

PENNY-WISE

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INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR: WHEN “LIBERTY” SAID IT ALL

Harry E. Salyards

In a month overflowing with 250th anniversary celebrations, let us go back 235 years instead. Though the Confederation Congress had passed an “ordinance” establishing the mint in September 1786, no practical action toward implementing that resolution had taken place over the subsequent five years. Thus, on October 25, 1791, President Washington appealed to the Second Congress under the Constitution:

“The disorders in the existing currency, and especially the scarcity of small change, a scarcity so peculiarly distressing to the poorer classes, strongly recommend the carrying into immediate effect the resolution already entered into concerning the establishment of a Mint.”

Acting with uncharacteristic speed, the first reading of the proposed Mint Act took place in the Senate on December 21. “Sundry amendments” were offered, not all of which are spelled out in the Senate Journal, although one proposed dollar design, consisting of joined hands surrounded “by as many circles linked together as there shall be states in the Union at the time of the coinage,” was voted down. The Senate’s final proposal, including the famous passage that “upon one side of each of the said coins there shall be an impression **or representation of the head of the President of the United States for the time being [and] the succession of the Presidency numerically,**” went to the House for consideration on January 13, 1792.

Only on Saturday March 24 did the House, sitting as a Committee of the Whole, vote to delete the words in red and substitute **Emblematic of Liberty, with an inscription of the word LIBERTY**. Two votes were actually taken; one, whether or not to delete the words in red, which narrowly passed, 26-22; and whether to insert the words in blue, which passed handily, 42-6. (Arch-Federalist Elias Boudinot, later the third Director of the Mint, was one of the six voting “NAY.”)

Look at the obverse of any denomination of coin struck at the Mint in the 1790s, and you will see the elegant simplicity of the result: a Head or Bust, the date, and **LIBERTY**. Liberty was not merely the necessary result of the Revolution, but a sufficient motto for the new nation.

What of our other national mottos? E PLURIBUS UNUM has been around since antiquity, and was incorporated into the Great Seal in the 1780s. It appeared on fewer than half of the U. S. coins struck through 1837, and then was not seen again until the Trade Dollar of 1873. In its use on the Seal, it echoed the Royal mottos that dominated all of the world, save the U. S. and France, in 1792. In asserting our claim on the China trade, the Trade Dollar likewise reflected an expansive executive policy. IN GOD WE TRUST, nearly ubiquitous on our coinage since 1866, had its origin deep in the bloodbath of the Civil War, and in some ways reflects the contentious spirit of that time to this day. Compared to **LIBERTY**, each of these seem a bit off. Though E PLURIBUS UNUM makes a bold-face assertion, kind of like an Executive Order in Latin, we’ve always been a lot more “PLURIBUS” than “UNUM.” And we have no national consensus on God, nor should we, if the First Amendment’s guarantee of Freedom of Religion is to have any meaning.

Just as Lincoln at Gettysburg spoke of a “new nation conceived in **LIBERTY**,” I would suggest that that should remain our *primary* motto. Think of the evolving images on the cents and half cents of 1793-1794, as the mint’s first engravers struggled to personify **an expression Emblematic of Liberty**. Opponents in the House in the early spring of 1792 mocked the very idea. Representative Samuel Livermore of New Hampshire noted that, since “a ghost had been said to be in the shape of the sound of a drum, so might Liberty for aught he knew.” But representative John Page of Virginia wisely predicted,

“I am certain it will be more agreeable to the citizens of the United States, to see the head of Liberty on their coin, than the heads of Presidents. However well pleased they might be with the head of the great man now their President, they may have no great reason to be pleased with some of his successors.”

What better way to honor the spirit of the Revolution, than to restore **an expression Emblematic of Liberty, with an inscription of the word LIBERTY** to their place of primacy on the obverse of the coins of the United States of America?

* * * * *

THE 1809 COHEN 5 REVISITED

Bill Eckberg

Twenty years ago, I wrote an article about this variety (*Penny-Wise* XXX #6, 2006). The title was “The 1809 Cohen 5: 9 Over What?”. Using a rather primitive overlay technique and moderate resolution images, I concluded that the 9 was not an overdate or punched over an inverted 9 (*i.e.*, 6), but was rather a triple-punched 9, and so the variety should be called a repunched 9, not a 9 over inverted 9 as it was in books and lot descriptions. For a short time, some auction listings did refer to the variety as a repunched (or triple-punched) 9, but that description has gone by the wayside. Auction listings and popular references such as the *Red Book* and PCGS CoinFacts all refer to the variety in the same way: 9/inverted 9. This led me to wonder: Was I wrong in calling it a repunched 9? Much higher-resolution images are now available, particularly on the PCGS CoinFacts website. In addition to the higher resolutions, those images have the further advantage that they all were shot under the same conditions, and so there should be no spherical or chromatic aberration or any other oddness that might affect precise alignment. A reevaluation of my previous findings was in order.

First some history.

The earliest die listing of half cents of which I am aware, was Édouard Frossard’s 1879 book, *Monograph of United States Cents and Half Cents*. Illustrating a single variety of 1809, 1810 and 1811, he writes that “[a]n examination of many specimens of these dates leads us to believe that several pairs of dies were used in each date, but the varieties are so trifling as scarcely to deserve notice.” Modern collectors would disagree with that conclusion, and he was certainly wrong that “several pairs of dies” were used in 1810, as all of that date are from a single die pair. By coincidence, the 1809 half cent he illustrates is the Cohen 5 (Figure 1).



Figure 1. First photographic illustration of C5 from Frossard’s Monograph.

The next description was from Ebenezer Gilbert in March, 1916. His monograph is entitled *The United States Half Cents. From the First Year of Issue, in 1793, to the Year When Discontinued, 1857*. He describes his variety #5 as “[v]ery close star variety—high leaf past front of S and another ending to the right of F.” Note that he makes no comment about any element of the date. His images are shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Gilbert photos of G5 (= C5).

George R. Ross published “Die Varieties of Half Cents –1793 to 1857” two months after Gilbert, in the May 1916 issue of *The Numismatist*. His article was not illustrated, but he refers to his variety 1-A as the “Overdate”, without further elaboration as to what it was overdated from.

S. H. Chapman’s 1924 sale of the Alvord collection of half cents listed lot 146 as an example of Gilbert 5 as follows: “Obv. distant 9 over 8” (Figure 3). In forty-five years, the variety has gone from not being worth describing to being described as 9/8.



Figure 3. Alvord plate photos of G5.

United States Half cents 1793-1857 by Q. David Bowers and James F. Ruddy was published by Bowers and Ruddy’s Empire company in 1962. Given the variety number E-61 and not illustrated, it is described as the “[s]o-called 1809/6. Obv.: ‘Overdate’ is indefinite and visible mainly between the knob and loop. Really a corrected error... 1809 over inverted 9, as the final figure

was engraved inverted and then corrected.” The Empire description was developed from an early draft of what eventually evolved into *Walter Breen’s Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents 1793-1857*. From here on, the “overdate” is identified mostly from the area between the knob and loop.

The 1963 Stack’s Brobston Fixed Price List described the coin as 1809/6. It was illustrated only in the version of the catalog that illustrated each coin in the collection (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Brobston catalog photos of G5.

1971 saw the appearance of Roger S. Cohen, Jr.’s *American Half Cents, the “Little Half Sisters”*. Cohen describes the obverse of his variety #5 as follows: “The ‘Overdate.’ The 9 has definitely been cut over another figure. Traces of the other figure can be seen on the left side between the loop and the tail; also to the right of the lower part of the 9. Referred to in the popular coin catalogues as the ‘9 over 6’.”

Breen finally published his book in 1983. His description of the obverse is: “Date spaced 180 9. Traces of another digit between the knob and loop of the 9, and sometimes at other spots around the 9; generally thought to be from a 9 first punched inverted [rotated 180°], then mostly effaced and repunched correctly.”

The 1809 C5 and 2026 technology

Fortunately, high-resolution images of high-grade examples of each of the 1809 obverses are available. Images of each date are presented in Figure 5. Different spacing of the dates on each variety demonstrates that the diesinker used a separate punch for each digit. The 9s are smaller than the other digits, all of which



Figure 5. Photos of the dates of all five 1809 half cent obverses.

are all the same size, giving the 9 the appearance of an exponent. It clearly does not match the rest of the digits. Nevertheless, visual inspection (Figure 6) confirmed by overlays demonstrated that the 9s of each variety except Cohen 5 are identical, so they were all from the same punch. Note the slightly flattened area near the bottom of the loop.

That of C5 differs in several respects. First, the open



Figure 6. Enlargements of the 9s on the five 1809 half cent obverses

area in the upper loop is smaller and narrower, and the walls of the digit are thicker than on any other variety. This could have resulted from the use of a different punch or from the same punch being multiply entered into the die. The former is unlikely, as the C5 shows the same flattened area of the loop that is found in the other varieties. There is also metal protruding to the southeast from the 9 into the field, as noted by Cohen. This is found even in the latest die states (Figure 7). Finally, there are *two separate, nonparallel lines* connecting the knob to the bottom of the loop. These lines do not resemble any part of an inverted 9 or an 8. They do not represent traces of any other digit, though many have so concluded.



Figure 7. The date of a very late die state 1809 C5 showing that the material between the ball and loop and southeast of the 9 persist throughout the life of the die.

How was the 9 produced? Figure 8 shows overlays of the 9 from C3 in magenta on C5 in cyan and gives a simple model that accounts for everything except the nonparallel lines. In this scenario, the 9 was punched three times. First, it was punched leaning well to the left, giving us the metal southeast of the definitive 9. That digit was either very lightly punched or mostly effaced and then repunched twice, slightly misaligned, giving us the wide walls and thinner central space.



Figure 8. Illustration of how the C5 digit can be made by triple-punching the digit used for the other obverses of the date.

What, then of the two lines between the ball and loop? In my 2006 article, I assumed, as did previous authors, that it represented the remnant of another digit, and I forced my overlays to include it. That was a mistake.

The higher resolution images examined here clearly show that they are not connected to each other and do not fit the shape of any digit. A recent book, *Overdates, The Top U.S. Die Variety*, by Kevin Flynn, illustrates a large number of overdates in all U.S. coin series, including several in different metals that have similar lines to those in the C5. Figure 9 shows the 9s from an 1819 O 102 half dollar, an 1809 C5 half cent, and an 1809 BD-1 half eagle. Each of the silver and gold coins shows material between the knob and loop. As Flynn commented in his book, “[d]ie cracks are most likely to occur between design elements that are close together, such as the space between knob and center of the 9.”



Figure 9. Illustration of material between the ball and loop of an 1819 O 102 half dollar, the 1809 C5 half cent and an 1809 BD-1 half eagle.

Interestingly, the 9 on the gold coin is the same as that on the copper, including the flattened area in the loop. Overlays (not shown) confirmed that the 9 on the half eagle is from the same font as that of the half cent, though the other digits in the half eagle date are consistent with the 9 and are different from those on the half cent. Evidently, the Mint did not have a 9 punch that matched the font used for the other digits of the half cent, or the diesinker – likely John Reich – picked up the wrong one. We can only speculate about why the diesinker chose a different size font for the half cent date than that of the half eagle, as the two denominations are about the same size.

Can it be a coincidence that the same punch produced similar anomalous marks on two different dies? In the case of the C5, the punch was hammered into the die twice in nearly the same position. It is reasonable to guess that this stress caused internal cracks in the dies. I cannot *prove* that this is the origin of the lines, but Occam’s Razor applies. It is the simplest and most likely explanation.

In any case, the findings reported here are definitive that the variety is neither a 9/8 nor a 9/inverted 9.

It is a triple-punched 9.

* * * * *

REMARKABLE 1795 LARGE CENT SHOWS 1794 LARGE CENT UNDERTYPE

1795 S-76 STRUCK OVER 1794 S-71

By Mark Borckardt with Jeff Garrett and Zeke Wischer



Kentucky numismatist Jeff Garrett, the well-known numismatic author and editor of the *Guide Book of United States Coins* (the Redbook), made an incredible early copper discovery recently in Germany. The three large cents included a 1795 cent that is struck over a 1794 cent. The other two cents that Garrett acquired at the Berlin Money Fair in late January 2026 are the finest known 1819 Newcomb-4 cent and a lovely 1850 N-13 cent, both retaining considerable original red mint color.

With relatively few known varieties, attribution of the 1795 strike is straightforward. The date is widely spaced with the flag of the 5 joined to Liber-

ty's bust. The date layout is found only on obverse dies 2 and 3 according to Dr. William H. Sheldon's popular reference, *Penny Whimsy*. Those two dies were used for S-74, 75, 76, and NC-3. The reverse has ONE CENT placed high inside the wreath as found on S-76 and no others.

This extraordinary 1795 cent was struck over a previously struck 1794 large cent, clearly showing the 7, 9, and 4 from the host coin between the D in UNITED, the first S of STATES, and the border. Many details remain from the 1794 strike.

The immediate concern with any discovery of this type is authenticity. The general appearance of this coin is consistent with U.S. Mint products of the 1790s. The weight is 13.6 grams, easily within tolerance for the 13.48-gram standard of copper coins. The 1794 edge lettering remains with an upturned leaf following DOLLAR.

Can the 1794 undertype be attributed to its Sheldon number? There are 65 die pairs of 1794 numbered from 17 through 72, adding several "Non-Collectible" varieties. These photos are rotated to show the undertype in normal coin alignment.





Liberty's profile including the forelock are clearly visible with the letters ERTY of the word LIBERTY boldly visible (left). The R and T of LIBERTY are close to the forelock with the upright of the T fully over the forelock, while the right foot of that letter extends beyond. The distance between those letters and the forelock is roughly the same as the thickness of the upright of T. Additionally, the R has a slightly curved tail. Most 1794 dies have LIBERTY high above the forelock with a straight tail to the R. These observations are consistent with just three varieties: Sheldon-67, Sheldon-71, and Sheldon-72. Clash marks from the 1794 strike are clearly visible at Liberty's chin (center), matching those known on Sheldon-71 (right). Details of the reverse from the 1794 strike are similarly consistent with the known dies of Sheldon-71. Heritage Chief Cataloger Zeke Wischer is credited with attribution of the undertype.

Why did this overstrike occur? We believe that it was a matter of economy within the first Mint. The 1794 strike appears to be slightly off center. There are documented instances of "Spoiled Cents" as they were called that were cut down for use as planchets for half cents with several half cents known to retain undertype from large cent dies. There are also copper half dollar patterns that were cut down for use as half cent planchets.

The undertype on this extraordinary piece appears to be slightly off center, but not enough to be considered a "Spoiled Cent." The off center 1794 strike was apparently set aside and struck again using the 1795 S-76 dies. PCGS has certified this remarkable cent as "1795 S-76a struck over S-71" and grades the coin AU58+. There are two other 1795 S-76 cents known to us that show 1794 large cent undertype, both in lower grade. One example

that appeared in our 2015 Chicago ANA auction was cataloged as “possibly struck over an off-center 1794 S-71 cent.” That example has no evidence of the 1794 date. The other example is identified as a 1795 S-76b cent that was struck over an 80% off-center 1794 S-63 cent that shows the “Fallen 4” date.

When did the overstrike occur? Two edge variants of the 1795 S-76 are identified as S-76a with a lettered edge and S-76b with a plain edge. In his *Encyclopedia of Early United States Cents*, Walter Breen suggested that the coinage of the S-76a coins with a lettered edge concluded on October 27, 1795, and afterward, Mint Director Elias Boudinot recommended a weight reduction that President Washington verbally authorized in late December 1795, and those coins were the plain edge S-76b cents. While the die state of the 1795 strike is uncertain, it appears to be a later impression from the

dies while they were used for the S-76b plain edge coins. The die state suggests this is a 1795 S-76b struck over a 1794 S-71 cent and likely coined early in 1796.

Do others await discovery? Advanced numismatic students have learned to never rule anything out. Until January 2026, the present coin was unknown to the current generation of early copper aficionados. Breen mentioned two flip-over double strike 1795 S-76 cents, and the present piece could easily be mistaken for such a mint error. Those pieces and others that are similarly described should be studied carefully to rule out a 1794 undertype.

Just over 20 years ago, the present writer cataloged a similar item: a 1795 BB-14 silver dollar that was struck over a 1794 dollar. Unlike that unique early dollar, this cent shows the 1794 date. The two pieces would make a fascinating pair for exhibition purposes.

* * * * *

Joseph Priestley, from England to Pennsylvania:

American Intellectual, Numismatic Subject, and a Proposal for Expanding the EAC Canon

Laurence Edwards

Joseph Priestley, Unitarian theologian and preacher, political activist, and experimental scientist, was among the founders of the modern field of Chemistry. He is best known for the discovery of what came to be called Oxygen. He was a friend of Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. Priestley spent most of his life in England, where he met and became close to Franklin. For ten years he was resident in Birmingham where he was a member of the Lunar Society, along with Matthew Boulton, James Watt, and other luminaries of the era. His preaching and support of the French and American Revolutions got him into some trouble, leading to the “Priestley Riots” of 1791.

In 1794 he left England for the United States and built a house in Northumberland, PA. He became an important intellectual figure in the early years of the United States. His house is now a State Historical Museum. The literature on Joseph Priestley is extensive, but the intention here is to offer a brief sketch of his biography, placing him in the revolutionary context of his times. Then, by highlighting his connection to the early years of the United States and his depiction on several tokens and medals, I propose that Priestley – and the tokens

depicting him – will be of interest to collectors of early American copper.

