing the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
street or box # city state Zip

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail or fax the completed form to:

William R. Eckberg  
PO Box 25181  
Alexandria, VA 22313

(781) 723-7932 (fax)  
halfcent@Mac.com (email)

## The Happenings at EAC 2001

Mike Packard

Things are finally settling into place for the 2001 EAC Happenings which will take place on Thursday, March 29, 2001, in Fredericksburg, VA. The selected lots are:

### Colonials:

Connecticut varieties: 1785 M 6.4-K

1786 M 5.6-M

1787 M 39.1-ff.2

1788 M 16.2-O

Any Colonial coins with counterstamps

Any Colonial coins with inked attributions

### Half Cents:

1794 C-2a

1807 C-1 (Early and late die states)

1808 C-1

1825 C-1

1841 Proofs--Originals, first restrikes, and second restrikes

### Large Cents:

1794 S- 59

1801 S-219

1804 S-266

1819/8 N-1

1829 N-7

1840 N-9

If you have the varieties, please bring them, even if they are well below the condition census. Every coin tells a story and many EACers want to hear it.

I remind you all that the first 15-20 minutes will be reserved for scanning the coins on hand, not for studying them. Once everyone gets a quick look at what is on exhibit, we can go back and look in more detail at those varieties that interest us the most.

Monitors are needed for all groups of coins. If you are willing to volunteer to be a monitor, contact me at [carver3@ioip.com](mailto:carver3@ioip.com) via e-mail or write to me at 4905 Village Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 and let me know which group you would like to monitor. You may also contact Ray Williams (colonials, [raydianewilliams@juno.com](mailto:raydianewilliams@juno.com)), Greg and Lisa Heim (half cents, [gangof4@optonline.net](mailto:gangof4@optonline.net)), or Jon Warshawsky (large cents, [jwarshawsky@dc.com](mailto:jwarshawsky@dc.com)).

**Fredericksburg**  
Site of the 2001 EAC Convention

Getting there

Fredericksburg Virginia is located on Interstate 95 about half way between Washington DC and Richmond Virginia--about 50 miles from either. Try to avoid Washington DC area rush hours (6:30-9:30 am and 3:30-7:00 pm) because we are said to have the second worst traffic problems in the US. If you can avoid driving through I-95 and the Washington beltway (I-95 going east and I-495 going west) do so. Virginia is currently reconstructing that "intersection" and delays can be long, especially at rush hour.

Richmond is served by one airport (Richmond International) and Washington by three (Reagan National, Dulles International, and Baltimore-Washington International). BWI is about 100 miles north of Fredericksburg. If you are planning to fly to the convention, I suggest you check fares to all four airports. Airfares can vary widely between any departure point and the three Washington area airports. (A \$200-300 difference (round-trip) for traveling on the same day at about the same time is not at all unusual.) I encourage those of you who fly in to rent a vehicle, especially if are bringing family or want to tour on your own (see below for some ideas). Shuttle service should be available from all four airports to the convention hotel.

Fredericksburg is also served by Amtrak and Virginia Railway Express, which may be convenient if you are traveling along the east coast. Fares vary, so check Metroliner and "regular" fares.

Room sharing

If you would like to share a room at the convention but do not have a roommate lined up, I'll try to play matchmaker. First, contact the Holiday Inn Select in Fredericksburg Va and make a reservation for the convention. Be sure to tell them you are attending the convention so you can get the convention rate and so EAC can get credited with the room nights. (As with all conventions, the rental for the bourse and meeting rooms is dependent on the number of room nights that are credited to our members--the more room nights, the lower the rental fees.) (It is important to reserve the room first because there is often a cutoff date for getting the convention rate. Remember, you can generally cancel by noon (or later) of the day you plan to arrive without incurring a credit card charge.)

After you have made your reservation, contact me, Mike Packard at 4905 Village Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or at carver3@ioip.com and let me know who you are, whether you prefer (or demand) a smoking or nonsmoking room (or don't care), and which nights you are planning to stay. I'll try to put you in contact with someone else looking for a roommate for those same nights. Then you can cancel one of the unneeded rooms.

Another option for finding a roommate is to ask on Region 8.

## Non-EAC Activities

You've decided to bring family or loved ones with you, but they are not interested in coins. What can they do? Send them on the EAC-sponsored tours. Not enough to satisfy them? There is lots to do.

Fredericksburg is the site of or near the sites of four civil war battles--Fredericksburg (Dec 11-15, 1862), Chancellorsville (April 27-May 6, 1863), the Wilderness (May 5-6, 1864), and Spotsylvania Court House (May 8-21, 1864). The latter three battles were within 15 miles to the west of Fredericksburg off Route 3. Farther west, you can turn off Route 3 onto Route 20 and visit Montpelier, home of James and Dolley Madison, just south of Orange, VA (About 45 miles from Fredericksburg). If you continue along Route 20 for another 20 miles or so, you will reach Charlottesville, home of the University of Virginia, Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, and Ash Lawn, home of James Monroe.

If you drive east from Fredericksburg along Route 3, you will, after about 40 miles, find roads to the left that lead to Pope's Creek Plantation, birthplace of George Washington, and to Stratford Hall Plantation, birthplace of Robert E. Lee. Drive another 70 miles south along Route 3 through Virginia's beautiful Northern Neck and you will arrive in Gloucester, home of the famed token. Another 20 minutes and you will arrive in Yorktown and can visit the revolutionary war battlefield. About 30 minutes west of Yorktown is Williamsburg, Virginia, a town restored to its colonial splendor. It is the second largest tourist attraction in Virginia. And about 8 miles south of Williamsburg is Jamestown, first English settlement in the New World.

About 50 miles south of Fredericksburg lies Richmond, capitol of Virginia and capitol of the Confederacy. It is a city of much history and numerous museums, including the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Valentine Museum (Richmond history), Museum of the Confederacy, Edgar Allen Poe Museum. There are also many antebellum homes open to the public and more civil war battlefields. Richmond is a city of gardens and flowers should be popping out there and in other locales throughout middle and southern Virginia. It will be a great time of year to visit the area. If you venture east from Richmond along Route 5 and the James River, you will eventually arrive in Williamsburg, but along the way you will have the opportunity to visit several James River Plantations including Berkeley, birthplace of William Henry Harrison and site of the first English Thanksgiving, and Sherwood Forest, home of John Tyler, 10th president of the US. Sherwood Forest is probably the longest frame house in America.

