

PENNY-WISE

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INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR:

Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité

Harry E. Salyards

Liberty: The Mint Act of 1792 proclaimed it as the Foundational Motto for the coinage of the United States of America. Yes, the Latinate *hope* expressed in “E Pluribus Unum” on the Great Seal antedated it, and a pious shudder at the bloodbath of the Civil War gave us “In God We Trust,” but Liberty came first on the federal coins. It was borrowed from the motto of the nascent Republic of France, then struggling toward the creation of a constitutional monarchy. (That struggle failed, of course, descending instead into regicide and terror.) For the United States, Liberty began as a bold assertion, akin to the words on the Liberty Bell: “Proclaim Liberty throughout the land.” Later coinage would see it relegated to headbands, coronets, ribbons and shields, but the earliest half cents and cents bore it “Top Center.” On today’s circulating coinage, it is more scattered. FDR seems to look toward it. It is scribed in the field by Jefferson’s chin, and tucked in front of Washington’s neck. For 112 years it has floated inconspicuously in the field behind Mr. Lincoln. Only on the non-circulating Kennedy half and Native American dollar does it continue to crown the portrait, with considerable unintended irony in the latter case. Liberty in the 1790s was far from universal, and Liberty today comes couched in ambivalence—thus its less prominent placement on the coins. We want no part of refreshing the Tree of Liberty “with the blood of patriots and tyrants,” in Jefferson’s phrase. The 1790s were a tumultuous time, with political passions running every bit as deep as they do today. If poetry is the recollection of emotion in tranquility, as Wordsworth said, then there is poetry in collecting those coins bearing the earliest images of Miss Liberty. However imperfect and conflicted the Liberty of that time, their timeless appeal speaks to the truth that Liberty is *always* imperfect and conflicted.

Equality: No two coins of any denomination struck at the Philadelphia mint in the 1790s are *exactly* equal. Their planchet stock was not uniform, their

striking was not uniform, and their wear over the subsequent years was not uniform. Everything about them is *multiform*. Yes, you can attach a numerical grade to one that you regard as “Very Fine,” as a kind of mental shorthand to aid in establishing a *rough* valuation; but put any two examples into direct comparison, side-by-side, and you will inevitably see that $30 \neq 30$. Similarly, no two collectors are equal—not in knowledge, not in collecting goals, and certainly not in financial resources. There is always more for each of us to learn, and to teach. One person’s cull is another person’s treasure. As for depth of pockets, while we may tire of the endless assault by mega-million dollar headlines, it is important to remember that *outspending* to win a trophy is a hollow achievement unless it is part of a *plan for the creation* of a personalized collection. EAC aspires to be the sort of egalitarian organization that can facilitate the latter process—at any financial comfort level. Beyond EAC, the Internet proves that equality of *opportunity* to collect has never been greater. For example, Heritage’s July 8th sale had one or more examples from slightly over half of the broad categories of colonial and confederation issues listed in the Redbook. Many multiples were included—16 Connecticuts, 10 New Jerseys, 11 Washington varieties, even three Oak Tree pieces. This from just one web site on one day! How many coin shows would the collector of just a generation ago have to have attended to see such a variety of offerings?

Which brings me to the coin show, and the only reason for it to continue: **Fraternity**. The last 16 months have proven that the traditional coin show is not necessary for buying and selling coins. In the absence of shows, standard educational presentations continued on Zoom and similar platforms throughout the pandemic year—in many cases to larger audiences than the most recent in-person offerings. Auctions formerly associated with particular shows continued uninterrupted from the

companies' home offices, and without the costs involved in arranging secure transport of millions of dollars worth of property to show venues across the country, proved immensely profitable. (How many of you have noticed that the posted dates for both Heritage and Stack's Bowers 2021 "ANA" Sales are the week *after* the World's Fair of Money™?) Where "camaraderie" implies mutual trust in the company of people whom we enjoy, "fraternity," with its echoes of religious orders and medieval guilds, implies something deeper. Collectors have a

fundamental need to share physical space with other collectors, because collecting is *passionate*. The great majority of the people around us will never really understand this. Even among those who would study a museum display of antique objects with interest, few feel the draw, or understand the personal *need* to collect. But we feel it, and subconsciously seek out others who feel it, if only to find mutual reassurance that we are not as crazy as the rest of the world thinks. We need each other, in person. And therefore, coin shows must go on.

* * * * *



THE 1798 HUBBED REVERSES

Bill Eckberg

It is a capital mistake to theorize before you have all the evidence. It biases the judgment.

When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth –

Sherlock Holmes

The most interesting and important reason to study early American copper coins is to uncover the ways the early Mint worked. Sometimes, these studies are simple and direct. Other times the complexity uncovered makes conclusions impossible. Occasionally, though, what at first appears to be hopeless complexity resolves into understandable and useful information.

The 1798 cents are a complex group of at least 46 varieties, with two distinct obverse head types and three distinct reverse types, one of which was of the type used in 1795, in which each die was completely hand-engraved, another of a partially hubbed design first used in 1796 and a new type produced from a complete hub with the wreath, stems, berries, their stems, all lettering and numerals, and even the dentils included. As if all of this were not confusing enough, the confusion is increased by the fact that the reverse letter designations in Breen¹ do not, in many cases, correspond to the same reverse in Sheldon².

Distinguishing die varieties is an inexact science. As long as dies had their numerals and lettering individually punched in, the letter/date positions made it relatively easy to attribute dies. But dies produced from complete hubs have no such distinguishing individual features, the exception being hand-modified dies in the earliest days of the mint. The half cent heads and reverses and the many cent heads that were produced from hubs in 1794 received enough hand retouching that the varieties are relatively easy to tell apart^{3,4}, but that sort of hand-reengraving hadn't been done since the cents and half cents of 1794.

A die is a piece of steel (usually) that bears an incuse image that is going to be used to form a raised image on a coin. How much difference do you need before

concluding that dies are different from each other? Suppose a die is weakened by use and/or cracks, does that make it a different die? Of course not. Suppose minimal reengraving is done to bring a worn die back to usefulness; does it become a new die, then? Suppose dentils are engraved over border beads as was done to Reverse L of 1793 when it became Reverse FF of 1794. Does that *really* make it a different die? Others have made the point that since it remains the same physical piece of steel, it is the same die, and I agree. Sheldon also makes the point that 1798 “Clapp Nos. 3 and 4 are from the same dies, the only difference being a slight retooling of the obverse (for No. 4).” Sheldon-146 thus includes two Clapp “varieties.”

Furthermore, if the products of two dies are so similar that they are impossible to tell apart without extreme magnification, how can we be sure that the minor differences actually represent the products of different dies, not simply differently struck coins or minor die damage? In that case, doesn't “variety determination” become pointless?

The main question to be addressed here is the number of dies that could be sunk from a single hub in 1798-9. We would expect that number to be small, because of the mint's lack of experience with die production.

A recent discussion in Copper Notes about large cent dies that appeared to be identical led me down the rabbit hole into the 1798 large cents. I had been unaware that a considerable number of the 1798 cent reverses were produced from complete hubs. This was a surprise, because I thought the mint's problems using a complete reverse hub for 1794 half cents would have made Engraver Robert Scot wary of attempting the same thing so soon with an even larger coin. Perhaps, he was more confident in his technology to produce stronger and better hub impressions. Or, perhaps, he was desperate to get as many dies as he could made as quickly as possible. Either or both is reasonable, and we have no way to read Scot's mind on the subject. However, we know that in late 1798 the mint purchased much higher quality cast die steel from Thomas Clifford in England⁵, so Scot's

5 Sholley, Craig. 2011. The evolution of U.S. minting technology 1792-1837 Part II. Early die making procedures. *Penny-Wise* XLV, 272-279.

- 1 Breen, Walter. 2000. *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of Early United States Cents 1793-1814*. Bowers and Merena Galleries, Wolfeboro, NH.
- 2 Sheldon, William H., D.I. Paschal and W. Breen. 1958. *Penny Whimsy*. Harper & Brothers, New York.
- 3 Eckberg, William R. 2019. *The Half Cent 1793-1857; The Story of America's Greatest Little Coin*. Early American Coppers, Inc. West Palm Beach, FL.
- 4 Eckberg, Bill. 2019. The Liberty Cap cent heads, 1793-1796. *Penny-Wise* LIII, 164-169.

newfound optimism was not unreasonable.

That said, as we will see, there were at least three different reverse hubs used in 1798, and at least 20 1798-dated varieties were struck from at least 16 dies produced by one of them. Clapp⁶ recognized 15 such dies, reverses O-Y plus CC, FF, GG and HH. Sheldon added reverse BB to the group; here I add five more from 1799-1800.

Could one hub produce 21 dies in 1798-1800? The differences between some of these reverses are *extremely* miniscule; some may even be due to die wear or reengraving. I have confirmed the uniqueness of each by doing high resolution overlays. Unfortunately, unless there has been some kind of unique modification or damage to the die that carries over in the reengraved state, there is no way to be certain that a small difference is due to reengraving. However, there does appear to be at least one such case. As we will see, it is quite likely that one of the 1798 dies was reengraved and reused in 1800. There may be others, but I can't prove it.

Three 1798 reverses (J, K and AA, which were sunk and used in 1796; Figure 17) were not struck from hubs at all. This is confirmed by the fact that the lettering and wreaths differed in each. It may be of interest that the varieties struck from these dies include both the Style I and Style II heads. Thus there was no attempt to make the obverse and reverse designs consistent with each



Figure 1. Overlay of reverses of 1796 that were reused in 1798. There are single leaves at the top of each branch. The ribbon bows match, but nothing else does, showing that these were not produced from a hub.