The Reverend Doctor Joseph Priestley, polymath and friend of the Revolution(s)

The late 18th century was a time of revolution: American, French, Scientific, and Industrial. Priestley was a key figure of the time, whose extraordinarily active and productive life intersects all of those revolutionary movements. Today his name is primarily known to chemists and Unitarians, but in his own lifetime (1733-1804) he was famous, on both sides of the Atlantic, for controversial preaching as well as chemical experiments. Joseph Priestley was a young minister of a dissenting church and already interested in the burgeoning field of experimental science when, in late 1765, he met Benjamin Franklin in London. He had an idea for a book project that would narrate the history of science, and he wanted to meet contemporary practitioners.

A coffee house near St. Paul’s Church hosted regular meetings of the “Club of Honest Whigs,” as Franklin called it (it is described by Steven Johnson as “a gang of freethinkers”). Priestley was comfortable in such

company. He had grown up in a family of Calvinist “dissenters” – a term that applied to anyone in the UK who did not affiliate with the official Anglican Church. Thus Baptists, Methodists, Unitarians, Catholics, Jews, religious skeptics, and political radicals could all find a home under the label of “Dissenter.”

Young Priestley arrived in London with a letter of introduction. Meeting Franklin and other members of the Club proved life-altering. They supported his book proposal and urged him to carry out his own experiments while researching and writing. This launched his career as an experimental scientist which led to such discoveries as (my favorite) soda water (love the bubbles!) and isolating the element that came to be called oxygen (though Priestley insisted on calling it “dephlogisticated air”). It also inaugurated some life-long friendships. During the winter of 1774-1775, the Priestleys were living in London. Johnson reports that Priestley and Franklin dined together almost every day, often with other “Honest Whigs.” Franklin left London in March 1775, at almost the last possible minute before hostilities broke out back home. In his *Memoirs* Priestley offers this touching account:

My winter’s residence in London was the means of improving my acquaintance with Dr. Franklin. I was seldom many days without seeing him and being members of the same club we constantly returned together. The difference with America breaking out at this time, our conversation was chiefly of a political nature; and I can bear witness that he was so far from promoting, as was generally supposed, that he took every method in his power to prevent a rupture between the two countries. He urged so much the doctrine of forbearance that for some time, he was unpopular with the Americans on that account, as too much a friend to Great Britain. His advice to them was to bear everything for the present, as they were sure in time to outgrow their grievances as it could not be in the power of the mother country to oppress them long.

He dreaded the war and often said that if the difference should come to an open rupture, it would be a war of ten years, and he should not live to see the end of it. In reality, the war lasted near eight years, but he did live to see the happy termination of it. That the issue would be favorable to America, he never doubted. The English, he used to say, may take all our great towns, but that will not give

them possession of the country. The last days that he spent in England, having given out that he should leave London the day before, we passed together, without any other company; and much of the time was employed in reading American newspapers, especially accounts for the reception which the Boston port bill met with in America; and as he read the addresses to the inhabitants of Boston from places in the neighborhood, the tears trickled down his cheeks.

From 1773 to 1780 Priestley found employment as a tutor and librarian in the household of Lord Shelburne, William Petty (the Irish-born 2nd Earl of Shelburne, Marquis of Lansdowne). The terms were liberal and Priestley had both time and support to carry on the scientific experiments to which he had become so devoted. There were opportunities for travel on the Continent, including Paris where he openly shared his scientific discoveries, including at a dinner discussion with the brilliant young Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier. He enjoyed scientific conversation but also felt the need to defend Christianity to the rationalist unbelievers.

I can truly say that the greatest satisfaction I receive from the success of my philosophical [i.e., scientific] pursuits arises from the weight it may give to my attempts to defend Christianity and to free it from those corruptions [of the established Church] which prevent its reception with philosophical and thinking persons...

The French philosophes were astonished that a man of science could also embrace religious belief. Some say that, in his conversation with Lavoisier, Priestley revealed too much about his experiments, enabling Lavoisier to duplicate his work and claim credit.

Lord Shelburne was a generous sponsor of Priestley’s scientific work while Priestley was in his employ. Even after they parted ways and Priestley moved to Birmingham, Shelburne continued to pay him an annual stipend. In Birmingham he was closer to his in-laws. He had married Mary Wilkinson in 1762 (he was 29, she was 18). He came to know the family when he was teaching school and Mary’s younger brother was one of his students. The formidable Wilkinson iron works were northwest of Birmingham. The move also brought Joseph more regularly into the circle of the Lunar Society, of which he would be an important member for the next ten years.

Birmingham and the Lunar Men

During the Priestleys’ first year in Birmingham,

Joseph was offered and accepted the pulpit of the congregation that had met in the building known as the Old Meeting and subsequently met in the New Meeting. In both his preaching and writing Priestley was increasingly outspoken in his criticisms of the established Anglican Church, as well as in his support for both the American and French Revolutions. He believed in freedom of thought and speech as well as religion. He considered himself a faithful Christian but had long resisted any requirement to conform to official doctrines or catechisms. Jesus was a human being, of superior moral qualities but not divine. Priestley would become one of the founding thinkers of Unitarianism. In his view, his interest in science in no way conflicted with his religious faith – it was all part of a lifelong effort to understand God’s creation and the human place within it. In that opinion he followed Sir Isaac Newton. He had many friends but was also making enemies.



Left: One of several portraits of Priestley produced by his friend Josiah Wedgwood (Science Museum Group, UK).

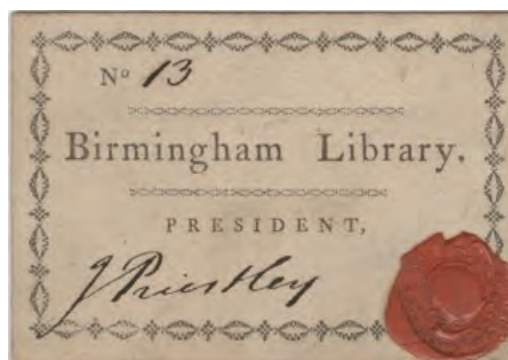
Right: One of the very few portraits of Mary Wilkinson Priestley (1762-1796). (Wikidata)

Priestley considered the decade he lived in Birmingham as “the happiest event in my life” – until it wasn’t. He quickly became a regular member of the Lunar Society, which included some of the leading lights of Birmingham and of the industrial and scientific revolutions of the late 18th century.

The Lunar Society meetings were as much for pleasure as for business. As the years rolled on, they tried to dine at two o’clock, and usually planned to stay until at least eight. The wine flowed (despite Darwin’s later advocacy of temperance) and the tables were heavy with fish and capons, Cheddar and Stilton, pies and syllabubs. At dinner the wives sometimes joined the men and the children dashed in and out. But when the meal was cleared away, out

came the instruments, the plans and the models, the minerals and machines...

Two members of the group were the business partners Boulton and Watt. James Watt left Glasgow – he had worked as a technician at the University of Glasgow -- in May of 1774 and arrived in Birmingham on the last day of that month. The engineering genius of the Scottish Enlightenment shook hands with Matthew Boulton, one of the pioneers of English industrialization. James Watt is the more famous name – well-known to anyone who has ever checked the electric consumption of a lightbulb. Watt did not invent the steam engine but improved it in ways that made it central to the Industrial Revolution and profitable to the Boulton and Watt partnership. Matthew Boulton was already well-established in Birmingham as a businessman and industrial innovator. The Lunar Society typically met on the Monday closest to the full moon (hence the name) so that members could see their way home – streetlights were yet to come. In addition to Boulton and Watt members included the potter and abolitionist Josiah Wedgwood, as well as Dr. Erasmus Darwin, poet, physician, and grandfather of Charles.



During his first year in Birmingham, Priestley catalogued (“categorized”) the lending library founded in 1779 by John Lee. <https://www.bmi.org.uk/library> Birmingham Library card, signed by Joseph Priestley, with his seal. Penn State University Libraries’ Digital Collections

Boulton often hosted the Lunar Society in his home, Soho House. He might have led the life of a gentleman of leisure, thanks to inheritances, but he had idealistic notions of business: “I am partial to trade in as much as it extends a man’s powers of doing good and I would rather be distinguished as the greatest Manufacturer in Europe than as a Count of the Holy Empire.” Other members of the Lunar Society were interested in scientific research, politics, and ideas of all kinds. It was an intellectual hothouse. Members were well-acquainted with Joseph Priestley, and when he moved to Birmingham in 1780 it did not take long for him to become a regular member of the group.



The author in front of Matthew Boulton's Soho House, closed for repairs in October 2024 (photo credit: Susan Boone)

Watt's steam engine and Boulton's business ambition would eventually revolutionize the manufacture of money. Boulton's Soho Mint produced tokens as well as coinage for such entities as the East India Company, while lobbying for contracts with the Royal Mint. Boulton was politically more reserved than some of his friends. Always alert to business opportunities, though, he hoped at one point to provide coinage for the newly independent United States. Ultimately, he provided many of the planchets for cents and half cents, the first shipment arriving in Philadelphia in May 1798. Richard Doty reports that "...of all cents struck between 1797 and 1837, more than two-thirds were made of Soho-supplied planchets. And *all* half-cents struck during the first third of the nineteenth century started out in Matthew Boulton's workshop."



Boulton's 'cartwheels,' produced for the Royal Mint, represent the first use of Britannia with a trident. (Photo credit: Larry Moran, Sep 13, 2010)

The Riots of 1791

Priestley was not afraid to preach and to write in support of individual rights. As a religious "dissenter" he was opposed to the theological conformity required by a national church. Over time his public statements earned him the opposition of the "Church and King" crowd. Among his most controversial public statements was his sermon of November 5, 1785, on the occasion of Guy Fawkes Day, which commemorates the 1605 attempt by Catholic conspirators to blow up the houses of Parliament. In his sermon Priestley – against the advice of a number of friends and family members – chose an incendiary metaphor: "Unitarian principles are gaining ground every day. We are, as it were, laying gunpowder, grain by grain, under the old building of error and superstition..." It came to be known as his "Gunpowder Sermon," and though he intended it metaphorically (if provocatively) it added to his reputation as a dangerous critic of both the Church and the Crown.

On the second anniversary of the storming of the Bastille (July 14, 1791) supporters of the French revolutionary cause organized a celebratory dinner in Birmingham. Priestley was warned that there might be trouble and prepared to move his family out of town. Riots indeed broke out – supporters of King and Church attacked as people were leaving the celebration. The riots continued through the night. Amid widespread destruction, Priestley's home, laboratory, and library were burned down as was the Meeting House where he had preached to his congregation.



"The Attack on the Old Meeting House, July 14, 1791"

But we are getting ahead of our story.



Warwickshire. Kempson's 1/2 Penny Token 1791 D&H-160.
Collection of the author

The Priestleys left Birmingham for London. Though he had not been an original member of the group, it was a great loss for the Lunar meeting, “which has never flourished since the departure of Priestley.” Moving to London, where he had friends, was a way of saying that he wished, if at all possible, to remain in his native country, though two of his sons had already moved to America; another was in France. After three years in London, though, things had become untenable. He writes:

...I should willingly have awaited my fate in my native country, whatever it had been, if I had not had sons in America and if I did not think that a field of public usefulness which is evidently closing upon me here might open to more advantage there.

Friends of his were in trouble for “slight and very insufficiently proved” activities and speeches,

a measure so subversive of that freedom of speaking and acting which has hitherto been the great pride of Britons. But the sentence of Mr. Winterbotham, for delivering from the pulpit what I am persuaded he never did deliver, and which, similar evidence might have drawn upon myself or any other dissenting minister who was an object of general dislike, has something in it still more alarming.

He had considered a move to France, having supported the Revolution in its early days and having been made an honorary French citizen, but revolutionary France was sinking into the Reign of Terror.



Priestley (left) and Thomas Paine (right) in a 1792 satirical cartoon by Isaac Cruikshank. (Wikipedia Commons) The two certainly knew each other in London and are imagined here plotting together. Both were friends of Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. Paine went to France and served in the National Convention. As the Terror took hold, he was sentenced to death and barely escaped.

Priestley in America: “An Asylum for the Oppress’d of All Nations” (1794-1804)

I am not sure of the origin of the phrase “An Asylum for the Oppress’d of All Nations.” Thomas Paine in *Common Sense* had called for the United States to become “an asylum for mankind.” So far, the earliest use I have found of the full phrase is in the deliberations of the U.S. House of Representatives concerning the “Rule of Naturalization.” It then appears as an edge inscription on some of the “Liberty and Security” Washington pieces issued in Britain in 1795 and listed in Dalton & Hamer as Middlesex 1052b. Joseph Priestley was one of the most prominent personalities of the late 18th century to find asylum on American shores.

Joseph and Mary Priestley set sail for America aboard the merchant ship *Samson* on April 8, 1794. During the weeks of Priestley’s crossing the Atlantic into celebrated exile in the young United States, his French colleague and nemesis, Lavoisier, was being led to the guillotine. Joseph and Mary were received on the evening of June 5, 1794, at the old Battery in New York, by their son Joseph and his wife, who had long awaited them, and now conducted them to a nearby lodging house, which had been the head-quarters of Generals Howe and Clinton. On the following morning the Priestleys were visited by Governor Clinton, Dr. Prevost, Bishop of New York and most of the principal merchants, and deputations of corporate bodies and Societies, bringing addresses of welcome...

His friend, Benjamin Franklin, had died in 1790. Franklin’s University of Pennsylvania invited Priestley to join its developing Chemistry Department. Mary, however, disliked the city, and two of their sons had invested in land north of Northumberland with a plan

for a utopian settlement that never came to fruition, so the Priestleys moved north. Mary took an active part in designing the new house in Northumberland. It included, of course, a library and a laboratory. Sadly, she did not live to move into the house in which Joseph Priestley would spend his final decade.



The Priestley House in Northumberland, PA on the day of our visit, March 1, 2026 (Photo: Susan Boone)

Northumberland, PA is quite proud of its association with the Priestleys. The house is well marked. The Priestley Chapel was built by descendants and continues to be maintained by local volunteers as an event space. The local post office features a WPA tribute. The Priestleys are buried in a local cemetery.



A Unitarian minister and experimental scientist – both of Priestley's passions are represented in this WPA piece in the Northumberland, PA Post Office. Carved from red mahogany, the work was created by Dina Melicov and installed in 1942. Northumberland is proud of being the American home of the Priestley Family. (Photo by the author)

Joseph did make several trips (five days each way) to Philadelphia to lecture. He carried on a regular correspondence with Thomas Jefferson, who consulted Priestley on the curriculum for his University of Virginia. John Adams later referred to him as a friend,

though politically Joseph was closer to Jefferson, having been especially opposed to the Alien and Sedition Acts that Adams had signed into law in 1798.

Professor Roy Olofson, Chemist and Collector



The late Prof. Roy Olofson, collector of Priestley materials, next to the bench dedicated in his honor at Priestley House, Northumberland, PA. (Photo provided by Prof. Olofson)

I met Professor Roy Olofson on the first of March 2026, which turned out to be just a few weeks before his death at age 90. We had been carrying on a regular correspondence ever since I had come across an article describing his enthusiasm for Joseph Priestley and his remarkable collection of (mostly numismatic) material related to Priestley. Prof. Olofson had a distinguished career in the Chemistry Department at Penn State University. Penn State has a longstanding connection to Joseph Priestley. Professor George Gilbert Pond began raising money in 1918 to preserve the Priestley House in Northumberland. The Penn State Library holds an extensive collection of Priestley manuscripts and correspondence. Roy Olofson continued in that tradition. I asked Roy about the origins of his interest in Priestley.

I first discovered Priestley House accidentally while returning from a conference in New Hampshire in 1972. By looking at the Great Album at the house, I discovered that the Bicentennial of Priestley's Discovery of Oxygen was in 1974. The first International meeting of chemists occurred at Priestley House on the Centennial of Priestley's Discovery of Oxygen; a meeting to which the American Chemical Society (ACS) traced its origins. With that background, I decided the Bicentennial would have to be commemorated and set out to do so.

And what about collecting tokens and medals?

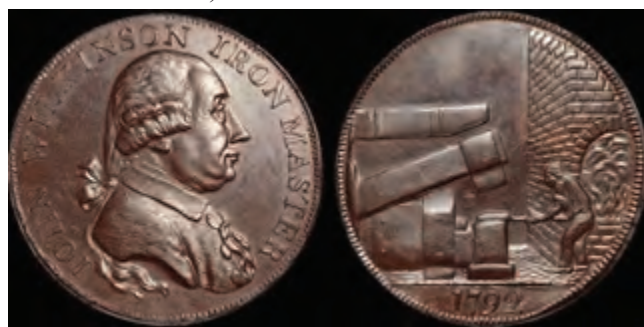
After that event, I started looking for Priestley

items and discovered several on Ebay over the next 30 years. This is the source of most of my collection. My first acquisition was the first likeness of Priestley on his 50th Year. The most exciting, of course, was Priestley depicted on a coin as the head of a snake, being severed by a dagger. In the later years, I found a couple of people who sold Priestley items as part of their collections.