North of Fredericksburg is Washington DC with all its museums and attractions. Late March may be when the cherry blossoms are in bloom or it may not. They tend to be at their peak about a week after our Convention, but the weather plays a big role in when they bloom. I've seen them reach their peak anywhere from the middle of March (rarely) to the third week in April. About half way between Washington and Fredericksburg is Virginia's number one tourist attraction, Potomac Mills Mall, a VERY large mall with

more than 220 manufacturer's outlets and discount stores. Personally, I visited there once about 15 years ago when it was much smaller and vowed to never return. Others love it because of all the great "values." I warn you-- you can spend your coin money on coins in Fredericksburg or you can let your family spend that and much more at Potomac Mills. I'd keep that place a secret, a BIG secret.

There are several large amusement parks that should be opened weekends including paramount's Kings Dominion (a great roller coaster park) about 35 miles south of Fredericksburg. There are several new golf courses in the Fredericksburg area for those who like to play golf. (A free Virginia golf guide is available by calling 1-800-932-2259.)

\* \* \* \* \*

### CALL FOR EXHIBITS AT EAC 2001

Greg Heim, Lisa Heim, and Jon Warshawsky

Good news: We have already received three requests to exhibit at EAC 2001, but we need more of you to step up and exhibit. The format will be a little different this year with voluntary exhibit judging and the awarding of prizes for judged exhibits. Space is limited, and we really hate to turn anyone away so please send us your request and the number of cases you will need. Even if you do not have a title for your exhibit, let us know now and we will reserve space for you.

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**Treasurer's Report 2000**

2000 Beginning 1 January . . . . . 34,515.77

<u>Acct</u>	<u>Name</u>	IN	OUT	NET
101	Dues	38,364.00		38,364.00
102	Adverts	1,620.00		1,620.00
103	Interest	1,954.76		1,954.76
104	Donations	100.00		100.00
105	Issues	108.00		108.00
106	Tapes In	.00		
206	Tapes Out		.00	.00
107	Medals In	2,023.00		
207	Medals Out		-2,459.70	-436.70
108	Conv In	8,615.40		
208	Conv Out		-12,374.02	-3,758.62
109	EAC Sale In	31,101.86		
209	EAC Sale Out		-6,988.68	24,113.18
110	Other In	.00		
210	Other Out		.00	.00
211	P-W Print		-26,299.25	-26,299.25
212	P-W Postg		-7,403.90	-7,403.90
213	P-W Suppt		-293.84	-293.84
214	Organiz		-2,502.75	-2,502.75
115	Libr In	130.00		
215	Libr Out		<u>.00</u>	<u>130.00</u>
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<u>84,017.02</u>	<u>-58,322.14</u>	<u>25,694.88</u>

2001 Beginning Balance . . . . . 60,210.65

NOTES: This is the first year that the EAC Convention and the EAC Sale have been run from the EAC Treasury account, so pending-completion items confuse the figures somewhat.

108/208 -- EAC Conventions

Includes Spending/Receipts (so far) for EAC2000, 2001, and EAC 2002 as follows:

EAC2000 Spending . . .	\$ 1,250.00	(Spent in 1999)
Spending . . .	\$ 10,324.02	Spent in 2000
Receipts . . .	\$ 5,250.40	Recvd in 2000
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TOTAL . . .	<del>\$</del> 6,323.62	(2000 Complete)

EAC2001 Spending . . .	\$- 1,000.00	(Spent in 1999)
Spending . . .	\$- 50.00	(Spent in 2000)
Receipts . . .	\$ 3,365.00	(Bourse Payments)
		(2001 Pending)

EAC2002 Spending . . .	\$- 2,000.00	(Spent in 2000)
		(2002 Pending)

109/209 – EAC Sale

Includes Spending/Receipts (so far) for EAC1999, EAC2000, and EAC 2001. Since thru 2000 the EAC Sale account has been a carry-forward account out of my sight, there is no way to separate out individual years' accountings.

Catalog . . .	\$- 7,471.66	(Spent in 1999)	
Pay Cons . . .	\$-20,000.00	(Spent in 1999)	
Stolen . . .	\$- 5,270.00	(Spent in 1999)	
Receipts . . .	\$ 0.00	(Recvd in 1999)	
Receipts . . .	\$ 15,150.00	(in 2000 for 1999)	**
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TOTAL . . .	\$-17,591.66	(1999 Sale Pending)	***
Spending . . .	\$- 6,988.68	(Print & Mail Catalog)	
Receipts . . .	\$ 15,951.86	(in 2000 for 2000 and closeout of 1999)	****
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TOTAL . . .	\$ 8,963.18	(2000 Complete, incl some 1999)	

EAC2001 No Spending or Receipts in 2000

- \*\* \$ 10,700 received on 26Jan2000 from the EAC1999 Sale account. Another \$ 4,450 was received on 15Sep2000 for recovery of losses from Tom Reynolds' 1999 Robbery. There are still \$ 7,850.00 in unrecovered EAC1999 Sale coins from this incident.
- \*\*\* Note that we showed a net loss of \$ 32,741.66 last year for the EAC1999 Sale. All consignors to the EAC1999 Sale were paid in full by EAC in 1999. The receipts in \*\* have reduced this amount to the \*\*\* figure or less, depending on how much of the \$24,228 still due from Tom Reynolds is for lots he purchased in 1999 versus 2000 and how much of \*\*\*\* is 1999 residuals.
- \*\*\*\* \$15,951.86 received on 9Nov2000 to close EAC Sale account in Omaha. This includes 2000 receipts and 1999 residuals.

\*\*\*\*\*



December 14, 2000

TO: All Members of E.A.C.

Re: Some proposals for your consideration

With our annual meeting just around the corner now would be a good time to solicit some ideas for the Board to consider for future implementation. Each of you is encouraged to suggest proposals. I have been pondering a few changes myself so this letter is to bring these to your attention for your comments and suggestions.

1. Discontinue the two tier system for annual dues. Everyone to pay the same annual dues. Practical or not?
2. Use bulk mailing for the May, July, September, November, and January Penny-Wise. For March P-W and the Annual Sale catalog continue to use First Class mail. Same question.
3. Establish an EAC Directory for those who wish to participate on a strictly voluntary basis. We have many members who would like to be on such a list, giving a mailing address only and what collecting interests you have.
4. A compendium of auction prices realized of Early American Copper material to be published by EAC. My opinion is that EAC could provide some truly significant information to our membership, by publishing an annual and updated compendium of prices realized for the kind of material in which everyone has an interest. This information would need to include:  
A. Auction House, B. Cataloger, C. Grade, D. EAC Grade if known, E. Recent price history if known, F. Price, G. etc.
5. Greater support for Young Numismatist Programs.
6. Greater support for Educational efforts concerning early copper.