⁶ Clapp, George H. 1931. *The United States Cents of the Years 1798-1799*. Privately Published.

⁷ Since the small differences between the dies are difficult to see in the printed article, high resolution images are available for study from: <http://eacs.org/april-pw-21-bill/>

other.

Though all of the rest of the 1798 reverses were struck from hubs, not all of the reverses were struck from *complete* hubs. The hub that presumably created the first hubbed dies is illustrated by Figure 2 Figure 2a is an overlay of S-169 and -181 (reverses U and DD). The overlay clearly shows that the simple hub contained the wreath stems, leaves and the ribbon bow (Figure 2b). The ribbon ends were from different punches as were all of the letters and numerals. This hub, like the 1802 half cent hub for the Draped Busts, I consider to be a “marvel of minimalism,” because it contained so little of the design. C(E) of reverse DD is double-punched, giving the appearance that it leans to the right.

Figure 3 shows an overlay of the reverses of S-148 and -153. Both varieties were struck from the same die, reverse E. All aspects of the designs match perfectly, demonstrating the specificity and accuracy of the overlay technique. Figures 1-3 illustrate the three basic reverse designs of the year: 1), fully hand-engraved, 2), from a minimal hub and 3), from a complete hub..

Figure 4 shows an overlay of two different reverses whose dies were struck from the same complete hub: S-160 (reverse O) and -161 (reverse P). Both of these dies have all of their major elements in exactly the same positions relative to each other and to the dentils, because the dies were made from the same complete hub. They differ by minor retouching of the dies. My initial response to the CopperNotes group was that I thought the reverse dies were the same. However, more careful study showed that they cannot be. ***In fact, the two dies were created from different states of the hub that produced them.*** As shown in Figure 4, there are also a couple of minor differences in the wreath stems and several differences in the berry stems. Reverses O and P are, indeed, from different dies.

The key element in the group of dies to which reverses O and P belong is what I call the “Spiked C” hub, because of the conspicuously atypical shape of the upper serif of the C in CENT. Oddly, Sheldon does not mention this diagnostic; Breen thought it to be damage to the hub that was often repaired. I believe that, rather than damage and repair, it is more likely that the changes in the spike represent different levels of deterioration in the hub. Another persistent characteristic of the coins from this hub is a somewhat flattened berry next to the T in CENT. These two characteristics are shared by all of the Spiked C dies, and no other die has either, so they define the hub. Neither Clapp, Sheldon nor Breen reported this diagnostic, either.



Figure 2. The first, partial, hub used for large cents in 1798. a. Overlay of reverses U and DD shows that nothing but the wreath matches. b. Mock-up of the wreath used in the hub.

being from the 1798 hub, though Breen did acknowledge the “Spiny serif to C(E).”

The spike can only have been in the hub, as it persists through multiple different dies; the deterioration was also in the hub, as *the loss of metal from the spike can only occur where the spike is raised, as it is in a hub, but not in a die.* The strongest proof that reverses O and P are different is that the former was created from an early state of the hub, and the latter from a very late state.

There is also a group that was punched with the Spiked C reverse, and then was repunched with a more normal C (Figure 6). These are 1798 S-167 (reverse



Figure 3. Overlay of the reverses of S-148 and S-153. Both were struck from the same reverse die. All design elements match.

Figure 5 shows progressive deterioration of the hub. The earliest state, illustrated by S-186 (reverse GG) in the figure, has a pointed upper serif. It is shared with reverses R, BB, CC, and, surprisingly, 1799 reverses B and C. This most likely represents the way the “C” punch that was used in the hub originally looked.

The second state shows a weakening of the spike, as illustrated by S-160 (reverse O) in the figure.

The third state, illustrated by S-174 (reverse X), shows less than half of the spike remaining due to hub deterioration. This state is shared with reverses V and Y.

In the fourth state, illustrated by S-166 (reverse S), the spike remains only as a thin vestige. This state is shared with reverse P and 1800 reverses L, S, V and W. Neither Sheldon nor Breen even recognized the 1800 reverses as



Figure 4. Overlay of reverses O and P. At first glance, they appear nearly identical except for the lump on the side of O(N) and the cud on reverse P. However, the C(E) is in a much later state on reverse P. Arrows indicate other minor differences between the dies. This shows how similar these different hubbed dies really are.

T), S-173 (reverse W), and S-187 (reverse HH), as well as 1800 S-196 (reverse G) and S-209 (reverse R). The upper serif on 1798 reverse W is particularly large. It is impossible to tell for sure what the state the hub was in when these dies were punched. However, closeup over-



Figure 5. Progressive deterioration of the upper serif of the C in the “Spiked C” hub. Initially, it is a solid trinagular shape, but it deteriorates to a thin remanat.



Figure 6. Two different punches used for the C(E). a. Normal C. b. Spiked C; the upper serif is longer than the that in 6a, and the lower terminal is shorter. c Repunched C using both, as on 1798 reverses T, W and HH and 1800 reverses G and R. d. Overlay of the normal and Spiked C, showing the match to the coin in c, both serifs and both terminals.

lays show the repunching very obviously, so it is unlikely that these dies were from State 4 of the hub. Since these dies were sunk from complete hubs, one might expect that these reverses are from doubled dies, but I think that unlikely, as there should be other doubled areas than just a single letter, and there aren't.

The clearest example of a die that was very likely reengraved and reused is found in 1798 reverse O and 1800 reverse S (Figure 7). They differ only in that a few letters have been repunched, most notably the T in UNITED, the first T in STATES and the AM in AMERICA, the repunching of each of which is very obvious. The dies are from the same state of the hub, and all berries and their stems are in the same positions, except that the flattened berry was also repunched and is now round in the 1800 coin. It is thus likely that reverse O of 1798 was used for three varieties in 1798 and then lightly reengraved to become Reverse S of 1800.

I also want to make it clear that nothing in this study can be taken as evidence for the emission sequence of the coins. They do indicate the approximate order in



Figure 7. Overlay of 1798 reverse O and 1800 reverse S. Though there are minor repunchings in the latter (arrows), these could easily be struck from different states of the same die.

which the dies were produced, but not the order in which they were used to strike coins. The fact that two 1799 reverses are from an early state of the hub does not in any way demonstrate that 1799s were coined before any 1798-dated variety. Most likely, the reverse dies were made in batches and chosen randomly for coinage. It is, however, quite reasonable to suggest that all or most of the Spiked C coins were struck in 1799 and later. *Many* 1798-dated cents were coined in 1799.

Finally, we address a group that consists of the reverses of S-164 (reverse Q), S-169, -170 and -171 (reverse U), and S-185 (reverse FF). This group is characterized by a more normal upper serif on the C in CENT. Figure 8 illustrates this and Figure 6 shows how it compares to the Spiked C. The upper serif is heavier, and the lower arc is longer. These represent the products of a different complete hub



Figure 8. Overlay showing reverses struck from the hub with the normal C. This was a different hub from the one that produced the spiked C.

than was used for the Spiked C reverses.

The fact that one or more hubs were used for a considerable number of 1798 reverses has been known for generations. In 1890, Doughty considered them all to be "reverse H."⁸ Clapp identified 34 reverses. Breen classified them into the Types of 1795, 1797 (two types of letters) and 1799 (two types of letters). However, all four 1797 and 1799 "types" include varieties produced from the same hub, so Breen's four reverse types should be taken with a grain of salt.

Breen also suggested that the Spiked C hub flaw was

⁸ Doughty, Francis W. 1890. *The Cents of the United States: A Numismatic Study. Extensively Illustrated from Selected Specimens*. Scott Stamp & Coin Co., New York.

there from the beginning, and that each individual die had the C restored or partially restored. We can exclude this supposition on the basis that the various dies of each state are consistent in the amount of deterioration; if each was individually restored, there would have been much more variability in the result

The idea that we can trace the deterioration of a hub through its “hub states” is not something that many numismatists have thought about. Logically, though, if dies can deteriorate through different states, hubs should do the same, and the forces on a hub as it sinks a die are vastly stronger than those on a die when it strikes a coin. It is well established that the first Classic Head half cent hub had a significant raised line flaw from the hair to the throat. Strongest in the Circle-in-0 obverse, it was tooled down before the later 1809 dies were sunk. There was also considerable reengraving done to the master die for the series over the years (ref. 3). Therefore, the idea of hub states is not at all far-fetched.

The fact that a single hub produced at least eighteen dies that were used over three years also seems surprising. It is not known how many dies a typical U.S. Mint hub from the late 18th century usually produced, but this number seems large. In the absence of any other data, the number could be an outlier. Since the hub had de-

teriorated noticeably by the last few dies it created, we might expect that eighteen is a maximum number. It is also possible that some of the dies were reworked and reused but are considered to be different dies because of the reworking. The hub with the normal C only produced three dies in 1798, so it appears that there must have been a lot of variability.

It is not possible that the defect was in the master die that then produced a series of hubs with increasing damage to the letter C. Wear and damage to a die can only produce additional raised material in the coin or hub, such as the mushiness, flowlining and orange peel effects we see in coins struck from worn dies. Wear and damage to a hub results in the opposite effect: metal loss from the coin – in this case a deteriorating serif on the C in CENT.