D&H Middlesex 829b, Mike Sussman Collection via Davisson's Printed Auction 40. A satirical token: Pain refers to Thomas Paine – once again Paine and Priestley are portrayed as enemies of the regime. Pandora's Breeches (on the reverse) may refer to the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. Joseph Priestley was sometimes called "Gunpowder Joe" by his critics. The phrase might also refer to the education of women (as a teacher, Priestley taught both boys and girls). In this version of the token Priestley's head is pictured, cut off the body of a serpent.

In collecting, Olofson always had an eye toward donating to the Priestley House. Thus, an array of some twenty pieces now belongs to the Pennsylvania State Historical and Museum Commission. In the last year or so he became more interested in the tokens related to Mary Priestley's brother, John "Iron-Mad" Wilkinson, who was the great Birmingham Iron Master of his time, and who issued many tokens with his own portrait. (Wilkinson had also helped to finance the Priestleys' move to America.)



Mfr: Westwood/Hancock; Die sinker: Hancock. The next year, same design was manufactured by Boulton's Soho Mint. D&H 389. Collection of the author.

Expanding the EAC Canon

Joseph Priestley appears on several tokens and medals that are part of the series that American collectors call "Conder Tokens." I want to advocate here for collectors interested in Early American Copper to know and appreciate pieces that were being produced in England in the 1780s and 1790s. These widely varied tokens feature commercial advertising as well as political advocacy. Some of them, such as the Franklin Press Token and the Kentucky Token, as well as several Washington pieces, have long been included in US Colonial/Pre-Federal cabinets, whether or not they ever actually circulated in North America.

Julia Casey's article from *JEAN* December 2024, reprinted in *Penny-Wise*, discusses the engraver J.G. Hancock. Hancock's father was part of Boulton's circle, and J.G. and his brother, William, "left Boulton's employment in 1783 and started their own company with William as a plater and John Gregory as a die-sinker." In fact, their first issue in 1783 was a medal honoring the 50th birthday of Joseph Priestley, at the time an active member of the Lunar Society. Hancock also produced most of the John Wilkinson tokens (see above) until Boulton's Soho Mint took over production in 1793. We thus glimpse the weaving together of the Birmingham crowd: Hancock, Boulton, Priestley, Wilkinson.



Commemorative Medal, 50th Birthday of Joseph Priestley by John Gregory Hancock, 1783 (D&H Warwickshire 33). Image ©Noonans, via Numista.org

A medal such as this belongs on the radar of Early American Copper collectors as much as, say, the Franklin Press Token (D&H Middlesex 307). Yes, Benjamin Franklin may have visited or even worked for a while at the Franklin Press in London, but the token is simply a store card for that business and never circulated in North America. Neither did the Priestley medal circulate, here or anywhere, but it celebrates someone who became a significant figure in American life, and was produced by J.G. Hancock who, as Julia Casey emphasizes, produced (in England) at least two of the important Washington

pieces (the 1791 large and small eagle coins).

Steven Johnson makes this remarkable observation:

In their legendary fourteen-year final correspondence, reflecting back on their collaborations and their feuds, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams wrote 165 letters to each other. In that corpus, Benjamin Franklin is mentioned by name five times, while George Washington is mentioned three times. Their mutual nemesis Alexander Hamilton warrants only two references. By contrast, Priestley, an Englishman who spent only the last decade of his life in the United States, is mentioned fifty-two times.²¹

Like Thomas Paine, who arrived in America at an earlier date, Priestley was an intellectual force in the early years of the US and should be woven into the narrative of the founding generation of our country. Numismatic portraits will enrich the picture and advance the historical account.

Bibliography

Acknowledgements:

I am grateful for a Garvin Grant that enabled visits to Priestley House and Penn State. The late Prof. Roy Olofson, Penn State University, shared his love of Priestley and his commitment to the preservation of Priestley House and it is an honor to dedicate this essay to his memory. JoAnn Long, a docent at Priestley House, gave us a private tour. Lauren Mitchell and the staff at Penn State University Library Special Collections were welcoming and generous with unique materials in their collection. The staff at the Philosophical Society of America in Philadelphia were also helpful during a too-brief visit. Michael Moyer and Rachel Yerger of the Pennsylvania State and Historical Museum Commission were prompt in responding to my inquiries. My wife, Susan Boone, encouraged the project, traveled along, and took some of the pictures.

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¹ Steven Johnson, *The Invention of Air* (New York:

- Riverhead Books, 2008) p. 18.
- ² Johnson, p. 111.
 - ³ Joseph Priestley, *The Memoirs of Dr. Joseph Priestley* (Mechanicsburg, PA: Sunbury Press, 2021), pp. 52-53. The Memoirs were first published in 1806. I was able to see two manuscript versions in the Penn State University Library. They have appeared in several editions. I have made use of this 2021 edition published in association with The Friends of the Joseph Priestley House which includes many useful annotations.
 - ⁴ When he served in Parliament Lord Shelburne argued strongly that the American colonies should be retained by Britain, by conciliation rather than coercion. He would later oversee the peace negotiations that recognized American independence in the 1783 Treaty of Paris.
 - ⁵ There has since been a running debate over who deserves credit for discovering oxygen: the Swedish apothecary Carl Wilhelm Scheele, Priestley, or Lavoisier. For an exciting history of the period, see Joe Jackson, *A World on Fire: A Heretic, an Aristocrat, and the Race to Discover Oxygen* (New York: Penguin, 2005). For a shorter and entertaining account, see the play *Oxygen* by two chemists, Carl Djerassi and Roald Hoffmann (Wiley-VCH, 2001).
 - ⁶ *Memoirs*, p. 46.
 - ⁷ Newton (1643-1727) was, as is well-known, the outstanding scientific figure of his time. He later served as Director of the Royal Mint. According to the website of the Royal Mint Museum, “Newton wanted coins to be made of the correct weight and fineness, varying as little as possible one from another. Such accuracy was unprecedented and, with justice, Newton claimed that he had brought the coinage to a ‘much greater degree of exactness than ever was known before’.” <https://www.royalmintmuseum.org.uk/journal/people/isaac-newton/>. This has nothing to do with Priestley directly but, inspired by Newton, he stands in an established tradition of British science.
 - ⁸ *Memoirs*, p. 58
 - ⁹ An engaging and thoroughly researched study of this remarkable group is Jenny Uglow, *The Lunar Men: The Friends Who Made the Future 1730-1810* (London, Faber and Faber, 2002)
 - ¹⁰ Uglow, p. 124.
 - ¹¹ Richard Doty, *The Soho Mint and the Industrialization of Money* (London: Spink, 1998), p.283.
 - ¹² Coincidentally, his scientific competitor, Lavoisier, had been tasked by the French Government to apply his chemical know-how to the improvement of gunpowder. By the late 1770s French gunpowder had become the most powerful in the world. Ben Franklin was able to arrange shipments to America where French gunpowder became a crucial factor in Britain’s defeat. See Joe Jackson, *A World on Fire*, pp. 211-12.
 - ¹³ Letter from William Withering in 1798, cited in Uglow, p. 478.
 - ¹⁴ Joseph Priestley, *Memoirs* (Mechanicsburg, PA: Sunbury Press, 2021), “Preface to Fast Sermon of 1794,” pp. 93-94. The Rev. William Winterbotham, a Baptist minister, was imprisoned in the notorious Newgate Prison in London for four years in the 1790s for sermons deemed subversive by the government. During that time he wrote and published a four-volume history of America. For more on Newgate Prison, Rev. Winterbotham and his familial connection to Chicago, see Laurence Edwards, “A British Token Leads Me Home to Chicago: From a London Prison to the Art Institute” in *The “Conder” Token Collector’s Journal*, Winter 2025-2026, Consecutive Issue #88, pp. 10-17. A shorter version appeared in *The Centinel*, Central States Numismatic Society, Fall 2024, pp. 12-13.
 - ¹⁵ “Mr. Page was of opinion, that the policy of European nations and States respecting naturalization, did not apply to the situation of the United States. Bigotry and superstition, or a deep-rooted prejudice against the Government, laws, religion, or manners of neighboring nations had a weight in that policy, which cannot exist here, where a more liberal system ought to prevail. I think, said he, we shall be inconsistent with ourselves, if, after boasting of having opened an asylum for the oppressed of all nations, and established a Government which is the admiration of the world, we make the terms of admission to the full enjoyment of that asylum so hard as is now proposed. It is nothing to us, whether Jews or Roman Catholics settle amongst us; whether subjects of Kings, or citizens of free States wish to reside in the United States, they will find it their interest to be good citizens, and neither their religious nor political opinions can injure us, if we have good laws, well executed.” Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4 (Citizenship), House of Representatives, Rule of Naturalization. 3-4 Feb 1790. *Annals* 1:1109—25 (Italics added). Accessed at https://presspubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/a1_8_4_citizenships8.html
 - ¹⁶ Edgar F. Smith, *Priestley in America: 1794-1804* (Philadelphia: P. Blakiston’s Son & Co., 1920), pp. 21-22.
 - ¹⁷ I had hoped to dedicate this article to Roy. Now, sadly, dedicated to his memory.
 - ¹⁸ “Priestley’s Medals” by Mary Ellen Bowdon was published in the *Chemical & Engineering News* of the American Chemical Society. Accessed at <https://cen.acs.org/articles/86/i14/Priestleys-Medals.html>. Bowden discusses the collection of Roy Olofson, which is what led me to get in touch with him. The American Chemical Society awards the Priestley Medal annually “to recognize distinguished service to chemistry.”
 - ¹⁹ John Gregory Hancock is sometimes conflated with his son of the same name, as Julia Casey clarifies in a note to *E-Sylum* of March 29, 2026. I quote part of this clarification here because it adds more detail to the Hancocks of Birmingham and their family connection to the early days of the U.S. Mint:

Unfortunately, John Gregory Hancock’s biographical details have been misreported in numismatic references with an erroneous date of birth of 1775, which was instead the first year he is estimated to have been active as a diesinker. J.G. Hancock has also been conflated with his son, John Gregory Hancock, Junior (born c. 1791), who, as a pre-teen, produced charming tokens while working in his father’s shop. See Pete Smith “The Hancocks, Die Engravers Part II: John Gregory Hancock, Jr.,” *The Conder Token Collectors Journal*, vol. VIII, no 3, Fall 2003, 20–9. Even with Smith’s attempt to correct the record, these errors are now seemingly embedded in numismatic references....

John Gregory Hancock (1750–1805) and his older brother, William, had been apprenticed to Matthew Boulton’s Soho shop in their early teens in the mid-1760s. Their father was Robert Hancock (1714–1792), who worked for Boulton as an engraver at Soho. The Hancock family moved to Birmingham from

Kerry, Montgomeryshire, Wales, sometime in the mid-1750s. John Gregory Hancock is shown in the Montgomeryshire records with a baptismal date of June 27, 1750. He was the son of Robert and Anne, and the surname was recorded as Hancox. Also shown in the Montgomeryshire records are the baptisms of his older brothers, Robert, on November 20, 1740, and William, on September 9, 1747.

J.G. Hancock’s elder brother, Robert Hancock, immigrated to Philadelphia and was involved there with John Harper and Harper’s brother Richard. This creates a link between John Gregory Hancock and the early history of the U.S. Mint.

²⁰ See Jon D. Lusk, *British and Irish Tradesmen and their Copper Tokens of 1787-1804*, pp. 225-231. And see also Ed Moore, “To Put the House in Order: The Wilkinson Series of Tokens,” esp. p. 30.

²¹ Steven Johnson, *The Invention of Air*, pp. xviii-xix.

* * * * *

EVOLUTION OF THE CORONET HEAD LARGE CENT LIBERTY PORTRAIT DURING THE TRANSITIONAL YEARS (1835 TO 1839)

Conly L Rieder

The Coronet Head large cent was minted from 1816 through 1839. Although beauty is in the eyes of the beholder, most do not consider it a particularly attractive issue. Breen felt the obverse “bore a spectacularly ugly head of Ms. Liberty” and Sheldon opined that it “resembled the head of an obese ward boss instead of a lady” (Breen, 1987). The major grading services list this issue on their websites as the “Coronet Head Cent,” but many modern numismatic scholars (e.g., Breen, 1987; Bressett, 2013; Yeoman, 2013; Bowers, 2015) use the term “Matron Head,” which was apparently coined by early EAC members (Breen, 1987) to describe this rather uncomely middle-dates cent series. That said, these large 170+ year-old coppers are still enthusiastically collected by a large segment of the Numismatic community, particularly EAC members.

As a biologist with a keen interest in imaging, I view permanent visible changes over time as an evolution, whether it be in a living organism or an inanimate object (google “evolutionary” and one definition is it “describes processes, changes, or developments that occur gradually and progressively over time, often leading to more complex or improved forms”). It is common knowledge that from 1816 to 1839 there was zero readily noticeable evolution on the “Christmas like wreath” (Breen, 1987) reverse side of the Matron Head cent. With the exception of berry and letter size/thickness (which often

varied within and between years), my 1819 reverse (**Fig 1a**) looks, at eyesight resolution, the same as that on the 1839 cent (the only apparent exception being the 1839 Booby Head motif (**Fig 1b**) which lacks the line under CENT). (I don’t have an 1816 coin, and the Newcomb Die Variety number (N) of all coins illustrated is provided in the figure captions).

Between 1816 and 1834, evolution of the obverse side of the Matron cent, which includes the 13 stars, Liberty’s portrait, and the date, was limited to some vague facial (nose, mouth, chin, cheek and throat) cosmetic surgery that progressively modified Liberty’s profile to make her look a bit younger and more feminine, but like lipstick on a pig, still hardly attractive (*c.f.*, **Fig. 2 a, b**). (For accuracy I note that one of the 17 die pairs struck in 1817 (the N16) contained 15 stars, instead of 13. This was a dead end one-time only engraving error and was not carried forward.)

In 1835, Christian Gobrecht took over William Kneass’s job as the mint’s chief engraver. From then through the end of 1839 13 different Matron Head Cent motifs were coined all of which are recognized by the major grading services. For the most part the year-to-year changes differentiating these were subtle and limited to varying the size of the stars, date numbers and/or reverse lettering. However, during this five year period



Figure 1. Evolution of the Matron Head cents reverse between (a) 1819 (N9) and (b) 1839 (N13) was minimal at best.



Figure 2. Cosmetic face changes to Liberty's portrait between (a) 1819 (N9) and (b) 1834 (N2 Head of '33) are noticeable but minor at best.

Liberty's portrait underwent several progressive and highly visible design changes. In his 1987 *Encyclopedia of U.S. coins* the polymath Walther Breen assigned this period in the life of the Matron Head its own "Kneass-Gobrecht Transitional Heads (1835-1839)" subheading, which ultimately culminated in the Braided Hair large cent series. I am close to completing a Transitional Head collection in MS condition and, in an effort to stay mentally engaged during the long winter month in upstate N.Y., I penned this brief, illustrated summary/review of the Transitional period.

In the PCGS CoinFacts website description of the Coronet Head Cent, Ron Guth writes that Liberty's profile underwent a major modification in 1836 "by making the tip of the coronet more pointed and the tip of the bust narrower and less rounded." This new "Young Head" (Wright, 1992) motif was, however, initially coined from six of the 18 die pairs used in 1835 (**Fig. 3a**), all from the same hub, and was described by Newcomb (1944) as the 1835 type of '36 and by Noyes (2012) as the 1835 Head of '36. The latter described the change, relative to the head of 1833/34 (**Fig. 2b**), as "a longer,



Figure 3. (a) The first considerable change in the Matron cent bust portrait occurred in 1835 (N4; Head of '36) and was likely Gobrecht's work. Subsequent modifications between 1836 and **(b)** 1837 (Head of '38; N9 with its characteristic die crack) involved some subtle nose, cheek and chin work as well as beading of the hair cord.

narrower bust point and sharper coronet point." Bowers (2015) describes this 1835 "modified" head, as being "more petite appearing, has the cheek more rounded, and ...the bust slightly longer and thus extends slightly farther to the left."

Although no major changes were made to the 1835 Young Head portrait during 1836 (when all seven die pairs were used to strike a single motif from a single

obverse hub—Wright, 1992), there was some subtle die pair differences, especially in the chin which became more pointed. According to Breen, Gobrecht "was notable for making minute improvements by hand on many working dies" and "modified the head slightly for the final 1836 obverse." Wright (1992) concluded that the blunt bust of the 1835 Young Head (**Fig. 3a**) was gradually transformed during 1836 into the "long slim



Fig 4. (a) The 1839 N13 Booby Head. Compared to those of 1835-1838, the Booby motif exhibited a slightly larger (wider?) head, a new brow lock and hair curling under the bust. **(b)** The 1839 head of '40—this motif initiated the Braided Hair large cent series. The most obvious changes from all previous Liberty Head motifs are that the portrait is significantly smaller (i.e., the head is *petite*), it is tilted further counterclockwise, and the hair under LIBERTY is braided

bust seen on the first cents of 1837.” (**Fig. 3b**). In 1837 16 die pairs were used to coin three motifs, two with plain hair cords (covering 12 die pairs) and one with beaded cords (four die pairs; **Fig. 3b**). Except for the 1839 N1 overdate which was struck from an old Head of ‘36 die, from this point until coinage of the large cent series was terminated in 1857, beaded hair cords would be a permanent evolutionary feature of Liberty’s portrait. In 1838 all 16 die marriages were used in coining the beaded hair cord 1837 head of ‘38 motif, and the working dies were from a single pair of hubs (Breen, 1972; however, Wright, 1992, cites evidence that two head hubs, produced from the same master, were used).