If you have any comments, please let me hear from you.

Respectfully,

March Wells, President, EAC Inc.

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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 #
Robert Theriault	Borrego Springs, CA	4878
Ron Robertson	Manhattan Beach, CA	4879
David Kahn	Brookeville, MD	4880
Richard Gladdle	London, England	4881
Marc T. Nunes	New Bedford, MA	4882
Richard Iglar	Randolph, NJ	4883
Gregory M. Owens	South Burlington, VT	4884
Chip Nimsgerm	Minocqua, WI	4885
J. C. Quarfoth	Shoreview, MN	4886
Terrance Bockhol	Chicago, IL	4887
Rick Burgess	Saratoga, CA	4888
Cory Collins	Crystal River, FL	4889
Allen Hopkinson	San Jose, CA	4890
Michael A. Prewitt	Indianapolis, IN	4891
Robert S. Keblor	St. Louis, MO	4892
Christian Colbert	Austin, TX	4893
Jason Freeman	Vancouver, WA	4894 Junior
Ilya Epshteyn	Brooklyn, NY	4895
Alan P. Danovitch	South Boston, MA	4896
Ronald Hagen	Faribault, MN	4897
Richard Fray	Springfield, VA	4898

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#### A NOTE OF THANKS

From Del Bland

The Condition Census for Walter Breen's early date large cent book 1793-1814 being published by Bowers and Merena is finished.

Actually this book project began over 20 years ago with the intent of updating Dr. William H. Sheldon's monumental work Penny Whimsy. About 15 years ago, the project was taken over by Bowers and Merena after it was decided a new book was needed. I want to convey my sincere appreciation to all the collectors and dealers who helped make this work what it is. Trying to list individually each person would require a page full of names and surely I would omit someone. So this is just a great big thanks to everyone including Bowers and Merena and especially Mark Borckardt for their tremendous effort to get this book published. However, there are several people I do want to mention for their efforts. First of all are Denis W. Loring and Jeff Peck. Jeff provided assistance with the format, making suggestions on how write-ups should appear in print. Denis, well enough cannot be said for his contribution. He has been keeping provenance records for as long as I have and provided me with his entire condition census and continues updates to this day.

Denis is one of the few who has stuck with this project to the end. For nearly a quarter of a century, the late C. Douglas Smith provided a home for me in Brooklyn while I attended conventions and did research. Countless times I thanked him. My route of travel was to fly to Newark airport, hop the bus to Port Authority, get on the "A" train to W. 4th Street, then take the "D" train to Brooklyn. Doug's apartment on Willoughby Street was the meeting place in the early 1970's for a group of collectors including Jerry Bobbe and Bob Shalowitz.

My first important acquisition of classic auction catalogs from the 19th century came from John Adams who also provided me with Xerox copies of letters important to my research. John may know more about the history of early copper than anyone else. His quest for knowledge and detail is almost without an equal.

For years, the late Armand Champa opened up his library to me for research, as did the late Harry Bass, both of whom had classic catalogs with photographic plates and buyers names which are invaluable to my work. The last few years Dan Hamelberg has provided the same type of information. Visiting Dan is a unique experience. He guides you into his library where piles of catalogs sit on the floor and on shelves. The special catalogs you need are pulled from his bookcases, and he says to go through the stuff on the floor and shelves, sort it by cataloger, and see if there is anything you want. Working in his library gets him enthused and he will begin to put everything in order.

Another long time friend of mine, Phil Ralls, also has provided a home away from home for me and still does. For around two decades, I have stayed with Phil. In fact, when he and his family purchased their home in Glendale, California, I was staying there a few days before he moved in.

Jack H. Beymer has been purchasing early copper from me for over 33 years. I first met him at a coin show in California around 1967. At that time he bought a couple of large cents from me, then purchased a couple more saying, I was the first person he ever obtained early copper from that grades these coins properly. Jack has made it possible for me to attend conventions where I have done some purchasing for him.

I also want to thank the ANS in general, and curator John Kleeberg and librarian Frank Campbell in particular. John dug around the depths of the ANS and discovered many tidbits of helpful information for me. He did extraordinary research on the 1793 Strawberry Leaf cents and published his findings. Frank and his assistants pulled countless catalogs from the ANS library as well as anything else they could find that would benefit my research.

In the last few years Bill Noyes and I have combined our efforts to a certain degree. Bill has produced a condition census of his own using his wonderful color photographs of all the better examples of early copper. We have exchanged some information and he has been very helpful in clearing up several questions I had about provenances. Hopefully this cooperation will continue.

A very special thanks to "Tuco" from "Blondie".

And last but certainly not least, I want to thank Bob Vail. Bob and I have been close friends for nearly 30 years. He put together fine collections of half cents and large cents, all sold within the last few years, during which time he has devoted himself to researching the history of large cents. He has an excellent library and has helped me greatly with information and corrections to my research. Bob was responsible for the discovery and eventual sale by Charles Davis of part of the Chapman library that had been stored for decades at the Free Library in Philadelphia. This contained Chapman bid books and several rare auction catalogs. We benefited greatly from those catalogs which contained buyers' and consignors' names and initials. Bob continues his research today and every once in a while I get a telephone call about information he has come up with that sometimes opens the door to solving missing provenances.

The Condition Census is by no means perfect. But it is a good start. Already numerous corrections and additions have been made but not soon enough to be incorporated into the book. My plan is to publish updates in Penny-Wise.

\* \* \* \* \*

## TALKING BEGINNERS – STORING COPPERS

Steve Carr

It has happened before and it will happen again. You buy some nice looking copper coins, enjoy looking at them for a while, then put them away. When you look at them again (which may be years—heaven forbid—later), you find some have changed in appearance. The culprits that cause this change are numerous. Copper is a relatively reactive metal. Things like moisture, airborne dirt and dust, and plasticizers, react easily with copper. This reaction changes the color and surfaces of the coin, often for the worse. If not addressed, these reactions will cause the coin to deteriorate, both aesthetically and in value. As a conservator of these coins, for posterity or future value, it is your job to store them so these changes do not occur or, at most, are very minor.

So, what are the best ways to store your coppers? Notice the word “ways” is used, as there are many suitable methods of storage available. Some are better, some worse. Some are better for selling while others are better for long term storage. Some are cheaper and some are downright expensive.