That deterioration tells an interesting and perhaps surprising story about the technology of the Mint in the 1790s and the way Robert Scot, the first Engraver, worked⁹.

9 Many thanks to Ira and Larry Goldberg Auctioneers and Lyle Engleson. The original images that were used in this study were obtained from their online images of auction lots.

Thanks also to John Dannreuther, Craig Sholley and Harry Salyards for helpful discussions.

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EARLY COIN DEALER TOKENS

Part Two

Lou Alfonso

This is part two of what I consider a fascinating historical look at the development of coin collecting in America. In my last article, I touched on the history of Hard Times, patriotic and store card tokens, and reviewed several coin dealer store card tokens which were issued and circulated during the Civil War. The rarest of these tokens belonged to Robert Downing, who had quite a checkered past. His wife and son were arrested and spent time in a local workhouse. Later the family disappeared from Ohio and reappeared under a somewhat different name in New York.

It's well known and agreed by numismatists that the major event which turbocharged coin collecting in the United States was the phasing out of the half cents and large cents in 1857 and the introduction of smaller cents. As Q. David Bowers wrote in *Coins and Collectors*, “During the 1850s coin dealers were few and far between.” From the infancy in coin collecting in America through the late 1850s, a merchant simply

could not make a living just dealing in coins. The coin business was not extensive in those days so dealers carried, bought and sold coins as a sideline to their other work. The Marshall token which I illustrated in my previous article featured a large fish on one side of the token, and included coins among fishing tackle and other activities that the Marshall shop engaged in on the other side.

This article continues with coin dealer tokens during the early days of coin collecting in America and will touch on early coin dealers prior to and generally subsequent to the Civil War. One of the first dealers, Edward Cogan, started in the coin business in 1855, and issued one of the earliest coin dealer tokens dated 1859. Cogan was born in England on January 5, 1803 and died in April 1884 in Brooklyn. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1853 and began his coin business in Philadelphia two years thereafter. He subsequently relocated to New York City in the late 1860s. He conducted his first coin sale on November

1, 1858 and continued with 69 sales through 1879. It is generally agreed he was the first to produce a coin catalogue with photographic plates which were featured in his sale of the Mortimer L. McKenzie Auction held June 23, 1869. He styled himself as “America’s First Full Time Coin Dealer.”

However, while Cogan claimed to be the first full time coin dealer in America, *A Bibliography of American Numismatic Auction Catalogues 1828-1875* by Emmanuel Joseph Attinelli dates the sale of the collection of Lewis Roper’s early American coins among the earliest auctions which featured mostly American coins. The Roper sale took place in early 1851—four years before Augustus B. Sage’s first auction, seven years before Cogan’s first auction, and nine years before W. Elliot Woodward catalogued his first numismatic auction. Nevertheless, early copper coins that were in Cogan’s auctions occasionally come on the market and are a feature in collections of those who treasure distinguished pedigrees.

I have included an image of my 1859 Cogan Token. In 1859 coins for Cogan were only a “sideline” as they were for other dealers staring out during those times. You will note from the reverse of his token that he was involved in “books, coins, medals and engravings.” However, as shown by the Cogan coin dealer token of 1860 which is also included herein, his coin business was successful enough that the reverse of this later token merely says “EDWARD COGAN, COIN DEALER, 48 TENTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA”.



While much is known about Cogan, we only know of some other early coins dealers by what is listed on their store cards or other tokens they issued. There is a dearth

of information available from other sources. This is the case for Edward Hill, who was a New York coin dealer located at No. 6 Bleecker Street, New York. He issued a number of different tokens in 1860 made of copper, silver, brass and white metal. These include obverses of Daniel Webster and Cupid. Many of his tokens are easily found on eBay or in auctions. I have included an image of my E. Hill coin dealer token, from which it’s obvious that coins are only one area of his business. More research is needed to learn more about him.



Another early coin dealer not that well known to modern coin collectors is Charles K. Warner, who conducted his coin business at 326 Chestnut Street in Philadelphia. He listed his business as “DEALER IN AMERICAN AND FOREIGN COINS & MEDALS.” Warner was born March 29, 1845 in Philadelphia and made a name for himself as an expert in medals. *Mehl’s Numismatic Monthly* noted that Warner donated a group of medals to the Chicago Numismatic Society in 1908, and *The Philatelic West* mentioned that he also donated 100 varieties of Masonic Chapter Pennies to the Rochester Numismatic Association in 1915. He also ran ads in numismatic publications offering to buy rare and unusual medals. I have included an image of the reverse of my Warner token from the 1860s in silvered copper.



Other early coin dealers who issued tokens include William Idler of Philadelphia, who issued tokens including during the 1850s. Those that referred to the Lord Baltimore copper pattern called a denarium featured

a bust of Lord Calvert along with information about Idler's business. There are also the prolific token issues



of Augustus B. Sage. Sage was born in Connecticut in 1841 and later moved to New York with his family. In 1856 at the age of 15 he was bitten by the coin bug and became prominent in New York numismatic circles while a teenager. On March 3, 1858 he penned an invitation to a meeting of what later became the American Numismatic Society. He issued store card tokens, historical tokens, small Masonic medalets, and a series of what he called "Numismatic Gallery" tokens. In 1859, while still a teenager, Sage commissioned the well known die sinker, George Lovett of New York, to create the Numismatic Gallery tokens. Minted in copper, they featured prominent numismatists of his day including the well known numismatist and New York Lawyer, Charles I. Bushnell; Jeremiah Colburn, who was a founding member of the Boston Numismatic Society; and Horatio N. Rust, who was the probable producer of the Fugio New Haven Restrikes and patterns. There are nine numbered



Numismatic Gallery tokens but number four, that of Dr. James Clinton, a well known numismatist and author, has never surfaced. It would be a good challenge to form a copper collection of Sage Numismatic Gallery tokens. I have attached an image of my Jeremiah Colburn token, and also my William Idler token.

This series has only touched the surface of collecting early coin dealer tokens. These tokens were made of different metals including copper, bronze, silver and brass. Many can be obtained for very reasonable prices. It is also possible to branch out and collect later tokens such as those of Thomas Elder and B. Max Mehl, the Stack's token featuring the 1939 World's Fair, and numerous others. However, I selected the area of early coin dealer tokens to collect and research as they shed light on early American numismatic activities and those who were at the forefront of what has become a passion for so many of us.

Sources and Acknowledgements

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* * * * *

BECAUSE SOMEONE HAS TO

David Consolo

Ever since I started collecting half cents, I have been interested in the planchets and rarity numbers (population) of various varieties. For over fifteen years, I have been studying the 1795 Cohen 5b variety. I have gone to shows, and visited friends' collections, each time trying to take a picture, or at least weigh and measure

the half cents of this variety. Often my wife Carol would accompany me to a coin show and ask me, "Why are you taking the time to do this?" My response remains, "Because someone has to." And we would just smile. This article is the result of my observations so far, on this thick, plain-edge 1795 variety.

Breen notes in his *Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents* (1983) that, "I have weighed many of these [half cents of the 1795 No Pole type] and the range is about 100.5 to 124 grains, with clusters near 105 and 120 grains, evidently representing different planchet sizes. The lighter ones have normal diameter, about 15/16", while the heavier ones are broader at about 1 inch." (page 138) More recently, Heritage, in cataloging a half cent of this variety, noted that, "We are unaware of any detailed studies about planchet size." In no way are my findings meant to be complete or definitive. However, this article was stimulated in part by Breen, and others, lamenting the lack of a more detailed study of weights and diameters for the 1795 C-5b. There remains the possibility of human error on my part, made worse by the encapsulation of many half cents of this variety, which does not allow me to verify weight (if the auction details or slab labels don't note it), and I cannot personally measure such slabbed half cents.

In all, I have closely observed 73 half cents of this variety. Twelve were already in slabs, five of which had no available weight from any source. When possible, the diameter has been measured by an electronic (Mitutoyo) digimatic caliper. While the unit tested exact to the specific diameters of various modern U. S. coin denominations, the specifications of the caliper device allows for "instrumental error of ± 0.2 mm." The caliper was positioned from 9:00 (cap) to 3:00 (nose). The weight was obtained using an electronic BLADE - AME 50 scale set to grains.

For purposes of this article, I am willing to accept and rely on the information that Walter Breen and Roger Cohen, Jr. provide us. Their research (especially in Breen's *Encyclopedia*, pages 123 through 157) yields ample resource material for the issues at hand in 1795-1796 that allowed for the creation of a thick, heavier than normal, 1795 half cent variety.

Some Background. From January to October of 1795, the coinage of silver and gold coins preempted that of copper coins. Simultaneously, of great concern was the sustainable operation of the mint's rolling mills, used to reduce metal from ingots down to strips of the desired thickness for coinage. The rolling mills broke down repeatedly. To avoid the excessive deterioration of the gears in the mills, half cent production of was delayed until late in the year.

Between October and early December of 1795, some 25,600 half cents were made at the old, standard weight of 104 grains on thick planchets, from "unsold clippings from 1794 copper coinage." But, on December 3, 1795, Mint Director Elias Boudinot halted any further production for what seem to have been economic reasons—in short, 1) the high cost of the material; and 2) the global expectations for the price of copper as a commodity. According to Breen, the production of

half cents resumed in late December, but by this time, conditions had changed: 1) President Washington had authorized the Mint Director to reduce the weight of each half cent to 84 grains; and 2) copper supplies were extremely low. What didn't change was the effort to bypass the rolling mills, whose unreliability was still an issue.