1839 was the watershed year in re-designing the Coronet Head large cent. As noted by Wright (1992; pg. 317) “not since 1794 have so many different heads appeared on cents of a single year.” Five distinct motifs were coined using 15 die marriages, including the N1 1839 head of ‘36 overdate mentioned above, the 1839 head of ‘38 (N2,3), the Silly Head (N4,9), the Booby Head (N5-7,10-15; **Fig. 4a**) and the 1839 head of ‘40 (N8; **Fig 4b**).

4b), of which ~200,000 were coined from a single (N8) die pair.

The most obvious alteration on the N8 was the size of the portrait which was significantly smaller than all other Coronet Head motifs (i.e., *it was petite*; **Fig 4b**). Similarly eye catching was that the hair below the coronet and LIBERTY was braided. Also, unlike all past motifs, there was no hair, curled or otherwise, directly in front of the ear, and the hair under the bust extended extensively along the truncation and lacked a prominent curl. Moreover, the hair forelock seen on the 1839 Silly and Booby head motifs was also incorporated into the design. Finally, the bust was rotated counterclockwise so that the point of the coronet was near the 5th, and not the 6th star. These easily visible major modifications cemented it as the first coin of the Braided Hair Large Cent (1839-57) series. This motif was used until mid-1843 at which time Liberty’s Petite Head portrait (**Fig 5a**), without noticeable cosmetic changes, was significantly enlarged and rotated clockwise to form the “Mature Head” (**Fig 5b**) which continued essentially unchanged until the series was halted in 1857.



Fig 5. In 1843 two obverse motifs were minted in the Braided Hair large cent series. **a)** The Petite Head (N2/7), and **b)** the Mature Head of 44 (N16). The mature head has a larger portrait that has been rotated clockwise relative to the date.

The 1839 Silly and Booby heads were one-year wonders with, among other odd features, a prominent patch of hair protruding from the forehead (a forelock), and some modifications to the hair curling around the bust shoulder (e.g., cf **Fig. 3b** and **4a**). The Booby Head exhibited an anatomical impossibility in that the hair curled not over or around the bust, but *under it*. The game changer, however, was the 1839 head of ‘40 (**Fig**

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GREETINGS EAC MEMBERS

Welcome to all EAC members! I really enjoyed meeting many new faces at our recent convention. If you were a first-time participant, or if you have been to dozens of conventions in the past, the Charlotte convention was great from beginning to end. Now is a good time to go to website and start planning for 2027, we would love to see even more of you there. It really is the people and the comradery that make this a great club.

There will be many updates and reports on the convention in this issue of PW but I want to make sure that everyone goes to the website and checks out the educational forums. With everything going on at the convention I never seem to get to all the presentations, these videos are great! Please take some time to check them out. Please also consider giving a presentation on a topic important to you at

a future convention.

I would like to remind everyone that this is a very busy time for our club. We are in the process of transitioning to the newly elected officers of the club at the same time annual dues are up for renewal. If you have already renewed and it went well that is our goal. If it didn't go smoothly, please know that all of our volunteers are trying, and are committed to continue to improve our processes until it is effortless and reliable for everyone.

Remember this is YOUR club and it can only be as good as the effort we all put into it.

Please reach out at any time,

Bob Klosterboer

President Early American Coppers

* * * * *



MINUTES OF THE EAC BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MEETING

Charlotte, North Carolina

May 2, 2026

Attending were Bob Klosterboer, Terry Denman, Bob Kebler, Grady Frisby, Harry Salyards, Joe Pargola, Jerry Sajbel, Mark Borckardt, Russ Butcher, David Consolo, Carol Consolo, Tim Skinski, Ron Shintaku, Jim Carr, Tom Deck, Tom Webster, Tony Tony, Jason Giesen

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Klosterboer. It was noted that a quorum was present.

2026 Convention- Chairman Jerry Sajbel felt that things have been going very well at the convention. He felt the Old Mecklenburg Brewery Reception was a great success. Attendance has been excellent and there was a very large walk-up registration yesterday. It appears that the room quota has been met. The bourse was very active yesterday. There is lots of excitement about the EAC Sale. Jerry felt that the club should purchase a new projector as one of the two EAC owns is not working. He also feels that EAC should purchase a hand-held microphone. Having these available will greatly offset the very high prices charged on a daily basis as AV fees by the convention hotels. Everyone thanked Jerry for all he has done to make the convention a success.

Treasurer's Report- Grady Frisby reported that for 2025 the EAC's income was \$126,824 and expenses were \$181,761. Aside from the club's checking and savings accounts, the club has \$107,000 in a CD and \$16,000 in a CD for the Garvin Fund. The above numbers are subject to refinement and will be presented in more detail in a future *Penny-Wise*. Much of the short-fall results from catch-up of payments related to conventions. Last year also included expenses for the Carnegie Museum function and an increase in emergent security costs when the scheduled security service cancelled at the beginning of the convention.

Discussion was held about EAC finances. Grady said for the current issue of *Penny-Wise*, 875 copies were produced at a cost of \$15.65 a copy, which totals \$62 a year. Clearly this cost alone exceeds the \$45 annual dues per member. A substantial increase in postage costs over the last couple of years is the main culprit, but also paper costs have risen significantly as well. Various ideas were discussed including the possibility of a dues increase, as well as the possibility of a dual dues system of higher dues if a paper copy is wanted and lower dues if digital copy only is wanted. Bob Klosterboer noted that there are basically two main expenses for the club. These are

Penny-Wise and the convention. He is not looking for *Penny-Wise* to make a profit, but it has to pay for itself. The convention is the other main expense. It is hoped that the bourse fees for the tables will pay for the room, and the auction proceeds and reception donations provide the rest. Last year the club earned \$76,500 from the auction. So far there have been 52 contributors to the Thursday evening reception this year. The board will continue to have discussions about our finances.

Membership Report- Membership Chairman Bim Gander was not present. Grady Frisby noted that at last count there are currently 835 members, which is just about the same number as last year. New members have signed up at Region 1 meetings as well as by the efforts of new member Dan Rice and his U-tube presentations.

Sunshine Committee- Chairman David Consolo noted that he had received no submissions this year. He let everyone know that he is happy to send notes to members recognizing anniversaries, birthdays, or other positive events—not just deaths!—but he needs to know about them.

Elections- Bob Klosterboer apologized for the lateness that the ballots were available for the board elections. He was late in forming the nominating committee and there were several positions that needed to be replaced due to the resignations of regional chairmen. The ballots went out with the April *Penny-Wise* but this was later than he hoped, and so the ballots will be accepted for another couple of weeks. Both board members of Region 7 requested to be replaced but agreed to stay for one more year until replacements could be found. The process of replacing a board member during their three-year term will be researched. Bob committed to forming a nominating committee for the 2029 election by next year's convention. It is noted that three of the national officers are starting their second three-year terms and will need to be replaced next election.

Website Report- Bob Klosterboer said that, as opposed to his first two years as president, he now receives almost no complaints about the website. The improvements made to the website in the last couple of years seem to be working. Discussion centered on new members who want instant confirmation of their membership and their EAC number. This is important as it allows them to access EAC benefits and participate in the auc-

tion, and in general is a reasonable expectation at this time if one signs up for any new service. It appears this can be done with the website, and the board voted to do this. Members can now purchase select books through the website as well. A project for this year is to get all of the past *Penny-Wise* issues on the website.

Books- during the year Craig Sholley published a book, "The Evolution of U.S. Minting Technology." Craig has donated the copyright to EAC, so all proceeds from the sale of his book will go to support club activities. The board voted to allow EAC to sell this book. 200 copies were printed. So far 85 have been sold, and 15 more need to be sold to break even. EAC will also investigate the costs of single copy or small batch printing of the EAC Grading Guide. This would be in place of a large printing, which is potentially cost-prohibitive. The quality of single cost printing has to be investigated.

Historian's Report- Club Historian Mark Borckardt said that he brought several items from the EAC archives and has them in his cases on the bourse. John and Mabel Ann Wright have asked him to come to their home and retrieve more items from their basement collection of EAC archival material. Mark is still working on his EAC history project, the work is proceeding slowly. He encourages people to provide him with any archival material they may have. He mentioned the possibility of a temperature-controlled storage unit in the future for the archival material.

Committees- Bob mentioned that many of the members who head up EAC Committees have been doing this for a long time and eventually replacements will be needed. He hopes members will step up to fill these positions. The Educational Committee is currently in need of someone to help coordinate the educational sessions for future conventions.

Garvin Fund- this year there were three applications for grants from the Garvin Fund, which is an increase from a typical year. Two were approved, one was not. The Garvin Fund is also being used to pay the videographer for the convention, as this meets the educational purpose of the fund. The videos will be posted on the EAC website after they are completed.

Bylaws- Bob Klosterboer says it has been a long time since the bylaws have been officially reviewed, and it is probably time to do this.

Exhibits- Tom Webster said limited space was provided for the exhibits, but the exhibits as usual are excellent. Bob Klosterboer was presented with his award for winning best of show last year.

Regional Reports-

Region 1- Chairman Tim Skinski noted that Region 1 had a table at three shows in New England during the year and gives information to prospective members as well as signing up new members. They have also hosted a regional meeting over Zoom during the winter for the last few years, and this is open to all members. A program is arranged and then is open for questions. Attendance has been increasing at this event every year.

Region 6- Chairman Russ Butcher noted that Region 6 hosted a club meeting at the ANA Convention in Oklahoma last summer. They will also have a table at the Texas Numismatic Association Convention May 14-16.

Region 7- Chairman Ron Shintaku noted that for many years, Region 7 had a complementary table and room for an EAC Meeting at the Long Beach Expo shows three times a year. The Long Beach Expo show has closed and was replaced by a smaller show that at this time is not providing a complementary table or room. There is hope that this will change in the future.

Future Conventions-

2027- Mark Borckardt is the convention chair and said the convention next year will be in Madison, Wisconsin. It will be held at the Marriott Madison West Hotel, which is 14 miles from the Madison airport. The dates are May 19-23, 2027. The rate is \$154/night and there will be no parking fee charged. He is being ably helped by Tony Tony and Jason Giesen, who are from the area and work with the Madison Coin Club. The bourse is 10,000 square feet, and Wayne Herndon has agreed to provide the cases and lights. Tony Tony noted that there will be a person from the local tourist bureau at the hotel to assist members with plans. There are six restaurants within walking distance. There is a lot to do in the area including a Frank Lloyd Wright house. It is very family friendly. Milwaukee is 100 miles away and Chicago 140 miles away.

2028- there have been discussions about possible locations of Ocala, Florida and Dallas, Texas. Proposals have not been received, and the merits and concerns of these sites were discussed.

Editor's Award- *Penny-Wise* Editor Harry Salyards said this award was designed for new contributors, and he is pleased to have two awards this year. The first was to Ray Medhurst for his series of articles on the "Census and Provenance Listing of 1794 S-64." The second went to Larry Schafer for his article, "Flags of the Whiskey Rebellion and the Cents of 1794."

With no further business to discuss, President Kloster-

boer adjourned the meeting.
Respectfully submitted,

Bob Kebler
EAC Secretary

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MINUTES OF THE EAC ANNUAL MEETING

Charlotte, North Carolina

May 3, 2026

President Bob Klosterboer opened the meeting at 9:01 am

Following tradition, all who were in attendance introduced themselves, gave their residence, and noted their collecting interests.

President Bob used his opening remarks to acknowledge the many people who helped to make the convention such a success. Special kudos were given to Jerry Sajbel for organizing and running a fantastic event. Bob did not want to miss acknowledging anyone, so he chose to mention all those who worked with the Boy Scout program, the grading and counterfeit seminar, the registration tables, lot viewing, all associated with presenting the fantastic exhibits, and all who gave presentations at the educational forums. He also thanked all of the dealers who were present, all who made the auction such a tremendous success, and all who worked with the convention set-up including cases and lights.

Auction Update- Chris McCawley noted the great success of the auction, with preliminary figures showing that for the first time the total hammer for the auction was over \$1,000,000 before the buyer's fees. He thanked Terry Denman, Bob Kebler, and Fred Borchardt for consigning their collections, as well as all of the other consigners. Chris mentioned there was excellent attendance and great enthusiasm during the auction, with the room being quite "energetic and pumped up." Bob Klosterboer noted that the board has voted to extend the EAC Auction contract with Early Cents Auctions for another three years.

Treasurer's Report- Treasurer Grady Frisby noted that income last year was \$126,824 and expenses were \$181,000. Much of the excess loss was due to catching up with expenses from the last two conventions, as well as unforeseen security expenses at the 2025 convention. \$76,500 of the revenue came from the auction, and this year this should be improved based on the auction results. Detailed reporting on this will be presented in a future *Penny-Wise*. Bob thanked Grady for his work as our treasurer over the last six years.

Sunshine Committee- David Consolo mentioned he was made aware of one death. A moment of silence was offered for Bob Schuman. David encouraged members to send him notifications of any events, just not limiting these to the death of a member. He will be happy to acknowledge anniversaries, significant birthdays, etc. His contact information is listed on the inside cover of *Penny-Wise*.

Convention Notes- there were 315 people who signed in at the registration table and obtained a badge as of Sunday morning. This excellent attendance was augmented by an exceptionally large walk-in crowd, thanks to the extensive promotion Jerry did with the local coin clubs.

History- Club Historian Mark Borckardt brought some items from the EAC Archives and displayed them at his table, and from the archives donated a very early "banger" to the auction. He mentioned that he continues working on club history. He also noted that the EAC Archives reside in his basement, and anyone is allowed to access the archives if they make the trip to Wisconsin.

EAC 2027 Convention- Mark Borckardt is also the chair of the convention next year. It will be held in Madison, Wisconsin at the Marriott West Madison Hotel. Preparations are well underway. The dates are May 19-23, 2027, and are correctly listed on the EAC Website. Mark is happy to know anyone who would like to help, and thanked Tony Tony and Jason Giesen who are helping with the local coin clubs.

Exhibits- Tom Webster was unable to attend the Annual Meeting, so Bob Klosterboer spoke of the wonderful group of exhibits at the convention and noted that he is always amazed at the breadth of early American copper subjects that members are willing to present. The winner of the best of show voting was Jeff Rock for his exhibit "Fake it till you make it: the most common circulating coin in the early U.S."

Elections- Bob Klosterboer noted the ballots were sent out later than ideal so he will be allowing another couple of weeks for other ballots to arrive. He noted that

all officers of the board are limited to two three-year terms. Treasurer Grady Frisby has met term limits, and Tom Nist has agreed to assume this position. If elected, the other officers will all be starting their second three-year terms. There will be three new Regional Chairmen, and the two members of Region 7 have agreed to stay on for one more year while replacements can be found for them. At this point election chair Bill Eckberg has received about 60 ballots.

Future Conventions- there are currently two possibilities being discussed for the 2028 Convention. Hopefully proposals will be forthcoming shortly, as the board likes to have commitment for future conventions as early as possible.

Editor's Awards- *Penny-Wise* Editor Harry Salyards presented two awards this year. The first was to Ray Medhurst for his series of articles on the "Census and Provenance Listing of 1794 S-64." The second went to Larry Schafer for his article "Flags of the Whiskey Rebellion and the Cents of 1794."

Garvin Fund- three applications were received this

year and two were approved. Bob reminded everyone that the Garvin Fund is available for all members and encourages applications. It was also noted that consistent with the charter of the Garvin Fund, payment for the videographer for the convention comes from this fund.

Books- during the year Craig Sholley published a book, "The Evolution of U.S. Minting Technology." Craig has donated the copyright to EAC, so all proceeds from the sale of his book will go to support club activities. The board authorized payment for the publication of this book. So far 85 of 200 have been sold, and we need to sell 15 more to break even

Questions were solicited, and Chuck Heck mentioned that the Husak Liberty Cap Foundation also gives grants, and one was awarded to EAC this year.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Klosterboer at 10:02 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Kebler

EAC Secretary

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CONTRIBUTORS TO THE THURSDAY EVENING RECEPTION

John S. Payne
John & Mabel Ann Wright
Daniel P. White
Thomas J. Nist
Robert S. Kebler
Dan Trollan
Gary W. Hahn
Ray Rouse
Craig McLain
Russ Butcher
David Consolo
Sam Foose
H. Craig Hamling
Kenneth T. Myers
James L. Braswell
Hugh Bodell
Gregory P. Jablonski
L. Michael Lawrence
Michael D. Packard
Harry E. Salyards
James H. Higby
George C.H. Perkins, Jr
Jon A. Boka
David Cornell
Bryan Yamasaki
Richard A. Weber

Franklin L. Noel
Jerome S. Sajbel
Chris Victor-McCawley
Richard J. Thomson
Grady Frisby
Sherwood A. Clay
Matt & Harry Channell
Greg Fitzgibbon
Bill and Susan Eckberg
Anthony Terranova
James Swales
Phillip W. Segui, Jr.
Barrett L. Chapin
Raymond J. Williams
Lawrence J. Forte
Robert G. Padula
Mark B. Verbeck
George Perkins
Anthony J. Witkowski
Douglas Durasoff
James L. Braswell

Editor's note: if anyone contributed who does not see their name on this list, please let me know, and we will publish a supplemental list in the October issue.