When considering a method to store your coins, you need to consider both the micro- and macro-environments where the coins will be stored. The macro-environment is the large area surrounding the coin, such as a room, drawer, or safe. The best macro-environment for storing old coppers is one that is cool, dry and secure. A bank safety deposit box usually provides all three, as do most home safes. For collections of lesser value, a high shelf, desk drawer, or cabinet drawer in a cool dark room is usually best. If your collection has any value, you should also be able to read and monitor the current room temperature and humidity.

The micro-environment is the area right around the coin. It is at this level that scratches and copper reactions occur, so an environment that can remain dry is essential. Here we are talking about storage means like paper envelopes, 2x2 holders, flips, plastic holders, coin folders, and slabs. This is the environment where ease and clarity in viewing the coin need to be balanced with protection. Let's look at some different micro-environment storage methods.

**Paper envelope** – Paper envelopes have been used for decades to store copper coins. In fact, they may be the most popular method of storage used by copper collectors. They are inexpensive (under five cents each) and come in several different colors. On the down side, the coin can only be viewed by removing it from the envelope. Repeatedly sliding a coin in and out of a paper envelope can create hairline surface scratches. Even worse, some of these envelopes are made using paper that contains small amounts of sulfur. Sulfur “likes” copper and tends to react with it. This happens more frequently when a copper coin with porous surfaces is stored in a paper envelope. using a cotton liner can neutralize the effects of this sulfur.

**Cotton liner** – Cotton liners are pouches made of cotton. These pouches are less than two inches square in size and slide into a paper envelope. The cotton surfaces of the liner greatly reduce the chance of making hairline scratches on the coin when removing and

replacing it. They also help create a dryer environment right around the coin. On the down side, they are somewhat expensive (around 25 cents per liner), are thicker, and make taking the coin out of the envelope a little more time consuming. For higher grade coppers, they are an excellent storage method, perhaps the best.

**2 x 2 holder** – These holders are another way to store coppers. They consist of a hinged thin cardboard card, holed for the coin, covered on its inside surface with a plastic sheet. They are inert. They are also inexpensive (about one cent each). They are a way to look at coppers quickly and are generally favored by non-EAC dealers. On the down side, most are held together using staples. A protruding point from a staple can put a nasty scratch on a copper. People who use 2 x 2s should flatten the staples. Another negative about 2 x 2 holders is that they are not airtight, so moisture can enter around the edges. Finally, most coppers are not held rigidly in the 2 x 2 and slide back and forth a little. While this usually does not damage the coin, it will scratch the plastic. Before long, all you can see through the holder is a dull gray outline of the coin. Some 2 x 2 holders (Day Mount, for example) have an adhesive as part of the holder and can be sealed by pressing the sides together. These holders eliminate the worry of staple scratches, but are fairly expensive (about 10 – 15 cents apiece).

**Flip** – Flips are hinged plastic holders with two coin pouches. One of these is generally used to hold a paper insert describing the coin. There are two general types of flips, flexible and rigid. Flexible flips are easily bent and will not scratch the coin. On the down side, they contain PVC, a plasticizer that reacts with copper. This reaction, which may continue for years before damage is noticed, begins to form a goeey green substance that eats away the surface of the coin. Short term exposure is generally considered harmless. Rigid flips are exactly that, rigid. Without PVC, these flips do not flex. While the flip is inert, the plastic may scratch the surface of a copper. If the copper is handled carefully, rigid flips provide an excellent long term storage method.

**Plastic holder** – They come in a wide variety of shapes, colors, and sizes. Since these holders are rigid, they do not contain PVC. Several different companies make these holders, with Capital being perhaps the best known. They are an excellent way to display a copper, as they give a clear view of the obverse and reverse. On the down side, the edge cannot be seen. Also, while these holders can be specially made, commercially available holders come with standard size holes. Many early coppers vary in diameter, so the coin might not fit properly. They are expensive (about \$5 for a single coin holder to hundreds of dollars for larger holders with more holes). A second type of rigid plastic holder has two shell halves, with the coin being sandwiched between them. These are air tight and fairly expensive (about 70 cents each). Perhaps the best known brand is Kointain.

A third type of plastic holder is the slab.

**Slab** – Slabs are produced by the coin grading industry. They are sonically sealed inert holders. The holder also contains an insert telling the year, the grade, and in some cases, the variety and/or mintage of the coin. Remember -- slab grade is NOT always the same as EAC grade. Remember -- slabs are NOT airtight.

Slabs are a fairly good way to store coppers. The coins are held rigidly in a non-reactive holder. They are also an excellent way to sell your coins, as there is a fairly large market for slabbed coppers. On the down side, the edge of the coin cannot be seen. Also, many coppers have been slabbed with dirt and moisture on the coin's surfaces. These materials can cause slabbed coins to deteriorate, right inside the slab.

**Coin folder** – A coin folder is book size and is made of cardboard pages with holes for the coins. There are two types of coin folders available, those with plastic sliding covers and those without. Folders without the slides require you to push the coin into its appropriate spot, while a plastic backing prevents the coin from going through the page. Those with slides have the hole punched completely through the cardboard and use sliding pieces of rigid plastic on either side of the coin to hold it in place. In general, storing coppers in a coin folder is a poor choice. The cardboard contains sulfur and the plastic slides can scratch the coin surface.

**Jeweler's tissue** – Jewelers tissue is a thin, fine grained, sulfur free paper that does not scratch the surface of a copper coin. In the early days of early American copper collecting, this was a popular way to store a copper. It is very inexpensive (about one cent a sheet). On the downside, a copper wrapped in Jeweler" tissue usually requires a second storage medium, like a paper envelope or a small box. Also, to see the coin, you must unwrap it. With frequent use, jeweler" paper begins to disintegrate.

**Blue ribbon** – Blue Ribbon Coin Condition is a liquid used to clean and coat the surface of a copper coin. When a coin is treated with Blue Ribbon, a thin layer remains on the coin surface and prevents further reactions. Blue Ribbon was out of production for several years, but a new supply has recently entered the market. While fairly inexpensive (\$8 or so a bottle, which will treat hundreds of coppers), other means of coating coins can be used. Olive oil, for one, makes a nice coin coating. More permanent types of coatings, like lacquer, were used frequently in the past. The major drawback of using a permanent sealer is removing it from the coin without causing more damage.