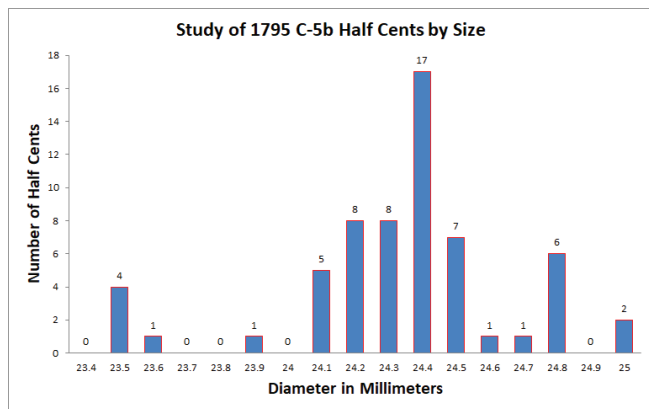
Records show that there were three sources of copper supply for the 1795 half cent: 1) rolled sheet copper; 2) Talbot, Allum, and Lee copper tokens (T.A.L.) purchased from T.A.L. in New York City and 3) spoiled large cents. The sheet copper on hand was already rolled to the appropriate thickness for cents, and Boudinot was unwilling to risk a breakdown in the rolling mills that might result from trying to reduce this to half cent thickness (Breen, page 126). T.A.L. tokens were originally intended to be melted down into ingots and rolled out into strip for either cents or half cents, but with the rolling mill issues (Breen, page 135), they were instead cut down to planchets of half cent diameter and used "as is." We see many examples of T.A.L. token under type on thin C-6a issues. Spoiled large cents were similarly cut down into half cent planchet stock.

From my 15 years of research, and that of experts before me, none of the 1795 C 5b half cents show T.A.L. under type. By definition, this variety is struck on a thick, cut down planchet, the result yielding a half cent of "about 115 grains" (Cohen, 1982, page 22); "105.7 to 123 grains; heavier specimens probably exist" (Breen, 1983, page 150); or "98 to 123 grains" (Manley, 1998, page 60). The later the published reference, the wider the range of data to work with! Without the use of T.A.L. tokens, and without employing the rolling mills to produce the desired thin planchets from sheet copper, the source of the planchet stock for 1795 C-5b has traditionally been regarded as spoiled large cents.

Breen cites two particular batches of spoiled cents, one weighing 14 lbs. 1 oz. 15 dwt., which should have represented about 588 pieces, and another weighing 33 lbs., which should have represented about 1375 pieces. Altogether, this should have provided planchet stock for just under 2000 half cents. (page 138) *If* these were used to produce 1795 C-5b, then at Breen's ratio of one half cent existing for every 54 originally coined, no more than about 36 examples of 1795 C-5b should exist. However, my studies have documented 73 pieces, not counting the many unexamined examples in collections and dealer inventories. In addition, as Manley notes, Breen actually suggested that these planchets were used to coin *both* 1795 C-5b *and* 1795 C-6b (page 139)—and the combined population of the two varieties is likely over 100. (Manley, page 60) I contend, along with Manley, that a *second* source of planchet stock for this variety is cut down *unused* cent planchets, perhaps rejected for cent coinage due to edge clips or cracks.

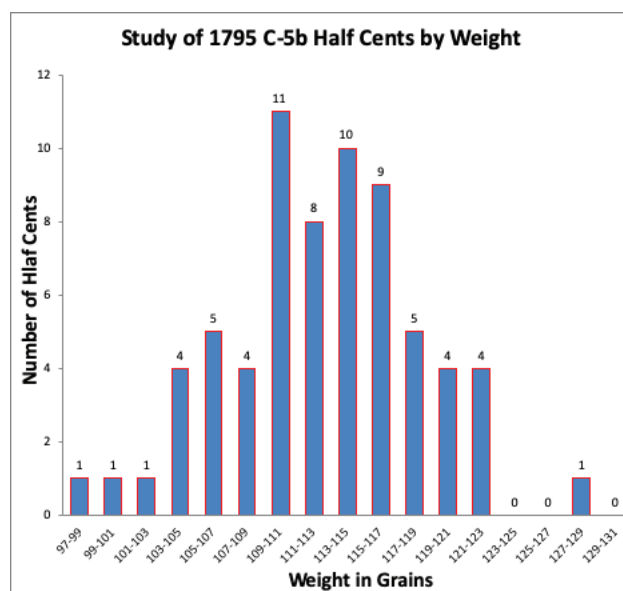
Now, to my wife's original question, and to illustrate my findings, I have created graphs of the weight and diameter of the 1795 C-5b half cents that I have held in my hand.

My results show a median weight of 112.8 grains and an average of 112.5 grains, with a range of 98.2 grains to 128.8 grains.



My second graph shows a median diameter of 24.4mm and an average of 24.3mm., with a range of 23.5 mm to 25.0 mm.

It is of interest that, whereas Breen made a case for two distinct planchet sizes, as noted above, all the planchets,



as cut, are consistent with their source being a single population of 168-grain large cent stock.

There is no need for a further recap of my findings. The purpose of this article was to update / expand upon the opinions of earlier dedicated authors regarding a specific half cent variety. I have done so by sharing my findings gathered over a 15-year period—Because Someone Had To.

* * * * *

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the EAC Board of Governors

By “Google Meet” Teleconference – April 20, 2021

The meeting, having been duly noticed, was called to order by President Emily Matuska at 8:10 p.m (EDT).

Upon roll call, all national officers were present and 5 of 8 regions were represented by their regional chair; Region 4, by its regional secretary. Regions 2 and 6 were absent. A quorum was verified. New Region 5 chair Monte Venier was introduced and welcomed.

Reading of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors, held on March 20, 2021, was waived. Approval of the minutes was deferred until the next meeting of the board.

President Matuska stated that the purpose of the meeting was to consider two proposals before the board to conduct the EAC Sale at the next two annual EAC conventions. One proposal was submit-

ted by Chris Victor-McCawley on behalf of Early Cents/CVM and Bob Grellman; the other, by Kevin Vinton on behalf of Stack's Bowers. Gratitude to both entities for submitting proposals was expressed.

Discussion was had as to the relative merits of each proposal, including the tax consequences associated with each.

Ron Shintaku moved to accept the proposal submitted by Chris Victor-McCawley. Harry Salyards seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

President Matuska noted the necessity of formulating a longer range plan for the sale, as the Chris Victor-McCawley proposal covers only the next two sale cycles. It is anticipated that a committee will be constituted to investigate options.

President Matuska raised the issue of having a club table at the upcoming C4 and Summer ANA conventions. Based on the lack of volunteers to staff a table at C4, a club table at that venue seems unlikely; one at ANA is more likely.

President Matuska informed the board that Joe Pargola has offered to make additional show kits that more active regions could retain, rather than requiring such regions to merely borrow and return the existing kit.

Tim Skinski informed the board of club shirts that he and Kevin Winn contemplated having manufactured. After discussion, it was decided that if the

plans go forward, the shirts could be offered for sale to the general membership through CopperNotes.

Grady Frisby stated that he is hoping to make a formal proposal to the board in the foreseeable future for Memphis as the venue for the 2025 annual convention. His proposal of Memphis as a convention site received a positive reception.

There being no further business before the board, a motion to adjourn was made, duly seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. (EDT).

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Levin
National Secretary

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THE 2022 EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS CONVENTION: ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Bob Kebler

As we all know, the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated the cancellation of the in-person gatherings at our annual conventions for both 2020 and 2021, requiring both to be held virtually. As a few glimmers of hope emerge with respect to the pandemic, plans are underway for the 2022 EAC Convention. The details are as follows;

Dates: May 12th through May 15th, 2022

Location: St. Louis, Missouri

Venue: St. Louis Airport Hilton Hotel

Rate: the contracted room rates are \$112/night for two queens or a king bed

The hotel provides shuttles to and from the airport. St. Louis Lambert Airport currently has non-stop service from 43 cities (it was 63 before the pandemic, so hopefully this will increase to those numbers in the next year). With its location in the central part of the country, St. Louis will make driving an option for many members. Parking is free for those who attend the convention and stay at the Hilton.

For those who attended the 2007 EAC convention that was held in St. Louis, this is the same hotel that hosted our meeting that year. St. Louis in the late spring is a great place to visit, and by mid-May many outside activities will be available, as well as the multiple historical and

cultural options that St. Louis has to offer. Over the next year I will recommend things to do in St. Louis, as well as planning some local tours during the convention.

The current plans for the events during the convention are to use the same general schedule that has been in place at EAC Conventions for many years. This will include a Thursday night welcome reception, Boyz of '94 on Wednesday night, Happenings on Thursday night, bourse hours on Friday through Sunday, exhibits, a sale to benefit EAC on Saturday night, and a membership meeting on Sunday morning. Educational Sessions will be held on Friday and Saturday, and if the sessions at the just-completed virtual convention are any indication, Ray Rouse will put together a fantastic grouping.

Bourse: the layout for the tables is currently in progress. Once this is done, I will be sending out contracts to those who are interested in having tables at the convention next year. Prices for the tables, cases, and lights will remain the same as the last few years. My plan was to take care of much of this business in-person at this year's convention, but obviously that didn't happen. I have a list of table rentals from past conventions and credits for rentals from some members for the recently cancelled convention. I would truly appreciate any member who is planning on renting a table next year (or is even contemplating doing this) to either send me an email or call me (rskdrk1985@sbcglobal.net or 314-413-3074) and let me know of your interest. I want to

make sure that bourse contracts are sent to all who want one when they are ready.