EAC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ATTENDEES

Name.	Number	Home			
Joe Pargola	6330	Langhorne, PA	Jerry Sajbel	1106	Fort Mill, SC
Ed Fox	325	Spencerville, MD	John Wright	7	St. Joseph, MI
Mark Borckardt	312	Pleasant Prairie, WI	Mabel Ann Wright	78	St. Joseph, MI
Karen Heck	5203	Okatie, SC	F. Eugene Williams	1716	Macon, GA
Chuck Heck	479	Okatie, SC	Gary Hahn	5047	St. Louis, MO
Jan Valentine	479	Colorado Springs, CO	Michael Trollan	7082	Las Vegas, NV
Rich Weber	4531	Houston, TX	Jason Giesen	66xx	Madison, WI
David Colsolo	5466	Auburn, OH	Anthony Anthony	2996	Madison, WI
Shawn Yancey	4647	Springfield, MO	Tim Skinski	6037	Southbury, CT
Bill Eckberg	3395	Palm Beach Gardens, FL	Jeff Rock	1573	San Diego, CA
Susan Eckberg	5568	Palm Beach Gardens, FL	H. Craig Hamling	867	Florida, NY
Harry Salyards	799	Hastings, NE	Andrew Hamling		Myrtle Beach, SC
Phyllis Salyards		Hastings, NE	Greg Fitzgibbon	1102	Manassas, VA
Catherine Packard		Fairfax, VA	DeeDee Kebler	6728	St. Louis, MO
Mike Packard	722	Fairfax, VA	Walter Husak		Los Angeles, CA
Al Boka	406	Las Vegas, NV	Scott Barrett	156	Bloomington, IN
Darwin Palmer	68	Grantville, GA	Roger Siboni		Jupiter, FL
Greg Jablonski	6177	Pinckney, MI	Pierre Fricke	1419	San Antonio, TX
Matt Misewicz	7102	Morris, IL	Joyce Fricke		San Antonio, TX
Jack Vaughn	7152	Virginia Beach, VA	Sherwood Clay	6237	Boulder, CO
Dan Rice	7062	Miles City, MT	Delmas Parker		Pembroke, GA
Tom Deck	4574	Mobile, AL	Wendell Lutz	134	Tucson, AZ
Kevin Vinton	5814	Madison, CT	Doug Durasoff	2623	Port Ludow, WA
Ron Shintaku	4611	Long Beach, CA	Ray Rouse	2675	Boca Raton, FL
Bob Padula		Ocala, FL	Craig McClain	6537	Ocala, FL
Steve Ellsworth	1901	Nashville, TN	Ted Burge	6567	Pittsburgh, PA
Russ Butcher	4598	Dallas, TX			
Brian Herriott		Cincinnati, OH			
Grady Frisby	2794	Memphis, TN			
Bob Kebler	4892	St. Louis, MO			
Bill McMahon	5193	Buffalo, NY			
David Chauvin		Pocano Vacation Park, PA			
Patrick Dobak		Cabin John, MD			
Julie Sajbel		Fort Mill, SC			

Editor's Note: Assembling this list for publication, I'm struck by the fact that 24 different states were represented at the meeting, including members from all seven EAC Regions. Though it sits on the border of the Mid-Atlantic Region, Charlotte was clearly a draw for members in the Southeast Region, with five of the six states represented: South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Tennessee. Only Mississippi was missing.

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CONSIDER APPLYING FOR A GARVIN FUND GRANT

There are grant funds available to anyone who has been a member of EAC for at least one year for travel or registration at a seminar or educational class, or for travel to a regional or national coin convention, or to a museum featuring coins of interest to EAC members, just to name a few possibilities. These funds have been set aside as a result of a donation from long time EAC member David Garvin who donated the proceeds of his copper collection at the 2005 EAC Convention. While David is no longer with us his memory lives on and his

vision has enabled EAC to award several grants during these past years. Other than the one-year membership requirement the only other condition is to subsequently write an article for *Penny-Wise* setting forth what the grant was used for and its results. Grants are usually in an amount of \$500.00 or \$1,000.00 but may vary. The financial situation of the applicant is not a consideration. For an application for a grant or for additional information please contact Lou Alfonso, *via* email: loualfonso@aol.com or *via* phone: 561-252-4001.

EAC 2026, CHARLOTTE

Dear EAC members,

Thank you for your part in making the recent EAC show a success! We had our traveling national convention in Charlotte—that's **North** Carolina (though CVM's AI-generated T-shirts read **SC**)—from April 29th to May 3rd. It held itself up as the premier annual show for early copper collectors; the bourse and Sale featured many museum quality specimens. We had 64 dealer tables in the bourse area and it was open to the public Friday to Sunday, May 1st to 3rd. There were the usual break-out meetings, the "Happenings" for Half Cent, Large Cent and Colonial specialists; as well as the Boyz of '94 and the Grading and Counterfeit Detection Seminars. There were six Educational Presentations, a Merit Badge program, and a Road Trip with buses to the Olde Mecklenberg Brewery on Friday night. We had 100+ guests at OMB and I gave a surprise roast of Col Steve Ellsworth on his 80th birthday that very night, presenting him with a birthday cake and an "Official Curmudgeon Certificate" (Get off my lawn!).

Both area state organizations, NCNA and SCNA had numerous ads leading up to the show, as well as the Charlotte Coin Club, Coin Show & Auction Guide, Coin Dealer Calendar, Coin Dealer Newsletter, and coinzip.com. As a result of this publicity, hundreds of area collectors came to the show and the foot traffic and bourse buzz were quite noticeable. Many club dealers commented about the excellent show traffic, so thanks again to all who attended.

The EAC Sale on Saturday night was a marathon (about six hours) and had three separate sections. The first was the second half of Terry Denman's world class collection of middle date large cents. These were large cents between 1830 and 1839, representing all of the [Newcomb] varieties known in that date range. Many were the finest known of their variety.

The second session of the EAC Sale featured the Dr. Bob Kebler collection of half cents. He had assembled the set over the last few decades and it had 89 of the 99 known [Cohen] varieties of half cents. Most of the coins were "EAC quality" in that they have nice color and surfaces and a noticeable absence of marks for the grade. *Someone* went ballistic at the opportunity to acquire quality half cents out of the Kebler collection and ended up winning fourteen lots from this session, pictured below.

The third section of the Sale featured most dates

of large cents starting with 1793 Chain, Wreath and Liberty Cap varieties. It continued with multiples of popular dates like 1794, 1798, and 1803. Nine of these interesting large coppers were won in this section! Several of them are pictured here. They include a 1797 stemless wreath Sheldon 131 cent with a large rim break; an 1807/6 overdate; and two Classic Head Large Cents, 1810 and 1813 that normally come in low grades and/or environmentally challenged:

The Auction hammer price total was just into seven figures (!) which is a new high-water mark for the EAC Sale. Our capable Auctioneers have agreed to run the Sale for the next three years. Thanks, guys.

My wife Julie had never been to an EAC Convention. I told her well in advance that all she had to do was coordinate the Registration Table. This sounded somewhat terrifying to her but then she got to meet a lot of the club members and had an unexpectedly wonderful time. One newer member, Dan Rice, a "YouTube Podcaster" was at his first EAC meeting and said he "met so many nice people." It reminded me of a saying that a college professor of mine had. After we saw a distinguished guest speaker and I met him backstage, I commented on how nice he was. My professor said "the heavies always are." Lots of specialists ("heavies") in EAC and most if not all are willing to share their knowledge and expertise.

The banquet was scrumptious and staged, starting with appetizers, fruits, cheese, crackers, etc. We had a small glitch during the dinner as we did not have a microphone to address the audience. I gave a short address and thanked EAC for the opportunity and trust to run a show. One small quip I had was a couple endings to the phrase "You can't take it with you...." As a coin collector "you can't take it with you but you can play with it until you go." The second had more meaning as, "you can't take anything with you unless you leave it behind." Bob Klosterboer then presented two awards, to Harry Salyards and Dan Rice. Following our short addresses, they rolled out the tasty chicken and fish dishes, plus your choice of prime rib cut at the carving station.

Let me again give thanks to all who helped make the show come together. From the Boyz of '94 to all the Happenings, Scouting, Grading, Presentations, Show Brochure & Graphics, Cases & Lamps and show Dealers & Exhibitors. The hotel staff was amazing and the food tasted like a fine restaurant not a hotel!

Tom Nist had written a great timeline with milestones for planning an EAC Convention shortly after he ran Pittsburgh 2025. His work was then fleshed out more with details such as contract elements, room geometries, Security notes, and other areas to help prepare for a show. I issued the updated Conference Planning document from Tom and

me in May, and it will be part of our archives going forward.

Although it was a bit of work to organize the EAC Convention over the last 2-3 years, execution of the event proceeded at a frantic pace but smoothly. This is something that I wanted to do for the club I love, and have been a member of since 1980, something I wanted to leave behind. I told the EAC Board that [Julie and] I'd be ready to Host another meeting as soon as they'd like! Next year EAC 2027 will be near Madison, WI. Julie and I, both being cheeseheads, will be thrilled to get back to our old country.

Jerry Sajbel, General Chairman





EARLY CENTS AUCTIONS

THE 2026 EAC CONVENTION SALE

CHARLOTTE, SC.

MAY 2 & 5, 2026

TOTAL PRICES REALIZED

\$1,128,785 Hammer

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1	4,800	53	950	106	2,400	162	1,850	211	1,800	260	2,600	309	7,500
2	6,500	54	750	107	1,300	163	4,600	212	800	261	1,200	310	600
3	320	55	16,000	108	1,000	164	3,200	213	400	262	4,800	311	1,000
4	3,200	56	4,600	109	2,800	165	2,200	214	550	263	2,600	312	750
5	3,400	57	1,500	110	3,600	166	1,150	215	380	264	2,600	313	900
6	5,500	58	3,200	111	2,900	167	3,000	216	1,700	265	3,000	314	750
7	5,500	59	2,400	112	2,600	168	2,400	217	3,200	266	900	315	800
8	1,700	60	15,000	113	2,600	169	3,400	218	2,600	267	2,800	316	1,200
9	2,800	61	9,500	114	1,700	170	3,000	219	1,100	268	1,300	317	1,500
10	300	62	1,100	115	850	171	3,000	220	2,000	269	3,600	318	3,200
12	3,000	63	10,000	116	4,600	172	800	221	800	270	1,900	319	750
13	400	64	1,400	117	1,550	173	2,600	222	700	271	1,800	320	900
15	2,000	65	750	120	3,800	174	2,000	223	700	272	1,900	321	950
16	2,400	66	4,200	121	2,400	175	4,800	224	3,600	273	2,500	322	800
17	3,400	67	2,100	122	1,300	176	1,500	225	1,500	274	460	323	1,500
18	750	68	380	123	13,000	177	850	226	1,600	275	1,500	324	1,200
19	9,000	69	2,400	124	6,000	178	2,400	227	1,000	276	1,200	325	550
20	2,000	70	4,000	125	19,000	179	2,600	228	1,600	277	800	326	800
21	1,300	71	2,000	126	4,600	180	4,400	229	1,500	278	2,600	327	900
22	1,600	72	26,000	127	4,200	181	1,200	230	3,800	279	3,200	328	1,300
23	300	73	6,000	129	4,000	182	1,100	231	400	280	1,400	329	1,100
24	8,000	74	1,700	130	3,600	183	2,400	232	3,400	281	480	330	850
26	6,000	75	1,200	131	2,600	184	1,400	233	800	282	800	331	850
27	240	76	4,000	132	7,750	185	1,000	234	2,400	283	4,800	332	1,300
28	1,400	77	1,400	133	2,400	186	850	235	1,200	284	1,100	333	1,000
29	4,600	78	9,500	134	3,000	187	1,200	236	2,400	285	800	334	800
30	1,000	79	1,600	135	6,000	188	550	237	1,100	286	1,800	335	800
31	4,200	80	1,000	136	12,500	189	4,200	238	1,500	287	1,500	336	950
32	3,200	81	1,250	137	2,200	190	3,400	239	1,100	288	750	337	2,900
33	4,000	82	1,100	138	5,000	191	950	240	1,200	289	900	338	900
34	1,600	83	1,100	139	1,200	192	1,900	241	700	290	1,000	339	2,400
35	1,600	84	3,800	141	700	193	2,400	242	225	291	500	340	1,000
36	3,400	85	1,600	142	15,000	194	2,200	243	500	292	1,900	341	800
37	3,600	86	3,400	143	1,400	195	4,600	244	3,000	293	1,800	342	1,100
38	1,800	87	1,700	146	7,000	196	1,650	245	650	294	9,500	343	3,400
39	5,500	88	1,300	148	420	197	1,400	246	1,100	295	900	344	1,100
40	4,800	90	3,800	149	340	198	1,400	247	800	296	1,500	345	650
41	3,200	92	1,900	150	1,600	199	1,500	248	1,000	297	550	346	7,500
42	1,400	93	240	151	240	200	3,800	249	1,700	298	2,600	347	2,400
43	6,000	94	1,400	152	900	201	1,400	250	1,600	299	750	348	550
44	3,600	95	2,600	153	480	202	400	251	7,500	300	1,700	349	1,100
45	4,000	96	5,000	154	6,000	203	3,700	252	3,000	301	1,500	350	900
46	7,500	97	3,200	155	5,250	204	2,200	253	5,500	302	240	351	750
47	1,600	99	2,200	156	2,400	205	1,000	254	3,800	303	2,200	352	600
48	29,000	100	1,800	157	7,500	206	1,500	255	3,400	304	2,200	353	750
49	2,400	101	600	158	3,600	207	1,600	256	2,600	305	700	354	6,500
50	6,000	102	6,500	159	3,800	208	3,800	257	600	306	1,900	355	600
51	8,000	104	850	160	4,400	209	1,200	258	6,000	307	900	356	3,400
52	3,000	105	7,500	161	1,600	210	1,100	259	1,400	308	2,800	357	1,100
												406	650

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Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
407	18,000	478	220	558	240	628	80	698	100				
408	1,500	479	100	559	240	629	45	699	75				
409	2,600	480	60	560	575	630	60	700	120				
410	3,000	481	190	561	110	631	65	701	110				
411	2,200	482	220	562	120	632	60	702	525				
412	1,700	483	600	563	260	633	190	703	240				
413	2,200	484	300	564	550	634	150	704	260				
414	420	485	190	565	360	635	40	705	220				
415	1,300	486	90	566	300	636	50						
416	1,200	487	220	567	220	637	390						
417	800	488	80	568	280	638	280						
418	400	489	500	569	650	639	65						
419	3,200	500	240	570	180	640	50						
420	900	501	135	571	160	641	45						
421	1,200	502	280	572	650	642	55						
422	1,800	503	140	573	550	643	80						
423	650	504	105	574	180	644	60						
424	950	505	170	575	230	645	310						
425	600	506	145	576	145	646	80						
426	500	507	155	577	575	647	130						
427	7,200	508	165	578	240	648	80						
428	1,700	509	140	579	425	649	40						
429	400	510	260	580	130	650	80						
430	1,100	511	120	581	180	651	100						
431	800	512	130	582	220	652	100						
432	1,400	513	180	583	280	653	30						
433	950	514	180	584	105	654	125						
434	1,700	515	85	585	1,376	655	90						
435	1,000	516	210	586	200	656	150						
436	4,200	517	80	587	160	657	140						
437	340	518	100	588	30	658	60						
438	700	519	220	589	205	659	220						
439	280	520	260	590	115	660	105						
440	300	521	200	591	450	661	75						
441	1,500	522	575	592	80	662	260						
442	700	523	460	593	150	663	95						
443	1,800	524	200	594	65	664	320						
444	1,200	525	190	595	190	665	250						
445	650	526	400	596	420	666	50						
446	900	527	675	597	85	667	240						
447	480	528	200	598	55	668	58						
448	260	529	160	599	80	669	25						
449	200	530	170	600	260	670	190						
450	240	531	440	601	300	671	340						
451	300	532	550	602	110	672	190						
453	200	533	600	603	300	673	85						
454	1,200	534	155	604	65	674	380						
455	440	535	230	605	160	675	35						
456	130	536	260	606	150	676	120						
457	25	537	130	607	100	677	60						
458	550	538	190	608	120	678	60						
459	320	539	95	609	180	679	130						
460	200	540	100	610	85	680	50						
461	600	541	120	611	75	681	120						
462	4,400	542	240	612	50	682	35						
463	280	543	580	613	260	683	170						
464	1,300	544	200	614	100	684	110						
465	280	545	440	615	80	685	140						
466	300	546	340	616	50	686	245						
467	950	547	550	617	180	687	85						
468	340	548	420	618	45	688	75						
469	190	549	420	619	260	689	75						
470	220	550	600	620	70	690	150						
471	1,200	551	320	621	320	691	30						
472	650	552	280	622	85	692	60						
473	75	553	1,100	623	100	693	95						
474	300	554	300	624	140	694	75						
475	460	555	440	625	60	695	140						
476	2,201	556	120	626	30	696	50						
477	220	557	340	627	260	697	50						

PHOTOS FROM THE CONVENTION



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 October, 2026 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>
Travis Makings	San Diego, CA	7205
Charles C. Watts	Lakewood, CO	7206
George Miller	Bressay, Shetland, UK	7207
Ron Malik	Greenwood Village, CO	7208
Korey Kunkel	Denison, TX	7209
Abbey Marsmaker	Manteno, IL	7210
Phillip W. Segui, Sr.	Mt. Pleasant, SC	7211
Connor Porthouse	Huntsville, AL	7212
John Carl	New Bern, NC	7213
Trevor Hartsell	San Francisco, CA	7214
Brian Riendeau	Prospect, KY	7215
Scot Ward	Pittsfield, NH	7216
Craig C. Price	East Brunswick, NJ	7217
Delmas Parker	Pembroke, GA	7218
John Purvis	Las Vegas, NV	7219
Elizabeth Frisby	Memphis, TN	7220A
Joe Josephson	Bozeman, MT	7221
Anthony Allen Cosenzy II	Lauredale, PA	7222
Thomas Zydel	Winston-Salem, NC	7223
Brian Meyer	Spartanburg, SC	7224
Pierre Oldham	Asheboro, NC	7225
Glenn McKinney	Alhambra, CA	7226
Clifford Zeifman	Reisel, TX	7227
Jake Walker	Lexington, KY	7228
James Davis	Riverside, CA	7229
Hugo Kastle	North Platte, NE	7230J
Harley Felty	Chilhowie, VA	7231J
Abraham De La Garza	Laredo, TX	7232
David Walker	Mapleton, UT	7233
Jeffrey Hill	Nyssa, OR	7234
Julie Sajbel	Fort Mill, SC	7235

Rejoining Members		
Tomothy Weimer	Mount Laurel, NJ	848
David L. Palmer	Durham, NC	1186
David Menchell	Fresh Meadows, NY	2560
Paul Ligor	Berlin, MD	2870
T.L. Amoreno	Durham, NC	3058
Eric M. Hildebrant	Watertown, MA	3367
Robert Gold	Rockville, MD	3705
Randle (Randy) Bond	Alvarado, TX	4121
Gregory Field	Charlotte, NC	4188
Jesse Holzer	Kennewick, WA	4244

Ted Moriss	Seattle, WA	4663
Gregory Rock	St Cloud, FL	6144
Frank Grund	Bloomington, MN	6418
John Hillock	Marietta, GA	6471
Chris Davidson	Mukilteo, WA	6544
Michael Brooks	Trenton, NJ	6759

* * * * *

RESULT OF THE 2026 EAC ELECTION

Seventy-two ballots were received by the Annual Meeting. Three more arrived later.