No matter how you store your coppers, the best bit of advice I can pass on is to look at your coins fairly frequently. Catch any changes in their color as soon as you discover them. Find out why the coin is toning, then take action to correct the situation. You will be rewarded with nice coppers that stay that way!

Is there anything you would like to see covered in this column? Once again I am running low on topics and would appreciate any ideas. You can contact me by mail at 6815 West 82 Street, Overland Park, KS 66204, by phone (913) 383-2568, or by email at [scarr4002@aol.com](mailto:scarr4002@aol.com).

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#### **MAKING SENSE**

John D. Wright

The Napoleonic Wars were still raging this year. At the battle of Wolgram (France vs Austria), a full sixth of both 180,000-man armies were casualties. Napoleon divorced Josephine this year over "matters of state" – she had not produced a male heir. When the Papal states fell this year the Pope was taken captive by the French. He would be a prisoner for five years.

In this country the "Phoenix" made the first ocean voyage by a steamboat, paddling from New York to the Delaware River and on to Philadelphia. The first US parochial school was founded this year by Elizabeth Seaton, who 166 years later would be canonized as the first American saint.

The Illinois Territory was cut from Indiana Territory this year, and the Treaty of Fort Wayne took another three million acres from the Indians. Writing under the name "Diedrich

Knickerbocker", New Yorker Washington Irving published "A History of New York from the Beginning of the World to the End of the Dutch Dynesty". Irving's other works include "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and "Rip Van Winkle".

This was the year that James Madison became the fourth US President. Notable people born this year include Alfred Tennyson, Edgar Allan Poe, Felix Mendelssohn, Louis Braille, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Charles Darwin, and Abraham Lincoln.

That last one gave it away, didn't it! The year was 1809. This year saw the conversion of the last US coin denominations from the "flowing hair" types to the John Reich "capped bust" designs, with Miss Liberty wearing a Phrygian cap or a hairdo and headband that simulates such a cap. The Philadelphia mint struck two denominations in copper, two in silver, and one in gold this year.

The most common US coins of 1809 are the half cent and the half dollar, with a bit over a million of each coined. At today's rates, that's only a few hours' production. The scarcest Guidebook types of this year are the dime and half eagle, with fewer than 85,000 pieces combined. Surprisingly, the slightly scarcer half eagle (\$5 gold) costs only two to four times as much as the dime.

Only the half dollar and the half eagle of this year boast a true overdate (1809/8). The so-called "1809/6" half cent is a multiple punching of a date digit, as is the "1809 with Circle inside O".

But for me, the fascination of this year is the large cent. With a mintage of only 222,867 pieces, it is the scarcest year and variety of the Classic Head large cents (1808-1814). It is one of only three single-variety years in the large cent series (1804, 1806, 1809), and its date shows a peculiarity that bears closer scrutiny.

The final date-digit on the 1809 cent has a large lump below its center loop. Some people have proposed this as evidence of an underfigure, but it is not. This imperfect numeral punch is seen again, now inverted as a 6, on all cents of 1816. On these, the lump is above the center loop of the 6. And this same defective punch makes its curtain call on one variety of 1819 half dollar – ten years later. Now THAT is a fascination that surpasses scarcity or price!

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

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#### **A NOTE OF THANKS!**

Nicholas A. Forster

Oh, to walk in to a coin shop, a numismatic fair or auction house, just to be greeted by Large, reddish, brownish, blackish even greenish, beautiful Cents. A dream fit for any collector of U.S. Copper cents in the U.K. A kid in a sweet shop. (Candy Store). Alas, it will never be. This humble Englishman finds himself battling his way through endless tables of World Banknotes, world coins, English copper through the ages, (some of you may be salivating at that last line up), only to find the odd box of U.S. small change, of which two or three large brownish, digged and thoroughly worn-out late dates will appear. On the rarest of occasions

this Englishman may come across, what is considered here, a 'gem'. Something approaching EF. But that is the total eclipse of finds in this quaint old land.

Then there are the independent dealers that swerve about the bourse tables like the Artful Dodger. The ones that deal for a full hour before you're let in to the room, buying up all the good bits! They then sell them onto you with the usual/unusual 10% mark up. Not bad for one hour's profit. But they do have the eye. The eye to catch your eye. To reel you in. But hey! I hear you cry. They've done you a service. They've got the piece you wanted. Mmmm!!! OK! it still would be nice, just one cold, rainy English autumn morning to see a room full of Liberty copper. Chain Cents, (never seen one, except in the British Museum behind plate glass, and that was probably a copy!), 1794 Wreath Cent, (held one once, or was that a dream, too?). Oh, you lucky Americans! And when yours truly finally gets to a table that has a showcase full of those beautiful coins, there stands a dealer, shoulders wide, Newcomb at the ready, plotting his strategy to buy everything on it, plus the table itself. He's taken a fancy to the legs!!! He then turns to you after the deal with a grin and 10% flushed upon his sweaty forehead. I didn't even get a chance to see them. Ah well! Back to that odd box with the dented 1842.

OK! That's the griping over with. Fortunately you guys are good to this poor deprived Englander. As long as the price is met, (very reasonably I might add), you seem to have no qualms about sending those wonderfully struck copper planchets back to England from where they originally came. If it weren't for you guys, this guy would be stuck in the mud looking for Roman coins along the Thames. And for that, I send you a note of thanks.

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## THE HOLY GRAIL

Bob Schuman

In the summer of 1973, I visited Boston (with pony tail and back pack) to attend the A.N.A. convention. For me, those were heady (no pun intended) times. I was intensely interested in the acquisition of 1794 large cents and concomitantly coming to understand their tradition and mystique.

At the same time, John W. Adams was, and had been, deeply involved in the history and provenance of these prominent 1794 cents. His superb collection and the extensive information that evolved from his research during those years added much to the lore and the lure of these cents. John had graciously invited me to visit him at his office in downtown Boston. There I was shown a number of beautiful 1794 cents that were indeed a joy to behold, and it was an unforgettable experience.

I was, however, shown one more item that day that seemed even more remarkable to me, then and now, both as a numismatist and as a numismatist bibliophile. John handed me an original copy of Dr. Maris' work on the U.S. CENTS and HALF CENTS of 1794. Across the title page in ink, in a beautiful 19th century script, were the letters - W.W. Hays. As a member of the Hays cult (as George F. Kolbe has called it), I felt as if I had seen Moses' personal copy of Ten Commandments. It was the highlight of a spectacular afternoon.

I never forgot about that small pamphlet and, years later, as I became seriously interested in numismatic literature, my obsession with this piece grew even stronger. After a somewhat circuitous and costly course of events, I was finally able to acquire it.