Not having an in-person convention the last two years, as well as the continued uncertainties associated with the pandemic going forward, have created many challenges with the planning of the 2022 convention. Doing this virtually has been, and likely will continue to be, very difficult. I am extremely grateful to the several members who have readily agreed to head various aspects of the convention, as well as the many others who have offered me much-appreciated suggestions and advice.

Most of the members of the committee are veterans of their respective positions, some for many years. This will be crucial in helping to have a convention that runs smoothly next year after a hiatus of two years.

Mark the dates of May 12-May 15, 2022 on your calendars and make plans to attend the convention next year! Volunteers are still needed, and anyone having an interest in helping out in any way will be greatly appreciated. Let me know of your interest, or any questions you may have, at rskdirk1985@sbcglobal.net or 314-413-3074.

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SAVE THE DATES FOR FUTURE EAC CONVENTIONS

2023 EAC Convention - Portland, OR

Dates: Thursday, June 22 - Sunday June 25

Convention Chairman: Rory Lassetter
(lassetter30@hotmail.com)

Bourse Chair: Dennis Fuoss (dfuoss92624@gmail.com)
Doubletree by Hilton, Portland
1000 NE Multnomah St.
Portland, OR 97232

Your Board is soliciting proposals for the 2024 and 2025 conventions. The 2017-2020 conventions were all held in the Northeast quadrant of the US. More than half of our membership lives in that quadrant of the country. Most aspects of the conventions are easy, as we have the

experience of having done this for 50 years. If you are interested in hosting, the local host's main duties are to pick the venue, arrange for security and select the food for the reception.

The most important criteria for a venue include: 1) a ballroom large enough for the bourse (should be at least 6500 sq. ft. and 8000 sq. ft. is better) 2) proximity to air travel. For security, dealers with inventory do not want to travel far from an airport. 3) proximity to interesting side trips. 4) dates must not conflict with Easter, Pass-over, Mothers' Day or the Central States convention.

If you are interested in hosting, please contact Emily Matuska (ematuska2@gmail.com) to discuss your ideas.

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CORRECTION: AN ADDITIONAL EAC PRESIDENT'S AWARD WINNER

Harry E. Salyards

When the subject of the Silberman Award came up, during the EAC Virtual Board Meeting last April, and the list of prior award winners was read, I was puzzled. I had a distinct memory of attending an EAC Convention where a notable member whose name was *not* on that list had in fact received such an award.

In searching through back issues of *Penny-Wise* for something totally unrelated, I made a serendipitous discovery.

From *Penny-Wise* Number 240, May 2007, Minutes of the General Membership Meeting, page 107:

"The first-ever presentation of the EAC Lifetime Achievement Award was presented by President Dan Holmes to Treasurer John D. Wright, to the approval

of all present and the great pleasure of Mabel Ann. A plaque and appropriate applause were given in unison." A picture of the presentation, taken by Chuck Heck, appears on page 140 of the July 2007 issue.

So—John's plaque may or may not have Herb Silberman's name on it, but the description of the award, as published in the April 2021 issue, "to an individual who has shown exceptional service to their fellow EAC members and to numismatics in general"—an award specifically presented by the president of EAC—suggests to me that we are dealing with "a distinction without a difference," and that John Wright's name should be added to the list published on page 70 of the April 2021 *Penny-Wise*.

JOIN IN THE FUN

Al Boka

Two, new, private Facebook groups have been created: “Boyz of 1794” and “New Jersey Coppers.” As of this writing, there are 40+ members of the 1794 group and 30+ in the Jersey group. Some members have joined both groups, indicating either their curiosity or extended interests.

The rules of each group are that there be no political discussion and no selling. Also, the prices of coins are not to be mentioned. Members are invited to share images, stories, and collecting objectives. Please consider joining either or both groups to help these forums become even more relevant.

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WEB SITE ADDITIONS

Joe Pargola

As we continue to improve the functionality of the EACS Web Site, there are a couple of new features of which all members should be aware. In the past, a new member had to download and fill out an application, mail it and be issued a user name and password. This could take a couple of weeks to a month, depending upon time of year and workload. Now a new member can go to the “Join EAC” page from a number of buttons, fill the form online, and become a trial member. They will have immediate access to the whole web site for 30 days. If they pay, through the Web site or pay by check, they

will be issued an EAC number, and automatically become a Regular Member. If they do not pay, they will lose the member access. The second big feature is the Virtual Convention for 2021. This contains the Happenings, Educational Events and Exhibits. If you would like to place an exhibit, contact joe@pargola.com for access and information.

There have been many minor changes over the past couple years and I encourage you to go and explore the information, videos and content for Copper Lovers.

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A BOOK REVIEW: *THE HALF CENT, 1793-1857 THE STORY OF AMERICA'S GREATEST LITTLE COIN*

Lou Alfonso

Ever wonder why people collect half cents? A recent engaging book by former EAC president, William (Bill) Eckberg, sheds light on this intriguing series. After reading this book, if you don't end up collecting them, you will at least have greater insight into their history and their place in our early economy. It is a fascinating ride through the early days of the United States Mint, and the efforts of our founding fathers to establish a vibrant economy in a new and evolving democracy.

Eckberg, with a background in scientific techniques and a scholarly, inquisitive mind, approaches the subject in a logical manner by starting with a review of early America, and the coins that circulated during that time, which enabled merchants to engage in commerce. He

describes the establishment of the mint in Philadelphia and the methods and techniques that were used to create these early coins.

In a matter-of-fact way, he subsequently debunks a number of theories about who designed and engraved various types of half cents. He describes their rarity and shares new research in a compelling way. In addition to the early American coinage and monetary history, he shares new insights about early officials and employees of the mint.

Unlike a number of other coin reference books, which only have black and white photos or small, hard to see details on the images of coins, Eckberg has gone out of his way to present each date and variety of half cent with

a description that is easy to follow, accompanied in each case by a large, well-defined image in color.

The title of Eckberg's new book is *The Half Cent, 1793-1857: The Story of America's Greatest Little Coin*. You may not agree with this characterization of the half cent, but after reading his book, I feel that Eckberg has

made a compelling argument to support this statement. You will certainly enjoy the easy to read and logical story he presents, the beautiful pictures of the coins, and the new research he reveals. If you do decide to collect half cents or even just study them, this book serves as a handy reference for the various types and varieties of United States half cents.

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BOOK REVIEW: *THE DIE VARIETIES OF UNITED STATES LARGE CENTS*

1840-1857, 2021 Edition

By John R. Grellman, Jr.

Bill Eckberg

This is the long-awaited update of the classic 1987 reference on the subject by Grellman and Reiver, which he updated 20 years ago. It is available in two electronic formats (flipbook and PDF) as a *free* download for EAC members at <http://eacs.org/member-login/>. This is Bob's very generous gift to the EAC community. It is also available in a hard cover version with 38 pages of 2 ½" color photographs of interesting die states. The text of the print and online versions seems to be identical (I did not check every page); the electronic version is dated 2020, and the printed version 2021. The big difference is that the hard cover, physical book includes the photos, but the downloadable versions do not.

Since the 1987 version of 34 years ago became THE classic reference on the subject, and it was updated in 2001, what is in the new version to make it worthwhile?

In a word, plenty.

First of all, the line drawings appear to be the same as in the earlier editions. I initially did not care for that, thinking that photos would be better, but I have come to realize that the late date varieties are so similar that photos would make it harder to differentiate varieties than line drawings that carry your eye directly to the markers for each variety. So, kudos to Bob for not changing this feature.

The die descriptions are significantly more detailed and include the Date Position Reference Numbers, which were there but less user-friendly in the 1987 edition. A big improvement in this is

the fact that the entire book is set in a modern serif typeface. A look back at the 1987 edition shows what the state of the art in computer typefaces was 34 years ago. It's hard to believe that we liked primitive, non-proportionally spaced typefaces so recently. It's almost like playing a modern computer game and then looking back at Pong!

There is also far more information on die states and updated rarity estimates. A lot of late date large cents have been attributed in the past 20 years! Bob has added descriptions of many additional die states. He also indicates in each variety description the approximate number of UNC's that exist, including with color. I believe this is much better than trying to enumerate the top 6 or 10 or whatever coins. It is far more useful to the collector who wants to know how likely it is that he will be able to find one in UNC or AU.

The last important thing about the die state descriptions is that many point to the color photos at the back of the hard cover book (but NOT the online versions). The photography, by Lyle Engleson and Allen Ross, is excellent, as you would expect from such skilled coin photographers. There are five or six images per page, the images are sharp, still look good under a hand magnifier, and the color looks true to my eye.

I think any EAC'er would be foolish not to download the free version, at the very least. If you like quality physical books and appreciate excellent coin photography, you should most definitely get the hard cover version at \$125 shipped. The book

is beautiful with a leather-like cover, sewn binding and glossy paper with minimal read-through. This is a more than worthwhile update of what has long

been the best book on the subject.

Thanks, Bob!

* * * * *

OBITUARY

Richard Nachbar, EAC #1256

(1954-2021)

Though Richard Nachbar was better known for his interest in gold than in copper, it is a little known fact that he was a 40-year member of EAC, joining in May 1981. His published offers to purchase “lifetime collections” are also familiar to the collector community, and it is in connection with this aspect of his business that I wish to share a personal experience.