President:	Klosterboer
Vice President:	Denman
Secretary:	Kebler
Treasurer:	Nist
Region 1 Chairman:	Skinski
Region 1 Secretary:	Winn
Region 2 Chairman:	Marx
Region 2 Secretary:	Hamling
Region 3 Chairman:	Pargola
Region 3 Secretary:	Fox
Region 4 Chairman:	Sajbel
Region 4 Secretary:	Kosanovich
Region 5 Chairman:	Borekardt
Region 5 Secretary:	Wachtel
Region 6 Chairman:	Butcher
Region 6 Secretary:	Carr
Region 7 Chairman:	Shintaku
Region 7 Secretary:	Fuoss

Lessons learned:

1. There was insufficient time for this election. Ballots were only received over ten days. One member contacted me to tell me that he didn't have time to vote. I recommended that he vote by private email to me, which he did.
2. Members found the ballot confusing.
3. There were no directions as to how the ballots should be marked. Several members wrote the name of their choice for each office. Several members voted for regional officials in every region. I did not count those ballots except for the national officers.

I recommend that for the next election, ballots be prepared to be sent with the January issue of *Penny-Wise* and that a checkbox be placed for each candidate. Instructions on how to vote should be included.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Eckberg

* * * * *

2026 Large Cent Happening Report

Allen Ross

The 2026 Happening was perhaps the busiest in years. Gary Hahn and Bob Klosterboer, you are both incredible volunteers. I want to thank all the folks who show up every year eager to help and stay to the bitter end: Brian and Nancy Yamasaki, Ron Shintaku, Marc Padre, Doug Durasoff, and anyone I may have overlooked. THANK YOU!

Here are the results:

1793 S-1

1. Ron Shintaku
2. Allen Ross
3. Bob Klosterboer
4. John Berger
5. Bill Eckberg (electrotype)

1796 S-84

Although a reasonably available variety, we only had three examples.

1. Allen Ross
2. Bob Klosterboer
3. Rich Weber

1800 S-200

I inadvertently repeated a variety we used several years back. I will be more careful next year.

1. Wendell Lutz
2. Rich Weber
3. Bob Klosterboer
4. Jim Young (brought by Pat Dobak)
5. Rich Weber

1822 N-7

1. Bob Klosterboer (by a large margin)
2. Eugene Williams
3. Marc Padre
4. Gary Hahn
5. Eugene Williams (2nd coin)

1823 N-2

1. Bob Klosterboer (by a single point)
2. Steve Miller
3. Eugene Williams
4. Marc Padre
5. Mike Packard (Thanks for the Bangers)

1835 N-3

1. Marc Padre
2. Bob Klosterboer
3. Eugene Williams
4. Dave Stark
5. Dave Stark

1845 N-7

1. Allen Ross
2. Gary Hahn - TIE
2. Marc Padre - TIE
4. Bob Klosterboer

1846 N-25

1. Allen Ross
2. Marc Padre
3. Gary Hahn

1857 N-4

1. Marc Padre
2. Allen Ross
3. Gary Hahn
4. Bob Klosterboer
5. Wendell Lutz

Incidentally, this Large Cent Happening featured the first and last varieties (business strikes) from the entire series.

* * * * *

THE 2026 HALF CENT HAPPENING REPORT

Tim Skinski

This year's Early American Coppers convention convened somewhat earlier than usual on the calendar (April 29 – May 3) in Charlotte. Freshly returned from the European leg of my retirement farewell tour, Liz and I set out early from Connecticut to visit old college friends (in Northern Virginia) and family (in Western Virginia) on our journey southward. As we crossed over the state line from Virginia into North Carolina, we visited Grayson Highlands State Park (see picture below).

Following the traditional convention banquet, the 41st annual Half Cent Happening was held on Thursday evening. As has been customarily done, six varieties were selected for the 2026 event. Two varieties (1832 C-1 and

1834 C-1) had not appeared during the past two decades, and the other four (1793 C-4, 1794 C-1b, 1803 C-3, and 1804 C-2) had last appeared in the early 2010s.

The 2026 edition of the Happening was the best attended in recent memory! Eighteen collectors registered as exhibitors this year. This was an increase of two from the 16 registrants at the 2025 convention. Thirty-four participants submitted full/partial scoresheets. This was also a significant increase from the 23 scoresheets which were filed at EAC in Pittsburgh last year.

As in previous years, those viewing the coins were asked to fill out a score sheet on which they ranked the top five examples of each variety according to their own

preference standards. These standards generally include strike, amount of wear, color, luster, surfaces, centering, die state, ownership pedigree, etc. Not all the voters filled in their ballots for all six varieties or for all five preferences, so the vote totals vary from variety to variety. When scoring the “ballots,” I have continued to use Mike Packard’s original scoring system. Five points were given to the scorer’s most preferred coin; four to the second preference, and so on. I then summed points across all the ballots for each variety to determine which coin was most favored, second most preferred, etc. Here are the results:

1793 C-4	Points	First Place Votes
1) Russ Butcher	121	21
2) John Bergner	119	9
3) Richard Thomson	64	
4) Bob Kebler	57	1
5) Mike Packard	41	1

1794 C-1b	Points	First Place Votes
1) Russ Butcher	103	14
2) Richard Thomson	87	5
3) David Consolo	84	5
4) Bob Kebler	71	2
5) Jim Braswell	45	3
NOTE: Jim Swales also received 2 first place votes.		

1803 C-3	Points	First Place Votes
1) Bill Finley	99	8
2) Russ Butcher	98	12
3) Richard Thomson	93	6
4) Tom Amonero	77	5
5) Greg Fitzgibbon	42	1

1804 C-2	Points	First Place Votes
1) Russ Butcher	129	22
2) Richard Thomson	103	5
3) David Consolo	84	2
4) Greg Fitzgibbon	38	
5) Bob Kebler	19	
NOTE: Mike Packard also received 1 first place vote.		

1832 C-1	Points	First Place Votes
1) Richard Thomson	78	5
2) Mike Packard	75	8
3) Russ Butcher	71	9
4) Bill Finley	50	2
5) Tim Skinski	33	
NOTE: Both Bob Kebler and Jim Swales also each received 1 first place vote.		

1834 C-1	Points	First Place Votes
1) Bill Finley	125	18
2) Steve Miller	99	5
3) Richard Thomson	44	2
4) Bob Kebler	43	2
5) Greg Fitzgibbon	41	1
NOTE: Franklin Noel also received 1 first place vote.		



In addition to all the exhibitors and participants, I wish to extend my gratitude to the Happening monitors Carol Consolo, Ed Fuhrman, Jim Swales, Jason Giesen, Greg Heim, Tony Anthony, Jim Braswell, Bob Kebler, Greg Fitzgibbon, Franklin Noel, and Russ Butcher. However,



I want to especially thank my wife, Liz Skinski, who once again oversaw the Happening registration desk.

Many kudos are also in order to Jerry Sajbel, who organized a tremendous convention in Charlotte. Personal highlights were a private excursion to the Reed Gold Mine (pictured above), Friday evening reception at the Olde Mecklenberg Brewery (where I expunged my long standing beer debts to Jim Braswell), Mike “Half Cent Happening Emeritus” Packard’s Education Seminar, “Massachusetts Cents & Half Cents,” and the Saturday evening Early Cents Auction of the Bob Kebler Half Cent collection (I understand that some large cents were sold as well).



In order to partially offset my auction winnings debt, our return trip included birding expeditions in both North Carolina (Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve) and Virginia (Salem Memorial Ballpark). Although we were successful in sighting both the Red-cockaded woodpecker (an R7 bird) and the Delmarva Shorebirds (opponent of the Red Sox minor league affiliate Salem RidgeYaks), the Pileated Plover remained elusive.

Please mark your calendars now for the 42nd Happening at the 2027 convention in Madison, Wisconsin. If you have any suggestions or variety proposals for this next Happening, please feel free to contact me via email at tim.skinski@earthlink.net.



Two EAC Editor's Awards for 2025

Harry Salyards

The Editor's Award was established in the early 1990s, with the original intent of honoring a contributor to *Penny-Wise* during their first year of membership. That criterion proved to be too narrow, however, and so eligibility was expanded to include the first major contribution(s) by a member,

To **Larry Schafer**

"For his poignant evocation of the World of the
1794 Cents

Reflected in the flags of the Whiskey Rebellion
And for his musings on the '4th Dimension' of die
wear,

As cent designs literally shift like land along fault
lines"

regardless of how long they had been a member. In each instance, the award is given for a contribution during the previous year. Thus, the Awards for 2025 were announced at the 2026 convention in Charlotte.

To **Ray Medhurst**

"For his diligent perusal of hundreds of digital
images,

thereby proving that the 'R5' 1794 Missing Fraction Bar

actually survives to the extent of over 100 pieces"

Congratulations to both!

* * * * *

TWO FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES REPORT ON THEIR EXPERIENCES AT EAC CHARLOTTE

Matt Misewicz (#7102) and Dan Rice (#7062)

Editor's Note: Herein two New Guys on the Block report on their convention experience. Their enthusiasm is truly heartening for the future of the club.

Matt leads off:

At 25 years old, this was my very first EAC. I collect condition census late date large cents. "Late Dates" refers to large cents minted between 1839-1857 possessing the "Braided Hair" profile. (I consider the 1839 N8 a late date. Sorry, Bob!) I have very high expectations of my set, and I am building it carefully. I try to find the finest examples I can, and enjoy collecting and studying die varieties (pairings) by Newcomb number.

I'm usually unable to make the convention due to the timing of field work during the summer months (I study population dynamics of birds on the Bering Sea coast of Western Alaska). I can say without hesitation that it exceeded every expectation I had. For a collector who has admired the organization, the people, and the coins from a distance, finally being there in person was something special.

First and foremost, I cannot thank Dan Rice enough

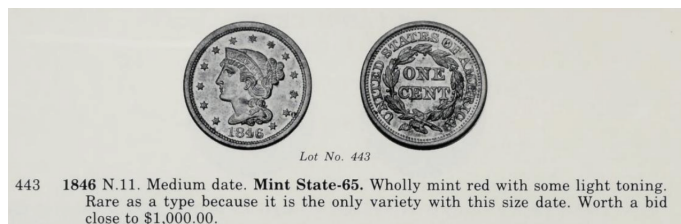
for allowing me to jump in and share a room with him. Without that generosity, I am not sure I would have been able to make the trip at all. That simple act of kindness set the tone for the entire convention: welcoming, generous, and full of people that share the passion I have for early copper coins.

The convention began in memorable fashion with Top Golf alongside Dan Rice, Dan and Geney Trollan, Lucas Baldrige, and Glenn McCawley. It was a great way to break the ice outside the bourse floor and settle into the weekend. Geney quickly humbled all of us by showing what may have been the most consistent swing in the group. I do not think she missed her target once.

Another highlight of the convention was getting to connect with two newly emerging high school EAC members, Elijah Skinner and Nathaniel Hafran. Their knowledge was impressive, and their passion for early copper was obvious. It was encouraging to see more

younger collectors not only participating, but doing so with real enthusiasm and understanding. They clearly share the same fascination with the history, varieties, and condition of early copper that brought so many of us to EAC in the first place!

I came to the convention with a few collecting goals in mind. One of my main targets was an 1840 N-2 Small/Large 18. It is a common variety overall, but scarce in mint state, particularly at EAC 60 or above. I was not able to acquire one this time, but that is part of the chase. I am confident that the right coin will eventually find its way into my collection. I did however, add an extremely nice condition census 1846 N-11 with LOTS of mint red. Below are some photos, along with the Stack's plate from their sale in 1985:



More important than any single coin, though, was the opportunity to meet and speak with many of the collectors I have looked up to while building my own focus on condition census late dates. Meeting people such as Allen Ross, Gary Hahn, Marc Padre, Terry Denman, and Doug Durasoff was a privilege.

Allen Ross has been a mentor of mine in late date cents who I'll likely be chasing forever. Because of Allen (and Naftzger) my requirements for a coin in my set went from good to great and is nearing on unbeatable. I will say, it has also given me a challenge at 25 years old in staying within my means. I cannot thank Allen enough for offering information and taking random calls from me asking how much I should bid on a coin. Expect many more!

Doug Durasoff and I share an alma-mater in Michigan

State University. We had many long talks about his late date collection and his mentor, the late Bob Everett. I hope to buy some coins from Doug soon, as the connection I have made with him has left an impression on my collection from here on out.

As a new attendee, what stood out most was how approachable everyone was. EAC can seem intimidating from the outside, especially to someone still trying to sharpen their eye and deepen their knowledge. But in person, the atmosphere was anything but closed off; conversations came easily, advice was shared freely, and the sense of camaraderie was real.

I left the convention without one of the coins I had hoped to buy, but with something far more valuable: new friendships, stronger connections, and a deeper appreciation for the people who make EAC what it is. For anyone who has considered attending but has not yet made the trip, I would strongly encourage it. The coins are reason enough to go, but the people are what make the experience unforgettable. This is what hobbies are all about.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Jerry Sajbel for putting on a wonderful convention in Charlotte this year. It was executed perfectly and he did a fantastic job making sure everyone was having a great time.

My first EAC convention will certainly not be my last.

And now, we hear from Dan:

I've been wanting to attend EAC for a few years now, unfortunately, the last couple of dates presented a conflict. In the interim, I was active in the EAC and EAC-adjacent Facebook groups, and studied Early American Coppers under Jim Carr at the ANA Summer Seminar for the past two summers. I had made friends with dozens of EAC members over the years, received mentoring from numerous established EAC members by phone, email, and messenger. I was excited to finally congregate with the only people on the planet who share my deep appreciation for those early copper coins: the "Copper Nerds" of EAC, and especially the "Boyz of 94."

I arrived a full day in advance of the Boyz of 94 meeting, on Tuesday afternoon, and was pleased to find myself at the check-in desk next to Mark Borckardt. The next thing I know, I'm out to dinner with Mark, Jerry Sabjel (our event host), President Bob Klosterboer, and Allen & Norman Ross. Dinner was followed by cigars with Bob, as well as Terry and Torey Denman. Meeting these senior EAC members (among many others) and interacting with them face-to-face was a rather surreal

experience.

Wednesday, my roommate Matt Misewicz and I accompanied Dan and Geney Trollan, Lucas Baldrige, and Glenn McCawley, to Top Golf - which was an absolute blast. We returned to the hotel, now packed with EAC members, and the conference “officially” kicked off that evening. Chuck Heck had invited me to speak at the Boyz of ‘94 meeting, which was something I was both nervous and excited for. Chuck and I have been in touch for a couple of years via email, while I was furiously building my 1794 set. I arrived at EAC having collected 52/58 varieties. I have a copy of Chuck’s 1794 large cent die states book, and have been collecting by varieties, as well as by die states - always chasing the latest die state I could find.