It has no great functional value. It is not useful for pedigree research. It is not helpful for variety attribution. Other copies can be had much more inexpensively.

It is, however, a physical relic (almost religious in some ways) of the legendary deities of the 1794 large cent pantheon and of the momentary but profound interconnection between them. It is the sole written testament to and documentation of the actual passing of the torch from Dr. Edward Maris, the pioneer who first saw the light and attempted to clarify it in his own words, and William Wallace Hays, Esq., "the man through whose patience and perseverance a complete cent of the 1794 cents was collected," and who, with the collaboration of Edouard Frossard, brought forth a written and photographic record of that collection for the use and pleasure of future generations even to the present. As Sheldon states, the name Hays has "taken deep root in the affections of cent collectors" and "will long be associated with this, the most extensive one-date series of American coins."

This particular copy is a written artifact that represents the continuity of spirit that flowed from Maris to Hays to Sheldon and to those collectors, past and present, who have actually felt that fraternal bond between past and future owners as Sheldon described it. That emotion is real and palpable to those who have known it. That passion, a flame kindled over 131 years ago, still burns today, and this little book seems an eternal ember from that fire. When I shut the lights in my study at the end of the evening, I can sometimes sense a faint glow emanating from the bookshelf . . . perhaps it's just my imagination.

\* \* \* \* \*

## ST. PATRICK COINAGE – BOOK UPDATE

John Griffie

Bill Noyes has been taking pictures of single coins and collections of farthings and half pence, mainly at the C4, EAC, FUN and ANA conventions, for the last three years.

The late Walter Breen, in his Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins, page 34, states, ". . . over 120 die vars. exist of the "farthings"."

With the spectacular cooperation from the Colonial collectors, I now have several hundred photos; and I know of, at last count, at least 240 different die varieties including many new die varieties. I own almost 150 different die varieties myself.

St. Patrick owners have been asking me when will the book be available, so I have decided it is now time to put this book together.

I want to let the membership know that the last major photography session will be at the coming EAC convention in Fredericksburg, VA, March 28 through April 1, 2001.

There are still a lot of examples from old sales and auctions hidden away that should be photographed and counted for both my book and the National Register of all St. Patrick coinage being established by Stan Stephens.

If you have just one or any number of coins for photography, please write, call or email me at any of the addresses listed below—it will make the work more complete.

John M. Griffie  
5612 SW 89th Pl.  
Ocala, FL 34476  
[StPatrickone@aol.com](mailto:StPatrickone@aol.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PETE SMITH WRITES,

I would like to respond to John Ward's interest in Walter Breen and his suggestion that, "Pete Smith should get on this!" From my research on Breen, I can confirm that he is not a descendent of the Donner Pass Breens.

In his biography in *Penny-Wise*, (1-15-78 p. 23-27) Breen revealed that he was born in San Antonio, Texas, on September 5, 1930, and adopted. His name at birth may have been James Douglas Headrick. He indicated that his adoptive father was a traveling salesman named Breen. After his parents divorced, his adoptive mother changed his name. He said that he was beaten and left for dead in 1946 with loss of memory. This may account of some of the confusion in Breen's biographies. He may have been unsure of some details.

Breen's bio in *Who's Who in America* gives his date of birth as September 5, 1928. Unlike most listings, there is no reference to his parents. This indicates just that Breen did not provide the information. Breen is not listed in the Social Security Death Index, an indication that either he never applied for a Social Security Number, or that his death was not properly reported. Breen said he used a phony birth certificate to get into the Air Force [his term] in 1946. If that is true, it might explain his two reported years of birth.

I knew Walter and interviewed him for my book in 1991. I suspect he colored some facts to his advantage, as any of us might. He denied his failings, as any of us might. While the facts may be in dispute, he remains fascinating, as indicated by Ward's letter.

\* \* \*

NICHOLAS FORSTER WRITES,

I would just like to take a quick time out to congratulate Fred Iskra on his First class, First Edition revival of the "Common Cents" Report. So, here it is.

A BIG CONGRATULATIONS, Fred!

And let's hope that more join in on the census. Just one thing however. Being from a foreign land myself, a footnote of country of origin to the collection would be nice. Just to show that there is a worldwide fascination for these beautiful old coppers. And that wouldn't hinder collectors security, which I know is paramount importance to this project.

\* \* \*

BOB JULIAN WRITES,

1) The letter on page 356 of the November issue reads, toward the end

"Be pleased to urge the Captains of vessels not to place your kegs in the bottom of their vessels where the bilge water must stain them."

This is a draft copy of a letter to be sent to Crocker Brothers. The finished copy was sent in a better hand.

Editor's Response: My error! Rereading the 19th century script of the original, Bob is quite right: it's "Captains of Vessels," not "captain of Repel."

\* \* \* \* \*

**FROM THE INTERNET**

Bill Eckberg

Region 8 now has 270 members, up from 265 at the beginning of November. If you wish to join Region 8, just send an email message to J. Mark Switzer at [dc181@olq.com](mailto:dc181@olq.com). Some of the newsletters were a little shorter than usual, probably due to holiday vacations, but Region 8 continues to be a major forum for discussion by its members, an excellent outlet for quick announcements to the membership, and a weekly copper fix for the truly and hopelessly addicted (including your humble correspondent).

While there has been some discussion of the upcoming EAC Convention in Fredericksburg, VA, topic "A" of conversation for the past two months has been eBay, with many members noting shill bidding and coins that were counterfeit, altered, misattributed or just vastly overgraded on the Internet auction site. Lengthy and insightful postings came from **Dennis Fuoss** and **Skip Lane**. There was also an interesting **Anonymous** post (the first on Region 8) from a member who noted a retooled coin from the Bowers and Merena Norweb III Sale, there graded VF35, net F-12 and listed as such by Noyes, now offered in an Accugrade slab as AU50. The anonymous posting brought supportive comments from **Lloyd Hurt**, **Ted Reid**, and **Bill Maryott**. **Tom Deck** reported on a counterfeit 1799 Large Cent on eBay that was altered from an 1800! **Greg Heim** reported a run of electrotype proof half cents listed as genuine.

**Further proof that EAC'ers are the best collectors and dealers in numismatics:** there was an interesting controversy concerning a dealer (not EAC) who would not let a Region 8 member look at the recently-discovered 1859 two-headed Indian Cent. Fortunately, another Region 8 member had the coin in his possession for a while and was much more accommodating. For obvious reasons, I will not name names.