Twenty years ago, I helped a friend whose father had died intestate market an accumulation of primarily silver coins put together in the 1960s. She and her husband had no idea as to its value. They later admitted that they had thought “maybe \$10,000.” Try adding a zero to that figure! The collection was particularly rich in common date, mint state Morgan dollars—essentially full bag quantities of 1879s, 1881s, and 1882s were included. (Though there were numismatic surprises as well, like the VF 1942/1 dime in a roll of junk silver.) For compensation, they allowed me to put together a roll of each of those mint state dollars. While far afield from my real collecting interests, this hoard of *original* material gave me a sense of what collecting silver dollars must have been like in the early 1960s. Still, you must understand that I haven’t paid any attention to Morgan dollars since they were offered as simply “60,” “63,” or “65,” almost as many years ago.

In 2019, I decided that it was time to sell. I sold the roll of 1882s dollars locally for \$700. (I recognized that none of these were of the caliber of the other two dates.) I then submitted selected examples of the 1879s and

1881s to PCGS. Nine of the latter were given grades of either “66” or “66+” and fourteen of the former were given grades between “66” and “67+”. Since I question the very *reality* of such silly grading distinctions (as anything more than an opportunity for a deeper “wallet biopsy”), I quickly decided that I had neither the knowledge nor the desire to sell these on my own.

So after giving my daughter (born 1979) the “best” 1879s, and my son (born 1981) the “best” 1881s, I turned to Richard for assistance. The day he received my package, he called me with what I considered a generous cash offer. I accepted. Soon thereafter, his check was in my P. O. box. I thought that was the end of it. But three weeks later, there was another envelope from Williamsville, NY in the box. In it was another check, and the following note:

“I mentioned that if your coins did well, I would send you a little more. I hope this extra 10+% is satisfactory! Thanks again, Richard.”

I frankly had no memory of that part of our conversation, but Richard remembered what he had said. He could have simply brushed the memory aside—I would never have known—but he chose to honor his word. In a world where the phrase “word of honor” is all too close to an oxymoron, to be “lawyered away” whenever self-interest finds it inconvenient, Richard was an honorable man. That simple statement is my tribute to him.

--Editor

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CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following candidates have applied for membership in EAC since the last issue of *Penny-Wise*. Provided that no adverse comments on any particular individual are received by the Membership Committee before the April 2021 issue of *P-W*, all will be declared elected to full membership at that time. Chairman of the Membership Committee is Bim Gander, 12770 NW Steelhead Falls Drive, Terrebonne, OR 97760.

New Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u>Member #</u>
Jeff Bedell	Woodinville, WA	6846
Paul Hudson	Bloomfiend, NY	6847
Tom Taylor	Port Charlotte, FL	6848
Joseph Lessard	Bow, NH	6849
Ted Maroulis	Norfolk, VA	6850
John Donohue	Lowell, MA	6851
Matthew Virga	Nesconset, NY	6852
Thomas Ellis	Dublin, GA	6853
Tom Robbins	Saint Paul, MN	6854
James Handrock	Albuquerque, NM	6855
Michael Orduna	Mendon, NY	6856
Monty Roberts Butcher	Azle, TX	6857

Returning Members

Gregg Seibert	Bernardsville, NJ	748
Jaames Cox	Massapequa Park, NY	775
Ed Masuoka	Fairfax, VA	2422
Paul Louks	Saginaw, MI	4433
Raymond Bunt	Spring Mount, PA	4451
Michael J. Gebhardt	Glenview, IL	4548
Steve Newfield	Hillsborough, NJ	4961
T. Michael Harty	Shippensburg, PA	5627
David Klein	Glenwood Landing, NY	5739
Frank Grund	Bloomington, MN	6148
Bruce Smith	Zanesville, OH	6176
Charles Burton	Chattanooga, TN	6219

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LOOKING BACK – RAY WILLIAMSON TO HOMER DOWNING

Chuck Heck

Reading about old-time collectors has always been one of my favorite activities. I find most of their stories simply fascinating. Over the years I have accumulated many letters, some original and some photocopied, and each one has contained some tidbit of information that has been long forgotten.

The following transcription is from a November 4, 1947 hand-written letter from Raymond Williamson to Homer Downing. Downing is very familiar to EAC members, but Williamson is likely more obscure. Let's

rectify that!

Dear Mr. Downing –

See your cent collection mentioned briefly in the Numismatist again (Oct. – page 747). So you have all 24 known varieties of 1803! Presumably these are Newcomb's 24 varieties, which then must include No. 23 "excessively rare" and no. 24, unique (1928).¹ My collection obviously is not in the same league with

yours. However, I still feel I am a “serious collector.”

It was my good fortune four years ago to pick up an unattributed 1803 from a vest-pocket dealer for 35¢ which turned out to be N20/14b-P which Newcomb classes as “very rare.”² Doughty (184) calls it R6. It is fine+ except old corrosion pit at bottom of 3 and in final A of AMERICA. Fraction is stronger than shown on enclosed rubbing. Am wondering if N20 caused you any trouble?

Tonight I am ordering my copy of the Clapp-Newcomb listing of 1795-6-7 and 1800 from A.N.S. and hope it is available by now. I note in the Buffalo A.N.A. auction catalog, the Numismatic Gallery lists you as collaborator on Dr. Sheldon’s forthcoming book. The basal value system sound like a good idea & I look forward to the acquisition of this book with a lot of pleasure. I’ll at least have a good cent library if not so much of a collection. (Up to now I haven’t parted with the \$30 or so it takes to get Clapp’s book on 1798 and 1799; maybe I won’t need to now. I have borrowed it from the A.N.A. library when needed.) Recently bought a Beckwith Collection (Elder Sale) Catalog with superb plates. You referred once to having acquired plates (not half-tones) of the cents in the Newcomb catalog. Presumably you meant just what you said, but at first reading I thought you meant his 1816-57 book. You don’t happen to know if plates are available for the book, do you?

There seems to be very few people locally with whom I

can discuss cent collecting – that is the reason I write you periodically. Bluestone is quite an authority – can attribute hundreds of varieties “without the book,” but he is very busy & not at all well, so I don’t bother him too much. I like his auctions because he grades condition conservatively & I can see the coins before bidding (a luxury for up-state bidders). I still retain my membership in the Albany Numismatic Society (a very active group) but that is too far away to attend very often. Guess I was the only A.N.A. member from Syracuse (there are only a few) to attend the Buffalo convention.

Thanks for the past favors & best regards.

Ray Williamson



Ray Williamson was born in Iowa in 1907. He began working for General Electric upon graduating from college in 1928. In 1942 GE started WWII defense work in the Syracuse N.Y. area and Ray relocated there. He began collecting coins as a teen and became very involved with several different numismatic clubs. A prolific writer, many of his articles appeared in *The Numismatist* and *Penny-Wise*. He was charter member #54 of EAC.

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CHANGE OF DIRECTION

Al Boka

Many of you identify me with the Large Cents of 1794. True, 1794 varieties were my passion for about 15 years but, like so many good things, they too came to the end of their “useful” life for me. I achieved what I had set out to do: gather together all of the 58 collectible varieties in the best condition possible. There was little hope for improvement unless I won a lottery or my rich uncle died and mentioned me in his will. In 2016 I sold my collection thru Heritage Auctions. I managed to regain/retain a few of my very favorite varieties: S-20 (lot No. 1 in Thos. Elder’s 1910 Gilbert sale), S-18b (2nd finest known), S-66 (finest known “split pole” variety) and J. R. Frankenfield’s S-56 (de-accessioned by ANS after having been removed from J.R.’s sale in 2001, much to his consternation). Alas, I was left with a hollow, empty feeling.

I am blessed to have what most of you also have: the “collecting gene” woven inextricably within my DNA strands. As you know, this condition needs feeding; collecting things whether they be coins, baseball cards, stamps, matchbook covers, etc. In my case, it is coins that have been most compelling since the age of nine or ten. I also feel the need for “completeness” in whatever I undertake.

As a Garden State native, long-time removed, my root values and New Jersey accent are impossible to erase. I did the usual thing that kids with the collecting gene did in Trenton in those times: filling Whitman Lincoln Cent boards. I never managed to get the S-VDB, 14-D or 22 plain as they were beyond my meager reach at the time. I did get all of the others.

I Joined Early American Coppers in 1972 because of a budding attraction to Large Cents in which I had developed an interest. I then worked many years on a “date set” which, once completed, in 2011, was sold at auction. This freed me to concentrate on my growing obsession with the year 1794 and its exquisite Liberty Cap design. I was also drawn to the vast amount of recorded history surrounding the collectors from the past.

As I mentioned, abandoning my 1794s left a void for which my collecting gene needed filling. So, where to go next? Hint: 144/101/90/40+.

Even in my early days of collecting I was fascinated by the so-called “Horse Heads” produced for the “Garden State” during the years 1786 - 1788. I acquired my first Jersey from a 2014 Heritage auction of Eric Newman’s coins. It was an AU58, M 62-q. It sat alone, amongst a few other assorted “colonials,” as my sole example of a New Jersey copper. It was to form the basis for the new direction to my collecting.