Near the end of the Boyz of ‘94 meeting, Chuck called me to the podium. I addressed the group briefly regarding my collecting journey, passing around a few of my favorite 1794 cents, including the condition census S-69 which I inherited from my uncle (George Parker, EAC #1277), spurring my 1794 collecting interest.



I touched on the 1794 large cent related education and outreach work on my YouTube channel, “Dan Talks Cents.” One notable ongoing project is my “1794 Deep Dive” series, where I spend approximately 15 minutes discussing all of the diagnostics of a particular variety of 1794 cent, along with die state progression, a review of condition census examples, and many photo zooms on key diagnostic markers. We look through books including Noyes’ 1793-4, Heck’s 1794 Die States, Breen’s Encyclopedia, and the Powers attribution guides.

I also handed out sets of sticker supplements for my “photo missing” condition census S-69 in Noyes’ 1793-4 book (if anyone needs a set of stickers for their book, email me at dzrice@gmail.com and I will mail you a set).

Thursday was a whirlwind of conversations with my friends and mentors, and Jim Carr helped me knock down two more 1794 varieties for my set, a respectable

S-29, and a nice brown well circulated but plainly diagnostic terminal die state S-46, both coins having Jim’s father Steve Carr’s pedigree.

I attended Jim Carr and Mark Borckardt’s EAC grading course, which included a very unexpected surprise circulating around the room as part of the grading exercise - Rich Weber’s 1795 S-79 Reeded Edge full obverse brockage that was once Dr. Sheldon’s pocket piece.

Then came the banquet. Our table was way in the back of the room. The venue had no PA system, and as we couldn’t hear the remarks from the podium at the front of the venue, we started passing coins around the table, and quietly socializing. The next thing I knew, my name was being called out from the front of the room, and I ran up to join President Klosterboer at the podium, where I was presented with a beautiful plaque, recognizing my early copper outreach work on YouTube. As I told Bob, in the words of Clark Griswold from Christmas Vacation, “If I woke up tomorrow with my head sewn to the carpet, I wouldn’t be more surprised than I am right now.”



The Large Cent happening which followed was a fun experience. As someone who doesn’t particularly care about the technical grade of his own coins, I enjoyed the “ranking” approach to coin comparison. I also had a chance to handle Patrick Dobak’s 1794 NC-9 - what a coin!

On Friday, I ran around the Bourse checking out coins for sale, as well as the fun educational exhibits. Dan Trollan let me handle his finest-known (in late die state) 1794 S-33 Wheelspoke. And, Chris Pretsch helped me secure the last of his Homer Downing painted edge 1794s via Chris McCawley, a S-66 Split Pole.

Friday night’s trip to Old Mecklenburg Brewery was a phenomenal event, and everyone was enjoying the brewery’s flagship beer, aptly named “Copper.” Jerry Sabjel did a marvelous job ensuring that we didn’t have

a dull moment during the conference, and the brewery event was certainly a social highlight.

Saturday included endless enjoyable conversations with many EAC members. Darwin Palmer placed a couple of great catalogs into my library, as well as 40 original Bill Noyes photo prints of condition census 1793-4 coins from the Noyes book project.

The evening auction was fun to watch, and to participate in. I was impressed with the reality that any coin that wasn't generating sufficient interest received a fair wholesale bid from Early Cents "for the good of the order" - protecting many sellers from otherwise certain disappointment and financial harm.

I secured the Fred Borchert 1794 S-72 in the auction, the last of my "all but three" 1794 variety set that I was missing. This S-72 has a wildly defective planchet, and is in the terminal die state, with fully progressed die cracks, internal obverse cud, and heavy clash marks. It's a great coin.

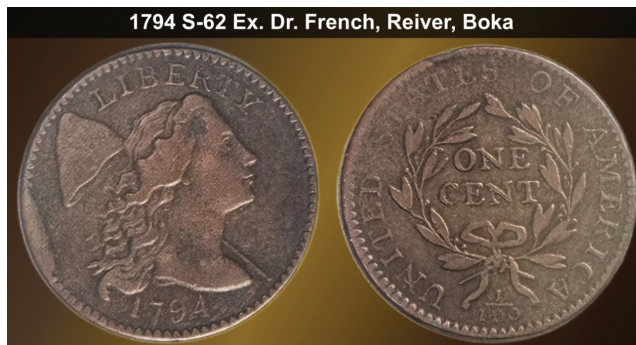


1794 S-72 Ex. Borchert

Photo Credit: Lyle Engleson

On Sunday morning I had several delightful conversations on the bourse, including an impromptu sage advice bull-session put on by Chris McCawley around his table for several of us newbies - we all soaked up Chris's words of wisdom in between our laughter. What a character!

Over the course of the week, I was able to hand my coins to several of my mentors, from their past collections, which they hadn't seen for years. Perhaps my favorite example of such an encounter was when I handed Al Boka's very last 1794 cent, a S-62 that he graciously sold me after I contacted him regarding my efforts to locate a coin of his pedigree. Al was happy to see his old friend again.



1794 S-62 Ex. Dr. French, Reiver, Boka

Having completed my "All But Three" 1794 set, and after handling some incredibly well pedigreed 1794s, I resolved to sell the bulk of my 1794 set, and rebuild my collection with a new focus on pedigree and provenance.

Matt Misewicz and I shared a hotel room, as the result of a room shortage. This situation ended up being quite fortuitous, as "the two new guys" were able to navigate our first EAC pretty well, working together. We had some great experiences with countless new and seasoned EAC members, and spent our "down time" in the hotel chatting about early copper and collecting, well into the early morning hours on a couple of nights.

I'd like to extend most sincere appreciation to each and every one of you who spent time with me at EAC. They are memories that I will cherish. We only get one shot at our "first EAC experience," and mine could not possibly have been more rewarding.

* * * * *

HARD TIMES TOKENS

C. D. PEACOCK

Ray Rouse

The tokens of C. D. Peacock have long been collected as part of the Hard Times Token series. They are quite picturesque, with a striking Peacock on the obverse and a dramatic clock making the statement "TIME IS MONEY" on the reverse. Moreover, the tokens are dat-

ed 1837. How can they not be Hard Times Tokens?

Elijah Peacock, a third-generation jeweler and watch repairer, immigrated from England and opened a traditional jewelry business in Chicago on February 9, 1837, naming his company "The House of Peacock." It was

the newly-incorporated city's first retail jewelry store. It was a bad time to start a new business. In March, a stock crash in England brought down New Orleans cotton firms. In April, 100 New York banks failed. On May 10, 1837, the banks stopped paying coins out for "paper money." The "Panic of 1837" was indeed "Hard Times." People hoarded coins. What money Elijah Peacock made was mostly from repairing pocket watches. Slowly, the firm began to prosper by bringing "refinement" and "civilization." Selling the finest wares, not only jewelry and watches, but Sheratonian tea services, Boardman coffee sets, and many other items imported from Europe.¹

Of course there were some setbacks. The most dynamic of which was the "Great Chicago Fire" in 1871. Although the family store was destroyed, the most valuable items survived undamaged in the fireproof vault.² As Chicago grew, the firm moved to better and more prosperous locations. Each new store became a showplace for the finest jewelry, watches, and gifts.

In 1889, Elijah Peacock died and leadership passed to his son, Charles Daniel Peacock, who renamed the company C. D. Peacock.³ Thus, there was no C. D. Peacock company to make Hard Times Tokens until 1889, long after the Hard Times era. C. D. Peacock used tokens to advertise the business, picking the peacock as a company symbol, undoubtable because of the family name, and picking the date 1837 to stress the firm's long history in Chicago.

C. D. Peacock Tokens are not generally listed in Hard Times Token references today. However, Russell Rulau list them in his first appendix and tells a bit of their



story. Rulau reports that three different dies were used to produce 27,500 copper examples of C. D. Peacock tokens.⁴ So there are still many around for collectors). The three varieties in copper are easy to identify. If the date, 1837, is within the inner circle, it is Rulau's M19. If the date is in the outside circle and the peacock looks to your right, it is Rulau's M21. If the date is in the outside circle and the peacock looks to your left, it is Rulau's M23. All the silver C. D. Peacock tokens, Rulau's M20, M22, and M24, are quite rare. The extreme example is his M24, a one-of-a-kind silver token made in 1906 for Charles Daniel Peacock, Jr., then the head of the firm as his father C. D. Peacock had died in 1903. This unique silver token is four mm. thick and has STERLING on the edge.⁵

(Incidentally, this R9 silver piece is in an upcoming Hard Times Token auction at the August 2026 ANA convention.)

The above information clearly shows that there is no doubt that the C. D. Peacock tokens were not made during the "Hard Times." So, the real question is, "Should you collect them with your Hard Time Tokens?" I don't know, but I still do!

References

¹ Cdpeacock.com/pages/about-c-d-peacock

² Wikipedia.org C.D. Peacock

³ Ibid

⁴ Hard Times Tokens 1832-1844, Russell Rulau, Appendix 1, p 129, Krause publications, 2001, Iola, WI

⁵ Ibid p 129



NEW BOOK ADDITIONS TO MY NUMISMATIC LIBRARY

Ron Shintaku

During the recent EAC Convention, while working at my bourse table, I noticed that kitty-corner from my table, Dave Johnson reviewing a large book display at dealer David Kahn's table. After finishing-up, I went over to join Dave to see what books he was examining.

At Mr. Kahn's table, I found an array of numismatic historical and variety attribution guidebooks that I had not previously seen or aware of. As I scanned the various book titles, I noticed that the majority were variety attribution guides for various U.S. coin denominations. I particularly focused on a three-volume series on Early Date large cents, broken into three parts: 1793-1795, 1796-1799, and 1800-1814.

What immediately caught my attention was the full-color, high resolution photography utilized for each coin year variety presented. It was striking to see each variety illustrated with a four-inch diameter enlarged color coin photo. Along with each Sheldon and NC variety depicted, were (as necessary) "pick-up-point(s)" photo enlargements, such as the dotted "I" on the S15 variety.

In conversation with Mr. Kahn, he related that the series author, Robert Powers, is a long-time collector, and has written many books on coin variety attribution. I told Mr. Kahn that prior to this moment, I had not been aware of Mr. Powers nor his writings, but I am now, and I am impressed by his published numismatic work.

Mr. Kahn also related that the current book series I was reviewing is Mr. Powers' 2025 update, of a work originally published in 2020. The author, Robert Powers, further describes his 2025 series as the "Profession-

al Edition." The narrative discussion sections for each coin year are kept to a minimum, as the intent of this book is to be utilized by those already familiar with the Early Date large cent series, such as advanced collectors &/or dealers.

The series sections which are most impressive are depicted within the opening pages of each volume. The author uses six-inch high-resolution photographs, with colored-in Die Crack line(s), to assist in identifying particular varieties—such as certain 1794's, where die crack location(s) can serve as important attribution factors. Using these Die Crack photo-charts could also help with more expeditious variety attribution, and die-state determination.

Also included in each of the series books, are author's own unique pricing guide system. The author does not utilize specific pricing figures, but utilizes what I would call a form of grade and rarity-comparison specific for each year sub-type, such as 1794 Head of '94. Rather than assigning a specific dollar value to each increasing grade, the author uses non-numeric symbology to denote increasing value. The author's design intent is for his pricing guide to be more resilient over time, as specific dollar value assignments can change over time.

As I am always interested in new numismatic literature on Early Date large cents, I elected to purchase the Robert Powers' 1793-1814 Large Cent book series. EAC members interested in learning more about Robert Powers and his publications should email David Kahn at: sales@davidkahnrarecoins.com

* * * * *

THE THIRD SIDE OF THE COIN

Ron Shintaku

At this year's EAC Convention held in Charlotte, NC, during the traditional Thursday evening Large Cent Happening, I volunteered to serve as one of the table monitors. The table I requested, with the concurrence of this year's Large Cent Happening Chairman, Allen Ross, was the table reserved for the 1793 Sheldon 1 variety.

Six members graciously provided their cherished Sheldon 1's for display at this year's Happening, and I

had these beautiful Sheldon 1's lined up in front of me. It was a view to behold, varying from "raw" to slabbed grades of Fine to AU. And one of the slabbed Sheldon 1's even sported the distinctive green CAC grading approval sticker.

The AU-looking Sheldon 1 definitely caught my eye when presented to me by its owner. In a quick look at the AU coin through its Air-Tite type holder, I noted the planchet was nice overall with very little distractions,

as well as possessing strong strikes on both the observe and reverse. The color was on the lighter-brown to a slightly orange, depending on how it was held under the lighting source. Initially, I wondered why the owner had it stored in a slightly over-size Air-Tite holder, where it was allowed to rotate & move freely. I would have assumed something this valuable would have been housed in a better fitting holder, or maybe even encased in a TPG holder.

As the gentleman owner of this apparent AU coin sat down next to me, he began to inform me of its history of how & where he acquired this coin, along with a “not so” readily apparent fact regarding its character. It was an attractive electrotype of the Sheldon 1 variety.

As the evening progressed, I had maybe 20+ EAC members & dealers come to my table to review all the Sheldon 1’s on display. The 1793 AMERI Chain Cent is very popular and awesome large cent variety.

As each member viewed all the displayed Sheldon 1’s, only about a 1/3 suspected “something” odd about the AU coin. Only one or two members would definitively call it a copy, because of its color or some odd “feeling”

about its strike. Not one member viewer inspected the “third side of the coin” - the coin’s edge. The edge was smooth, with none of the traditional incused vine & bars markings. Only after I asked each to hold the coin closer to the light source to view the edge carefully through the over-size holder did I hear the word & subsequent verdict, “electrotype.”

Each “now enlightened” viewer expressed a kind of small revelation, with a good reminder (education) for them to also check a coin’s “third side” for appropriate edge marking(s); or no edge marking; and/or apparent electrotype evidence, such as a visible seam. As each viewer departed my table, they all appreciated the “hands-on” education.

A special note of thanks and appreciation goes to Bill Eckberg for bringing his electrotype Sheldon 1 to this year’s Large Cent Happening, and for the lesson that we all received from viewing his electrotype. And, for the reminder, no matter our experience level, to never let our guard down when viewing numismatic items—even at an EAC-sponsored convention.

* * * * *

JACK YOUNG’S AUTHENTICITY CHALLENGED CORNER, NUMBER SEVEN

Not Quite Genuine 1794 Large Cents

The subjects for my latest installment come from the Gallery Mint, Etsy and eBay from around the counterfeit world! So, we can find counterfeits of virtually any coin type at this point! And ones that I find particularly interesting are the ones based on Gallery Mint examples.

Of course, the Gallery Mint early copper pieces are highly collectible copies, duly marked “COPY” to comply with the Hobby Protection Act, and remarkable in their craftsmanship. But in the current environment of

fakes of everything, I always consider the secondary market for some of these when in unscrupulous hands. My first example is just that, originally listed for sale on the Bay:

Bid up to \$192 at that point, a friend notified me of this one. And I knew the very reputable seller, so I contacted him to discuss the issues with his “coin”—counterstamped in a most strategic place!



Past eBay listed 1794 large cent



eBay imaged example now in my collection

And the Gallery Mint example I imaged; that’s one way to get rid of that pesky “COPY” on the GMM!



Matching GMM example with prominent “COPY”

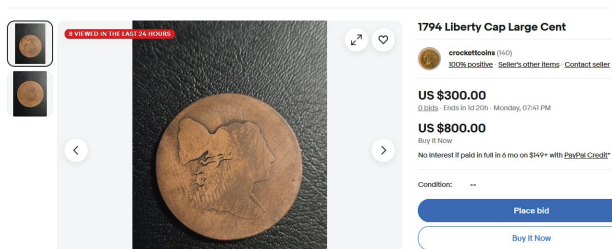
A dead-on match. The seller ended the auction and gifted the coin to my collection, fitting somewhere in between my countermarked coins and Dark Side ones.

So, what’s next? Well, another way to eliminate that “COPY” stamp is to create a knockoff without it.



So, a GMM knock-off from China; as noted, we can find fakes of practically anything including these.

And another interesting example from the Bay:



Past eBay listed 1794 LC

This one has been artificially worn down in an attempt to look more “genuine.” It didn’t match a known GMM example through my research or attribute to any genuine variety, but did match a current Etsy offering; note the hair details:



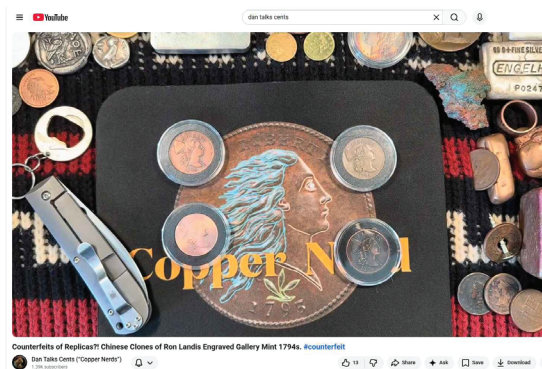
eBay listed example- artificially worn



Current matching Etsy product

Perfect match, but don’t let the little “COPY” shown on both sides of the Etsy “coin” fool you, it is not actual-ly on the product received! And the seller ended the listing without much argument when I sent him the images.

And another image of this one from EAC award winner Dan Rice’s collection, and one of his appropriate podcasts on the subject!



THE RARE BUT NOT VERY PRETTY CORNER

Jon Truskey

Chance, Fortune, or Pattern?