**Tom Koop** reported that he had received and enjoyed his Late Date Cent Report.

**H. Craig Hamling**, **Cindy Grellman**, and **Jon Warshawsky**, announced EAC meetings at the WESP Nex show in November, the FUN show in January, and the Long Beach Expo in February.

Jon also reported the varieties to be included in the Large Cent Happening at EAC 2001.

Bob Yuell asked the interesting question: What constitutes a die variety? At least for half cent aficionados, this seemingly easy question does not have easy, non-controversial answers. Your humble correspondent responded with some possibly useful comments on specific alleged varieties.

Roxanne Goldberg, Dennis Fuoss, Bill Maryott, and Steve Carr reported on visits to local shows.

Early buzz on the upcoming J. R. Frankenfeld Sale by Superior came from Peter Koch, Chris McCawley and Bob Grellman.

Dennis Fuoss managed to find a misattributed 1826 N8 in a Stack's mail bid sale.

Tom Reynolds reported on the continuing saga of his robbery. Unfortunately, the American justice system moves with the speed of an onrushing glacier, and the sentencing of the thieves has been postponed. Tom Knopp told him that it pays to be persistent. I hope he gets his coins back at least by the NEXT millennium.

Roxanne Goldberg continues to give coins to kids, including as Halloween candy. Some members of Region 8 have supported her efforts. More of us should do so.

Finally, several members wished various forms of Happy Holidays to the Region 8 membership, and I wish the same to all of you.

#### Editor's Comment:

Another member recently wrote to advise me that at least one individual claiming to be "an EAC member for three decades" – NOT verifiable – is offering coins on eBay that "nearly all look to have serious surface problems," all the while alleging that he's obtained them from well-known EAC dealers such as Chris McCawley or Tom Reynolds . . . My correspondent asks that we reiterate: EAC DOES NOT GRADE COINS; EAC DOES NOT ENDORSE ANY PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL'S GRADING; and indeed, EAC DOES NOT HAVE ANY OFFICIAL PUBLISHED GRADING STANDARDS – in other words, the same legal disclaimer that precedes each "Swaps and Sales" should apply when people bandy EAC's name about the Internet!

\* \* \* \* \*

#### 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, 2001 issue is February 28, 2001. 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.

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\*\*\*\*\*

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1802	S-237	VF-35/20, lovely obverse, minor porosity left reverse, light brown	250
1802	S-228	F/VF Fraction 1/000 Steel brown, decent example	130
1803	S-243	F/VF, Stemless, close to VF, ticks, medium brown	140
1805	S-268	GD-4 smooth brown	30
1807	S-276	FR-02, legible, corrosion areas, rotated, date clear	17
1809	S-280	AG-3 plus, close to GD-4, smooth brown	55
1812	S-289	EF-40, very choice, superb color, chestnut tones, Ex NTL	850

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1825	N6	R3	VF30	525	Brown with choice surfaces. A+
1827	N1	R2	AU55	2200	Brown with choice, frosty surfaces. E-MDS. Tied for CC#4. A++
1829	N5	R3+	VF25	600	Small Letters. Brown with smooth surfaces. A+
1830	N5	R3	VF20+	185	Brown with choice, frosty surfaces. C
1831	N3	R1	AU50+	650	Medium brown with choice, frosty surfaces. MDS. C
1834	N1	R1	AU50	375	SD/LS/SL. Brown with smooth frosty surfaces. A+
1835	N5	42	AU55	625	SD/SS/SL. Brown with choice, frosty surfaces. Slight blunt strike. C

\* \* \* \* \*

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JHRHTR@AOL.COM 703-821-1446 (has voice mail) 703-821-1854, Anytime  
Only I will answer this line

First off, I offer my apologies.....

The last couple of months have been very consumed with immediate business that has involved much travel - which is good to work on CQR, but terrible if you need to respond to various correspondence that has gone unanswered. To all (or any) of you that have thought me to be very rude and uncaring, this is very far from the truth, but certainly would be evident on the surface. I had planned to attend FUN 2001, but year-end 2000 and other pressing, unfinished and urgent business did not allow this annual pleasure to take place.

CQR #17 will now carry the date of 02/28/2001, and will be published after J. R. Frankenfield's massive sale due for mid-February 2001.

I was very comfortable with my decisions relating to publishing in December 2000 and had completed much work, to be ready to go to the printers. Then I started getting phone calls after the November 2000 PW came out. Many phone calls. There wasn't the matter of anger, just concern. Having been a couple of years since CQR #16, with subscribers having paid for #17 in advance, I thought it very simple to publish in December - BEFORE JR's sale. Well, I am no stranger to controversy, but here come at least three schools of thought:

1. Yeah, great, here's some more data - get on with it (Smallest school).
2. Wait-a-minute, you don't have enough information to update CQR, given the lack of strong material having come to market (And its been two years since CQR #16 - how long do I have to wait?) !!!
3. And, for the largest school - How dare you publish before JR's Sale? Since when do you "PREDICT/FORECAST" a market by publishing just before a major sale? You (me) have always said that you record and report the results of sales. You (me, again) wait two years, and then you want to publish now? Right now? - CQR will be obsolete the moment it's printed! Wait until after the sale!!!

Well, I have agonized over this problem for the last 45 days. I have talked with JR and many others. JR said, "do whatever you want". I admit, I have always said, "that I don't make a market, I report results". JR's sale will be the most important sale in several years, and probably for the foreseeable future. I have to agree that CQR #17 should include the results of the sale!

Accordingly, I plan to attend "The Sale", and I will immediately "rework" the results into CQR #17 and publish as quickly as I can. I will expect to mail CQR #17 in ample time for receipt by subscribers in time for EAC 2001. I certainly plan to attend EAC 2001, and I am giving a "talk" on CQR that I hope will be a good work session.

It's good logic, just a very difficult decision. I thank everyone for their patience during this period, and I will do everything I can to make CQR #17 useful to as many people as I can. And, thank you, to everyone that has contributed information and that has shared their thoughts and advice with me.