As shown in *New Jersey State Coppers – History • Descriptions • Collections* (2013) by Roger S. Siboni, John L. Howes and A. Buell Ish (SHI) there are 144 distinct varieties of New Jersey coppers. Of these, there are many which collectors of 1794 large cents would consider to be N/C (non-collectibles), as recognized by Dr. Sheldon’s rarity designations. There is no such concession offered to Nova Caesarea collectors.

Of all Jersey varieties, 43 are rated R7 or higher; thus there are 101 rated R7- or lower. There are 90 rated R6 or lower. It becomes readily apparent that to obtain 90 varieties would be a challenge beyond the reach of many. This does not mean it cannot be achieved as it has been accomplished by some. There must be other options by which to collect this most interesting of pre-federal coinage while at the same time satisfying the collector gene and the completeness need.

In SHI there are several collecting suggestions including one horse facing right and one facing left (2), one of each year (3), a Basic Type set (12) and an Advanced Type set (24). I have designed my own list which I call the Expanded Type Set with no strict parameters. Currently I have 32 and my goal is to reach 40 - 45. My only criterion is that all be easy-on- the- eyes..the easier the better.

I feel that the most appealing aspects of Jersey coppers lie with the many horse head characteristics and the strikingly different mane treatments. As the dies were handcrafted, by several different engravers, there are no two alike. In fact they display much greater, and easier

to distinguish, identification details than the 1794 cents. I especially like the differences with the horses’ manes and the associated nicknames that go with them.

My two most recent acquisitions were from the Donald G. Partrick sale of March 17, 2021. There, I captured one of the finest M 11-H (no coulter - R6) and an M 66-v (Braided Mane - R5+) varieties (see below).

The M 11-H was part of the Dr. Maris collection sale by H. P. Smith (Stan V. Henkels & Co.), 6/21/1886, lot 363, while the M 66-v traces to the F. W. Doughty collection auctioned by Thomas L. Elder, 4/9/1909, lot 645 and was part of the ANS 1914 Exhibition in New York City appearing on plate 9 of that catalog.

I have been fortunate to have had as mentors, two longtime friends and Jersey aficionados, Darwin Palmer and Gordon Wrubel. These gentlemen have helped me whenever I needed information and or advice.

In conclusion, if you are interested in a new, fascinating and challenging adventure, saddle up, mount a New Jersey draft horse and hit the trail.



Maris 11-H Obverse



Maris 66-v Obverse

* * * * *

THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW JERSEY COPPER SYMPOSIUM

Held Online April 24, 2021

Ray Williams

The First NJ Copper Symposium was held in Wayne, NJ on April 20th, 1991. It was a gathering of NJ Copper enthusiasts to create fellowship and share information. John Griffiee had insisted that I attend after I had provided him with the provenance of his Maris 77-dd. I was just an observer in the room, having little knowledge about NJ Coppers, but this event got me hooked.

John Lorenzo provided a room for the event at his office. He also handed out worksheets that consisted of one page for each NJ variety with an auction description & picture. If I remember correctly, these pages were mostly from the Garrett NJ auction catalog. I made notes in my copy as I listened to the contributions of the attendees. Rarity estimates and Condition Census were discussed and debated among the more knowledgeable. One variety at a time, these parameters were updated based on auction appearances, known collections, dealer inventories, and the gut feelings of those with experience.

I just absorbed as much as I could. I did bring a portable Panasonic cassette recorder and recorded much of the event. I also took a few pictures. Several years later, Roger Siboni took the cassette tapes and transcribed them into a book, along with several of my pictures. The attendees contributing to the bulk of the discussions were Bill Anton, John Griffiee, Mike Ringo and Joel Geoffrey. Bill Anton also brought some handout material – an envelope with a picture of Dr. Maris among other items. He also brought one of the lead plates imitating the Maris Plate using electrotype coins from the Spiro sale.

At the event, I purchased five of John Griffiee's duplicates, more than doubling my collection. A week later, April 27, 1991, I attended EAC Boston and purchased another five NJ varieties from Don Mituzas. My collecting days were well along the way – I was addicted! Over the next 15 years, we had several meetings at private residences and about a dozen NJ Copper Symposiums held at C4 Conventions.

Those attending the First NJ Copper Symposium were:

Bill Anton	John Griffiee	Mike Ringo
Gino DiTogni	Frank Jozapaitis	Don Scarinci

John Dikun	John Lorenzo	Frank Stiemle
Elliott Durann	George Lyman	Dennis Wierzba
Joel Geoffrey	Spencer Peck	Ray Williams

Fast forward 30 years and here we are – 2021. What a ride it has been collecting NJ Coppers for three decades! Last year, I discussed with Roger Siboni the possibility of a 30th Anniversary New Jersey Copper Symposium and he agreed it was a great idea. All my ideas are great! LOL. Being that the actual April 20th anniversary date was in the middle of the week, we decided to hold it on the following Saturday, April 24th. A noon Eastern time was chosen because we didn't know how long it would last, and 9:00 AM Pacific time shouldn't be too early.

Notices were placed in the C4 Newsletter, *Penny-Wise* and online chat groups. About 45 people signed up to receive the information to attend the Zoom meeting, and 22 collectors actually attended. Those that didn't attend are "dead to me"! Only kidding, but they did miss a fun time.

The Symposium started on time. As meeting host, I greeted everyone present, talked a little about the first symposium and explained how we planned to run the event that day. Typical of C4 and EAC events, each attendee had a turn to introduce himself. During these introductions, if the collector had images to share, questions to ask, or information to provide, that was when it was done. I started first, to provide an example of how to do it. After introducing myself, I shared images of the largest diameter NJ Copper known, a NJ copper made into a seal, the Maris Plate 23-R, and my favorite Maris 3-C. Roger Siboni was next and it continued through all present until Buell Ish was the final attendee to share.

There were then three presentations by the authors of the NJ Copper book. Jack Howes shared information about the Goadsby papers he discovered about a decade ago and has been transcribing. Buell Ish displayed and talked about the Maris Receipt recently archived on the Newman Numismatic Portal, giving insights to how auctions were handled at the time and specifically how Maris was involved in the auction of his collection. Roger Siboni ended the event with a discussion about Painted Die Varieties – NJ Coppers that had Maris or Crosby die varieties painted or drawn in the field of the



Screen shot during the Symposium.

coins. Some of these can be associated with specific collectors and collections.

Those attending the 30th Anniversary NJ Copper Symposium were:

Al Boka	Frank Jozapaitis	Darwin Palmer
Bob Bransfield	Eric Li Cheung	Jeff Rock
David Fanning	Jeff Lipsky	Roger Siboni
Jim Glickman	Len Massa	Bruce Smith
Don Hartman	Bill Mitchell	Frank Stillinger

Jack Howes	Mitch Mitchell	Frank Weisensee
Dale Isaac	Roger Moore	Dennis Wierzba
Buell Ish	Ray Williams	

The 2½ hour event is now history. I wonder if others will talk about this event, in 30 years, like we now reminisce about the one 30 years ago. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to make the event a success. One of the participants asked about having a NJ Copper gathering at the upcoming C4 Convention. Let's see if we can make it happen.

* * * * *

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Chris McCawley writes,

Harry - Thank you for your remembrance of Jack Robinson. I sometimes forget you are a poet and can capture the essence of a thing or a person in just a few words. I also have received that squeeze of a shoulder. In Walt Whitman's words, "What is less, or more, than a touch." Thank you.

* * * * *

SWAPS AND SALES

EACers 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 OR AS ELECTRONIC FILES, AND PAID IN ADVANCE. A full-page ad is \$250. One-half page is \$125. Discounts are available for repeating ads. Ads should be limited to early American Coppers or tokens and books related to the same. ***Deadline for material to appear in the October 2021 issue is September 30, 2021.*** 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, P.O. Box 1691, Hastings, NE 68902 or by email to hpsalyar@tcgcs.com.

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Bob Grellman, EAC #575
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Consignments for Auction: I am accepting early copper consignments for all Goldberg auctions. Call, email, or text for details.

Late Date Large Cent Book: A new 2021 hardbound edition of *The Die Varieties of United States Large Cents 1840-1857* is now available for immediate delivery via USPS Priority Mail. This book updates the 2000 edition that has been sold out for several years. There are 451 pages with detailed diagrams for attribution, color photos of rarities and special die states, updated rarity and census information, and dozens of newly discovered rare die states are described. Books are \$125 postpaid and can be ordered from Allen Ross at latedatebook@gmail.com or by mail at 1451 Edinger Ave, Ste B, Tustin, CA 92780.

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Tom Deck

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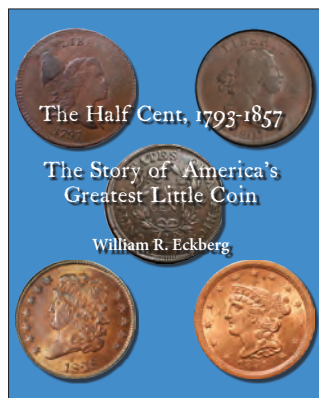
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A highly readable and very useful overview of the subject, with a nice balance of historical background and technical (die variety) discussion. Good color photography provides an improvement over earlier works. – David Fanning

Available to EAC members for \$95.00; list price \$125.00.

<http://www.halfcentbook.com>

halfcent@mac.com

* * * * *

Michael S. Shutty, Jr., EAC #2790

If you want to read something totally different and a bit radical, I think you will enjoy my new book. It is a heartfelt exploration of history as told by coins lost in the dirt. The book also explains how copper cents decay when confronted with Mother Nature. Finally, I examine the aesthetics of corrosion, born of the conflict between nature and man (wherein nature wins). Check it out & enjoy a great weekend read.