In the April 2025 issue of *Penny-Wise*, I shared pictures of a second example I acquired of a rarer 1795 half cent variety, a Cohen-3, Rarity 5+ (40 specimens estimated). Finding even one such example for sale at a price I could afford in my relatively short half cent collecting career, beginning in 2014, was a wonderful surprise. Cherry picking a second was an amazing bit of good fortune!

I recently acquired my third example of an even rarer variety, a 1795 Cohen 2-b. This one was a cherry pick also, like my second C-3. The C2-b is a Rarity 5+ (35 estimated by Bill Eckberg) or a Rarity 6 (30 estimated by Ed Fuhrman). I hope these two latest finds indicate an emerging pattern in my collecting career!

Ed Fuhrman, in his book *The Half Cent Handbook Liberty Cap Varieties 1793-1797*, on page 194 commented, "This is a tough variety to find in any grade. They just don't come up for sale very often, as advanced collectors know how hard these are to get. Typically, when they do sell, they go into strong collections and are held for decades at a time. Even a low-grade example will be in the mid-four figures range."

Walter Breen in his book, *Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents*, on page 142 stated: "Rarity of this variety is almost certainly attributable to the early discard of the reverse die."

Assuming there are at least several hundred or more half cent collectors worldwide, and only 30 to 35 examples in total to be had, the chance of your average collector ever owning one of these appears to be slim. This latest acquisition is pictured below. It is a late die state with the die bulge through "AMER" pronounced and worn. There is a die clash at the F in "OF" that extends down from that F into the base of the leaf below it. Its weight is 78.5 grains, a thin planchet, with no edge lettering. It has good detail but has some verdigris and



some edge modification that is sometimes referred to as a "hammered edge."

I wondered why someone would do this to an otherwise nice example. A fellow collector suggested that perhaps some kid with a hammer, and too much time on his hands, decided to have some fun.

After a bit of internet research, including some at the Numismatic Guaranty Company (NGC) Ancients site, I found that some old Roman coins from the first, second and third centuries with images, typically of emperors or empresses, would have their edges hammered in a fashion similar to my coin. This raised edge gave them a distinctive look. They called this style "Protocontorniate" www.ngccoin.com/news/article/4629/ancient-coin-grading/ (accessed 5/31/26).

Here is an example below with an Emperor Nero coin.



Photo courtesy of Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

In contrast, here is an actual contorniate medallion, below. This contorniate, a bronze medallion struck in the late 4th century A.D., shows a chariot racer on the obverse, while the reverse shows a quadriga, a chariot of four horses. www.ngccoin.com/news/article/13035/ancients-sports/ (accessed 05.31.26).



Photo courtesy of Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

According to Wikipedia, these contorniate medallions have a deep furrow on the contour or edge, as if the object had been turned in a lathe. <https://en.wikipedia.org/>

[wiki/Contorniate](https://en.numiswiki.org/wiki/Contorniate) (accessed 05/31/26).

According to NumisWiki, The Collaborative Numismatics Project, “A protocontorniate is a normal, usually large-module bronze coin, typically a sestertius, which at some point was later altered by hammering the edges of the coin so that it could serve some other use. A common assumption is that protocontorniates functioned as game counters since the rim created through hammering could protect the designs. Andreas Alföldi believed protocontorniates to be forerunners of the contorniates of the fourth and fifth centuries. He argued that protocontorniates were New Year’s gifts and that the older coins were actually hammered in the fourth century before the contorniates proper came into being.”

www.forumancientcoins.com/numiswiki/view.asp?key=protocontorniate (accessed 5/28/2026).



* * * * *

A Repurposed Liberty Cap?

Perhaps a modern collector decided to attempt to mimic this style of gift creation with Lady Liberty. Was this a fad at some point in the last two hundred or so years, imitating an ancient tradition? I don’t know. I do know that I have two Liberty Cap large cents with the same style of alteration and have seen others for sale.

Here is one of mine, a 1795 Sheldon 74, lettered edge, Rarity 4, with otherwise good detail, and most of the edge lettering hammered away. Pictures were previously color-enhanced to help show detail.

The obverse on this one had also been counter stamped with a letter “W.” A personalized touch, perhaps? A Roman coin seller I saw on eBay thought his similarly modified example was altered in this way to be used as a gaming piece, as mentioned above. In any case, my latest find is an interesting addition, not to mention a rare to very rare example in my “not very pretty” collection.

If anyone has any additional information about this sort of modification I would appreciate an email: truskeyfarm@gmail.com.

Letter to the Editor

Proof Versus Prooflike

Craig Sholley

Editor’s Note: Now that John Dannreuther has completed his volumes on Proof Gold, Silver, and Nickel coins, utilizing the high-resolution images available on PCGS.com, it’s time for Proof Copper. Anticipating some major reassessments to be presented in subsequent articles in Penny-Wise, Craig Sholley offers this prelude.

I figured out why I was having such a problem describing proof vs. PL. I was trying to come up with a grand, overarching description. That’s not a good approach. A better method is to point out why individual coins are not proofs. While that sounds complex, it is not because there aren’t that many coins to be discussed. And once you break the problem down like that, the issue becomes very clear.

There are four main reasons that coins with really nice strikes and some reflectivity to the fields are PLs, not

proofs, with the main one being they were struck from defective dies.

1. Rusted dies. Some of the so-called proofs, especially 1822s, were struck from dies so rusty I’ve said they really should be called “Linderman Specials” after former Director Henry Linderman, who took great joy in heavily polishing old, rusted dies that he and A. Loudon Snowden found lying about the mint in the mid-1860s, and striking “collector coins” from them for personal profit.
2. Clashed and polished dies. This is another common category of “non-proof” PLs. Some of these look pretty good, although the polishing never rises to proof-level. Another major characteristic of such pieces is polish lines at various angles showing the mint was polishing to reduce or eliminate defects, not produce proof surfaces. The other point is that Eckfeldt was Chief Coiner and thus had his choice of dies to use for proofs. Why would he select already-used dies to make coins that were supposed to be the best

the mint could do? Makes no sense.

3. Later state, polished dies with stars and letters “drawing” to the rim. Some of these pieces again look pretty good, but the polish is not proof quality; it typically doesn’t even extend into the dentils. These pieces arise from dies sent back for re-polishing, either to extend useful life (a main reason for polishing in the first place) or remove/reduce clashing defects.

By pure happenstance, you get some really strong strikes, one of those has the good fortune to survive, and it has a look so superior to other circulation strikes that people just can’t resist proclaiming it “special.” And yeah, it is quite special, just not in the way people like to think. The fact is that if large cents hadn’t been so heavily melted during the “Great Mint Melts” and the Civil War, we’d have a lot more strongly struck PL pieces just like we do in the silver

series.

4. Freshly polished, brand-new dies. This is the rarest category of PLs. I have only found a couple so far. Not surprising, since the aforementioned melts make the survival of such pieces a really rare occurrence. The dies are very new with virtually no defects save some minor finishing lines. Then, the polishing was superior, producing very smooth, flat PL fields. Finally, the strike was so much better than typical that the coin exemplifies «fully struck.» And then the piece survived.

In sum, all of the stars aligned and what we have are simply the best examples of what a really nicely struck middle date cent from fresh dies should look like. That’s why they get called “specimen” or “proof.” They are so atypical that people simply cannot resist applying a superlative.



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, 2026 issue is September 15, 2026.*** 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 hesalyards@gmail.com.

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* * * * *

New Book on Late Date Large Cents

Late Date Large Cent Book: A new 2021 edition of The Die Varieties of United States Large Cents 1840-1857 is available in digital format on the EAC website (eacs.org). I have a limited supply of hard copies available for \$125 delivered and a very small number bound in white leather for \$225. The hard copies have photos, the digital format does not. Autographed on request.

Bob Grellman, EAC #575

cell 407-221-1654 email jrgrellman@gmail.com PO Box 181 Sorrento FL 32776

* * * * *

A SMALL HOARD OF EAC COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS which has been off the market for well over a decade will once again be offered to the general membership on a first-come, first-served basis! Order yours now, as there is no telling how long this limited supply will last!

We still offer the 2000 Cape Canaveral Convention Commemorative, in copper, plain edge, larger than a dollar. This obverse features the obverse of 1794. The reverse has the space shuttle soaring over the state of Florida, with the legend EAC 2000 Cape Canaveral Florida April 6-9. Gem brilliant, flawless surfaces.

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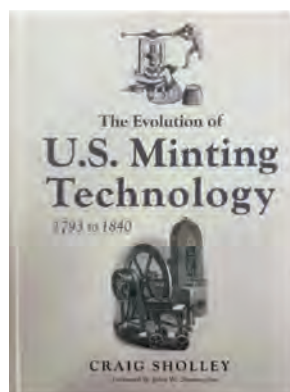
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Craig Scholley. 2025



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We would also like to note that Craig has donated the copyright to EAC, so all proceeds from the sale of his book will go to support club activities.

If you are interested in purchasing this great book please find the ordering information on the website or send a check for \$36.00 payable to:

Early American Coppers gifting fund

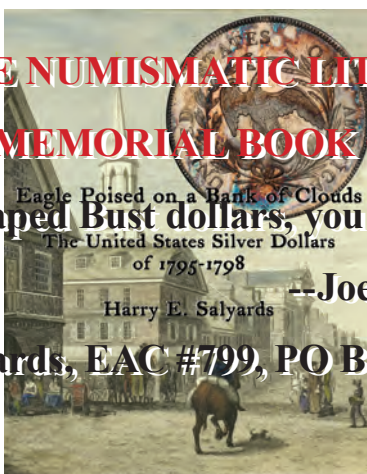
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1752 Great Britain 1/2 penny, NGC XF45 BN, \$225

1801 large cent S223, 1/000 fraction, EAC F15, lot 191 EAC 2017 Sale, \$900

1802 large cent, S241, EAC F15, ex. Dave Johnson, \$400

1803 large cent, S251, EAC VF20, removed from a PCGS VF30 holder, lot 132 EAC 2015 Sale, \$600

1807 large cent, S275, EAC F15, ex Robert E. Matthews sale, Superior Galleries 1989, \$450

1831 large cent N7, choice EF40, ex Tom Reynolds, \$350

1852 large cent N1, choice AU50, ex Dan Holmes Collection, lot 487, Goldberg's 2011, \$250

* * * * *

A New Look at Some Old Cents
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A new book by **Ken Laymon, EAC #4655**

These cents are examined from more of an artistic perspective than a technical one in this new book. The design changes that occurred, how and why those changes came about, and the people responsible for them, are examined. Some of the material is new and should be useful to all large-cent collectors; some may be controversial; all of it, I hope, will be interesting. Hardbound with an old-school binding, and available to EAC members at cost: \$86 post-paid. Email: k_laymon@yahoo.com.

* * * * *



British and Irish Tradesmen and their Copper Tokens of 1787 – 1804, a book by **Jon Lusk, (EAC #356)** It has been fifty years since a book dedicated to the subset of Dalton & Hamer tokens known as *Tradesmen's Tokens* has been published. The author of this work reveals discoveries concerning the issuers, their lives, names, and occupations. Tokens are pictured in large size, and in color, along with photographs of the edges unwrapped into a straight line. Variety identification photographs and availability ratings are included to assist the collector. Using inclusion criteria developed by the author, he suggests four collections of these tokens each containing from 110 to 248 pieces. This book was written for collectors, or those interested in history. Better yet, it is meant for those who are both. It is available from the author, Jon@Lusk.cc. (400 pages, hardbound, 8½ x 11 -- \$109, free shipping in US)

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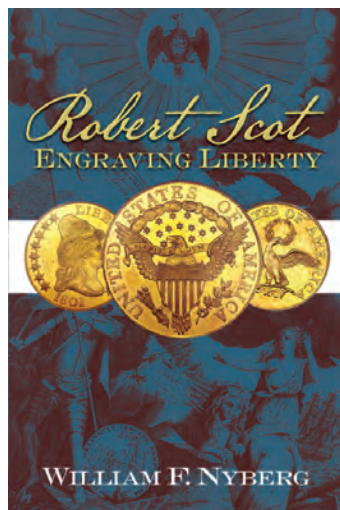


The Cents and Half Cents of Massachusetts

by Michael Packard EAC #722

This new 296 page hardcover book covers the history of the mint, its location, the people who worked there, and includes a detailed attribution guide with rarity estimates. Priced at \$120. Orders may be placed with either Kolbe & Fanning Numismatic Booksellers (<https://www.numislit.com>) or Charles Davis Numismatic Literature (<https://www.numisbook.com>).

* * * * *



Robert Scot: Engraving Liberty, a book by

William Nyberg (EAC #5632).

This is a comprehensive biography of the U.S. Mint's first chief engraver. Robert Scot also created important engravings throughout the American Revolution, and he was instrumental in the growth of illustrated books in early America. Complete listing of Scot's engravings including paper money, coins, seals, medals, copperplate book illustrations, maps, and federal revenue stamps. Color photographs and a bibliography of all sources. Paperback, 252 pages. Available at the publisher American History Press, along with Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other internet retailers.

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Unpublished Connecticut Copper reference material that may be useful.

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New Books for Half Cent Collectors: *The Half Cent Handbook* series:

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Half Cent Handbook: Liberty Cap Varieties 1793-1797, 8 1/2 x 11 hardcover, 253 pages, \$125

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Half Cent Handbook: Ultimate Grading Guide, 6x9 softcover, spiral bound, lightweight and easy to carry for quick reference, 137 pages, \$35

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* * * * *



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* * * * *

Allan Davisson, EAC #3299 (Davisson's Ltd) **P.O. Box 323** **Cold Spring, MN 56320**

British Trade Tokens have been a specialty of ours since the 1980s. Our auction catalogs each feature a changing ar-
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Peter Setian, EAC #3529 P.O. Box 570 Wilbraham, MA 01095
setcoin@mail.com (413) 552-6336 or (413) 596-9871

VINTAGE BOOKS: Please inquire if interested in purchasing any or all.

Early American Cents 1793-1814 by William Sheldon, 1949 first edition

Early Coins of America by Sylvester Crosby, 1875, Token & Medal Society reprint, 1965

The United States Half Cents by Ebenezer Gilbert (soft green cover, no date)

A Historic Sketch of the Coins of New Jersey by Edward Maris, 1881, republished 1965

"The Copper Coins of Vermont" by John Richardson, reprinted from *The Numismatist* 1962

Coin Collectors Journal, W. Raymond, 1952: Cont. Currency coinage, & Fugio vars., Newman

Catalog of the International Exhibition of Contemporary Medals, ANS, 3/1910, revised 1911

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Ex: Blay



1914 Lincoln Cent
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PR69 Red Deep Cameo PCGS
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Thick Planchet, Lettered Edge.
AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.
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1797 Liberty Cap Half Cent.
C-3b. Rarity-4+. Low Head,
Lettered Edge.
VF-25 (PCGS).
Realized \$16,800



1794 Liberty Cap Cent. S-43, B-32.
Rarity-2. Head of 1794, Short Bust.
AU-58 (PCGS).
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1794 Liberty Cap Cent.
S-64, B-50. Rarity-5-. Head of 1794,
No Fraction Bar. VF-25 (PCGS).
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1794 Liberty Cap Cent.
S-71, B-63. Rarity-2. Head of 1795.
MS-61 BN (PCGS).
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1801 Draped Bust Cent.
S-224, B-13. Rarity-1.
AU-55 (PCGS). Gold CAC.
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S-278, B-2. Rarity-3.
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1808 Classic Head Cent.
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MS-64 BN (PCGS).
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S-288, B-3. Rarity-2. Large Date.
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1834 N-2 R1 Sm 8, Stars, Med Letters,
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PCGS graded AU58

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LOT 60

1835 N-9 R4 Head of 1834
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PCGS graded AU58

\$22,800



LOT 125

1839/6 N-1 R3+ Overdate 9 over 6,
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LOT 175
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Thick Planchet VF35

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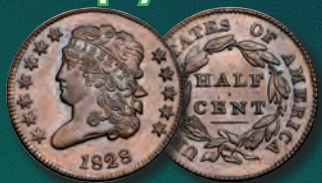
LOT 180
1797 C-3a R-3 Low Head
VF20+

\$5,520



LOT 195
1804 C-8 R-1 Spiked Chin
MS62

\$4,080



LOT 232
1828 C-2 R-1
MS60+

\$3,600



LOT 244
1850 C-1 R-2
MS60

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LOT 262
1794 S-20b R-5 Head of 1793,
Edge of 1794 VG8

\$5,760



LOT 283
1794 S-67 R-3 Head of 1795
VF30+

\$9,000



LOT 309
1797 S-131 R-2 Stemless Wreath
VF35

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LOT 346
1800 S-199 R4
VF25

\$1,800



LOT 395
1803 S-252 R-2
VF30

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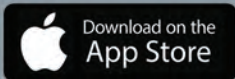


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AU58

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



1809 Cohen 5, R1.

Provenance: *The TAD Collection; Stack's sale of March 1975, lot 842; R. Tettenhorst Collection; Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society; Missouri Cabinet Collection (Eric P. Newman and R. Tettenhorst); Ira and Larry Goldberg Auctioneers' sale of the Missouri Cabinet Collection of U.S. Half Cents, January 2014, lot 96; D. Brent Pogue Collection; Stacks Bowers, March, 2017, lot 5062.*