- |   |         |
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*Bowers and Merena Galleries March Sale*

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**With over 100 Betts medals** in gold, silver, bronze, and white metal to be offered in our March sale alone, the LaRiviere cabinet offers a unique opportunity to acquire specimens of this fascinating series. The Betts medals are contemporary medallion illustrations of our colonial history and an extraordinary record of the foundations of what we now call North America. Medals to be offered in this sale commemorate such historical moments as the economic system of John Law and the Mississippi Bubble, the battles of the French and Indian War, and the travels of Captain James Cook. The scope and significance of the LaRiviere Collection will cause this catalogue to become an important reference work in the field for many years to come. Additionally, EAC members will be interested in the over 300 lots of colonial coins, half cents, and large cents. Highlights include a small but important consignment of Connecticut coppers that have been off the market for decades including many Rarities-6 varieties and several finest knowns, a nice group of Vermont coppers, a choice Continental dollar and a recently discovered specimen of the 1835 N-4 cent that is a candidate for finest known. *This is a sale that copper enthusiasts should not miss.*

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of American Half Cents and Large Cents

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1840 Large Cent  
N-2 MS-63+



1843 Large Cent  
N-4 MS-64



1843 Large Cent  
N-14 PR-55



1844 Large Cent  
N-8 PR-63



1845 Large Cent  
N-7 MS-60



1845 Large Cent  
N-14 PR-63



1846 Large Cent  
N-24 PR-55



1847 Large Cent  
N-42 PR-60+



1848 Large Cent  
N-19 PR-63



1848 Large Cent  
N-42 (off center) MS-60



1849 Large Cent  
N-18 PR-60+



1849 Large Cent  
N-30 MS-63



1854 Large Cent  
N-12 PR-60



1854 Large Cent  
N-28 MS-60



1855 Large Cent  
N-11 PR-63



1856 Large Cent  
N-5 PR-62

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C-2b R6 VF20+



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C-3b R7+ G5



1797 Half Cent C-3c  
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R7- AG3



1802 Half Cent  
C-1 Rev of 1800  
R6 AG3+



1804 Half Cent  
C-2 R6+ VG7+



1808/7 Half Cent  
C-2 VF30



1808 Half Cent  
C-1 R7 AG3



1831 Half Cent  
Proof 62



1836 Half Cent  
Proof 60



1840 Half Cent  
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N-22 PR-63

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1847 Half Cent  
Proof 62



1848 Half Cent  
Proof 55



1849 Half Cent  
Proof 63



1852 Half Cent  
Proof 60+



1856 Large Cent  
N-22 AU-58+



1857 Large Cent  
N-3 PR-60



1856 Half Cent  
Proof 60



1857 Half Cent  
Proof 60+

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# **EAC SALE 2001**

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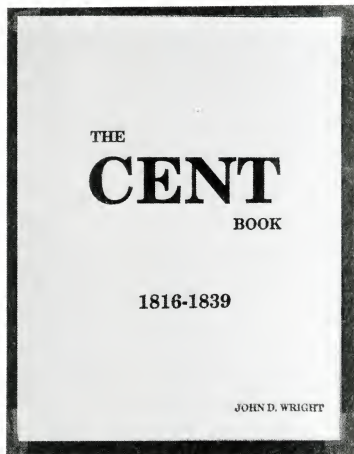
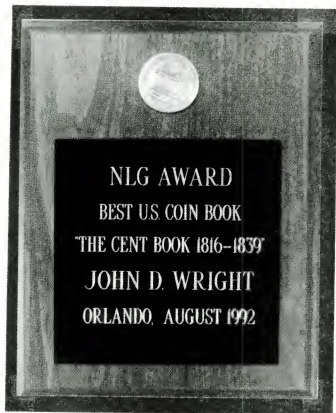
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Holiday Inn Select

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Application is hereby made for a bourse table for the period of the above show and convention. It is understood that the fee will include the use of table space w/backup, electrical and name card. **Table Fees: 6 ft. w/1 case, 1 light = \$200. 8ft.w/2 cases, 1 light =\$265. Corner 2x6 ft. tables w/2 cases, 2 lights = \$300, Corner 2x8 ft. tables w/4 cases, 2 lights = \$400, 2x8ft.w/4 cases, 2 lights = \$450.** Sunday only, (w/10:30 a.m. entry) tables are \$39 each for EAC members, if available. Tables may not be transferred, resold, loaned, leased, shared or sublet, in whole or in part, with out written consent of the Bourse Chairman. Tables not occupied by 1pm Friday, or that have been vacated, resort back to the Bourse Chairman for resale to wait listed dealers. Nothing is to be bought or sold that is prohibited in the area of the show. Smoking is not permitted on the bourse floor. Dealers and assistants must wear the official dealer badge. Up to two dealers may share a table. All dealers and their working assistants (maximum of 2) must be members of EAC. Regular membership is \$25 per year. Only dealers and working assistants are admitted to the Bourse prior to the public and/or allowed behind tables. Additions or changes after JAN 1<sup>st</sup> are \$50. 100% refund through DEC 1<sup>st</sup>. After JAN 1<sup>st</sup>, there are no refunds.

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**Public hours are Friday 10am-5pm., Sat.10am-5pm, Sunday 10am-3pm.**

**Dealers may enter Fri. & Sat. 9am, Sun. 10am.**

Tables will be sold to dealers on a first-come basis. Table location will be by random drawing when possible at the good judgment of the Bourse Chairman.

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Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Assistant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Assistant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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the 1990s, the number of people with a mental health problem has increased in the UK. The prevalence of mental health problems has increased from 10% in 1990 to 15% in 2000 (Mental Health Act 1983, 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2003).

There is a growing awareness of the need to improve the lives of people with mental health problems. The UK Government has set out a strategy for mental health care in the 2003 White Paper, *Mental Health: A New Beginning* (Department of Health 2003). The White Paper sets out a vision of a new mental health system, which will be based on the following principles:

- People with mental health problems should be treated as individuals, with their own needs and wishes.
- People with mental health problems should be given the opportunity to participate in decisions about their care and treatment.
- People with mental health problems should be given the opportunity to live in their own homes and communities.

The White Paper also sets out a number of key objectives for the mental health system, including:

- To reduce the number of people with mental health problems who are admitted to hospital.
- To improve the quality of care and treatment for people with mental health problems.
- To improve the support and services available to people with mental health problems.

The White Paper also sets out a number of key actions to be taken to achieve these objectives, including:

- To increase the number of mental health professionals working in the community.
- To improve the training and skills of mental health professionals.
- To improve the coordination of services between different agencies.

The White Paper also sets out a number of key actions to be taken to improve the lives of people with mental health problems, including:

- To improve the support and services available to people with mental health problems.
- To improve the quality of care and treatment for people with mental health problems.
- To improve the opportunities for people with mental health problems to live in their own homes and communities.

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PENNY-WISE

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

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