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Ray Rouse, EAC #2675 7568 Regency Lake Drive Boca Raton, FL 33433
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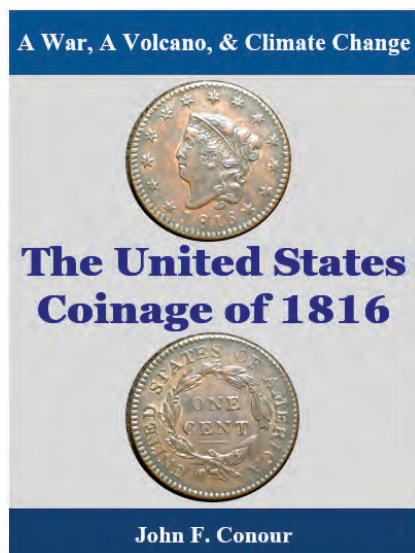
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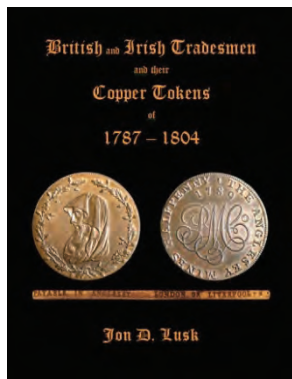
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* * * * *

Tom Webster, EAC #5752 Phone 269-217-7700 email: webs1873@gmail.com
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Robert Calderon, EAC #5644

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For Sale

1857 N-4 small date, mark free, ex Dan Holmes 2011, Herman Halpern 1988, includes Stacks and Goldberg lot tickets, Dan's envelope and J.R. Grellman attribution and grade card (EAC 60), also graded EAC 60 in both auctions, NGC 62 brown, slab notes Holmes and Halpern pedigree. \$1,000.

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* * * * *

Keith Gilbert, EAC #5933

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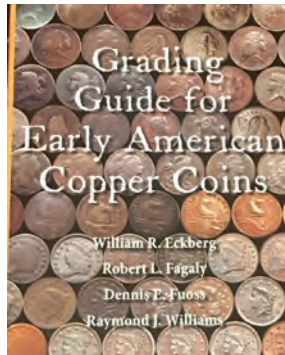
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* * * * *

F. Alan Millhone, EAC #527 Post Office Box # 1 Belpre, Ohio

45714-0001

Cell 304 482 9902

alan.millhone@gmail.com

1793 Liberty Cap S-13 PCGS genuine, corrosion removed.

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* * * * *

L. Michael Lawrence, EAC #3053

email: lmllibcap@gmail.com

phone: 319-364-5266 (landline, no texts)

I am interested in buying for my personal collection the following 1793 large cent electrotypes, Ex Jules Reiver, from the 2007 EAC Sale in St. Louis:

S-1 (lot 102)

S-8 (lot 110)

S-11c (lot 118)

Please email or call.

* * * * *

Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4)

- Which of these coins was the first struck in the New World?
- Which of these were the first coins struck in what would eventually become the United States?
- Benjamin Franklin designed which coin?
- Which is the first American coin to include the famous motto, "e pluribus unum?"

If you are interested in the answers to these questions or want to know more about the coins on this page or colonial era history, check out our website at:

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The McCawleys

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Selected Highlights from the Arizona Collection



1793 S-1 Chain Cent, XF40 PCGS
AMERI. Reverse



1793 S-2 Chain Cent, MS64 Brown PCGS
AMERICA Reverse
Ex: Daniel Holmes Collection



1793 S-4 Chain Cent, AU50 PCGS
Periods Obverse



1793 S-10 Wreath Cent, MS64 Brown PCGS
High Condition Census
Ex: Winsor-Mills-Naftzger



1793 S-16 Liberty Cap Cent, VF35 PCGS
High Condition Census
Possibly the Finest Known



1794 S-48 Starred Reverse Cent, VF35 PCGS
The Discovery Specimen
Tied for the Fifth Finest Known



1797 Draped Bust Cent, MS66 Red and Brown PCGS
Ex: Newcomb, Naftzger, Pogue
The Finest Known S-140 Cent



1803 S-264 Large Cent, AU55 PCGS
Large Date, Small Fraction Rarity
Condition Census



1804 S-266 Cent, AU55 PCGS
High Condition Census
Important Key-Date Issue

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1662 Oak Tree Twopence, MS63 PCGS
Noe-33, Salmon 1-B



1652 Oak Tree Threepence, AU55 PCGS
Noe-27.1, Salmon 4-Ai
From the Stickney and Garrett Collections



1652 Oak Tree Shilling, AU58 PCGS
Noe-4, Salmon 2-D



1652 Oak Tree Shilling, AU55 PCGS
Noe-5, Salmon 3-D
The Crosby Plate Coin



1652 Pine Tree Threepence, MS63 PCGS
Noe-36, Salmon 2-B



1652 Pine Tree Sixpence, MS62 PCGS
Noe-33, Salmon 2-B
Ex: Brand; Judd; Craige



1652 Pine Tree Shilling, MS62 PCGS
Noe-1, Salmon 1-A
Richard Picker's "Gem"



1652 Pine Tree Shilling, AU58+ PCGS
Noe-2, Salmon 2-C



1652 Pine Tree Shilling, AU58 PCGS
Noe-5, Salmon 4-Di

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The auction also will include an extensive collection of 1793 Half Cents and Large Cents by die variety from the Dr. Mark Cadden Collection. All are graded by PCGS. And the Lou Alfonso collection of 1794 large cents.



1840 N-1 Small Date
 PCGS MS65BN
 CAC Finest Graded



1841 N-5
 PCGS MS65BN
 CAC Finest Graded



1842 N-1 Small Date
 PCGS MS64RB
 CAC Finest Graded



1842 N-4 Large Date
 PCGS MS65+RB
 Second Finest



1843 N-14
 PCGS PR63BN
 CAC



1844/81 N-2
 PCGS MS64BN



1847/7 N-2
 Large 7 over Small 7
 PCGS MS63BN



1848 N-44
 PCGS 65BN
 CAC Tied Finest Known



1848 Small Date
 PCGS VF20



1849 N-17
 PCGS MS63RB
 CAC Finest Known



1851/81 N-3
 PCGS MS66RB
 CAC Finest Graded

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Address _____
Telephone _____ Applying for: \$1000 Scholarship _____
\$500 Research Grant _____
EAC# _____ Date Joined EAC _____

Scholarship requirements:

1. What class, seminar, conference, *etc.* will you attend? Where and when will it be held? Please attach a flyer, application, or any documentation regarding the class, seminar, conference, *etc.*
2. Please indicate and document how you have shared your numismatic knowledge with others during your lifetime. Possible instances can include:
 - a. Giving a presentation to a non-numismatic entity, ex. A school, community service organization, home for the aged, Boy or Girl Scouts, *etc.*
 - b. Presenting a program or seminar at a coin club or coin show.
 - c. Writing articles for local, regional, or national numismatic publications.
 - d. Service in leadership positions for local, regional, or national numismatic clubs or organizations.
 - e. Volunteer work for local, regional, or national numismatic clubs or organizations in an effort to insure a successful specific program or show.
3. By signing this application, you agree that should you receive an EAC Scholarship you will prepare and submit an original article to ***Penny-Wise*** discussing the subject matter of the class or seminar including personal observations or comments. Such article will be due no later than four (4) months from the end of such class or seminar.

Research Grant requirements:

1. Please submit documentation showing the nature, timing and source of the research being conducted and its direct relation to early American copper.
2. Please submit original documents (to be returned) showing clearly the nature and amount of such expenditures that relate directly to the research being conducted.
3. By signing this application, you agree that should you receive an EAC grant you will prepare and submit an original article to ***Penny-Wise*** that details the results of the research project. Such article will be due no later than four (4) months from the completion of the research covered under the grant.

Note Well: There is no deadline for applications. However, you must be an EAC member in good standing for at least 12 months prior to the date you submit the application.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail or email this application to either:

Lou Alfonso, PO Box 480188, Delray Beach, FL 33448 or loualfonso1794@gmail.com

David Huang, 20 Quail Run Lane, Glenmoore, PA 19343-2020 or oysterk@hotmail.com



1795 1a-C, C-5b, B-5b.

Ex Charles Ira Bushnell-Lorin G. Parmelee, Samuel H. and Henry Chapman 6/20/1882:2765 (\$1.50)-Henry Ahlborn, Thomas L. Elder 11/1921:702-Thomas L. Elder 4/1922:348-Thomas L. Elder 10/1922:1138-Thomas L. Elder 5/1923:710-unknown-J. C. Morgenthau & Co., Inc. (Wayte M. Raymond and James G. Macallister) 10/5/1939-Joseph Steele, Numismatic Gallery (Abraham "Abe" Kosoff & Abner Kreisberg) 1953 A.N.A. Sale 8/22/1953:1451 (\$20.00)-New Netherlands Coin Co., included in their 44th Sale (Hillyer C. Ryder) 6/23/1954:273 (\$100.00)-R. Henry Norweb Family collection (The Honorable Raymond Henry Norweb [10/1/1983] and Emery May Holden Norweb)-Emery May Holden Norweb (3/27/1984)-Raymond Henry Norweb, Jr., Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc., 10/12/1987:19-R. Tettenhorst-Missouri Cabinet.

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